Dear St Patrick’s Community

This week we celebrate the life of two significant people: Saint Patrick, our patron, and Australia’s first saint St Mary of the Cross MacKillop who founded the Sister of St Joseph 150 years ago.

Both of these people have influenced the place we have as a Catholic school in Cooma in 2016. We continue to draw inspiration from them.

Our school has to be a place of learning and this is difficult if students are absent. It has been brought to my attention that some students have already missed a number of days at school with no contact or explanation from parents.

Parents and the school have legal requirements with regards to Student Attendance and Exemptions.

It is the duty of the State to ensure that every child receives an education of the highest quality and it is the duty of parents to comply with the compulsory education requirements of the Education Act 1990.

The responsibility of parents is to explain the absences of their children from school promptly by means such as a telephone call, written note, text message or email to the school within 7 days from the first day of any period of absence. Rolls cannot be adjusted after this period of time. After that time, the absence remains marked as 'unexplained'.

As part of the implementation of the National Standards, holidays taken by students outside of school vacation periods will now be included as absences. A ‘Certificate of Exemption’ can no longer be granted for this purpose. Therefore, families are encouraged, wherever possible, to holiday or travel during school vacations. Any planned extended absences (more than 3 days) must have the approval of the Principal prior to the absence.

Learning matters… and every day counts!

With kind regards

Frances Robertson
Principal
A celebration of Saint Patrick

Saint Patrick is perhaps the best known male saint of the Western world. All over the world you will find parishes and schools like ours named after him. St Patrick statues are found everywhere. Many cities throughout the world host St Patrick Day processions down their main streets: the St Patrick Day procession in New York is the best known. But Irish communities around the world and those who wish they were Irish, get together in city parks and celebrate the great saint's spirit and how he has played a major role in inspiring the world with the Christian message.

St Patrick is traditionally associated with the Shamrock plant, which he used to explain the concept of the Trinity. St Patrick's value doesn't really come from the historical details but from the inspiration of a man who returned to the country where he had been a child slave, in order to bring the message of Christ.

The fact that around 1,600 years ago a man dedicated his life to proclaiming the gospel, resulting in tens of thousands coming to faith in Christ, is most definitely worth celebrating.

From the AP’s Desk...

High visibility vests

You will notice that staff now wear 'high vis-vests' whilst of duty, particularly at crossing in the morning and with the buses in the afternoon. At these times staff are often called on to be very visible to traffic for the safety of students and adults around the school. The high-vis vests will hopefully alert the general public and motorists to the movement of children across streets around St Patrick's.

Hats and the hot weather

The advantage of the late summer weather has been to highlight the value of wearing a hat when outside during break times. As a sun smart school all students are only allowed to play outside if they are wearing a school hat. Otherwise they must stay in the shade.

The bucket hats, which are the only school hat that can be purchased, provide better sun protection for the ears and neck than a baseball cap. It does not seem to be an issue for those students who have had to purchase a new hat this year.

I would like to commend all students for exercising common sense during the last 3 weeks. All have worn hats when outside and all have realised the importance of staying adequately hydrated.

Word of the week

There is a lot of words used in schools that many do not know the meaning of. I thought it would help to define some of these words, like I did with bullying and harassment a few weeks ago.

Respect: to respect someone is to admire their good qualities, or to show consideration. To say "I respect that teacher" could be translated as I admire the good qualities of that teacher. A student who "respects the property of others shows "consideration for the belongings of others".

Mark van Ommen
Assistant Principal

MAY THE STRENGTH OF GOD
PILOT US,
MAY THE WISDOM OF GOD
INSTRUCT US,
MAY THE HAND OF GOD
PROTECT US,
MAY THE WORD OF GOD
DIRECT US.

- SAINT PATRICK
St Patrick’s Parish School 2016 Strategic Plan

For our 2016 Strategic Plan, we agreed to focus on:

1. **An explicit improvement agenda would be demonstrated by:**
   - Communication of student learning data and the corresponding plan for continuous improvement to students, staff and parents
   - Transformation of assessment to improve learning
   - Opportunities to seek best practice to improve student outcomes (within and beyond the Archdiocese)
   - Link to staff PLPs
   - Specific provision for improved educational outcomes for very capable students
   - Transformation of the relationship between the school and the parish
   - Faith in practice through seeking social action opportunities for all

2. **Analysis and discussion of data would be demonstrated by:**
   - Establishing/using a systematic electronic method for collecting data on academic progress and pastoral matters
   - Establishing time for the exploration, analysis and reflection on data
   - Analysing data for growth, improvement and trends
   - Discussing data as the basis for ‘next step teaching’

3. **Effective pedagogical practices would be demonstrated by:**
   - Time for collaborative planning
   - Networking with other teachers/schools
   - Feedback on teaching practices from students and colleagues
   - Clear evidence of program and assessment differentiation
   - Tailoring teaching to student needs and readiness
   - Using feedback and ‘feed forward’ to support and develop student learning
   - Using learning intentions as the starting point for a lesson
Thank you, thank you  thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you

Many hands make light work and this was certainly the case for the preparation and delivery of the catering at the Cooma Show last weekend. Parents, teachers and students rolled up their sleeves and cleaned the venue on Friday and then the catering team worked from early morning until quite late on Saturday. It was a very successful community event.  

A special thank you goes to Tammy Byrne for her coordination and management of the event.

Karen McGufficke, P&F President

Congratulations to all the entrants in various categories at the Cooma Show. There were many winners.
Monaro Community Growth Group

1) The small committee that was formed last year is meeting fortnightly at the Library at 1:00 pm on Wednesday. The next meeting is next Wednesday 16 March. All are welcome.

2) Cooma Monaro Council and the Refugee Council of Australia will be acknowledging Cooma as a Refugee Welcome Zone at the Multicultural Community Festival this Sunday 20 March in the Centennial Park, we think about 12 noon.

3) We have been able at long last to get an email list together of those who have shown interest in bringing migrants especially those who are refugees to Cooma. There are 48 on the list.

Dugald Mitchell Secretary 6452 3424
St Patrick’s Parish Presents

The Autumn Ball

Saturday April 9, 2016
at the Multifunction Centre

Music Supplied by
Big Connexions Dance Band
(18 Piece orchestra and vocals)

BYO • Drinks & Eats
Tickets: $30 Single / $55 Double
Available at The Fabric Salon,
Tag the Trend, Mainstreet &
St Patrick’s Parish School Office

Artwork by The Monaro Post
Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sit for the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) test in May each year. The assessments are an opportunity for students to demonstrate what they have learned in class.

For students in Years 3 and 5, there are four tests covering numeracy, reading, writing and language conventions (spelling, punctuation and grammar). For students in Years 7 and 9, there are five tests including two tests in numeracy – a calculator allowed test and a non-calculator test.

The NAPLAN test results and the student reports are released in August. (Taken from BOSTE 2016)

### NAPLAN 2016 timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Language conventions 40 minutes</th>
<th>Writing 40 minutes</th>
<th>Reading 45 minutes</th>
<th>Numeracy 45 minutes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Reading 50 minutes</td>
<td>Numeracy 50 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Reading 65 minutes</td>
<td>Numeracy (calculator) 40 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Reading 65 minutes</td>
<td>Numeracy (calculator) 40 minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you have a child or children in Years 3, 5, 7 or 9 please take note of these important dates and try to avoid absences or appointments during this time. If you have any questions in regard to NAPLAN do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher who will endeavour to answer all your questions for you. Alternatively, I can be contacted by phone on 64521721 or through my email address stephanie.lovat@cg.catholic.edu.au

Stephanie Lovat  
Curriculum Coordinator
Canteen News

This week’s volunteers are (thank you):

Thursday 17/3 10:00 am Brett Dawson
Friday 18/3 10:00 am Sara Souter
Tuesday 22/3 9:00 am Jackie Bitar
10:45 am Annie Ford
Wednesday 23/3 10:00 am Kim Kleven
1:15 pm Keira Lennon
Thursday 24/3 Volunteer needed
Friday 25/3 Good Friday

**** TACO TUESDAY ****

I’m still recovering—Taco Tuesday was massive this week! Thank you for supporting something new and to my helpers who made it possible. We are fine tuning the sizes and method of delivery to the students. Keep those orders coming!! They will cost $4 for the rest of this term.

Don’t forget mini-canteen on Wednesday for Infants and Primary students - items are priced from 50c to $2.

Caroline Blyton
Canteen Manager

Week 7 Legends Awards

Congratulations to last week’s Legends.

Declan George, Talia Caffarelli, Suki Blyth, Hannah Dawson, Neeve Girling, Kelsey Byrne, Jett Kelly, Abby Douch, Cooper Kofler, Josephine Neilson and Roman Dakin.

Well done, boys and girls!

K-6 EASTER BONNET PARADE
Thursday 24 March
12.30 pm
on the K-2 campus
HEAD LICE

The school has been notified of a case of head lice in the Secondary campus. Under Department of Education and Department of Health and Human Services policy, your child is required to remain away from school until after use of a recommended treatment and an attempt to remove all of the eggs (nits). Please check your child’s hair. Treat only if there is evidence of head lice. Please note that the lice and eggs can be very difficult to see. It is important to make sure all live lice and eggs are removed. This process can be very time consuming but is an important step in breaking the life cycle of head lice. There is lots of helpful advice available on the internet to support families who are trying to deal with this tricky situation.

The Gift of Giving

On Monday, Ms Edwards and Ms Nuridin had their heads shaved for The World’s Greatest Shave to raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation. Anissa Porter and Hamish Bottom, whose names were drawn from a hat, shaved the teachers’ hair with the generous assistance of Amanda Woodhouse from Shear Delight Hair salon in Berri-dale. Both teachers agreed that their shave was a small price to pay for the privilege of being able to help those less fortunate than themselves. At a time when we are so often concerned with our own lives, helping others can be immensely rewarding. Together they have raised nearly $4000! They will still be accepting online donations at http://my.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/luaunedwards1.
Produce Market Friday 18th March
8:30 am
at the side gate.
If you have produce to donate to our market it will be gratefully received.
Please deliver donations to school Thursday afternoon or Friday morning.

Equestrian matters...
The 2016 Snowy Mountains Interschool Equestrian Competition Gymkhana (SMIEC) is being held at The Station Resort Jindabyne from Thursday 28 April – Sunday 1 May 2016.
Events will include Team Penning, ODE, Combined Training, Sporting, Dressage, Stockmans Challenge, Interschool Challenge, Showjumping and Show Horse.
If your child is interested and would like to compete or you would like more information including equestrian uniform orders etc please contact Kylie Douch via kdouch@bigpond.net.au or 0412 666 646.
General event information will also be soon available on the SMGS website at http://www.smgs.nsw.edu.au

Minnie Vinnies
Thank you to all those students who have been generously donating to Project Compassion this Lent.

Project Compassion helps end poverty and promote justice so the world's poor won't need to rely on charity.

So far the Primary and Infants have raised $107. This would be enough money to provide the educational resources to support a young person to become a voice in their community in Papua New Guinea.

"Now everyone, women and young people, have a voice and peace is maintained that way." - Dominic
For 5 minute videos of Dominic and more information about some of the great work done by Caritas Australia visit this website.

Manure Needed!
Many generous people have offered all sorts of animal manure. We are now ready to start spreading it to improve our soil. If you can drop off a bag or two at the side gate we would be most appreciative.
If the bags are not too full it will make it easier for us to move them.
Thanks, from the Gardening Club.
bernadette.moser@cg.catholic.edu.au
Year 8 Covenant Stories

Year 8 students have been completing dioramas in class depicting Old Testament covenant stories. In doing this work students have been asked to reflect on important symbols within the writings and to draw meanings that are related to people throughout all ages. Such meanings include: God's hand in creation and the goodness of creation, Abraham’s strong faith and God’s presence in his life journey, the symbol of the rainbow to Noah - God's abiding protection and the call of Moses to free his people from slavery and lead them to freedom. Students have been encouraged in their reflections to determine their own covenant with God. A vision of living in life's journey supported by God's enduring love.
SCHOOL HOLIDAY TENNIS CAMPS

Camp 1 : Wednesday 13 to Thursday 14 April
Camp 2 : Wednesday 20 to Thursday 21 April
9am – 4pm ROYAL TENNIS COURTS
2 Day Camp - $100.00  Discounted to $80.00

Discount given if booking and payment received 5 days prior to camp date.
Lessons available during the term in Cooma each weekday afternoon and Sat morning.
We would love to hear from you!!

Please call Tom: 0404838049

AFTER SCHOOL ACCREDITED