Every year the United Nations recognises a time to pause and reflect on the desperate need to work towards a more peaceful existence. In his Peace Day Address, Pope Francis urges us to open our hearts in a new way to our brothers and sisters affected by poverty, hunger, conflict, migration, inequality, pollution, underdevelopment and, most of all, injustice. When we see ourselves as members of one human family, we can truly ‘encounter’ one another and build peace. There will never be peace wherever there is injustice.

With the success of Oliver and the excitement about next year’s production of A Midsummer Night’s Dream, we are launching our St Patrick’s Drama Club for Year 7 and 8 students. To keep our focus and momentum on all things Creative and Performing Arts, Mrs Stacey and the Elective Drama students will be running a lunchtime drama club on Wednesdays focusing on all aspects of performing. This is totally voluntary and each week will be a new experience. The students need to see the noticeboard for further information.

So far this term, 84.1% of families have paid their term’s school fees. We would normally be closer to 92% at this time. Unfortunately, local businesses don’t allow the school just to pay only 84.1% of their bills. I would prefer not to have to take more formal means to remind parents of their financial obligations to the school. Please contact the school if you are not sure. Communication is very important.

There will be Semester Awards for the Secondary students this week on Friday at 12.30pm in St Patrick’s Church. You are welcome to join us if you wish.

Thank you to the parents who supported the recent Father’s Day stall. These are good traditions in the school, but it doesn’t happen unless someone puts up their hand to organise it, someone serves on the day, someone provides the goodies and someone buys the presents.

Term 3 finishes this Friday and I admire the commitment of our staff in making this term a mixture of wonderful learning experiences for the students.

School returns on Wednesday 8 October. I wish you a safe and peaceful holiday with your families.

Yours in peace

Frances Robertson
Principal
Celebrations
Term 3 awards assembly for Secondary students will be held in the St Patrick’s Church at 12.30pm this Friday. The Year 6 Assembly is on Thursday at 12pm in the Ex-Services Club. All parents and friends are welcome to join us.

Summer Uniform
All students wear summer uniform from the beginning of Term 4. Please ensure that your child has all the necessary parts of the uniform prior to the start of term. Any students not in full school uniform will be expected to have a note each day. Girls are expected to have their dress length below the knee, as stated in the uniform code. On the 11 October there will be another opening of the Second Hand Uniform shop.

Road Safety for Smaller Wheels
Rollerblades, roller skates, skateboards, bikes and scooters often are used more in the holidays. It is really important to stress that safety equipment must be worn. Teach children that wearing a helmet when cycling, riding or skating should be as automatic as wearing a seat belt in the car. They should also wear other appropriate safety gear such as knee and elbow pads. Teach young teenagers that bikes are vehicles and they should learn traffic rules before riding them on the road. Until they are at least ten years old, children should ride their bikes or wheeled toys in a fenced area, away from vehicles, roads or traffic. For further information on road safety issues visit the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au

Year 10
There are many events and special celebrations planned for Year 10 in Term 4, as part of the culmination of their time at St Patrick’s. All parents will receive a comprehensive letter next term indicating the important dates and the associated costs and requirements.

Mark van Ommen
Assistant Principal

and coming events....

Thursday 18 September
Yr 10 White Card
Yr 6 Assembly 12pm

Friday 19 September
Secondary Awards Ceremony 12.30pm
Last day of Term

Sunday 28 September
P&F Catering at Mitre 10 for “The Block” 8am

Wednesday 8 October
Students Return

Thursday 9 October
P&F Meeting 6pm

Friday 10 October
K-6 Swimming
Canteen News …..

A big thanks for the support this term, and to the student and parent volunteers who have helped me settle in to the canteen - especially Grant, Sue, Melinda and Sara who ran the show last Thursday when I couldn’t be there.

I will be doing the volunteer roster for Term 4 in the school holidays. If you haven’t already returned your volunteer form it can be found on the school website, or just send me an email: caroline.blyton@cg.catholic.edu.au

If you have any feedback – good or bad – please don’t hesitate to contact me! I will be making some changes to the price list for Term 4 to reflect the change in season. As soon as it is finalised, it will be put on the school website.

Volunteers for the rest of this week are as follows:

   Wednesday 17/9:       Marjorie Revelant  
   Thursday 18/9:        Elsa Wagner 
   Friday 19/9:          Chris Haylock

The meal deal for this Friday will include a drink: Nachos + Drink = $6

Have a great break and see you all in Term 4!

Caroline Blyton  
Canteen Manager

P & F News

HELP! We are looking for helpers to assist with selling food and working on the BBQ on Sunday 28 September at Cooma’s Mitre 10 for “The Block Visit”. We will need helpers from 8.00am (to set up) to 2.00pm. If you can only work for an hour, we would really appreciate your time.

Donations of slices and cakes are also needed. These can be brought in on the day or contact Marjorie Revelant, P & F Catering Coordinator 0418 485 229 to arrange collection for you.

The P&F were very lucky to have secured the catering. Please read, print out and return the note to school as soon as possible (in this week’s newsletter).

SCHOOL BANKING

Want a great way to introduce your child to the art of saving money? Why not open a student bank account? The school receives a commission on dollars banked, as well as for every new account that is opened. For more information, ask your teacher, contact the School Banking Coordinator, Jo Heise, or call into the Cooma Commonwealth Bank and ask to speak with Justine Pielli.

SCHOOL BANKING COORDINATOR: Would you like to get involved at the school? The position of School Banking Coordinator is open for offers! If you are able to spare an hour or so a week, please contact Jo Heise on 64522363. Please note: Any voluntary role taken on at the school will be for a maximum 2 year term only. Thank you in anticipation of your support!
Primary Assembly – Yr 3 and Yr 6

Cool Carrots

The ‘Cool Carrots’ weeding and watering of their winter crop is coming to end with the sale of kale and spinach this Thursday from 8.30am in the Primary campus. No insecticides or pesticides have been used. Proceeds go towards purchasing seeds and seedlings for our Spring/Summer plants.

On behalf of the kale, spinach, lettuce and garlic, thank you to those parents who have donated us manure! We would like to start our herb garden. However, we need some soil. If anyone can help please contact Mike Introna.
Official Australian Interschools’ XC results

Division 5 XC Freestyle

Harriet Greville - 4th
Charlotte Walker-Broose - 19th

There were 36 female competitors in this division.

The thunderstorms, rain and wind abated, the organisers somehow managed to find enough snow for a good track and the day was a great experience for both the girls. They certainly did St Patrick's proud!

St Patrick’s Equestrian Holiday Quests

St Patrick's will be represented by our riders at two venues in two different States over these coming holidays.

Shelley Kleven, her family, and her pony Amaranda Moet will be driving down to Werribee just out of Melbourne, for the Nationals Interschool Gymkhana. Earlier this year, she competed at Horsley Park (the venue for the Sydney Olympics equestrian events) where she qualified to go on to Nationals. Since she is not only representing St Patrick’s, but the whole of NSW, she will be riding in NSW uniform and her pony will be “dressed” likewise with NSW colours. They plan to leave for Werribee on the middle Sunday of the holidays, and the competition will run throughout the second week of the holidays.

At about the time that Shelley will be heading for home, several St Patrick's families will be trucking their horses to Berry, south of Wollongong, about five hours driving time from Cooma. Berry Primary School is hosting this busy interschools’ gymkhana over the long weekend of the holidays. Last year, four St Patrick's riders competed there very successfully. They were Abby Douch, Shelley Kleven, Emily Quodling and Madeleine Stott. That 2013 Berry team triumphed for St Patrick's with second overall. Our 2014 riders to Berry are Bridget and Maddie Stott, Elle McGufficke, Colby and Abby Douch, Emmilee Reid and Maegan McGraw.

We wish Shelley, Abby, Bridget, Maddie, Elle, Colby, Emmilee and Maegan every success. We hope that you all have a safe trip, create lots of fun, enjoy the competitions, take lots of photos and we look forward to hearing the news of your Horsey adventures.

Our 2013 St Patrick's Berry team were Abby Douch, Shelley Kleven, Emily Quodling and Madeleine Stott.
Sports Report

Australian Interschools Snowsports Championships

Last week three students from St Patrick's represented NSW at the Australian Interschools Snowsports Championships held at Perisher. Students came from Queensland, Victoria and South Australia to compete against those students from New South Wales.

In the freestyle cross country event we had two primary students competing, with Harriett Greville finishing 4th and Charlotte Walker-Broose finishing 19th against 36 girls in Division 5. Andrew Devereux competing in the Division 2 Moguls finished 11th after both of his competition runs. Congratulations to all three of these students!

A very big thank you goes to the parents of all students who competed in Interschools this year as it takes a lot of time and effort to get students to and from events.

Primary Netball

The Catholic Primary Schools Netball Carnival is happening on Sunday 26 October in Calwell, ACT. Students and parents/carers are reminded to get your notes and money in ASAP. Currently we have enough numbers to run a Year 5/6 team but still need more children to field a Year 2 team or a Year 3/4 team. If you need another note please see your classroom teacher.

Mr Lawley

St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal

Thank you to the St Patrick's community for their support of the various activities that were raising money for the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. This has included the 'workers in the community' dress-up day in K-2, the Soup Kitchen Day in Yr 3-6, and the Big Sleep-out for Year 10. The collection of blankets and the money were handed over to Mr Paul Everett for St Vincent de Paul.
CELEBRATION SESSION!

Last Tuesday and Wednesday students, family and their invited friends celebrated the end of the Seasons for Growth educational groups that have been running in the primary school during Term 3. Each participant was awarded a certificate for completing the 8 week Seasons for Growth Program, we all celebrated together and enjoyed plenty of delicious sweets.

As outlined in previous newsletters, this program aims to strengthen the social and emotional wellbeing of students who have experienced major loss or change in their lives. It draws on extensive research in developing a sound educative response to loss and grief. All students involved have worked hard doing lots of fun activities that focused on communication and problem solving skills. These skills will not only enhance their present learning and development but will also add to their toolbox of lifelong skills.

“Bad things won't last forever” 8 year old boy

“I can make choices and decisions” 11 year old girl

“(I learned) how to cope with feelings and not to bottle my anger up” 10 year old boy

Book Donation

Thank you to those students and families who have donated some great pre-loved books to the Secondary library this term. They have helped us to continue to build a positive reading culture in the high school. There has been outstanding growth in the reading skills and enjoyment of reading of students in Years 7 & 8 who are participating in the Accelerated Reader program. When you are spring cleaning over the holidays please consider donating any books you have finished reading to the school library.

Sacramental Program for First Communion

The preparation for children wishing to receive their First Communion will begin on Tuesday 14 October at 6.30pm in the Church. This first session will be for one hour for both parent(s) and child(ren). The second and third sessions will be over the following two weeks in home groups and includes a formal request at a weekend Mass. Letters of invitation to attend the program will be going out at the end of the school holidays to those who have registered their interest. This program is for children who are in year 4 at least and who have already participated in the Reconciliation program. For any concerns or questions, please contact Lou Mackay through the presbytery on 64522062 or through the school on 64521721.
Mrs Frances Robertson  
Principal  
St Patrick’s Parish School  
PO Box 870  
COOMA NSW 2630

School Bus Service Improvements

Dear Mrs Robertson

As you may be aware there has been an increase in the number of eligible students conveyed under the School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) that travel on school bus services provided by Cooma Coaches under contract to Transport for NSW (TfNSW).

TfNSW, in conjunction with Cooma Coaches, have recently completed a comprehensive review of the current arrangements of the school bus services that service St Patrick’s Parish School and other schools in the area.

To assist with better management of student loads and provide improved services it is proposed to introduce an additional 2 buses into the current network and implement timetable enhancements to a number of these school services in the following areas: Numeralla, Cooma, Berridale, Kalkite, East Jindabyne Fireshed, East Jindabyne Tyrolean Village, Ingebyra, Lakewood Estate, and Jindabyne.

In rural and regional areas bus services are generally scheduled to arrive and depart within 30 minutes of a school’s official starting/finishing times. However, this is not always possible given a school bus can carry students from a number of outlying areas and service multiple schools, each with different start and finish times. Transfers and interchanges of students between bus services are often a necessary part of school bus route design, and the smooth co-ordination of connecting services is a major consideration in designing school services. All these factors may impact on the arrival and departure times of buses.

It is not proposed that the arrival and departure of school bus services to and from St Patrick’s Parish School will be materially altered from those currently.

Accordingly, a number of students that attend your school may have their current bus service altered as a consequence of this review. TfNSW and Cooma Coaches Pty Ltd will commence the new school bus timetable services from the second week of School Term 4, Monday 13 October 2014.

All parents of students affected by the changes have been contacted by TfNSW. However, it would be appreciated if you would be able to support the communication process of this initiative by placing a note in the school news letter about the proposed changes. If due to unforeseen circumstances, should a parent not be advised about the relevant changes please ask them to contact Geraldine Furner at Cooma Coaches on 02 6452 4841.

With changes to school bus services such as those proposed it is not unusual for some teething problems to occur. Should there be any problems with service delivery during the implementation stage your patience will be appreciated.

Should you wish to discuss this matter please contact Shane Wells or Renae Jardine on the telephone numbers provided. Together with these 2 TfNSW Officers I intend to be in the Jindabyne area during the implementation process so that any oversights can be dealt with and remedied as quickly as possible with Cooma Coaches.

I have attached for your information the new school bus timetables.

Yours sincerely,

Sidney Rutty  
Manager, Contracts and Schemes  
12 September 2014.
Head Lice

These pesky little creatures are once again making their presence known at the school. Lice are not fussy – anyone can get head lice! Please check your child’s hair carefully and regularly for signs of infestation. They are not easy to spot! To assist in the process, comb conditioner onto dry, brushed and detangled hair. This stuns the lice and makes it difficult for them to grip onto the hair or crawl around. Comb through with a very fine tooth comb or a specially designed head lice comb. Wipe the conditioner from the comb onto paper towel or tissue. If there is evidence of lice on the tissue, repeat combing every part of the head 4 to 5 times.

Alternatively, a head lice treatment can be purchased from the supermarket or the chemist. It is important to note that no treatment kills all the eggs, so you will need to repeat whichever method you choose 7 days after the first treatment. The second treatment kills the lice that have hatched from the eggs not killed in the first treatment.

Students Who Achieve Greatness

Riley Brayshaw, Anna Connolly, Molly Nichols, Jessica Norris, William Dodd, Connor Brazulaitis, Joseph Nichols, Laura Matthews, Georgia Rumball, Willow Joyce.
Max & Karstan from “The Block” are coming to Cooma on Sunday 28 September 2014

St Patrick’s Parish School P&F have been offered the fundraising opportunity to supply the catering for this event.

A BBQ will be offered on the day, as well as cupcakes, muffins and slices. The P&F team realise this is the middle weekend of the school holidays. However, we really need helpers to assist with set up, cooking the BBQ and serving.

Help is required from 8.00am until finish around 2.00pm - So if you are around a couple hours of your time would be appreciated.

Please return the section below indicating times you can assist to the school no later than Thursday 18 September 2014

Or you can advise
Karen McGufficke 0417 496708  mkmcgufficke@bigpond.com

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P&F BBQ Sunday 28 September Assistance Reply

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Thank you for offering your time and assistance for this fundraising event, if you have any questions please contact Melinda Barrett 0439 413700, Karen McGufficke 0417 496708 or Marjorie Revelant P&F Catering Coordinator 0418 485 229
IN THE PINK
A GREAT NIGHT OUT
In support of Tracey Nelson

LIVE MUSIC BY
Jay Podger
Vendulka
Three on the Tree
Michael Horneman

DRESS CODE - PINK, PINK AND MORE PINK
$10 ENTRY
DRINKS AVAILABLE FROM THE BAR | GREAT PRIZES TO BE WON

FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER | 7PM | COOMA EX-SERVICES CLUB
TICKETS AT COOMA EX-SERVICES CLUB & FABRIC SALON
ALL PROCEEDS TO TRACEY AND HER FAMILY – DONATIONS APPRECIATED

Children are welcome