Dear St Patrick’s Community

You can't complain when this is your backyard and your sport field!
I’m very appreciative of our location and equally appreciative of the work that our staff put in to make sure that our students can make the most of it.
The alternative program is also an amazing learning opportunity, requiring quite a lot of planning.

Homework or Home Learning? There have been whole forests of books and articles written on the value of homework and its potential for supporting learning. At St Patrick’s, we prefer the term home learning. It's not just work. Its purpose is for learning. Just as athletes practise and hone their skills, so, too, do other forms of learning need the same attention. It might mean practising something quite repetitively. This is why reading every night and practising the times tables need to be part of growing up. Parent’s role? Warm encouragement, rather than intervention has better results.

Students’ responsibility for their own learning extends beyond the classroom. Completing set tasks and managing a planned timetable of assessment tasks has to be part of a growing set of skills. There is an interesting article over the page that you might like to read.

We are becoming more and more reliant on electronic communication. At this school, we are committed to open, honest and timely communication that is respectful and constructive. There are benefits to communicating electronically but we also understand the shortfalls and, therefore, we also really value face to face conversations. To ensure that we use electronic communication most effectively, we have drafted a policy, which is included in this newsletter. Your comment is welcome.

Kind Regards
Frances Robertson
Principal
Girls, children from Asian and wealthy backgrounds do more homework: survey  Kim Arlington

**Homework hours during the week**

The amount of time Australian kids aged 10-13 spend on homework every week depends on a variety of factors.

Australian students aged 10 to 13 do an average of four hours of homework a week: 37 minutes on a typical weekday and almost an hour on weekends, a Roy Morgan survey has found.

That's an increase of 40 minutes since 2007, but still one-third of the time they spend watching television each week. Australian tweens also use the internet at home for an average of 10.5 hours a week and play computer or console games for 5.5 hours.

Education experts have long debated whether or not homework has academic benefits.

Professor John Hattie, from the Melbourne Graduate School of Education, is renowned for his evidence based research into what improves student learning. He said *the type of homework, not the amount of time spent* doing it, was what mattered.


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**First there was the theatre to see Snugglepot and Cuddlepie**

Then there was the visit to the Botanic Gardens to explore the rainforest walk, looking for the special creatures.

Then, there was a lovely picnic lunch in the gardens.

Thank you Mrs Moxon, Mrs Stacey, Mrs Barrett, Mrs Wilkins and Mrs Fraser for taking us out for this treat.
Archdiocesan Athletics.

All students have participated to a very high level with lots of students finishing in the top 3.

Last Thursday 30 August students from primary and secondary competed at the Archdiocesan Athletics carnival at the AIS in Canberra. Students competed in both track and field events, with 20 students placing in the top 3 in at least one of their events.

Congratulations to all students on their participation and effort on the day. When final results are sent out we will list those students who have qualified for the state carnivals in Sydney.

Thank you to the many parents and carers who helped drive students to and from the venue.

Mr Lawley
An Overview for the Cross Country Skiing Program

Day 1 - We had a perfect day on Monday with sun and no wind. We covered some basic skill drills, mastered the snowplough, experienced a biathlon familiarisation and then we did a teams’ biathlon and a 3.5 Km track ski. The photos tell only part of the story.

Day 2 - This was more challenging - sunny, but with a strong cold wind blowing consistently. We aimed to master the snowplough part 2, played soccer on skis, did slalom runs and a timed course, finishing with a longer ski of up to 7.5 Kms.

We were very fortunate to be able to use the biathlon equipment again. It really is a privilege. The equipment is expensive and technical and we are the only school group to have ever used it. It is a real bonus for our school. The students really enjoyed it and some were particularly good shooters, with Kadee, Bas and River ‘clean shooting’ most of the time in the prone position.

Overall, the students were just great - they were enthusiastic, gave everything a go and tried their hardest no matter what challenges they faced. Many of them surpassed our expectations, and it was great to see some of them shine in an environment away from school.

We know that they would have slept well afterwards!

Tim Greville and Pip Daley
Instructors
Update on the side fence

Unfortunately, one of the grand old trees at the front of the school has to come down, as it is causing enormous damage to the fence and the foundations.

It will be the perfect excuse to do some tree planting elsewhere to make up for its loss.

In the meantime, we will be using some of the Building Fund to remove and replace this dangerous fence. It is a very expensive operation, but safety has to be the priority.

Two Sundays ago, I competed in the City 2 Surf. I did it with my mum and my aunties, it was an all girls team. I came 58,194 out of more than 80,000 runners.

I loved the whole day! The beach, the sun, the running and we raised money for UNHCR to help people who are fleeing from war and danger.

Safia Nassar
Every week is Book Week

Our Year 3 - 6 classes have received their gift of books from Catholic Education and have begun to devour the pages (in a good way of course!!).

Remember students, if you like a particular series or author, be sure to swap with other classes in the school.

Happy reading everyone and let yourself enjoy the pleasure of reading every day - after all, this IS Book Week!!!
Electronic Communication Policy for St Patrick’s

Rationale

At St Patrick’s Parish School, we are committed to open, honest and timely communication. We are also committed to communication being respectful, measured, sensitive and constructive. In adhering to these principles, we aim to strengthen the goodwill and the positive partnership between parents and the school, in order to enhance the wellbeing and learning opportunities for our students.

We acknowledge the potential benefits of staff and parents communicating electronically, but also understand its shortcomings. This policy is designed to establish clear expectations for both staff and parents/guardians in the use of electronic communication.

Guidelines

Electronic communication is an environmentally friendly way of communicating that can save time when used effectively. We acknowledge this form of communication is very convenient for parents who may find it difficult to speak to school staff during regular work hours. However, our school community also values face to face and phone conversations and understands that these forms of communication are preferred in many situations.

Electronic communication can be as contractually binding as a signed letter. Use of electronic communication is subject to the laws relating to copyright, FOI, breach of confidentiality, privacy and anti-discrimination. Users of the school’s electronic systems are required to respect confidentiality, privacy, legal/professional privilege and the rights of others and to ensure that the content and dissemination of communication does not jeopardise those protections.

Respecting the privacy of people's user accounts or email addresses is critical. Therefore, for example, bulk group emails should be via ‘blind carbon copy’ (bcc). Being cautious about sending emails to ‘reply all’ is encouraged.

Implementation for Parents and Outside Parties

All parents/guardians at St Patrick’s Parish School will follow the protocols for the use of electronic communication as a communication tool between staff and parents/guardians.

Parents/guardians and staff will only communicate with one another via electronic communication during normal school hours. Electronic communication that is sent to staff outside of these times will normally be responded to during Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm.

The primary responsibility of all teachers is to teach, and dealing with electronic communication, unless urgent, must take second place. Responses to electronic communication will normally be within 24 hours, unless there is additional information required that determines a longer time-line.

Electronic communication is for information, not conversations. Staff and parents will only communicate non-urgent, essential messages to one another via electronic communication. The academic progress, learning expectations or significant behavioural issues relating to students should not be discussed via electronic communication. Discussions of this nature should be conducted over the phone at an arranged time or in person. A third party will not be discussed.

Staff will not respond to disrespectful, defamatory, offensive, abusive, confrontational or unreasonable electronic communication and will forward them to the Assistant Principal and/or Principal.

Parents/guardians should send emails intended for school staff to either the school’s email address: office.stpatscooma@cg.catholic.edu.au and it will be forwarded onto the appropriate staff member, or to the teacher’s school email address (firstname.surname@cg.catholic.edu.au). Staff private email addresses are not to be used.
SOUTH EAST ARTS PRESS RELEASE

YOOFTube Finalists Announced for 2016

Young filmmakers across the region are celebrating this morning as the finalists for YOOFTube 2016 are announced.

Young people aged 12-20 from Bega Valley, Eurobodalla and Snowy Monaro were invited to submit short films to South East Arts' annual competition. This year the quality was exceptionally high and judges spent hours deliberating the shortlist.

One of the major finalists are:

**Turnaround by Anna Brayshaw (13), Julia Davies (14), Brianna Rankin (13) and Sophie Williams (13) from St Patrick's Cooma**

The winners of the various prizes including up to $1000 cash will be announced at simultaneous screenings of the films at The Picture Show Man in Merimbula and The Kinema in Narooma on 12 September. Other screenings will take place across the region in September including Cooma, Eden and Batemans Bay.

**Good luck to our students!**

Year 7 Technology have entered into a world of virtual reality with Google Cardboard.

A reminder that the Absentee mobile 0459764337 is only for text messages to let us know your child is late not for leaving phone messages. Please call the office on 64521721 if you need to leave a message.
Canteen News

**Book Week! Book Week! Book Week!**

There has been some "Possum Magic" in the canteen this week! Thursday is the Book Week Parade and we can't wait to see everyone's costumes. What is more Australian than a Barbecue? So we will be offering a sausage sizzle for lunch this Thursday (first break) along with other treats in the theme of Possum Magic.

We also know how busy life is for the parents of all our children and that a lot of parents use their lunch break from work to participate and attend the parades for the children, so we will be running the barbecue for the parents after the parade in front of the primary school as well. Prices will be as follows so please don't forget to send a little money with your children on Thursday so that no one misses out.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single sausage</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flavoured Milk</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamingtons</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juice</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fruit Salad Pavlova Kebabs</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anzac Biscuits</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegemite Scrolls</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This week's Volunteers and Helpers are:

- **Wed 24/08** Zoe Hoctor  
  Yr 10: Josh
- **Thurs 25/08** Elsa Wagner, Marjorie Revelant, Leadership Team  
  Yr 10: Chris
- **Frid 26/08** Elsa Wagner  
  Yr 10: Matthew

A huge thank you to all our volunteers and helpers. Without you we couldn't make these things happen and we are so grateful that you are all here.

Rebecca Croke  
Canteen Manger
National Science Week
This week for National Science Week our Year 9 classes combined to dissect eyes as part of their unit on Light. They were surprised to find out how beautiful the inside of the eye is and how lenses help us to magnify the world we see.

This week Year 10 combined Science classes to learn about Neutralising. They produced a salt and then tested its presence using spectral analysis.

Thank you to all the teachers and parents who supported the K-2 Snowsports program for 2016.
Youth Day Out

Snowy Monaro Regional Council is giving young people a Day Out.

Join the crew on the FREE bus and visit a skate park, pool or the shops. Running over the September school holidays, check out the full timetable and more information on the Snowy Youth Council Facebook page.

Bookings essential. Email the Youth Development Officer: claire.rogers@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au to book your seat.

**DAY OUT @ THREDBO, Monday 26th September**
Depart Delgaty 8:30am – Jindabyne 9:00am – Thredbo 2pm
Return Jindabyne 3pm – Delgaty 4pm

**DAY OUT @ COOMA, Wednesday 28th September**
Depart Bombala 9:00am – Cooma 2:30 pm
Return – Bombala 4pm

**DAY OUT @ JINDABYNE Friday 30th September**
Depart Adamsdale 8:30am – Bombala 11:30 – (Halts Bus Shed 13) – Jindabyne 2pm
Return – (Halts Bus Shed 2:30) – Bombala 4pm

**DAY OUT @ THREDBO, Tuesday 4th October**
Depart Cooma 8 am – Jindabyne 12 – Thredbo 2:30
Return – Jindabyne 4pm – Cooma 4pm

**DAY OUT @ JINDABYNE, Wednesday 5th October**
Depart Bombala 9:00am – Delgaty 10:30am – Jindabyne 2pm
Return Delgaty 2:30pm – Bombala 4pm

**EVENING OUT @ COOMA, Friday 7th October**
Depart Jindabyne 5pm – Bombala 5:30pm – Cooma 6pm (dinner)
Return Bombala 9:30pm – Jindabyne 9pm

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**THE BAND OF THE ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE**

**DUNTRUDDEN**

**PERFORMING SUNDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER**
2PM - MULTIFUNCTION CENTRE, COOMA

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM**
COOMA VISITORS CENTRE, FABRIC SALON
COOMA RSL SERVICES CLUB & THE DOOR OF SIR WILLIAM HUDSON MEMORIAL CENTRE

- **ADULTS** $20
- **CONCESSIONS** $15
- **SCHOOL CHILDREN** $10

**Designated by The Monaro Post**

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**COOMA Kids Yoga!**

**Wednesday afternoons**
@ Earth Song Wellness Centre

**$10**
3:45-4:45

**Afternoon snack included**

Ph Lisa
0438 666 847

***if paid in full for term***