Dear St Patrick’s Community

Last week the NAPLAN 2016 summary information was released in the media. Overall, the national results from the NAPLAN tests in May show some significant gains over time since NAPLAN first began in 2008, but with results plateauing for 2016 compared to 2015.

Whilst it is interesting to observe patterns of results over time, and listen to political debates about funding versus test improvements, at St Patrick’s we are far more interested in the individual and the growth that they make. Children have different starting points for all of their learning. In Kinder to Year 2, we ‘plot’ every child along a continuum. We closely monitor both their Literacy and Numeracy progress. Then we make sure that the ‘next step’ teaching matches their needs. As a result, we are seeing some pretty impressive progress.

I am pleased to inform you of a very generous bequest from the estate of John Worthington Statham, grandfather of Jasmin and father of Erika. John passed away in March this year at the grand age of 90 years, having contributed much to several communities, including Cooma. Erika has presented the school with a cheque for $10,000. As would have been John’s wish, this will be used for enhancing learning for present and future students.

Last week, we had a delightful gathering of parents and community members for the first open Community Council meeting. Inside this newsletter is information from the Chairperson, Lucinda George. Please take the time to read the suggestions. If you would like to share your thoughts about the suggestion of Reinvigorating the ‘Class Parent Representative’ idea, I would be happy for you to email either: frances.robertson@cg.catholic.edu.au, or Lucinda at lumargeo@yahoo.com

We are keen to hear your ideas too.

There is so much coming up on our calendar: snowsports, mini-Olympics, Archdiocesan Choir Festival, the Snugglepot & Cuddlypie performance in Canberra, sports clinics in tennis and AFL, mountain biking... and then there is BookWeek!

Please make sure that you check out the calendar in the school’s webpage. This school is a wonderfully busy place!

With kind regards

Mrs Frances Robertson
Principal

Dates to note:
Friday 12 August
K-2 Snowsports

Monday 15 August
3-10 Snowsports and PASS XC
National Science Week

Tuesday 16 August
3-10 Snowsports PASS XC

Wednesday 17 August
K-2 Mini Olympics
K-5 AFL Sports Clinics
There was a lovely gathering of parents, staff and community members from the Parish who joined us for the first open Community Council meeting last Thursday evening in the Parish Centre. We began the conversations over soup and then a treat of warm freshly cooked scones with a cuppa.

The main areas covered were:

1. **Opening an account for the Community Council** operations (acknowledging that the P&F had offered some 'seed money' to kick start activities)

2. Looking at the main committees needing to be established for upcoming events. These included:
   - the 2nd hand uniform shop,
   - Catering for the Cooma races,
   - Organising opening function for the new building
   - Catering for the Grandparents and Grandfriends’ Day.

It is important that there was no pressure for any parents to be involved in any more than one or two things.

3. A suggestion was made by a new member of the school community to revisit the concept of a ‘Class Parent Representative’. This would be to enhance communication and build community.

The main role of the Class Parent Representative for a class could be to informally liaise with teachers / school and parents to communicate relevant information that sometimes 'slips through the cracks'. The role could also be to provide a welcoming environment for parents to meet and socialise with others in the school community. Welcoming new families and helping people to get to know one another are integral for our community.

A Class Parent Representative could possibly be an “ear” to some issues – but they are not an advocate for parents’ concerns about the principal, administration of the school, staff or individual children, nor to matters pertaining to the teacher’s classroom management. There are appropriate ways for this to happen and these are already in place.

If we agree that this should be a primary focus, we will invite representatives to help formulate guidelines.

**Thank you to those who attended this meeting. We look forward to your participation in the next open Community Council meeting in Term 4.**

Frances R

I'd like to refresh you’re memory about the Community Council members: Erika Statham-Deputy Chair, Brian Williams-Secretary, Simon White-treasurer, Father Mick and Frances Robertson ex-officio, Mark van Ommen & Suzanne Stacey-staff representatives, Jane Wilkinson– parent representative.

Thank you to all the past and current volunteers– especially to Erika, Karen and Melinda– for their wealth of information and willingness to share and help the school with their expertise. Continuing on from there is the opportunity to be involved as much or as little as you can. **Please consider committing to just one thing per family.** I believe that this is the key to our success!

Please feel free to email me with your thoughts and suggestions lumargeo@yahoo.com

**Lucinda George**

**Chairperson**
Mrs Fraser was very happy to deliver two present boxes full of brand new books to each of the K-2 classrooms. These books have been donated by Catholic Education and then lovingly been covered by parents before being delivered to the classes. They were very well received and the students were very excited!

There are more books being delivered to Year 3-6 classrooms very soon. We also have a record of which books are in which classes, so that swapping between classes can occur, especially for those students enjoying a particular series of 'hot' books, or if teachers would like a particular book to read to their students.

In total there are nearly $6,000 worth of new books entering the school to support regular and engaging reading in the classrooms.

Thank you to all parents who assisted with covering the books, especially Anne-Marie Carton, Jann Neilson, Nicole Alexander and Melanie Caffarelli.

The P&F has also made a commitment to another $1000 worth of books for the upcoming Book Week. This means that we can purchase all the recommended or award winning books.
Year 1F Assembly

Congratulations to the Year 1F students on their stories, artwork, musical performance and dancing!
Achieving Literacy Success Parent Workshop Wed 31 August

Adjunct Professor Kaye Lowe from the University of Canberra will be visiting St Patrick’s School on 31 August. We are inviting parents and friends from St Patrick’s School, Lambie Street Preschool, Cooma North Preschool and daycare centres to our parent workshop, to be held in our Primary Library. There are two workshop times:

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm and 7.00pm - 8.30pm.

Refreshments will be provided.

Adjunct Associate Professor Kaye Lowe works with parents and teachers all over Australia. She was Director of ‘U-Can Read’ for nine years and has been a professor at universities in Australia and the US. She has written many books and articles on how to help children learn to read and write. She has received many government grants for her research in literacy.

Come along and learn how to assist your children with reading and writing at home. Learn ideas to encourage children to develop a love of reading along with a variety of strategies that help them to read, write and spell.

Visual Arts in Year 8 is a fun place to be!
St Patrick’s Rides Off to Nationals

Equestrian NSW has this week formally announced the team that will represent NSW at the 2016 Australian Interschool Championships at Sydney International Equestrian Centre from 25-29 September 2016.

St Patrick’s Parish School Cooma rider, Shelley Kleven (Year 6) and her pony Amaranda Moet, have qualified and been selected to compete for the NSW Dressage Team and the NSW Combined Training team at this very prestigious event.

With over 170 applications, selection of the team across a number of disciplines followed a process based on NSW State Interschool results, recent external competitions and additional information provided.

Shelley was very successful at the NSW State Interschool Championships coming away with fantastic overall results including Primary Dressage Champion and the Overall Primary Rider pointscore. These results along with other results gained outside of Interschool events, have been what has qualified Shelley and Moet to make the NSW State Team.

We wish them all the best in the lead up and of course loads of good luck and good riding at Nationals.

Mary MacKillop—Disciple and Prophet in our Australian Context

This week we celebrated the feast day of Australia’s first saint.

God, you raised up Mary MacKillop as a blessing for those in need. We pray with hearts filled with gratitude for the example this woman has given to us....

1. Mary faithfully listened and responded to her God. May her example encourage us to take time to be attentive to God’s invitations to us. Lord hear us...

2. Mary lived by faith and the transforming power of the cross. May we have the courage to embrace the challenges of life and so bring wholeness and peace to our own lives and the life of our planet. Lord hear us....

3. Mary embraced new ways of living the Gospel. May her example inspire and encourage us to respond actively to the needs of our world and make the cry of the poor our cry. Lord hear us....

4. As a leader and educator Mary gave hope to the poor and the possibility for living life to the full. As leaders and educators may we follow Mary’s example, speaking truth to power when necessary. Lord hear us....

5. Through the example of Mary, may we respond to the Indigenous people of our lands through deeper listening, respect and awareness of their story and needs. Lord hear us...

God of the journey, with confidence we ask you to hear our prayers which we ask through the intercession of Mary MacKillop. We make these prayers through Christ your Son.

Amen
MONARO COMMUNITY GROWTH GROUP (MCGG)

NEWS RELEASE

Monaro employers and interested members of the community are invited to
An information session on employing overseas staff
at
The Hub, Vale Street, Cooma, opposite Vale St newsagency
Admission: free
on Friday 12 August 2016
at 1pm (ending 2pm)
provided by
Sydney-based Immigration Lawyer and Migration Agent
REBECCA WALLACE of Corby Wallace

Discussion on options that may be available to meet short or long term labour needs within your community as well as the responsibilities arising from the employment of overseas workers.

Released by Y. Henderson, MCGG Coordinator tel. 0458 523 457
Authorised by MCGG P. O. Box 42 Cooma NSW 2630
MCGG.org@gmail.com
Judo Results

Some Students from St Patrick’s School competed in the Judo competition at the ‘Hills Sport Academy Canberra Open’ last Friday night 5 August and all finished with podium results.

This was very impressive.

Congratulations to:

Jack Kleven – Gold
India Dyball – Gold
Daniel Nassar – Gold
Shelley Kleven – Bronze
Hudson Laird - Silver

Canteen News

A big thank you to everyone who supported our Brazilian Meal Deal on Wednesday.

This Friday we are having a visit from the children in the Infants campus who are not going to the ski day. We are really looking forward to seeing their cheerful faces in the canteen and will be offering some snacks similar to mini canteen.

Mini canteen will be as usual on Wednesday so don’t forget to send some money with your children so that they can participate.

This week’s volunteers and helpers are;

Wednesday 10/08 Keira Lennon Lily
Thursday 11/08 Chris Haylock Damian
Friday 12/08 Elsa Wagner Caitlin

Thank you so much to all my volunteers and helpers. Your help and support is very appreciated.

Rebecca Croke
Canteen Manager

Have you seen the note about Book Week’s parade and book fair?
And then check for the note coming soon about the canteen menu for this special day!
Australia: Story Country: Children’s Bookweek 2016

The John Ralph Essay Competition is open for 2016

Topic: Farm environmental stewardship programs are just subsidies in disguise and should not be adopted in Australia.

Here's your opportunity to support or oppose this statement and enter the John Ralph Essay Competition. The Australian Farm Institute established the John Ralph Essay Competition to stimulate discussion and debate on topics relevant to the agriculture sector, and to encourage students and the wider community to engage in issues strategically important to the future of the sector.

Entrants are asked to clearly explain whether they support or oppose the above statement. The essays should include a broad analysis of the potential or actual impact of environmental stewardship programs, from both an environmental and a farm productivity perspective. Essays should include analysis of overseas examples in support of arguments, and can be between 1,500 and 4,500 words in length.

There are two categories – OPEN or NOVICE (25 years of age or under)

Prizes – OPEN - $5000 cash prize  NOVICE $1000 cash prize  PLUS

- Winning entries will be published in the Summer 2017 Edition of the Farm Policy Journal
- One year's membership of the Australian Farm Institute
- Complimentary attendance at the Australian Agriculture Roundtable Conference in November

Professor or Lecturers are eligible for one year's free subscription to the Farm Policy Journal, upon encouraging students to participate. In the event that the essay topic is used for coursework, we encourage lecturers to only submit the top 3–4 entries from the class. To participate in this offer, please register with Nicole Day, Research Officer – dayn@farminstitute.org.au to indicate your interest.

Entries close 5pm on Monday, 5 September 2016. For all the entry details, including rules of entry and judging criteria or past copies of the Farm Policy Journal, see www.farminstitute.org.au

The Children’s Book Council will announce the winners of the annual BOOK WEEK awards on Friday 19 August.

In the meantime, you might like to go to this website to see all the books that are considered ‘notables’ for this year:


This year, the Book of The Year Awards celebrates its 70th anniversary making it the longest running book awards in Australia.

From the small list of books entered in 1946, entries have now grown to over 400, highlighting the strength and richness of Australian publishing for children, and the talent of those who create the books.