Glory be to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

“For there are three who bear witness in Heaven, the Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit: and these three are one” 1 John 5:7

When we gaze at the heavens, ponder 125 billion galaxies (give or take a few), and our postage stamp place in the Milky Way, we can – and should – be humbled. And in awe. There are mysteries beyond our dissecting. This includes the mystery of the Trinity of God. On Trinity Sunday, we are reminded of the magnificence of God. It was St Patrick who so cleverly used the shamrock to explain the Trinity.

In this newsletter there is a letter for the Director of Education, Moira Najdecki, asking for feedback about the values and concepts that should be presented in the Diocesan Core Beliefs and Vision Statement. This is an important opportunity to share your voice about OUR schools and the direction WE want them to take. The voice of parents is crucial for shaping future directions for Catholic education.

Our Kindergarten 2015 enrolment interviews have begun. Everyone of them makes me smile. It is one of the magical parts of this job to see little people and to try to imagine their future as they leave our school in eleven years’ time. Thank you to the families who have booked their appointments. We hope to have this concluded by the end of the term. If you have a child ready for school next year, or know someone who has, please call the school office for an appointment.

I remind you that Monday July 14 will be a professional learning day for staff. Our focus will be on Kidsmatter program and putting the spotlight onto our assessment practices. Our aim is to improve the ways we assess students to ensure equity and a comprehensive understanding of students’ achievements.

I am pleased that many parents have accepted their responsibility to ensure that our school can financially keep its head above water. Paying school fees is a responsibility that all parents have agreed to when they enrolled their child. It is of concern that there are still outstanding fees from Term 1 and Term 2. Where there are difficulties or circumstances have changed, I urge parents to call the office to make an appointment with me to discuss this. I would much prefer that to the embarrassing situation of having to proceed to more formal processes for fee collection.

I am very proud of the efforts of the Year 10 students as they prepare for the ‘Mad Hatters’ Tea Party’ this week. All children are encouraged to come in casual clothing on Thursday and wear a mad hat to be in solidarity with those young people who have lost their hair due to treatment for cancer. All money raised will go towards the YouthCancer project. YouCan aims to build a dedicated facility in every state for young people with cancer to try to improve the survival rates. Members of our community are very welcome to support this initiative through donations of money, cupcakes or prizes for the day. It is fabulous to see young people working hard for others. They deserve our support.

Frances Robertson
Principal
From the AP’s Desk... The World Cup

As you all know the Football World Cup started this week in Brazil. One of the images of Brazil is the statue of Christ the Redeemer, which towers over Rio de Janeiro. The statue of Christ the Redeemer with open arms, a symbol of peace, was chosen to sit atop the 700m high Corcovado mountain. It was commissioned by a group called the Catholic Circle of Rio in 1920 and officially opened in in 1931. There is another statue of Christ the Redeemer on the Argentine/Chilean border in the Andes.

Some of the closest communities to Corcovado mountain would be some of Rio's poorest. The favela's or slums of Rio surround the city and are often places of violence, poverty and drugs. Christ the Redeemer serves as a reminder that Christ’s salvation (the opportunity for new life) is available to all, rich or poor. It is essentially a symbol of hope for humanity.

Sport in general can also be viewed as a symbol for hope. Football often allows those from the poorest parts of the world, or the tougher neighbourhoods in majors cities, a chance to be stars on the world stage. Lionel Messi is one such example. The Argentine, who is often regarded as better than Diego Maradonna, was born to a steel factory worker and part-time cleaner in Rosario. He also has growth hormone deficiency, making him quite small. This condition resulted in FC Barcelona offering him a contract when he was in his teens. The local Argentine club River Plate could not pay for his medical expenses. From these impoverished and difficult beginnings Lionel has become the great player he is today. He contributes much of his fortune to various charities and medical institutions in the poorer parts of the world.

For the next three weeks the world will be focused on Brazil. Just as the statue of Christ the Redeemer reminds us that Christ’s salvation is available to all, remember that Football is also a saviour to many of the poor in the world.

Please keep in your prayers those who are sick and those in our community who need our support and protection.

and coming events....

**Thursday 19 June**
Yr 5 Parish Mass  
Yr 9 NET Visit  
Yr 10 Mad Hatters’ Tea Party - All day

**Friday 20 June**
Yr 10 NET Visit  
Yr 1 Assembly 12pm at Cooma Ex-Services Club  
Sacrament of Confirmation 6.30pm

**Tuesday 24 June**
Sullivan Shield round 2 from 10 - 11am  
Kinder Support Evening 6pm

**Wednesday 25 June**
Yr 10 Taste of TAFE Day - All day

**Thursday 26 June**
Yr6 Parish Mass 10am

**Friday 27 June**
Last day of Term 2  
Father Paul farewell 11.15 - 12.15pm  
Yr 7 - 10 Semester awards  
Oliver rehearsal 12.30 - 3.30pm

**Tuesday 15 July**
Students return term 3

**Friday 18 July**
Yr 7-10 Snowsports

**Tuesday 22 July**
Kinder visit Preschool  
Information session MacKillop - 6pm

**Wednesday 23 July**
Yr 7 Enrolment information tour
NSW CCC Cross Country

The results of the NSW Combined Catholic Colleges Cross Country Championships held at Eastern Creek Raceway. These championships involve around 1300 students from across NSW.

* Angela Sullivan (16 yr girls 4 km) 42nd
* Abby Macnab (14 yr girls 4 km) 29th
* Sam Campbell (15 yr boys 4 km) 53rd
* Lucy Thornton (11 year girl ) 48th
* Madeline Stott (10 year girls ) 28th
* Clara Thornton (8/9 year girls) 11th
* Natalie Revelant (8/9 year girls) 41st

The students also met Melinda Gainsford-Taylor.

A very big thank you to the parents/carers who travelled to Sydney.

Mr Lawley
Confirmation Preparation – what happens?

Confirmation is one of the seven Sacraments of the Church. Before anyone is confirmed, a period of preparation takes place. There are weekly meetings in the home, the celebration of reconciliation, a practice and the actual celebration of the Sacrament itself.

The most important aspect of any sacramental preparation is the prayer in which it is enfolded. Asking God to bless the meeting, the preparation, the candidates, the families, the Parish community is the single most important act.

And so, a typical Confirmation meeting goes a little like this: we gather together firstly to pray.

True to this practice then, this is how we began our meeting last week. We gathered together in the home of the Quodling family and began our final session with prayer.

Loving God,
We ask you to bless our families who gather now to prepare their young people for the next step of their faith journey. Open our minds and hearts so that we may learn of the wonders of your love and so that we may be fully alive to your presence. We make this prayer through Jesus your son. Amen.

Meeting in the home has been the practice of our Parish for twenty years now. It is interesting to reflect on that journey and to know that some of us have been on it for all that time. Since its inception in Cooma with Fr Phil Buckley, our Parish community has been faithful to this model. This model was formally endorsed at the Canberra / Goulburn Archdiocesan Synod of 2003.

The Church recognises the family as the first and most important educators of their children. It is in the home that faith is born, nourished, nurtured and grown. It is through the model of parents - by their actions - that children get their first glimpse of who God is. If the model of parents is loving, compassionate and forgiving, then children will recognise God as loving, compassionate and forgiving. It also works the other way round.

Confirmation is the final step of being initiated into the Church. Realistically, it takes about 11 or 12 years to be fully part of the Church’s mission of going out and telling the Good News of Jesus. The Parish supports families in their preparation, but the onus is placed on the families. Ultimately, families started this off in the first place. They brought their children firstly to Baptism – they organised dates, people and times for the first step of initiation into the Church. Ultimately, it is parents’ responsibility to see it through.

At our meeting last week, we reviewed some of the scriptural passages the children had been looking at. Standing out in particular, was the story of the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost. Other scriptural stories were those of Jesus’ action in the world – healing the blind man, helping the young couple at Cana at the wedding feast, welcoming those who were on the edges of society. Jesus is the model for our action in the world. We then moved on to learning about the actual ceremony of Confirmation, the symbolism of some of the elements in the ritual, and the promises the children would be making. These promises were originally made on their behalf at Baptism by their parents and godparents: ‘I believe in God...’ At Confirmation, they will make these promises themselves. In the company of the community, and supported in prayer by the community, they will stand on their own two feet and say publicly, ‘I believe in God...’

Please continue to pray for our children as they get closer to the date of Confirmation. You too are all very welcome to join them.

Confirmation is this Friday at 6.30pm. Bishop Pat Power, an old Cooma boy himself, will be the celebrant.
Accelerated Reader

All students in Year 7 and half of Year 8 have been participating in the Accelerated Reader program (AR) since the start of this term. This program suggests a reading range for each student and enables them to set targets to work towards. Each book that is part of the program has a corresponding book level and number of points. Students earn these points by completing a short online quiz after reading their book.

AR is based on the principle that successful practice improves reading. If students are to become successful, motivated readers, they need to be reading books that are neither too easy for them, nor too hard. Reading books that are too easy does little to improve reading skills and can lead to boredom. Reading books that are too hard is equally ineffective and stressful and can lead to frustration and boredom.

Students are aiming to read for 45 to 60 minutes a day. On most days they read for 10 minutes at the start of their English lesson and 20 minutes during DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) time after lunch. The rest of their reading is during their own time.

All participating students should have brought home a letter outlining how you can check on their progress at home by logging on to the website for Renaissance Home Connect.

There are thousands of popular books, both fiction and non fiction that are AR books. Quizzes can only be completed at school but you can check if books you have at home are part of the program by visiting: www.arbookfind.com.au

We have been overwhelmed by the increased rate of borrowing from the school library and would welcome donations of books you have finished reading at home. Some of the popular books that never seem to stay on the shelves for long are:

Diary of a Wimpy Kid series
*The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green
*Parvana’s Journey* by Deborah Ellis
Divergent by Veronica Roth

Books written by the following authors:
Chris Ryan
John Marsden
Gary Paulsen
Morris Gleitzman

Books related to sport or horses.
Electrifying Year 8 Science

The Year 8 students have just started a unit of work on electricity. We first look at static electricity which results in the tingle which we get when we close the car door or when we touch something after scuffing along a carpet in runners. It is also the reason why the little polystyrene pellets from torn bean bags actively avoid being swept up.

After experimenting with the Van der Graff generator students then learn how to construct electric circuits. We finally set up an electric fence on the front lawn. This is probably the most thrilling time the students will have in Science. It is electrifying, hair-raising and spine-tingling! It is not for the faint hearted!

The curious observation is that even though the students put themselves through all sorts of static electric shocks, they still line up for more!
Sullivan Shield Rugby League Competition 2014

On Tuesday 10 June Stage 3 travelled to Kambah Playing Fields to play in the Sullivan Shield Rugby League Competition run by the Raiders. We played 4 games of footy and won 3!

St Pats 26 d Richardson 4
St Pats 24 d Charles Condor 0
St Pats 30 d Monash 0
Waniassa 22 d St Pats 12

We enjoyed the day playing Rugby League with all our mates. We were proud of the way that we worked as a team and everybody had a go. We think we improved our attacking and defending skills. We would like to thank Rob Zusak for his time and dedication to our team. Also, thanks for the great support from the parents who were there. We are looking forward to the next round in a couple of weeks and we will keep you posted.

Written by Nic Zusak, Kiah Joyce, James McGufficke and Colin Kingston (who did a bit more this time)

Brag time

There is often correspondence that comes to the school about our students and we need to have some brag time about it.

Here are excerpts from a letter from the Team Coordinator of the school soccer teams

I just wanted to pass on some news about Harry Nichols. Harry recently took up the position of the Under 9 Bobcats Coach. Since doing so, he has done a wonderful job coaching and guiding the players. His understanding of the game, has allowed him to pass on his knowledge and skills to the younger players. Harry has handled himself with dignity, professionalism and sincerity.

Hats off to Harry!! :-)

There was another letter from the North West Equestrian EXPO Inc President congratulating our equestrian team members who participated there recently.

The students demonstrated skill and courage, as well as excellent sportsmanship and good manners. It is very rewarding for the committee to see these qualities.

Thank you to all St Patrick’s students who wave our flag and make us feel very proud.

Canteen News

VOLUNTEERS
Thursday 19 June – Melinda Barrett
Friday 20 June – Grant Pascoe
Wednesday 25 June –

FRIDAY MEAL DEAL

Meat Pie or Potato Pie and a Drink of milk or juice : the cost is $5.00, please add 20c extra for sauce.
(PLEASE NOTE VANILLA MILK IS NO LONGER AVAILABLE).

OR

Sushi, drink of milk or juice and a frozen fruit cup for $5.00.

These are the only TWO choices available to both Primary and Infants.

As we coming to the end of Term 2, some canteen items may not be available so an alternative will be given.

Thank you for your continued support.

Carolyn Hely
Canteen Manager
13 June 2014

ACT PRIMARY AND NSW PRINCIPALS

Dear Principals,

The Catholic Education Office has begun the process of developing a set of Strategic Priorities for 2015-2017 for Catholic education across the Archdiocese.

Two essential elements in this process are to articulate our Core Beliefs about Catholic education and to develop a Vision Statement as the first steps in constructing the Strategic Priorities.

We are seeking consultation from stakeholders in Catholic education across the Archdiocese as to the values and concepts that should be represented in our set of Core Beliefs and Vision Statement.

The survey will be sent out by the CEO to all System Employees and Clergy. I am asking for your assistance to forward this link onto your parents and to encourage your staff to participate in providing feedback. I am looking forward to your participation in this process.

The Survey will be active until **5pm Wednesday 25 June 2014**.

Please click this link to begin the Survey:

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CEO_Priorities_Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CEO_Priorities_Survey)

Thank you for your participation.

Yours sincerely

Moira Najdecki
Director
Getting Active ...

Be healthy – be active
Children and adults need physical activity every day. Activity helps build better bones, muscles, joints and helps maintain a healthy weight. Physical activity can also reduce the risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes and some cancers. Get active anyway you can - walking, riding, swimming, and playing active games such as Duck, Duck, Goose or Bull Rush.

Great reasons to be active for children and parents
✓ boosts confidence
✓ improves fitness
✓ makes bones and muscles stronger
✓ improves posture
✓ helps maintain a healthy weight
✓ lowers the risk of heart disease
✓ reduces stress
✓ improves sleep
✓ reduces the risk of cancer
✓ improves self confidence
✓ teachers you new skills
✓ develops better motor skills
✓ makes a person happier with their body
✓ lower risk of disease including heart disease and cancer later in life.

Did you know...?
Sedentary living causes over 20 different health problems including heart disease, type 2 diabetes and some cancers. Obesity can make nine different conditions worse including chronic back pain and stroke. Get active and stay healthy!

Do an hour of physical activity everyday
Children need at least 60 minutes of activity each day. Children are not going to have enough physical activity while at school. Families can plan extra activity into their lives to make up the difference.

Keep active in the colder months
Don’t be a winter wannabe and let you and your children be sedentary this winter. Encourage children to engage in active play such as bush walking, bike riding, kicking the footy, or playing a game of tag all year round.
Getting Active …….  

**Fundamental movement skills**

There is evidence that children with poor fundamental movement skills such as jumping, skipping, leaping, kicking, throwing and catching are less likely to be active. Give your kids a head start and teach them these skills.

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**Easy ways to add physical activity to your day:**

- walk to the store, the school or the playground instead of using the car
- allow time for children to play outdoors
- park the car away from the shops
- get off the bus one stop earlier
- don’t use the remote control
- plant a veggie garden
- take the stairs instead of escalators or lifts
- schedule regular time each week for your family to be physically active together
- limit television time to no more than two hours per day or 14 hours a week.

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**Rainy day activities**

Keeping kids active and occupied during wet days can be challenging. Here are some active play ideas for children indoors:

- build a cubby house with sheets, chairs or cardboard boxes
- play hide and seek
- play basket softball and see how many times you can throw a foam ball into a washing basket - keep increasing the distance to make it more challenging
- have a dance competition or disco at home
- set a limit on the amount of time children spend in front of a screen (tv, computer etc).

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**Active tips for busy families**

- make time to be active as a whole family
- go out and play basketball, tag or soccer, throw a ball or ride a bike with your children
- meet friends or family in a park and take balls, hoops, Frisbees, bats or other outdoor games to play.
- Set a limit on television watching, computer time and video games to no more than 2 hours a day.
Getting Active ……

Encourage fair play

Sport and games are a great way for children to learn about teamwork, rules, winning, losing as well as providing invaluable physical activity. Parents can encourage fair play by:

- Emphasising effort and having fun, not just winning.
- Cheering and acknowledging good play by both teams.
- Talking about the game not the result.

For more information about encouraging fair play go to the NSW Sport and Recreation website [www.sdr.nsw.gov.au](http://www.sdr.nsw.gov.au) or phone 131 302.

Physical activity can be:

- sport and organized games
- playing with the dog
- backyard cricket
- climbing trees
- housework
- dancing to music
- wriggling and moving is normal for children and can be regarded as activity so avoid asking them to stop!

Ideas to get your family moving:

- Go outside and play chasing, ride bikes or throw a ball or a Frisbee.
- Encourage children to make their own obstacle course at home. You could use garden hoses as tight-ropes, chairs to crawl under, and the clothes line to run around. Include a skipping rope and some jumping. For variety ask them to walk backwards, hop or skip through the obstacle course. Time them to see how they are improving.
- Encourage your child to play outside whenever possible. Play along whenever you can.
- Be a good role model – be active when you’re with children. What gets children moving is what parents do, not what they say. Children learn by example!
- Include games and walks in family outings.
- Negotiate a time limit on sedentary activities such as watching TV and playing computer games.
- Walking together is a good time to talk to children about their lives and yours.
- Be prepared, think about activities your family can do in and around your home. Have some plans for wet days.
GOOD NEWS & BAD FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN NSW BUDGET

Catholic Education Commission NSW (CECNSW) has welcomed the NSW Government’s commitment to lift recurrent funding to all schools in the State Budget, honouring the national agreement signed in 2013.

But it said it is disappointed the NSW Government has left in place its 2012 freeze on capital funding to all non-government schools, which educate more than a third of the state’s school students.

The 2014-15 NSW Budget confirms state funding will increase each year under the National Education Reform Agreement (the so-called ‘Gonski’ funding reforms).

“We welcome confirmation that the NSW Government will honour its recurrent funding obligations, despite the Federal Government’s decision to abandon the agreement in its final two years when the most substantial investments were due to be made in all schools,” CECNSW executive director Brian Croke said.

“The NSW Government was the first to sign up to the Commonwealth’s school funding reforms, which direct more funding to teaching students with the greatest need.”

Dr Croke said students with a disability and indigenous students have been the fastest growing segments of enrolments in NSW Catholic schools over the past three decades.

“By the end of 2013, there were 12,708 students with a disability enrolled in NSW Catholic schools — up from 377 in 1985 — while indigenous enrolments have grown sixfold since 1985 to almost 6,400.”

“Today’s confirmation of additional recurrent funding means all NSW schools can plan for school years up to and including 2019, knowing the state component will be delivered.”

But Dr Croke said the decision to continue the freeze on capital funding to non-government schools meant it would be harder to meet the forecast growth in demand for additional school places.

“We are disappointed that the Government has left capital funding for the state’s 934 non-government schools at $54.6 million.

“With building costs rising, this is effectively a cut in capital funding — the first time NSW Government capital allocations to non-government schools have declined in real terms since 1968.

“Every school in NSW — Government and non-government — is an integral part of the state’s economic and social infrastructure.

“They need to be expanded and updated to keep pace with the leading schools in our region; this is not the time to be leaving any school behind,” Dr Croke said.

In 2013, NSW’s 583 Catholic schools educated 251,158 students and employed more than 27,000 teaching and support staff.

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MEDIA CONTACT  |  Jim Hanna  0414 828 629  |  9287 1556
Whats on……

Puppet making workshop

July school holidays for kids aged 6-12

From 10.30am
Thursday 3 July 2014
At Cooma Library
The workshop will be presented by Chris Gaskin of The Puppet Works

Morning tea provided

Cost: $10 per child (for materials)
Payment must be made with booking!
Places are limited so please book!
Phone: 6455 1730

Are you interested in becoming a Foster Carer with Marymead?

- Marymead Foster Care is seeking people who are willing to provide a safe and nurturing environment for children and young people on occasional weekends, weeks, months or even years.
- Marymead will provide financial assistance, ongoing training and caseworker support.
- Bi monthly information sessions are held at Marymead.

The next information session is on **Tuesday 1 July, 6.00pm at Marymead.**

To register your attendance phone Amy on 61625800 or email fcinfo@marymead.org.au. Children are more than welcome and light refreshments will be served.