Last Friday we gathered to give thanks. We thanked God for the gifts and blessings we have received. We paused to reflect on the blessings that lie in everyday living: to name a few… good health, families we love, homes to live in, food on our tables and in our lunch boxes, the freedom to play and to pray, the beauty of nature, having friends...

We live in a country with so much abundance. And yet there are many people who go without food and the basic necessities of life. Our own thanksgiving needs to spill out in practical ways. Giving to others is a way of showing that we are grateful for what God has given to us. We are encouraged to look around - find that which is good and thank God for it - find that which is caring and thank God and the person who is doing it. Look around - look inside - look outside - and think about what is noble and true and beautiful …and express our praise for it.

With gratitude comes peace. It was fitting that as we head towards the Advent season, we seek peace. Last week we were very lucky to have advocates for peace call by St Patrick’s and engage the Year 5 and Year 6 students in a ‘peace run’, complete with a flame and flags.

Over the past month, we have been consulting with the whole school community on the plan for school improvement for 2015 and beyond. There have been many valuable and thoughtful contributions by parents, staff and students. I appreciate the time people have taken to share their thoughts about our school. We have ‘distilled’ all the different components into three ‘big ideas’: 1. A call to our faith; 2. Building teacher capacity; and 3. Improving pedagogy to maximise student learning achievement. Each ‘big idea’ has many components. This will drive what we do in the coming year and we will share with you the results of our endeavours.

Yours in peace

Frances Robertson
Principal
From the AP’s Desk

Living and Learning with Year 10 has been an exciting, new and extended program for the students to experience a range of different and important skills. This week has included participating in the cadetship with the Rural Fire Service, an important week for young people living in the mountains.

The students have had a variety of presentations: understanding financial obligations, navigating the perils of credit cards, getting behind the wheel of a car, preparing for the first big job interview, personal presentation for the workforce, the promise and pitfalls with renting a place, being more culturally aware, managing change and developing new friendships in new environments.

Next week the students are completing their work experience and we are very grateful to all the local businesses who are taking on the added responsibility of mentoring a young person.

In their final week at school, Year 10 students will undertake community service (initiated and organised by them), partake in mock interviews (and receive feedback) and prepare for the final celebrations at St Patrick’s. It is indeed a busy time for Year 10.

and coming events....

Thursday 27 November
Yr 10 RFS School Cadetship
2015 Yr 6 Captains speeches at Church - 11am
School Board meeting - Sec Library 6.30pm
School Social 7.30pm

Friday 28 November
Yr 10 RFS School Cadetship

Monday 1 December
Yr 10 Work Experience
K-6 Swimming

Tuesday 2 December
Yr 10 Work Experience
K-6 Swimming

Wednesday 3 December
Yr 10 Work Experience
K-6 Swimming

Thursday 4 December
Yr 10 Work Experience

Friday 5 December
Yr 10 Work Experience
K-6 Awards Day - Ex-services Club 12.30pm

Saturday 6 December
P&F catering for Cooma Races

Monday 8 December
Yr 10 Community Service Day
K-6 Swimming

Tuesday 9 December
K-6 Swimming
Yr 10 Dinner - Cooma Car Club 6.30pm

Wednesday 10 December
Yr 10 Community Service /Mock Interview Day
Canteen News

Congratulations to Matilda Saxby-Rendell in 4M for receiving the “Healthy Choice Canteen Voucher” this week. Matilda’s lunch order choices have really impressed me for the past few weeks; well done!

FRIDAY MEAL DEAL
Rainbow Wrap + Rainbow Fruit Salad (strawberries, grapes, watermelon)

$5

** Please add drinks or other items as required **

Volunteers for the next week:
Wednesday 26/11: 10am Sue Bottom
Thursday 27/11: 10am Lisa Walsh
Friday 28/11: 10am: Rebecca Hain, 12pm Kathleen Bowerman
Wednesday 3/12: 10am Marjorie Revelant

*for sale *for sale *for sale *for sale *for sale *for sale *

REUSABLE LUNCH ORDER BAGS are still available (order form on school website).

The canteen currently has in stock WATER-PROOF DRAWSNING BAGS, perfect for swimming lessons and other sports. Blue or pink patterns available, $9 each. Please send order and payment to the canteen or drop in Tues-Fri 9-2pm.

Caroline Blyton
Canteen Manager

PS. Put the code word “GREEN” on your lunch order up to and including this Friday 28 November, and you’ll receive a yummy surprise to thank you for reading the Canteen News.

Don’t forget to give Karen McGufficke your name as a helper for the catering for the Cooma Races

Saturday 6 December 2014

0417 496708 or mkmcgufficke@bigpond.com
Last Friday students K-10 and staff celebrated our annual Thanksgiving/St Vincent de Paul Prayer Service.

We were joined by two representatives from the St Vincent de Paul, Mrs Clare Nowland and Mrs Maria Van Platt, as well as a number of parents. The St Vincent de Paul will now make-up hampers to support those in need at this Christmas time.

Students gave thanks for the year through prayer, reflection and the presentation of gifts or money donations to the St Vincent de Paul. It was wonderful to be present at the celebration and experience the generosity of the students supported by you the parents. Our school is very grateful of your wonderful support and the giving is a reflection of your kindness and care. Thank you to you the parents as this support is a sign of love in action in our community.

The students celebrated the year through a power point reflection of key highlights. They also sang Christmas Carols. The Thanksgiving Prayer Service then marks a milestone in the year, a certain coming to an end, a time of change but also a new beginning. It comes at a time of the ending of the Church’s Liturgical Year and the beginning of Advent.

The reading on last Sunday was of the call to give food and drink to the hungry and thirsty, to welcome the stranger, to clothe the naked, to care for the sick and visit the imprisoned.

At the end of the service, Year 10 presented the school with a gift that will be treasured for years to come. It was a gift of a Nativity Set. This is a special gift and our school is very grateful to the Year 10 students of 2014.

May we now step into our preparation during Advent to make ready for the renewal of Jesus in our lives.

Paul Mackay
Religious Education Coordinator
A Sacramental celebration

First Communion Thanksgiving

Some of our children received the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time recently and on Sunday at the Parish Mass, we celebrated this in thanksgiving. This was a family and Parish occasion when we all came together in Communion and relaxed afterwards with morning tea. In some ways, it was like an overflow to this Sacrament because Eucharist brings us together as one in Jesus.

Evident throughout the program is this coming together – firstly when we set out on the journey of preparation in the Church, then in smaller home groups – where Eucharist was originally celebrated in the earliest days. The climax of the program occurs when we come back into the wider community of the Parish and receive Jesus in the bread and wine. This is the nourishment for a lifelong growing in faith.

This Sacrament is one of the three ‘Sacraments of Initiation’ – along with Baptism, when we first become members of the church community of Christ, Eucharist unites us as and Confirmation confirms and strengthens us in the mission of the Church. And that mission is: to go out and tell the Good News of Jesus that God is love – and if necessary to use words.

Lou Mackay
Parish Sacramental Coordinator
Silent Night Holy Night... these were the words that were sung by the whole school as all Year 10 brought forward a piece of the new Nativity set. This is our gift to the school, a lasting legacy. We hope that every year this set is brought out for Advent and Year 10 2014 is remembered.

Year 10 Leadership Team
The Cooma Races will be held at Ti-Tree Racecourse Cooma, on Saturday 6 December 2014

St Patrick's Parish School P&F will be doing the catering for this event!

A BBQ WILL BE OFFERED ON THE DAY

We need lots of helpers to assist with cleaning on Friday morning, then on Saturday for set up, cooking the BBQ and serving. Help is required from 8.00am until finish around 6.00pm. The busiest time is from 1.00pm – 4.00pm, so if you can come between these times for a couple of hours it would be appreciated.

Please return the section below indicating times you can assist to the school no later than Wednesday 26 November 2014

Or you can advise

Karen McGufficke 0417 496708  mkmcgufficke@bigpond.com

===================================================================
P&F BBQ Saturday 6 December 2014 – Cooma Races Assistance Reply

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<tr>
<td>Time/s Available:</td>
<td>Friday morning for cleaning from 9.00am – 11.00am</td>
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All helpers will receive a free entry ticket to the races.

Thank you for offering your time and assistance for this fundraising event, if you have any questions please contact Melinda Barrett 0439 413700, Karen McGufficke 0417 496708 or Marjorie Revelant P&F Catering Coordinator 0418 485 229
A Peace Run with Sri Chinmoy
Library News

Please return all books to the Secondary and K-6 Library as soon as possible. This allows for books to be repaired and recovered if necessary.

Donations of books that are in good condition and suitable for our students would be greatly appreciated to add to our collections.

Thanks for all your support this year.
Glenyce Moxon

Worrying about things all the time can be tough!

BRAVE is an interactive online program for the prevention and treatment of childhood and adolescent anxiety. The programs are free and provide ways for children and teenagers to better cope with their worries.

This program contains both resources and information for children, teenagers and their parents. It is designed specifically to help young people with anxiety overcome their worries and improve the quality of their lives.

No matter how old or young you are, everyone experiences anxiety at times. Worrying about things all the time is tough! The BRAVE program was developed to help young people and their parents develop skills and coping strategies so that your worries and anxiety don’t stop young people from doing the things you want or need to do.

You can work through the Brave Program at your own speed in the privacy of your own home.

To get started see the website for more information:
https://brave4you.psy.uq.edu.au/
for ages 8-12 Child Program https://brave4you.psy.uq.edu.au/child-program
for ages 12-17 Teen Program https://brave4you.psy.uq.edu.au/teen-program

Banking News

Hello Boys and Girls,

Just a reminder of what is available to order in the last few weeks of School Banking for the year!!

The last chance you have to order will be 10 December, so if you have lots of tokens please choose your reward at your next School Banking day.

Scented pencils, Shark keyring, Sea streamers and Moneybox are all available to order (please note the moneybox is low on stock so please make sure you place your orders this week)

Happy Banking!
Changes to the Secondary Schools Tax File Number Program in 2015

The Secondary Schools Tax File Number (TFN) Program will not continue beyond 31 December 2014. This means that School TFN forms will no longer be processed beyond this date.

How students can apply for a TFN from 1 January 2015

The Australian Taxation Office in partnership with Australia Post is making it easier for individuals to apply for a TFN.

Students can now apply for a TFN online and have their identity verified through an interview at a participating Australia Post office.

Applying online is the fastest and most convenient way for students to get a TFN. More information on applying online can be found at ato.gov.au by searching for 'QC27248'

Students who are unable to visit a participating Australia Post office will need to complete the application form Tax file number - application or enquiry for individuals form (NAT 1432). More information about lodging this form can be found at ato.gov.au by searching for 'QC22604'

The ATO will continue working with teachers to educate students about tax and superannuation. The curriculum resource Tax, Super & You is a free, easy to use, online educational resource aligned to the school curriculum of each state and territory. This resource can be accessed at taxsuperandyou.gov.au

In the coming weeks we will provide more information by email on how students can apply for a TFN and the educational services we can provide. In the meantime if you require any further information you can phone 1300 130 282 between 8:00am and 5:00pm Monday to Friday.

What inspires you? What’s your true North? If you’re just starting to think about your career or study path, don’t make a decision until you learn more about the strengths and abilities you may not even know you have. Through adventure, laughter and some one-on-one with the wilderness, the Navigator program will give you personal motivation and confidence and provide you with the skills to map your journey of self-discovery! You’ll find you’re capable of more than you thought possible.

The Navigator program is 12-day personal development experience full of adventure, wilderness, new friends and fun, whilst discovering and developing your potential! You will learn things about yourself you could never learn in a classroom. The focus is on you, however, you will share your adventure with other young adults in a close social group.

Get a head start by adding an Outward Bound certificate to your resume. Completing this program is a great achievement. It aims to provide a greater sense of self and the ability to face the future with confidence, resourcefulness and a determination to succeed in whatever you decide to do.

Check out the website http://www.outwardbound.org.au/courses/navigator/

Scholarships are possible: http://www.outwardbound.org.au/resources/dates-and-fees/scholarship-eligibility/
Perpetual Trophies

If you received a perpetual trophy at last year’s Awards Day, please return it to school as soon as possible in preparation for the 2014 Awards Days.

Thank you
Perpetual Trophies

Quote of the week

"Success come in cans. Failure comes in cant's"
A BETTER ME, A BETTER FUTURE

CHOICES DAY
SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER
9AM TO 1PM
COOMA CAMPUS

10AM TO 12PM
JINDABYNE SPORT & REC

10AM TO 12PM
BOMBALA HIGH SCHOOL

1300 766 123
illawarra.tafensw.edu.au