"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

"And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so?

It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags.

And he puzzled and puzzled 'til his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before.

What if Christmas, he thought, doesn’t come from a store? What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little more?” Dr Seuss

What a wonderful season we are entering into as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord. This Christmas, we should all have a sense of awe, wonder and delight as we ponder God’s gift to us.

The overriding message we hear at Christmas is one of ‘peace and good will’ to one and all. Hopefully, the nativity scene will further remind us of this and the importance that this message is not just for Christmas, but an underlying principle of our faith and a reminder of what should be a way of life.

This week has been one of reflection and celebration of achievements. There have been a number of awards ceremonies and, sitting out the front, I am privileged to see the pride shining from the faces of students and parents alike when a name is called out to collect a certificate or a trophy. It doesn't matter whether it is one or many awards, the feelings expressed are the same. I am aware of many of the “journeys” made by students this year to make a success of themselves. It takes courage to do well. It is one of the attitudes needed to be successful and I am very proud of the notable achievements by our students. I know that our staff are equally quick to recognise these achievements. Reading all of the reports gave me this clear message.

This is the final newsletter for 2014. It has been a good year for the school and I thank everyone for a wholehearted effort. The past few weeks has seen no slackening of resolve, as every week has featured students and staff striving to do their best in a whole range of curriculum, co-curricular and sporting activities. I also thank parents who have supported these events.

We have farewelled the Year 10 students at ceremonies that honoured them. The final Prayer Service on Friday afternoon was a gentle goodbye. If they go off to their futures with a skip in their step, a smile on their face and courage in their hearts, then we know we have done a good job.

We thank God for the great year we have had at St Patrick’s, as well as ask for His blessings for those who are leaving us and for all to have a safe, peaceful, family centred Christmas break.

Yours in peace

Frances Robertson
Principal
From the AP’s Desk

There will be a morning tea after the Liturgy of the Word next Sunday 21 December to farewell Sr Magdalene. She has been a source of joy, support and comfort for many families in this Parish. Please join us in thanking her.

Claiming the date

St Patrick’s P&F Art Show will be held on the

**22 and 23 May 2015.**

This will coincide with the annual Grandparents’ and Friends’ Day.

Please note it on your calendar and invite your extended family to this special event, when you see them over the Christmas holidays.

and coming events....

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015</th>
<th>Christmas Mass</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday 28 January</strong></td>
<td>St Patrick’s Cooma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yr 1 to Yr 7 Return to School</td>
<td>Wednesday 24th 6pm Vigil</td>
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<td>Yr 7 <em>Horrible Histories</em> excursion</td>
<td>Thursday 25th 10am Christmas Day Mass</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday 29 January</strong></td>
<td>St Mary’s Adaminaby</td>
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<td>Kindergarten first day of School</td>
<td>Thursday 25th 8am Christmas Day Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yr 8 to Yr 10 return to School</td>
<td>St Andrew’s Nimmitabel</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday 31 January</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday 24th 9pm Christmas Eve Vigil with Bishop Pat Power</td>
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<td>Second Hand Uniform Stall 10am - 11am</td>
<td>Delegate</td>
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<td><strong>Monday 9 February</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 25th 8am Christmas Day Mass</td>
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<td>Archdiocesan Golf at Batehaven</td>
<td>Bombala</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday 4 February</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 25th 10am Christmas Day Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kindergarten school free day</td>
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<td>Yr 7 - 10 School Photos</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday 12 February</strong></td>
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<td>K - Yr 3 Enviromentors’ Workshop</td>
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<td>K - Yr 6 School &amp; Family Photos</td>
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Claiming the date

There will be two major fundraisers in 2015.

We are still confirming the date for the first one and will let you know early in 2015.

The date for the Bazaar Fair has been set for 7 November 2015. This is a great opportunity for everyone to share their talents and invite others to support the school. The January holidays are a good time to begin thinking about what homemade items you (or a favourite relative) could begin to make. We have storage options if you get going early!

Bazaar Fair 2015

Stop! Message for Book Worms

We need plenty of books and board games to sell at our Bazaar Fair 2015 on Saturday, 7 November 2015.

What you may see as old, or now unloved trash, is another person’s treasure. So, if you are doing a clean-up over the January holidays, please box up some books and board games for the school.

You may contact Rebecca Hain 0414 709301 or Catherine Pearce 0423 310829.

Alternatively, take those books to the Primary Campus and give them to Mrs Belinda Wilkins or Mrs Giovanna Davies.

Christmas Eve Mass

6.00pm Wednesday 24 December

Children who would like to participate in the Christmas Eve Mass are invited to come to the church at 3.30pm on Monday 22 December for a practice. All children are invited to dress up as a character from the nativity scene (such as a shepherd or an angel). Everyone is welcome. Contact Melinda Barrett for more details.
Secondary Picnic day
Dear Principal,

I’m writing to inform you of the 50 Families Initiative being launched next week across the Archdiocese. The initiative seeks to engage at least one family from each Catholic primary school to provide feedback for the development of new parenting resources and programs. These resources will aim to give parents greater confidence in guiding and supporting their children through puberty and adolescence.

For the past seven years Catholic LIFE has been providing relationship and personal development programs to schools on behalf of the Catholic Education Office. These programs include the Choices, Decisions, Outcomes program for Year 7-10 students and the True Love and My Body, My Fertility programs for Year 11 & 12 students. The past two years however have seen a marked increase in demand for the My Body, My Life puberty and personal development program for Stage 3 students and their parents. This work has highlighted increasing concerns regarding the cultural pressures facing adolescent and pre-pubescent children. Parents in particular are looking for helpful and reliable information and resources. The 50 Families Initiative is a first step towards creating those resources.

Using funds donated by our project partner, the ACT Right to Life Association, we aim to provide at least one family from every primary school with the two excellent resources outlined in the enclosed flyer. The resources are theirs to keep, free of charge. In exchange, we’ll ask those parents to provide some simple online feedback enabling us to identify the topics which most urgently need to be addressed in any local resources or programs developed for parents of Stage 2 and Stage 3 students.

We are hoping you can hand the enclosed flyers to one or two families in your school and encourage them to log on to 50families.org.au to register their interest in participating. Once they have logged on, we’ll contact you and ask you to pass on the resources which will be delivered to your school shortly.

The parents involved should have children in Stage 2 or 3 and should ideally be:
- likely to appreciate good Catholic parenting resources
- likely to provide feedback on those resources
- actively engaged in their children’s education
- involved in the local parish
But we are happy to work with whomever you recommend!

If you wanted to invite multiple families to participate, your school or parish could purchase further copies of the resources at a reduced price. Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions about the Archdiocesan 50 Families Initiative.

Warm regards,

Lara Kirk
Coordinator Marriage, Family and Relationships
Catholic LIFE, Archdiocese of Canberra Goulburn
lara.kirk@catholiclife.org.au Mob: 0429 192 869
Wanted

Below is a list of items that we are looking for to use next year with Kindergarten. If you are cleaning up over the holidays and no longer have space for any of these things, we would love to give them a new home!

- Matchbox cars
- Trucks
- Lego
- Building blocks
- Board games – eg ludo, snakes and ladders
- Dollhouse / furniture
- Play mats – mats to use outside for children to play on

Thank you from Mini-Vinnies

Thank you to all parents, staff and students who have been supporting our fund raising efforts for the schools in India. Thursday’s non-uniform day raised $277.55. The total of the raffle is $613.10 and the winners were 1st prize Tina Mayhew, 2nd prize Tony Bitar & 3rd prize was Lilli Janota.

THANK YOU to all the Mini Vinnies students who have done a wonderful job this year in support of various charities. Keep up the great work next year!

Wishing you all a Joyous Christmas and God’s blessings in the New Year.

Mary-Ann Fraser
Mini Vinnies Coordinator
Caitlin Manning proudly displaying her art work from Global Connections.

Marg Field

Christmas brings family and friends together. It helps us appreciate the love in our lives we often take for granted. May the true meaning of the holiday season fill your heart and home with many blessings.
Uniform matter

For consideration: As a result of listening to the girls in Secondary complaining about the lightweight material in the blouses, we contacted South East Embroidery (our uniform supplier) about a change of fabric. The aim was to have a fabric that was less see-through when the jumpers were removed.

The suggestion is a change of style that allows the blouse to also be worn out over the waistband. The gentle curves at the front are very flattering. Thank you to Annika for modelling.

The Year 10 students think that both the style and the fabric are better for adolescent girls. This was supported by members of the School Board who saw it at a recent meeting. Other parents on staff are also approving, in principle.

Below are the pictures of the two shirts; the one on the right is the current shirt and the one on the left is the proposed change. We may or may not have the piping. It makes little difference to the overall cost. We will not have a logo on the shirt, as many schools do, as this increases the cost.

The school needs to respond to the supplier this week so orders can be made.

Can you please email frances.robertson@cg.catholic.edu.au with any responses to this proposal. So far, twelve parents have responded, all in favour of the new shirt. Please take the time to have your say.
Do you remember your grandmother’s button tin??

Have you got a button tin that is overflowing? We are collecting all sorts of buttons for an activity on 2015. We need thousands of buttons of all sorts and sizes.

If you can spare some, please send them to Mrs Robertson or the Office.

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Reading Eggs/Reading Eggspress

Remember parents that all subscriptions for Reading Eggs and Reading Eggspress do not end until 28 June, 2015, so please encourage your child to continue using Reading Eggs and Reading Eggspress throughout the holidays and have your child ‘reading and ready’ for the following school year. If you have forgotten passwords or usernames, please contact maryann.fraser@cg.catholic.edu.au and I will supply this information.

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This time of year offers opportunity for connecting, reconnecting, valuing & enjoying positive relationships.

Take care & enjoy!

From Jenny Wallis (Student Wellbeing Facilitator)

PS If you notice yourself or someone you know showing signs of needing a little extra support for their wellbeing during this time of year, there are places that can assist. These include: Lifeline, Beyond Blue, SANE, Australian Psychological Society (APS)
K-2 Christmas Concert