A special place...

We know that St Patrick’s is a special place, but a rainbow above the school highlighted that last Friday.

In the last week, we have had so many special things happening. It was opening night for the musical Oliver! Students were preparing for their sacrament of Reconciliation. It was Book Week ... and the Book Wizard lives on! We had a Support Evening for Infants parents. The Kindergarten Big Step days have begun for the Kindergarten 2015 enrollees. It was Science Week, complete with lunchtime competitions. Primary students had their last two days of Snowsports. Year 10 went on the Bournda excursion for Geography studies. Stage 2 and Stage 3 students are preparing for the Diocesan Public Speaking competition. The Secondary Tournament of Minds team is beginning to finalise their presentation for the competition on 7 September.

The list is exhausting!

Learning happens in so many different ways and often the most memorable learning happens outside the four walls of the classroom. We are blessed to have so many staff members who make sure that every learning opportunity is the best it can be, whether it is inside or outside the classroom.

And what have we heard this week?

Thanks so much for the great tickets. We loved Oliver! The show is a credit to you and St Pats. It was great to meet members of your community as well. Natasha O’Donoghue from Catholic Education Office, Canberra.

Thanks for the privilege of watching Oliver! Community member.

Congrats to all cast and crew. Oliver! was a superb show. We have some very talented students. School Board Chairperson

It’s clear that St Patrick's is doing something right, with so many students wanting to be in a show like Oliver! It was fabulous. Community member.

Yes, St Patrick’s is a special place.

Kind regards

Principal
From the AP’s Desk

School life is more than book learning. We try to embrace learning and well-being for the whole student. At the recent Support Evening for Infants parents, we were fortunate enough to have guest speakers.

Nicole Spencer came to talk about the Family Referral Service. This is a Keep Them Safe initiative funded by the NSW Governments to improve the well-being and safety of children and families. Their role is to link families to support services, including counselling, legal support, child care, respite care and financial assistance. Nicole can be contacted Monday to Friday on 1300 736 384.

The other guest speakers were from the Community Health. Monica and Monique promoted healthy eating. Although we are a healthy eating school and actively promote crunch and sip, there was still much to learn about the quality of food that we give to children.

There was a very effective visual display, demonstrating the sugar contained in various foods. The concept of red, amber and green foods was reinforced.

We really appreciate the time and preparation given to these presentations.

and coming up....

Friday 29 August
ACT schools mountain bike championships
School Production ‘Oliver!’ 7.00pm

Saturday 30 August
School Production ‘Oliver!’ 1pm & 7pm

Tuesday 2 September
PASS Cross country skiing

Wednesday 3 September
PASS Cross country Skiing
Yr 5 Assembly 12pm - 1pm

IMPORTANT DATES FOR FUTURE REFERENCE
Saturday 28 September
8.00am –1.00pm
P&F BBQ Catering for The Block Visit at Mitre 10

Saturday 1 November
8.00am –1.00pm
P&F BBQ Catering for The Snowy Ride Check Point and Cake Stall at Cooma Rotary Markets

Saturday 6 December
8.00am – 6.00pm
P&F BBQ Catering for Cooma Races
The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Over the last few weeks, some of the children in our Parish prepared for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They celebrated this Sacrament for the first time with Father Michael Hickey and then last weekend at Mass, received their certificates and enjoyed a party in the Parish Centre. This Sacrament is also known as the 'Sacrament of Peace' and each child reported experiencing this great feeling of peace afterwards. Our congratulations and continued prayers go to the children and their families. May they always know 'this peace that the world cannot give' (Jesus).
Thank you!

OLIVER! Behind the scenes...

Thank you!
Thank you!
Fathers’ Day Gift Stall

5 September 2014

Students are asked to donate a small gift which will in turn be available for sale on the Fathers’ Day Stall on Friday 5 September.

We ask that gifts be wrapped in clear cellophane so that children shopping can see what they are buying. Can all gifts be given to class teachers by Monday 1 September.

On Friday 5 September every child will have the opportunity to shop at the stall for their Father/carer. All gifts will be available for purchase and priced between $2.00 and $5.00. Funds raised go to the St Patrick’s P & F.

Suggestions include: a coffee mug filled with sweets, magazines, sporting items, key ring, gardening supplies.

If you would like to get involved or assist on the day, please contact Natalee Reid on mws@schutebell.com or text 0412910152

Thank you
St Pat’s P & F

Canteen News

Congratulations to Primary students Safia Nassar and Sami Frazer who were awarded the “Healthy Lunch Choice Canteen Award” last week. Safia & Sami received a $5 canteen voucher each.

The two meal deal options this Friday include a drink:

SUSHI ROLL & A DRINK = $5  SUSHI PANDA & A DRINK = $4.50

All other items on the price list are available on a Friday too.

A big thank you to the student and parent volunteers who have been helping me in the canteen. Please remember that there is no Canteen on Monday.

Caroline Blyton
Canteen Manager

www.stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au
There was a large range of activities offered during the Alternative Ski Program. These included: cooking delicious pizzas, making flags for the Commonwealth Games, being a 'star' in a talent quest, creating art including screen printing, making large snowflakes and items for Oliver and taking part in tennis and squash activities. Students also took part in a personal development day in which they were involved in activities to highlight their unique gifts and talents. Students danced away at a disco, took part in a Commonwealth Games research challenge, played board games with their friends and watched a movie.

Thank you to all teachers who helped to supervise and organise students over the four days and to Mrs Jenny Wallis for volunteering her time.

What will be on the agenda for next year???
Students Who Achieve Greatness

Joshua Van Ommen, Lochlan Giuliani, Jamie O'Donnell, Koby Grech, India Dyball, Amity Rolfe, Georgia Rumball, James Burke, Jackson Cook, Thomas Lloyd

Thank you Thank you Thank you

Thank you to all parents that donated slices and other food for the Gala Night of 'Oliver!' on Friday 22 August. There was quite an assortment of canapés and slices and plenty to go around. It was wonderful to show this hospitality to our guests.
Sports Report

Interschool Snowsports

At the end of last month 12 students across K-10 participated in the Southern NSW Interschools Snowsports Championships at Perisher. All students performed admirably despite some very challenging conditions which resulted in many events cutting competition runs back to one, instead of the usual two. This left very little room for students to make small mistakes and still finish high on the results sheet.

Congratulations to following students who finished inside the top ten either individually or as a team:

- Sarah Milford and Laura Cooke 6th in moguls
- Andrew Devereux 3rd in moguls
- Kadee Laird 7th in skiercross
- Sarah Milford 10th in alpine
- Declan Gregory 10th in alpine

Good luck to these students as they compete this week in Thredbo at the NSW Interschool Championships. Good luck also to Kadee Laird, Hudson Laird, Harriett Greville, Spencer Walker-Broose and Charlotte Walker-Broose for the NSW XC Interschool Championships.

Archdiocesan Athletics

St Patrick’s sent a strong team of students to participate in the Archdiocesan Athletics carnival a couple of weeks ago. All students participated to a high level and it was great to see students supporting each other in their various events.

The following students finished in the top 3 in their events: Isabella Adams (2nd junior shot put), Luke Day (2nd 14 discus), Connor Inskip (1st 13 100m, 3rd 12/13 800m), Remy Oldrey (1st 13 1500m, 2nd 13 800m, 2nd 13 400m, 3rd 13 100m), Jasmin Pascoe (1st 12 javelin, 2nd 12 shot put, 2nd discus), Emily Pearce (2nd 13 Discus), Bailey Rogers (3rd 13 high jump, 3rd 13 long jump), Maria Tarasyuk (2nd 13 long jump), Lucy Thornton (2nd 11 800m) and Nicholas Zusak (1st 12 long jump, 2nd 12 100m).

Good luck to Nicholas Zusak, Remy Oldrey, Jasmin Pascoe and Isabella Adams as they head off to Sydney to compete in the state championships early next month.
School Board Governance 2014/2015 – Part 2

In our last School Newsletter article on the School Board’s responsibilities we spoke about three areas of Governance: Catholic Identity and Character, Academic Programs and Physical Resources.

In Part 2 we have the last remaining three areas: Leadership, Financial and Enrolment and Growth.

Under the school board’s responsibility are six areas of Governance. Within these specific realms, the School Board has two decisive roles to play. They are:

- Decision Making Role and;
- Advisory Roles to the Principal and Leadership Team of St Patrick’s Parish School.

Leadership: Part of this role is looking at the viability of our school and how our school is moving forward. This entails the operations of the daily running of St Patrick’s Parish School. Our Principal, Frances Robertson maintains and looks after the daily operations of St Patrick’s Parish School in all three campuses.

The Principal, Parish Priest and the School Board members work cohesively the ongoing viability of our school and the opportunities this may bring. Areas are looked into include: recommendations by CEO, reviewing the latest educational trends and research, liaising with our parental school community, local communities and our professional teaching, ancillary and administrative staff. This allows our School Governance structure to work with the Principal to maintain an active and healthy, viable school. Our school follows all systematic policies and guidelines. A Strategic Management Plan is developed and monitored annually.
School Board Governance 2014/2015 – Part 2

Financial: Our School Board has a separate financial committee comprising the Principal and members of the School Board with backgrounds in financial, law and property valuation.

Areas looked at include Local Levies to sufficiently fund recurrent operation of the school, seeking supplementary funding from government sources and external agencies, effectively managing Fee Remissions, setting aside reserves for asset replacement, budgeting and monitoring our school finances, BGA grants, day-to-day running budget.

Growth and Enrolment: This area involves strategy and marketing, levels of enrolments, staffing, class sizes and working together as a cohesive School Board. It entails realistically monitoring trends and revising and researching demographics including parish data within our local region.

We create effective marketing and retention programs; work with Archdiocesan programs and Lobby government for funding. We hope the two articles over this last fortnight have given you a better insight and appreciation of what our School Board is about. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to liaise with any member of our School Board: Frances Robertson, Mark van Ommen, Erika Statham, Kaye Pearce, Mark Herbert, Simon White, Bernie Sullivan, Ruby Curtis, Richard Clarke, Karen McGufficke and our new Parish Priest once appointed.

St Patrick’s Parish School Parents
The School Board would like to remind and encourage all St Patrick’s Parish School parents to continue to send letters to our Local Member and the NSW Minister for Transport in an effort to obtain the fully subsidised bus transport and by doing so ensure the continuation of the partnership between St Patrick’s Parish School Cooma and St Mary MacKillop College, Canberra which has and will continue to greatly enhance both our communities and our schools.

Mr John Barilaro
Member for Monaro
PO Box 998
QUEANBEYAN NSW 2620
Em: Monaro@parliament.nsw.gov.au

The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, MP
Level 35 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000
Em: ice@berejiklian.minister.nsw.gov.au

Erika Statham
Chairperson, St Patrick’s Parish School Board

www.stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au
St Patrick’s School presents

OLIVER!

Book, Music & Lyrics by

Lionel Bart

7.00pm: Friday 22nd & 29th, Saturday 23rd & 30th August
1.00pm: Saturday 23rd & 30th August

Tickets can be purchased at Cooma Visitors Centre
$18 adults, $15 children, $60 family

Orchestral arrangements by William David Brooks
By arrangement with Hal Leonard Australia Pty. Ltd, exclusive representative of Cameron Mackintosh and the Southbrook Group.
NSW Interschool Snowsport Championships

The following students are representing the school at the NSW Interschool Snowsport Championships this week

Tuesday 26 Aug
Harriett Greville
Hudson Laird
Kadee Laird
Spencer Walker-Broose
Charlotte Walker-Broose

Friday 29 Aug
Sarah Milford
Laura Cooke
Andrew Devereux

Book of the Year Awards 2014 - Winners for older readers

Wildlife by Fiona Wood
Fairytales for Wilde Girls by Allyse Near
The Sky So Heavy by Claire Zorn

Have you got a blanket or two at home that is not being used?

St Patrick’s are supporting the St Vinnies’ Winter Appeal and we want to gather blankets that can be distributed in this area to people who are affected by the cold. Please bring in your spare blankets to the big blanket box in the office foyer.

OR… make a donation. Every little bit helps!
St Patrick’s Relay for Life team

Relay For Life began in the USA in May 1985 when Dr. Gordy Klatt, wanted to raise awareness of cancer and boost the income of his local cancer charity. He spent a gruelling twenty-four hours circulating a track in Tacoma, Washington, and raised over US$27,000, and showed that one person really can make a difference.

Since then, Relay For Life has become the largest fundraising event for cancer in the world. Celebrated by more than 4 million people in over 20 countries, this inspirational overnight event empowers and unites local communities to fight cancer.

Relay is a chance for the Cooma Monaro community to recognise and celebrate local cancer survivors, patients and their carers, to honour and remember loved ones lost to cancer and to raise money to help save more lives.

Join the thousands of Australians who take part in Cancer Council’s Relay For Life each year in the fight against cancer: start or join a team in the Cooma-Monaro 2014 Relay today. Sign up to volunteer at the Cooma-Monaro 2014 Relay and be part of a rewarding experience that makes a difference to your community. Help make this Relay a success!

Donations can be made to the St Patrick's team through the website or at the school office.


Girls’ Oz Tag

Recently St Patrick’s participated in a Stage 3 OZ Tag day organised by the Canberra Raiders at Kambah playing fields. We had three very enthusiastic teams commit to training every Wednesday after school this term. A huge thank you to Meg Bracher and Anna Steele from the Cooma Fillies who generously donated their time each Wednesday for five weeks. They taught them skills, directed them in how to have fun and, importantly, when you strive, you win. Also thank you to Annagh Weston, Abby McNab, Olivia Barron and Meg and Erin Pearce from Yr 9 who turned up each week last term to train the girls, and also Damien Hayden and Tyler Fanning for their 2 weeks.

The girls should be very proud of the improvements they made in the understanding of the game, their timing when tagging and their ability not to scream when passing a ball.

All the girls displayed fantastic sportsmanship, cooperation and a willingness to learn. The girls represented their school with pride and it was a pleasure to have organised this event. A big thank you to Andy Martin – Smith for driving the bus and our supportive parents who attended on the day, Michelle McGufficke and Tracey Frazer. Unfortunately, we did not progress to the finals, although the girls gave a really competitive account of themselves.

Mike Introna
BOOK WEEK 2014

On 21 August, students from Kinder to Year 10 had a fantastic Book Fair and Parade. Books, books, books everywhere! Some dressed as wizards, some as witches but all the costumes were colourful and amazing. Artworks and craft displayed in the library were all great. As students marched around the square showing off their costumes everyone applauded with great delight.

Jamie O’Donnell & Phillip Joyce

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Book Review by Georgia Nowland 6J

I bought a great read at the Book Fair last Thursday.

_The Sequin Star_

An intriguing and inviting story, out of a mouth-watering series by Belinda Murrell. The Sequin Star takes you back in time to 1932. Every sentence leaves you begging for more. Every chapter, another reason to keep reading.

I strongly recommend this book to girls in Stages 3 & 4.

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Thank you to everyone for supporting the Book Parade and Fair. We sold an amazing number of books and the library is able to select books to the value $893. It is very exciting to have new books to enthuse our children to keep reading and to encourage them to develop their literacy skills.

Thank you for your support

_Glenyce Moxon_

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‘The Dark Side of Technology’

Brad Huddleston, a international speaker from the USA, author of THE DARK SIDE OF TECHNOLOGY, is speaking in Cooma on 2 September and 12 September at Snowy Mountains Christian School. Please watch the Youtube clip to familiarise yourself with what he talks about and forward it to anyone who might be interested.

For more information please contact Judith on 0434 926 970 or email : Judith & Sean Truter <sean.judith@gmail.com>

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CANTEEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Do you have a little time to spare? Do you know a community member who would like to spend time in a friendly place helping others? Are you wanting to get to know others in the school community? If so, we would really love to hear from you.

Please call the school and ask to speak with Caroline in the Canteen.
Connected to Reading
Inside Look at Snowy Reunion

Parents and friends wanting to see beyond the locked gates of selected power stations of the Snowy Mountains Scheme, here is your unique opportunity to also engage with Reunion visitors. Take a tour as part of the 65th anniversary Reunion, 17-20 October, by collecting a booking leaflet from Cooma Visitors Centre and to be certain of a place, book before 1 September.

Contact Wally Mills from Snowy Scheme Association on 64527321.

Book of the Year Awards 2014 - Winners for younger readers
What’s on......

MEIS - Private speech pathology

MEIS is offering private speech pathology and occupational therapy services for children aged 0 - 12 years with qualified therapists. If you would like to know more or to make an appointment for assessment please contact Monaro Early Intervention Service;

6 Hill Street
Tel: 64527424
Email: meis@snowy.net.au

Astronomy Sky Night

Come along to the Astronomy Sky Night next Wednesday 3 September

Senior students from MacKillop College in Canberra will be hosting the evening. Telescopes will be set up to view planets (Mars, Saturn and Jupiter), the moon, constellations and possibly nebulae. Students will be able to use the telescopes and talk to the senior students about astronomy.

This opportunity is available to all parents and students of St Patrick’s (Infants, Primary and Secondary).

So, if you are a keen astronomer or just want have a look at the telescopes, you are invited to come along. If you have any questions, please contact Mr Summerville at school on 64521721.

Where: St Patrick’s Church car park
When: Wednesday 3rd September
Time: 5.30 to 8 pm