Dear Parents and Friends of our School Community

This week we particularly remember the **Feast of the Annunciation**. Just as an enormous annunciation was presented to Mary, we must remember that many little ‘annunciations’ are also presented to us each day. God’s messages are revealed to us every day and we pray that we have the grace to say ‘yes’ to God’s invitations.

Thank you to the parents who have taken up the invitation to book the Parent/Teacher/Student conferences online. This is a very easy process. We will be showing students how to do this as well. Please see the instruction sheet inside this newsletter.

I am looking forward to my first **K-6 Disco this Friday 28 March** at the Uniting Church Hall, Soho Street, from 6.00 pm – 7.30 pm. I hope lots of parents can join us for what promises to be a lovely event.

As the cooler days approach and parents are preparing to organise the warmer **winter uniform**, I remind everyone that how we present ourselves to the community is really important. It demonstrates our ‘belonging’ to this school. In essence, we are ‘waving the flag’ for St Patrick's. Please check the **uniform expectations for Term 2 and 3** contained in this newsletter.

We were also waving the flag at the recent RACV rally of veteran cars. It is delightful to see students being involved in community events. In the coming weeks, I will be outlining the new **community service and school service plan for Secondary students**. This is an important part of their learning, as members of the wider community.

It is wonderful to see that the **Little Boxes of Hope** are filling with suitable goodies for homeless people. Thank you to all students and families who have taken up this challenge.

*Mrs Frances Robertson*
Principal

---

**Week 9**
**Term 1 2014**

**Behold, I have come to do Your will** *Hebrews 10:4-10*
School Fees Assistance

Application Forms for assistance with School Fees for the period of Term 2 2014 to Term 1 2015 are now available at the school office. **A new application must be submitted each year** and this must be accompanied by copies of at least two current, relevant pieces of documentation. Please note that assistance is limited and applications must be lodged by Friday 12 April 2014. **No late applications can be accepted.** If further information is required, please contact Mrs Frances Robertson on 6452 1721.

Homework Group

Homework Group meets every Thursday in the secondary library at 3.30 pm for one hour. Afternoon tea is provided as well as access to computers and materials. Students receive personal support from Karen Lonergan of Youth Connections, as well as support from teachers. It is a great opportunity for getting some assessment tasks sorted and homework completed. Any student is welcome. Parents are required to collect their children at 4.30 pm.

From the AP’s Desk

Dear Students and Parents

**Working Bee Saturday 5 April**

Don Southwell, our groundsman, does a great job ensuring the school looks presentable and is ‘functioning’ as it should be. This is difficult considering the age of the secondary campus. He is constantly fixing things that in a new school he would not have to.

Last year our effort at each working bee saved Don **6 months of work**. This allowed him to focus on some of the larger jobs.

On Saturday 5 April, we have another working bee from 9.00 am to 12.00 pm. There will be light refreshments available. There is work to be done in the gardens around the school, cleaning windows, spider web removal and green waste removal. We will also check the marquees and BBQs. It would be really helpful if people brought tools and gloves with them.

I encourage students to also come along for 1-2 hours. A small effort can make a huge difference and will count for House points.

Claim the Date: K-2 Grandparents and Friends Day

**When:** Friday 9 May

**Where:** K-2 Campus

**Time:** Classroom visits 12:15 — 1:00 pm

Picnic Lunch 1:00 — 1:30 pm
Waving the flag for the RACV Rally
On Monday 24 March the K-6 Captains and SRC members, along with two students from Bombala went to the Jindabyne Sport and Recreation Centre. After getting off the bus we participated in the Initiative Challenge. There were eight in total. All of the activities were challenging, frustrating and fun! We then had to work as a team to encourage and support our teammates when rock climbing. It was fun!

Written by Emmilee Reid and Joshua Sharkey (Year 6 SRC)
Sleek Geeks Science Eureka Prize – K-10

The University of Sydney Sleek Geeks Science Eureka Prize is awarded for a short film that communicates a scientific concept in an accessible and engaging way.

Entries are to take the form of a 1-3 minute film and must tell a real scientific story, which may be a scientific concept, discovery, invention, or the producer's own scientific hypothesis! Anything goes, but keep the science in the story, and keep the science real.

This competition is about scientific content and communication of that content, not production values i.e. judging criteria are not related to how much money is spent on production and editing. While good quality production is encouraged, this will not be a major consideration in judging entries.

7-10 First prize: $4,000 plus a $500 book voucher from Abbey's Bookshop, Sydney
Second Prize: $2,000
Third Prize: $1,000

K-6 First prize: $2,000 plus a $500 book voucher from Abbey's Bookshop, Sydney
Second Prize: $1,000

Prize money is divided equally between the winning students and their school. Book vouchers are shared equally by members of the winning team. Representatives from the finalist teams will win a trip to Sydney for the Australian Museum Eureka Prizes Award Dinner.

Entry forms must be submitted online by 7pm AEST Friday 2 May 2014. Completed hard copy entries must be received by the Australian Museum no later than 5pm AEST Friday 9 May 2014. If you are interested in entering this exciting competition, please contact Steven Joyce or the school office for further information.

Students
Who
Achieve
Greatness

Congratulations to Corey Mills, Lucy Thornton, Shea Ilitch, Cameron Fletcher, Molly Brabham, James Burke, Thomas Croke, Declan George and Charlie Dowton (absent)

Brumbies Signed Football Raffle

Congratulations goes to Emelia Greville from Kinder Green who is the winner of the signed Brumbies football. The total raised from the raffle was $95.50. This money will go towards purchasing new sports equipment. We would also like to thank the ACT Brumbies for donating the ball to the school.
P&F News

We welcome all K-6 students and parents to attend our **Dance Fever Disco** this Friday evening. Younger children who are not attending school are welcome, however, a parent must be present at all times. All children must be signed in and out.

A big thank you to Joumana Nassar for designing our funky poster.

Also a reminder that next **Tuesday 1 April** will be a **General P&F meeting**, to be held in the Primary Library at 7.00pm. Please come along to this meeting and support the P&F and be kept up to date with what is going on in the school.

---

**Our Future Scientists!**

Year 4 are studying a geology unit titled **Beneath Our Feet** and it was with great enthusiasm that we welcomed a guest teacher, Mr Moser, to share his passion for rocks and dirt. The students were taught how to write up an experiment that will help them determine the soil type of their samples. They then filled in a triangular grid based on their experiment. This told them the name of their soil.

The students also had rock samples which they discussed with Mr Moser. This was an opportunity for the children to ask questions about their rock and have each rock sample named and explained.

Some of the great questions they asked included:

- Is my rock older than dinosaurs?
- Did my rock come from a long way underground?

These questions stimulated a lot of discussion. It was a great afternoon of learning.

Who would have thought dirt and rocks could be so much fun!
School Cross Country – Friday 4 April

Next week will see the running of the school primary and secondary cross country carnivals. Below is some information about the day for parents, carers and students.

The **cross country will be held on Friday 4 April at the Lions Park, Cooma North.** All students will need $3 for the return trip. Parents are most welcome to come and cheer on their children. Students are visible for approximately 1km of each lap they complete.

Primary students will be picked up from school at 11.30 am and travel up to Lions Park. They will walk the course and the boys are scheduled to start at 12.10 pm, with the girls starting at 12.15 pm. All ages will run together. However, students will be classed according to their age this year. Primary students will arrive back at school at 1.15 pm. Primary students will need all of their normal equipment for both morning and afternoon lessons.

Secondary students will leave school at 1.00 pm. They will walk the course and the boys are scheduled to start at 1.50 pm. The girls will start at 1.55 pm and the House relay will start at 2.00 pm. All ages will run together, however, students will be classed according to their age this year. Secondary students will arrive back at school at 3.00 pm. Secondary students will need all of their normal equipment for periods 1, 2, 3 and 4.

**Notes**
- **All students are expected to attend the cross country carnival and compete in their age group, or House relay if in Secondary.**
- All students need $3 for the bus, plus some food and water. There are no canteen facilities at the venue but lunch can be ordered at school as normal. Water is limited at the venue.
- Students are expected to bring puffers if they are asthmatic. Students are to remind their class teacher that they have it with them.
- All students will need to wear their **full PE uniform and run with a school hat.**
- The first 6 finishers in each age for boys and girls will qualify for the regional (primary) or Archdiocesan (secondary) carnivals. The primary regional carnival will be on Thursday 8 May in Cobargo whilst the Archdiocesan carnival is on Wednesday 21 May at Mt Stromlo, ACT.
- The course at Lions Park is 1.5km long. Below are the distances students will need to run. The number of laps will be communicated with students on the day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>2km</td>
<td>2km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>2km</td>
<td>2km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>2km</td>
<td>2km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>3km</td>
<td>3km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>3km</td>
<td>3km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>3km</td>
<td>3km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>4km</td>
<td>4km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>4km</td>
<td>4km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>6km</td>
<td>4km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary House Relay</td>
<td>1.5km</td>
<td>1.5km</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you have any questions prior to the day please contact Mr Lawley at school on 6452 1721.
Canteen News

THANK YOU! I would like to begin with thanking the P&F for another generous donation to the canteen. I was given $120.00 to purchase a sandwich toaster, knives and a board specifically to prepare gluten free items. This will avoid any cross contamination. If you have any queries regarding gluten free please do not hesitate to contact me in the canteen. Thank you again to the P&F for their continued support.

REVISED /UPDATED MENU! My apologies for not sending this out sooner but I assure you a new menu will be sent home before the end of this term. Thank you for your patience.

MINI CANTEEN! Mini canteen will be available most Wednesdays for Primary and Infants. A variety of items will be for sale, including Quelch fruit sticks, popcorn, pikelets with jam and frozen fruit cups. Items are priced at 50c or $1.00. So students have time to enjoy their purchase, only one item is recommended per student. To avoid upset and loss of their “precious money”, please avoid sending your child to school with more than $2.00. We will have other treat days and I will give notice when these will happen. Thank you for your support with this.

VOLUNTEERS

Wednesday 2 April: Help needed please
Thursday April 3: Kim Kleven
Friday April 4: Grant Pascoe

MEAL DEAL FRIDAY

- Tuna Sushi/fruit cup and drink for $5.00
- OR
- Mini ham and cheese or mini BBQ chicken and cheese pizza/garlic bread/fruit cup and drink of choice. This is also $5.00.

Thank you for your continued support.

Carolyn Hely
Canteen Manager

and coming events....

Have you looked at the calendar on the school's website?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday 27 March</th>
<th>Friday 4 April</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K - 6 Life Education</td>
<td>K - 10 Cross Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 10 War Memorial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 7 Parish Mass</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday 28 March</th>
<th>Saturday 5 April</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K - 2 Environmentors Workshop</td>
<td>Working Bee 9 - 12pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSWCPSS Swimming Homebush</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K - 6 Disco</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday 30 March</th>
<th>Wednesday 9 April</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Schools Soccer Carnival</td>
<td>Visit to MacKillop by Year 10 Students 9 - 12pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday 31 March</th>
<th>Thursday 10 April</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary Winter Trials</td>
<td>Yr 7 - 10 Motivational Media 9am - 12pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday 1 April</th>
<th>Friday 11 April</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yr 8 Surf Safety</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P&amp;F Meeting Primary Library</td>
<td>K - 6 Easter Bonnet Parade 12pm - 1pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday 2 April</th>
<th>Monday 28 April</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yr 3, 5, 7 &amp; 9 NAPLAN Workshop (Harry Laing)</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday 3 April</th>
<th>Tuesday 29 April</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yr 8 Parish Mass</td>
<td>Student return</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School Website: www.stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au
Junior Soccer 2014 - Registration Reminder

- Registrations close - Friday 28 March
- Registration Forms are now online through Football Federation – Australia *
- 2014 Season will kick off Saturday 3 May
- Teams will be combined boys and girls
- Age groups are from Under 6 - Under 13

* For further details about the 2014 Season, registration information or if you can assist in any way, (St Patrick's Junior Soccer Coaches/Teams Managers), please contact Simon Buckley - 0412 245 495 or simon_buckley@bigpond.com

COMMUNITY CHEST GARAGE SALE DAY

There will be over 40 garage sales and stalls in Cooma and Adaminaby this Saturday 29 March from 8 am. There will also be BBQ, soup and cupcake stalls in Centennial Park from 10 am – 1 pm.

St Patrick’s Social Justice Group will be running a ‘Milkshakes and Munchies’ stall in support of Caritas. Soft drinks, chocolates, icy poles and lolly bags as well as milkshakes will be for sale. We would love you to show your support for our stall that will be located next to the Visitors Centre in the park.

To find out locations of other garage sale and stalls buy your maps for a $2 donation from the Visitors Centre or the Fabric Salon from Wednesday this week onwards.

---

Easter Poster Competition

organised by the Rotary Club of Cooma Inc

Paint Draw Collage

Use your imagination!

Age Groups: - under 5 to 7 years, 8 to 10 years, 11 to 13 years, 14 to 16 years
Prizes: - for each age group 1st - $15, 2nd - $10, 3rd - $5
Size: - A4 sheet of paper
Include: - on the BACK of each poster, Name / age / phone number / school details
Deliver your entries to: - Cooma Visitors Centre in Sharp Street
Entries close: - Saturday, 12 April

Prizes will be awarded at 11.30am at the Cooma Rotary Club's Easter Market on Sunday, 20 April

Posters will be on display from Monday, 14 to Wednesday, 23 April in the old Medicare office building, 57 Vale St, Cooma.

---

Snowy Mountains Readers Writers Festival

READERS WRITERS CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL - JINDABYNE

SATURDAY APRIL 19TH 2014

Venue: Readers Writers Tent at Banjo Paterson Park Jindabyne & Rydges Horizons at Lakeside Room.

Starting from 9am to 5pm. Bookings in advance for individual sessions may be made on;

www.snowmountainswritersfestival.org

and payment to be made on the day of the festival.
SCHOOL UNIFORM

The school uniform is an important part of school life at St Patrick's. School spirit, pride in the school and a sense of belonging are encouraged by the wearing of the school uniform.

When full uniform cannot be worn a parent/carer note explaining the situation must be carried by the student at all times. St Patrick's uniforms are available from South East Embroidery, 40 Bombala Street. A second hand clothing stall is also coordinated by the P & F, contact the school office on 64521 721 for more details.

The following points must be noted in relation to uniform for both boys and girls:

- The uniform should always be neat and tidy.
- Permitted jewellery if of an appropriate design: a watch; one small flat ring; one gold or silver chain with a cross or religious symbol; a fine silver or gold bracelet or bangle; charity arm bands - wear any charity bands (whether supported by the school or not) -maximum 4.
- Natural coloured foundation/moisturiser, no eyeliner or mascara may be worn; clear or natural coloured nail polish; clear or natural coloured lip gloss.
- Hair should be tied back when directed by a teacher.
- Boys must be clean shaven.
- If a belt is worn it must be plain grey or black.
- School caps or hats must be worn for sport and PE and during outside breaks.
- No type of aerosol can is permitted at school: therefore deodorants must be roll-on.
- The wearing of sunglasses is encouraged but should be worn outside only.

Parents/carers are asked to make sure that every part of the uniform is clearly marked with the student's name.

BOYS WINTER UNIFORM

- Long grey pants—approved designs available from South East Embroidery & Your Workwear, Bombala Street, Cooma. Please note that a plain black or grey belt must be worn with all trousers that have belt loops.
- Regular plain grey or white socks, NOT sport socks.
- Long sleeved fawn shirt with button-up collar worn with school tie (K-6 students).
- Fawn skivvy.
- Long sleeve plain white shirt with button-up collar and worn with school tie (7-10 students).
- Green school jumper with crest (green sloppy joe with crest or green polar fleece top may be worn for K-6 students).
- Plain black, hard, shiny, leather, lace-up shoes (not suede) with maximum 2cm platform and 3cm heel including platform (no skate shoe soles) or plain black shiny leather riding boots (winter only).
- Green school hat or cap, to be worn outdoors throughout the year.
- Black coat or plain black parka (without any brand names). 'Hoodies' are not part of the school uniform and black jackets are only to be worn over the school jumper.
- Plain black (no markings), beanie, scarf and gloves during colder weather, These items to be worn outdoors only.
- Plain black, hard, shiny, leather (not suede), lace-up shoes with maximum 2cm platform and 3cm heel including platform (no skate shoe soles) or plain black (or brown) shiny leather riding boots in winter.

School Website: www.stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au
SCHOOL UNIFORM continued....

GIRLS WINTER UNIFORM
- Green gored skirt and green tights (K-6 students).
- Mid-calf length Tartan Skirt with two inverted pleats, elasticised sides and back zipper with black ribbed stockings (7-10 students). The pattern and material for the skirt may be obtained from the Fabric Salon, Vale Street, Cooma.
- Black stockings, black ribbed stockings or black socks must be worn under slacks.
- Straight-cut green gabardine trousers (cord and jeans fabrics are unacceptable) with white socks.
- Fawn skivvy or fawn blouse worn with the school tie (K-6 students).
- White Peter Pan pin-tucked blouse (7-10 students).
- Green school jumper with crest (green sloppy-joe with crest or green polar fleece may be worn by K-6 students).
- Black coat or plain black parka without any brand names.
- Plain black (no markings) beanie, scarf, gloves during colder weather. These items to be worn outdoors only.
- Plain black, lace-up, shiny, hard leather shoes (not suede) with regular heels (not skate shoe soles), maximum 2 cm platform and 3cm heel including the platform.
- Hair ribbon must be green, yellow, white or black (not a combination of these colours).
- INFANTS ONLY may wear the Harrison Huston (plain shoe with velcro wrap).
- Hair ribbon must be green, yellow, white or black (not a combination of these colours).

SPORTS/PE UNIFORM - K-10
- Green microfibre shorts: Brand LWR Style 433SH (no basketball shorts).
- Gold sports shirt with short sleeves, collar and school crest.
- Plain white ankle length socks or white sport socks (no coloured markings).
- Sports shoes (no skate shoes or casual wear or canvas shoes – these are unsuitable for physical activity).
- Green school tracksuit with crest.
- Full tracksuit (2 piece) is required to be worn.
Parent/Teacher/Student conferences for Years 7 to 10 will be held at the Club from **4.00pm – 7pm** on **Wednesday 9 April**.

All teachers will be present until 6pm, when there will be a 15 minute break and those teachers with further appointments will remain until 7pm.

You can now book interviews at times that suit **your family best**. Go to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and follow these simple instructions.

**BOOKINGS CLOSE Wednesday 9TH APRIL at 1pm.**


Enter THIS school event code.

Then follow the 3 simple steps.

When you click **finish**, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically - **check your junk mail folder** if you do not receive your email immediately.

You can return to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) at any time, and change your interviews - until bookings close.

**Other Information**

For parents who don’t have access to the internet at home, at work, at a friend’s house or on their phones, the school office can be contacted on 64521721 for your child’s interviews to be placed within the online booking system.

Interviews are strictly 5 mins and spaces are limited. If you require more time, please contact your teacher directly to make alternative arrangements.

Parents can change their interview bookings, any time prior to the closing date, by re-visitig the [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) website, and using the event code. Remember to use the same name and email address you used when you made your original booking. Parents wishing to change their interview times after the closing date, should contact the school directly on: 64521721.

We would love to hear what you think about online booking. If you get time, click on the “contact us” button on the [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) website, and leave some feedback - anonymously if you wish, but please include the school’s name and town.

School Website: [www.stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au](http://www.stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au)
Engage in your child’s education through volunteering

By fully engaging in the life of your child’s school you’ll enjoy a richer school experience and help your kids to succeed as well.

We all want our kids to be active participants in all that their school has to offer.

Modern schools offer kids a great deal in terms of electives, clubs and other participatory activities. Some kids stand on the edges and don’t quite join in, while others immerse themselves in all that a school offers. It’s the latter group that tends to get the most out of their educational experience.

Similarly, there are many opportunities available for parents to engage in the life of their children’s school ranging from assisting in the classroom through to helping out at weekend working bees.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that parent volunteering in school activities is on the decline. Many schools can’t even muster enough parents to person their canteen on a daily basis, forcing them to employ commercial interests to run the tuck shop. Busy lifestyles, attitudinal change towards volunteering and lack of connectedness have been blamed for this decline.

There are some compelling reasons why you should maximise your engagement in your child’s school-life.

1. **You help your child succeed at school.** The positive correlation between a parent’s school engagement and a child’s success at school has been repeatedly found in studies across the globe. Positive participation demonstrates to children that you value learning as well as their school. Kids of all ages copy their parents’ views so your positive involvement in both school and learning is catching. In short, if you want to maximise your child’s chances of success then engage as fully as possible in the life of your child’s school.

2. **You learn what happens at school.** Let’s face it, some kids are conversational clams so it’s hard finding out about their day at school. By helping out in the class, going on an excursion or helping to maintain their school gardens you find out for yourself how modern schools operate.

3. **Your school will value your contribution.** The recent flurry of capital expenditure in school buildings may suggest that there is plenty of money around for education. Nothing could be further from the truth. Schools in all sectors run on tight budgets and rely on volunteer assistance inside and outside the classroom. In many cases, if volunteers don’t do a job, it won’t be done. It’s that simple.

4. **You will feel more connected to your community.** Social researchers have noted that children’s schools offer many people their first connection to their town or suburb. Mobility is a feature of Australian families with many parents moving vast distances from where they grew up and away from their extended family and peers. Whether you are an urban dweller, a regional city resident or live in a small country town, your child’s school offers an entry into a wide social circle.

5. **Volunteering is good for your mental health and well-being.** Mental health professionals point to volunteering as an important way to maintain good mental health. Not only does volunteering prevent social isolation but it offers the chance to get a feeling of satisfaction from helping out that money just can’t buy.

   If you’d like to help out at your child’s school but you aren’t sure where to start then consult your child’s teacher, year level co-ordinator or senior staff. They’ll point you in the right direction.

   By fully engaging in the life of your child’s school you’ll enjoy a richer school experience and help your kids to succeed at school as well.