Dear St Patrick’s Community

We say that St Patrick’s is a place of learning and that certainly extends to the staff, as well as the students.

Last Monday, we spent a full day exploring options for enhanced learning in the classroom using various technologies. The photos on the next page show the high level of engagement for staff. On Tuesday night we spent two hours learning more about Autism Spectrum Disorder. In both cases, it was powerful learning in relatively new areas. We have more evening sessions planned this term to continue this level of learning. There is a real commitment from staff to build their knowledge and skills.

We are also planning learning opportunities for parents (and any of their friends) in the area of literacy. See the notice inside and book your spot.

This weekend is the International Day of Trees. Whilst it is not particularly conducive for growing trees at this time of year in Cooma, we are planning some exciting changes to the Infants playground. The trees will come later in the year! A separate note will be going home inviting your input and ideas. We have been fortunate enough to have some financial support from the P&F to get us started on this project. We will need lots of ideas and lots of hands to make it happen.

The Kindergarten to Year 12 pathway is very obvious once again this week. There are still interviews happening for the new Kindergarten for 2017 and the MacKillop College team are here interviewing the students for their subject selection for Year 11. We appreciate the fact that the MacKillop staff come to us.

Can I remind you about the Community Council meeting on 4 August which will be an open meeting for all to attend? It is in the Parish Centre. You are very welcome to join us.

This week we received the brand new Cisco portable video-conferencing system. To you and me, it looks like a television with a camera, but the possibilities are endless. We will be creating a virtual classroom, with plans to link to other classes in the Diocese and to experience virtual field trips.

Nothing can replace the richness of face-to-face classroom dynamics, but video conferencing eliminates distance, invites collaboration and increases mobility for both the student and the teacher. A video conferencing system expands the classroom to the rest of the world.

Education is changing rapidly, and we are determined to keep pace with the evolving technology. This is what our students deserve!

Kind regards
Mrs Frances Robertson
Principal
From the AP’s Desk

New HSC information

Last week we received information about changes to the HSC. Two aspects that were of particular interest are:

1. Establishing a minimum literacy and numeracy standard from 2020. Students in Year 9 from 2017 will be able to meet the standard by achieving Band 8 in NAPLAN in reading, writing and numeracy. From 2018, an online literacy and numeracy test will be available for students to demonstrate they have met the standard.

2. Mathematics courses will be marked on a common scale. This will remove any incentive for students to study courses below their ability, with students taking higher-level courses receiving greater recognition of their efforts.

We are watching how these new initiatives will impact on students with particular learning needs, especially the first point about literacy and numeracy minimum standards. As a Mathematics teacher, I believe the second point was overdue.


**Year 3 and Year 5: this is a reminder that the online NAPLAN trial will be on the 2nd - 3rd August.**

These trials will be conducted online through an external organisation. Students will not receive any results from this trial as the focus is on the process of practising online NAPLAN not the result of the test. As headphones will be required for the test, students may bring their own if they wish. There will also be school headphones available.

Mark van Ommen
Assistant Principal

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**Important dates this term:**

- **Friday 29 July**
  - Year 10 Vinnies winter appeal sleep-out

- **Tuesday 2 August**
  - Online NAPLAN trial Yr 3 & 5

- **Wednesday 3 August**
  - Online NAPLAN trial Yr 3 & 5
  - K-5 AFL Sports Clinics

- **Thursday 4 August**
  - Southern Region Athletics

- **Friday 5 August**
  - 1F Assembly

- **Monday 8 August**
  - Canteen Week

- **Tuesday 9 August**
  - K-2 Mini Olympics

- **Wednesday 10 August**
  - K-5 AFL Sports Clinics

- **Thursday 11 August**
  - K-5 AFL Sports Clinics
  - 51 Assembly 12:30pm

- **Friday 12 August**
  - K-2 Snowsports

- **Monday 15 August**
  - 3-10 Snowsports
  - National Science Week

- **Tuesday 16 August**
  - 3-10 Snowsports

- **Wednesday 17 August**
  - K-5 AFL Sports Clinics

- **Thursday 18 August**
  - Archdiocesan Athletics
  - K-6 Snugglepot & Cuddlepie

- **Friday 19 August**
  - K-2 Snowsports

- **Mon-Tues 22-23 August**
  - Yr 3-10 Snowsports

- **Wednesday 24 August**
  - K-2 Soccer Clinic

- **Thursday 25 August**
  - BookWeek parade@12

- **Wednesday 31 August**
  - Supporting Literacy parent workshops @ 1.30 and 7pm
Achieving Literacy Success Parent Workshop Wed 31 August

Adjunct Professor Kaye Lowe from the University of Canberra will be visiting St Patrick’s School on 31 August. We are inviting parents and friends from St Patrick’s School, Lambie Street Preschool, Cooma North Preschool and Daycare centres to our parent workshop, to be held in our Primary Library. There are two workshop times:

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm and 7.00pm - 8.30pm.

Refreshments will be provided. The workshop is free of charge.

Adjunct Associate Professor Kaye Lowe works with parents and teachers all over Australia. She was Director of ‘U-Can Read’ for nine years and has been a professor at universities in Australia and the US. She has written many books and articles on how to help children learn to read and write. She has received many government grants for her research in literacy.

Come along and learn how to assist your children with reading and writing at home. Learn ideas to encourage children to develop a love of reading along with a variety of strategies that help them to read, write and spell.


Thank you to the staff from the Diocesan ICT team who supported the learning in technology for St Patrick’s Staff.
100th Day of School in Year 1

1F celebrated the 100th day of school on Thursday 21 July. Some activities they took part in were:

1. Read a book they had written called ‘100 Years Ago’.
2. Wrote about what would happen in 100 years time
3. Skipped to 100, bounced a ball 100 times
4. Played ‘Snakes and Ladders’
5. Built sculptures using 100 pieces of Lego/Duplo.
6. Made special glasses for the day
7. Read a story based on ‘100’
8. Did finger painting using 100 finger prints
9. Put little goldfish on a 100s chart.
Parent Representation

The following information has been received from Catholic Education about parent representation and participation in a more extensive way than at the school level. The Catholic Education Diocesan representative is Tim Smith who manages many aspects of policy and strategic resource management. Please consider this invitation and let me (or Tim) know if you are interested.

Dear Southern Region Principals/School Board & Community Council Chairs

‘CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENTS ARCHDIOCESE CANBERRA & GOULBURN’ (CSPACG)

The purpose of this communication is to formally request from school communities the nomination of an ‘Alternate Parent Representative’ to be considered as a member of CSPACG for the two year period commencing August 2016. An ‘Alternate Parent Representative’ may attend all meetings of CSPACG and in the event that the nominated ‘Parent representative’ from the region is unable to attend, the alternate will have full voting rights. The current representative of the Southern Region is Geoff Hatton. The ‘Alternate Representative’ would partner with Geoff in representing the region.

The alternative representative will be invited to attend four meetings a year (two face to face and two teleconferences). The nomination does not need to be someone currently holding a position on a School Board/Council but must have a child attending a Catholic school in our Archdiocese.

The next meeting of CSPACG is scheduled to occur in Canberra on Saturday 6 August, 9.00am – 1.30pm. Whilst acknowledging that this date makes it unlikely to have an alternative representative at the meeting, I would ask that nominations be forwarded to me by Friday 5 August 2016.

The membership of CSPACG consists of:-

a representative from each of the Archdiocesan regions with three representatives from the ACT
an independent chair (appointed by the Catholic Education Commission)
a representative with expertise in a particular area (Early Childhood Education and has been identified as a focus); and
the Executive Officer as an ex-officio non-voting member.

Please give serious consideration to this request for nominations. I have attached a nomination form and the CSPACG Constitution as further information to assist.

If you would like to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Many thanks,

Tim Smith
Senior Officer for Strategy and Policy
P: 02 6234 5424  M: 0407 825 185  E: tim.smith@cg.catholic.edu.au
YEAR 9 and Year 10 students

RYPEN Returns!!

Next camp is 9-11th September

Old Mogo Town, Mogo

RYPEN is a Rotary Club Sponsored activity and is aimed at 14 – 17 year old students who show some qualities of decency, courage, persistence, sincerity and application in everyday life, which deserve further development.

We need your help to find Students to participate in this extremely worthwhile program. There are a maximum of 64 places to fill across our Rotary District and we hope for an even mix of boys and girls.

RYPEN aims for the average student and not for the outstanding few. We are sure there are some kids at your School that are worthy of this opportunity? The attached information may help to identify those students you think would benefit from the program.

Please see Mrs Robertson or Mrs Fletcher if you are interested.

Final applications close 2 September 2016.

Other enquiries should be directed to Sandy Miles on 0408 815 573 or rypen9710@gmail.com

Tuesdays with Hayley

Year 5L are very excited to welcome practicum teacher Ms Hayley Tapper to St Patrick’s and our classroom on Tuesdays for the remainder of Term 3 and for the first two weeks of Term 4.

Hayley is joining us as part of her ongoing professional experience as a student of CQ University which is one of our education programs, offered locally through the Cooma Universities Centre. We hope Hayley enjoys her Tuesdays with us as much as we enjoy them with her.
Welcome back winter! With the weather looking to remain chilly for the rest of the week, Thai Chicken Curry is back on the menu from Wednesday. Small - $3.00 and Large $5.00.

Tuesday next week we will be having Burritos in place of Tacos for $4.00 each.

Please don’t forget Mini Canteen every Wednesday. It is a great way for the younger kids to get involved, interact and learn some money handling skills also. Items generally cost between 50c and $2.00.

We also have a colouring competition running for Infants and Primary school children to coincide with Celebrate Canteen Week. Please colour in and return it to the canteen by 12 August for your chance to win a $20 iTunes voucher and a $250 credit for our school canteen with one of our suppliers.

Volunteers for the coming week are:

Wednesday 27/07 Marjorie Revelant Mini-Canteen Keira Lennon and Howard Brown
Thursday 28/07 Brett Dawson
Friday 29/07 Elsa Wagner

Ask for your copy of the full page colouring competition.
St Patrick’s Parish school is taking part in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Additional Educational Needs Project.

Additional needs may include making adjustments for your son/daughter in the delivery of lessons, assignments, assessments or social interactions.

**What is the Project?**

The project is aimed at creating a clear picture of the number of students with additional needs in schools and the adjustments they require to enable them to participate in education on the same basis as their peers.

You can choose if you want your child’s information to be included in the data collection or not.

*No names or identifying information are collected as part of the collection process.*

**What will the 2016 collection involve?**

Like last year, the 2016 data collection will involve the collection of the following information at the school level:

- The number of students receiving adjustments to enable them to participate in education on the same basis as other students;
- The level of adjustment provided (no adjustment at this time, supplementary, substantial or extensive adjustments); and
- Where known, the student’s type of needs (visual, hearing, physical, emotional etc).

*Once this data has been collated, our school will de-identify the data so that no student’s names are captured before providing it to the Australian Government Department of Education.*

**What will the data be used for?**

The Australian Government Department of Education will use this information collected for the purposes of preparing reports for briefing Education Ministers.

For the purposes of preparing these reports or briefing material, the Australian Government Department of Education will ensure that the data is aggregated sufficiently so that no student's identity could reasonably be ascertained.

**Your child’s data**

*Involvement in the Project is optional.*

If you do not want St Patrick’s to provide de-identified data about your child to the Australian Government Department of Education, you can ‘opt-out’ by completing and returning the opt-out form (available from the Office, or Mrs Melinda Barrett or Mrs Sue Stubbs) to the school or contacting the school on 64521721.

INFANTS PLAYGROUND

We are beginning the planning for a new exciting shape for part of the Infants Playground. We know that, as parents and grandparents, you will have:

- some great ideas for stimulating play
- possible sources for the equipment that we need
- time to help us make it happen
- generosity of spirit if we need anything else!

Can you think about this project?

Can you share your ideas with the Infants teachers and Steve Joyce (steven.joyce@cg.catholic.edu.au)?

Can you offer time or money or resources to make it happen?

Can you contact others who might have time or money or resources to help?

Can you join us in the Infants area for a ‘gathering of ideas’ at:

* 3.30pm on Tuesday 9 August?
* Or 5.30pm Thursday 11 August?
Game of the Week

RED LETTER?

Equipment
None

Play Area

The Caller stands about 10 Giant Steps in front of the other players.

Remaining players stand in a straight line opposite the Caller.

How to Play

1. Choose one player to be the Caller.
2. The rest of the players stand side by side in a straight line opposite the Caller.
3. The Caller chooses a “RED LETTER” and tells everyone else.
4. The Caller then calls out any letter of the alphabet, if the players have that letter in their name they can take a step forward for each one (e.g. if the Caller says “T” and the player has two T’s in their name they take two normal steps forward.
5. The first player to reach the Callers line wins and they get to be the new Caller.
6. If the Caller calls out the RED LETTER and a player accidentally moves forward they have to miss the next turn.

Variations

1. Do not use a RED LETTER, Players can move on any letter called out that is in their name.
2. If the Player moves on the Red Letter if one is chosen they have to go back to the start.
3. Players can use either their first name only, first and last name only or all given names. (Choose ONE option)
4. The Caller can change how the Players move (e.g. jump, stomp, leap, hop etc)

“The more you read the more things you know.
The more that you learn the more places you’ll go.”

-Dr. Seuss
It's on again....

Rotary Annual Spring Ball

Saturday, 27 August 2016
7 - 11.30 pm at the Cooma Ex-Services Club

Dance the night away with

Mikelangelo
and the Black Sea Gentlemen

Dress - Cocktail

Tickets; $50 per person from The Fabric Salon
Drinks and savouries on arrival - supper at 9.15 pm

This is a fundraiser for the Cooma Hospital Auxiliary

Enquiries - 6452 3137
Marymead’s Kids And Youth Are Kool post Separation (KAYAKS)

Marymead’s KAYAKS program aims to support children and young people from 4 to 18 years of age, within the context of their family, to manage and enhance their relationships during and after family separation. KAYAKS offers 6 - 8 counselling sessions. This is done primarily through age appropriate individual counselling with children and young people.

Locations: KAYAKS is located at Marymead’s Narrabundah (ACT), Goulburn, Cooma and Moruya sites. Clients living in surrounding areas are also able to access this service, including the Queanbeyan district.

Eligibility: children aged 4-18 whose parents/carers are separated and in conflict.

Referrals and enquiries: 02 6162 5800 and request Stephanie Stephens, Unit Manager Counselling and Education, or email: stephanie.stephens@marymead.org.au

Fees: $20 per session.
ALPINE RESPONSIBILITY CODE

Regardless of how you enjoy your snow sport, always show courtesy to others and be aware that there are inherent risks in all snow recreational activities that common sense, protective equipment and personal awareness can reduce. These risks include rapid changes in the weather, visibility and surface conditions, as well as natural and artificial hazards such as rocks, trees, stumps, vehicles, lift towers, snow fences and snowmaking equipment.

OBSERVE THE CODE AND SHARE WITH OTHERS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR A GREAT EXPERIENCE.

1. Know your ability and always stay in control and be able to stop and avoid other people or objects. It is your responsibility to stay in control on the ground and in the air.

2. Take lessons from professional instructors to learn and progress.

3. Use appropriate protective equipment to minimise the risk of injury.

4. Before using any lift you must have the knowledge and ability to load, ride and unload safely.

5. Observe and obey all signs and warnings. Keep off closed trails or runs.

6. Give way to people below and beside you on the hill. It is your responsibility to avoid them.

7. Do not stop where you are not clearly visible from above. Look uphill and give way to others when entering/exiting a trail or starting downhill.

8. Always ensure your equipment is in good condition and use suitable restraining devices to avoid runaway skiing/boarding equipment, even when riding chairlifts.

9. Do not ski, board, ride a lift or undertake any other alpine activity if your ability is impaired by drugs or alcohol.

10. If you are involved in, or witness an accident or collision, alert Ski Patrol, remain at the scene and identify yourself to the Ski Patrol.

KNOW THE CODE. IT’S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.
FAILURE TO OBSERVE THE CODE MAY RESULT IN CANCELLATION OF YOUR TICKET OR PASS BY SKI PATROL OR OTHER AUTHORISED PERSONNEL.

‘RESPECT GETS RESPECT’
FROM THE LIFT LINE, TO THE SLOPES, THROUGH THE PARK AND THE RESORT.