Dear St Patrick’s Community

Since 1945, Australia has resettled over 800,000 refugees and displaced persons. Cooma is lucky enough to have been the beneficiary of some of that wonderful culture, skills and wisdom. This area powered a nation with that!

In the last week, many in the wider community have taken time to recognise Refugee Week. The words from the national anthem, ‘with courage, let us all combine’ have been a theme for reflection. As Catholics, we can also reflect on the words of the Pope; “This is an opportunity to reflect on the growing phenomenon of migration, to pray that hearts may open to Christian welcome and to the effort to increase in the world justice and charity, pillars on which to build an authentic and lasting peace.” The Gospel also makes it patently clear; ‘As I have loved you, so you also should love one another’ (Jn 13:34).

The Sacrament of Confirmation was celebrated last Friday evening with the Vicar General Fr Tony Percy, along with Fr Mick and Fr George. It was a beautiful family celebration and certainly honoured those making the step towards being adult Christians.

I am proud to announce that two staff members are receiving a Rotary Pride of Work Award this week. Both Mrs Joyce Venables and Mr Don Southwell are loyal and hard-working staff who quietly get on with the job in making sure that things are well prepared for good learning for the children. Cleaning and maintenance are often forgotten in the big scheme of things, but they are critical to the successful running of the school.

Teachers have been busily preparing reports on students’ achievements for parents. These will be distributed on Friday. Inside this newsletter is the process for booking a time for a conversation with the teachers early in Term 3. We encourage students to also attend. The best learning can happen when there is a three way commitment.

Staff will be undertaking professional learning on technology use on Monday 18 July. Students return to school on Tuesday 19 July. We look forward to seeing them then.

Thank you for your support for this semester. Enjoy the winter wonderland with your children.

Kind regards

Frances Robertson
Principal
From the AP’s desk

The Sacrament of Confirmation is the opportunity to receive the Holy Spirit and become an active, responsible adult in the Church. As confirmed Catholics, we are required to be more aware of our faith and what it means to us and to respond to that knowledge throughout our life.

In class, the Year 6 students have spent time learning and reflecting on what this means to them as they openly choose to accept their new role in the church and accept the Holy Spirit in giving them that new life. They are challenged to become a messenger of that Good News and, with the Spirit's help, begin to take on new roles as an adult within the Church.

We were proud to be witness to the celebration of this Sacrament, as part of our Religious Education program at St Patrick's. It is a tangible link between the Parish and the school.

Mark van Ommen
Assistant Principal
Kids Teaching Kids – Year 5 and Year 1

Last week, Year 5 students planned a ‘Kids Teaching Kids’ lesson with Year 1. This involved a bit of planning. We worked in pairs and chose a picture book to read to Year 1 students. Our next challenge was to design a booklet with activities based on reading, writing, thinking and colouring in. We also created merit certificates. Some of us made book marks as well. After we had prepared questions to ask during the reading of the book, we went to the Year 1 classroom and unleashed our brilliance on them.

These are some of our thoughts on our experience.
“I thought that the experience was good because I felt that I really taught them something about their writing and spelling.’ – Clara Thornton
“I liked seeing how Campbell and Noah enjoyed the activities we designed.” – Jack Buckley
“I liked how Raven and Aiden had a lot of fun, but they still got to learn.” – Lilly Janota. “I thought that Raven and Aiden were good listeners and readers. I liked how they said thanks at the end and asked if we were coming back.” – Elle McGufficke.
“I liked that Stephanie, Adelaide and Liam were listening to us and had a go at every task.” – India Dyball.
“I thought it was a good experience for us, as well as Axel, Natalia and Zoe, because we got to teach and it was really fun.” – Abby Douch.
I liked how Campbell and Noah said, ‘oh cool’ when we showed them the activities we designed. They also said, ‘that’s awesome’ when we gave them the certificates we created.” – Ryan Pielli.
“I found this a very cool experience. It was great fun teaching James.” – Rocco Caffarelli. “I liked the activities we made for James because I liked seeing all the creative ideas he came up with. I liked James because he had an awesome attitude.” – Mitchell Burke
“What I liked about going to year one is that it gave me an idea with how I can help my sister at home with her homework, because she is in Year one.” – Laura Dawson.
“liked how Xavier, Annabel and Ryan were really good listeners and readers.” – Harriet Greville. “I liked how Annabel, Xavier and Ryan didn’t muck around, they got straight into it. We just opened the book and before we got to read, they started reading the story on their own.” Tilly Joyce.
“I liked how both Kelsey and Oscar read with us. When they couldn’t pronounce a word we helped with the start of the word and they figured out the rest of it.” -Grace Clarke
“I liked how we got to be the teacher. It was cool to be able to teach other children and have fun with them. I learnt that it is important to have everything organised.” Safia Nassar
“I liked how Hunter, Grace and Maizie listened to me, had eye contact and they had a go at reading the book.” Deizel Barrett. “I liked reading ‘Diary of a Wombat’ by Jackie French to Hunter, Grace and Maizie, because they helped us read the book together.” – Keegan Thomson
Equestrian Champion

Shelley Kleven in Year 6 recently competed at the **NSW State Equestrian Interschools** where she was representing St Patrick’s.

This was the third State Interschools that Shelley and her beautiful pony *Amaranda Moet* have competed at and her most successful yet.

Shelley’s results are as follows:

- **Primary 60cm Combined Training** – 1st
- **Primary Working Show Hunter** – consists of three phases: Led Phase – 2nd, Rider Phase – 6th Ridden, Jumping Phase – 1st Overall Placing – 2nd
- **Primary Preliminary Dressage 1.2** – 2nd place
- **Primary Preliminary Dressage 1.3** – 1st place
- **Overall Primary Preliminary Dressage Champion**
- **Primary Novice Dressage 2.2** – 1st
- **Primary Novice Dressage 2.3** – 3rd
- **Overall Primary Novice Dressage Reserve Champion**

These results are quite incredible and stand Shelley in contention for the Overall Primary Point score. This will be announced in the next couple of days when all results are checked and merged.

*We are very proud of Shelley’s achievements.*
Hosted in Cooma by
Monaro Family Support service and St Patrick’s Parish School

Seasons for Growth

Change and loss can be hard to cope with...
... but you don’t have to do it on your own.

Seasons for Growth is an education program which explores the impact of change and loss on everyday life, and helps people learn new ways to respond to these changes.

Seminar
The Seasons for Growth Seminar is a three hour workshop where participants learn more about the nature and consequences of change, loss and grief on life and/or in the workplace.

Tuesday 2nd August 2016
St Patrick’s Parish Centre, Murray St, Cooma
Time: 1-3pm or 6-8pm
To register, or for more information, contact Monaro Family Support Service 64523450 or e.maxwell@monarofss.ngo.org.au
RSVP: 26th July 2016

www.goodgrief.org.au
Congratulations Don and Joyce

This week at a Rotary meeting, Don Southwell and Joyce Venables proudly accepted an award for ‘Pride of Work’.

They were nominated by the staff of St Patrick’s for their unfailing dedication to their positions and willingness to go above and beyond.

They are indeed valuable members of the St Patrick’s team.

Thank you Year 9 boys

Some Year 9 students spent an afternoon last week maintaining the mountain bike trails at the Mt Gladstone Mountain Bike Park as part of their community service.

The students learned about effective erosion control, rock armouring and how to build safe trail features.

They are now keen to test ride their work.

Well done to the students for giving up some of their time for the benefit of the local community, and thank you to the Snowy Mountains MTB Club for facilitating this activity.
Congratulations to some recent award winners.
Thank you Year 3 for a delightful assembly on the Hogwarts' Express
A big end of term THANK YOU to all of the parents and students who have helped me out in the canteen this term. Without volunteers, many things would be impossible, including mini-canteen and Taco Tuesdays!!

I hope next term is as successful as this one has been. Have a safe and restful break.

I am always after more volunteers, if you can help out please contact me on 64521 721.

Rebecca Croke
Canteen Manager
REFUGEE FACTS

FACT 1
An ASYLUM SEEKER is someone seeking protection whose claim for refugee status has not yet been assessed.

Asylum seekers arrive in Australia by boat or plane and ask for protection. The government then processes their claims and if they are found to be refugees they are granted a visa.

FACT 2
A REFUGEE is someone who has been forced to flee their country because of persecution, war or violence.

Over 90 per cent of asylum seekers who arrive in Australia by boat are assessed to be refugees fleeing persecution.

FACT 3
It is NOT ILLEGAL to seek asylum in Australia, even if arriving by boat.

The right to seek asylum is recognised under Australian (1958 Migration Act) and international law.

FACT 4
There is NO QUEUE.

For people who need protection, seeking asylum in another country is their only choice. Resettlement through the UN ('the queue') is only available for a very small group. In 2012, there were 15.4 million refugees worldwide and 88,600 of those were resettled; only 0.6%.

FACT 5
Asylum seekers arriving by boat make up LESS THAN 8% of Australia’s annual immigration.

Every year, the number of asylum seekers who arrive by boat is tiny compared to our overall migration.

FACT 6
In Australia there are 1.3 REFUGEES for every 1,000 PEOPLE.

Over the years, Australia has helped to protect thousands of refugees from all over the world. However, this group of people still make up a very small portion of the Australian population.

FACT 7
ASYLUM SEEKERS 2012
(UNHCR Global trends 2012)

Australia 28,810
France 89,560
Germany 230,442

Australia receives a very SMALL number of asylum seekers by international standards.

FACT 8
An asylum seeker in the community $505.40
Aged pensioner $808.40

Asylum seekers on Bridging Visas in the community get Centrelink equivalent to 89% of the unemployment benefit, which covers their rent, bills, food, transport and all other costs.

GET THE FACTS AT AMNESTY.ORG.AU/REFUGEES
Thank you to one of our mothers, Mrs Denise Menshic, for supporting the students in Infants with learning some new (old!) games to play. Here is one that could be used in the holidays.

Game of the Week

MOTHER MAY I?

Equipment
None

Play Area
Mother or Father stands about 20 Giant Steps in front of the Children
Remaining players (Children) stand in a straight line opposite the Mother or Father

How to Play
1. Choose one player to be the Mother (or Father)
2. The rest of the players are they children. They stand side by side in a straight line opposite the Mother or Father.
3. Mother chooses a child and says “(Child’s name) you may take three giant steps”
4. The child then responds with “Mother May I?” (or “Father May I?”)
5. The Mother says “Yes you may” and the child can then take the steps towards the Mother.
6. But if the child forgets to ask “Mother May I? before they step then they have to go back to the start line.
7. The first person to reach the Mother is the winner and they get to be the next Mother.

Variations
Mother chooses the number of steps and how to step.
Here are some ways the Mother can ask the child to step:

- Giant steps
- Baby steps
- Frog jumps
- Sideways steps
- High kick steps
- Ballet turns
- Dinosaur stomps
- Tightrope steps
- Leaps
Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Additional Educational Needs, 2016

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 students 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.

Further information about the Project can be found at

MINISTER, OPPOSITION LEADER ADDRESS CATHOLIC EDUCATORS

The joint hosts of the National Catholic Education Commission 2016 Conference have said the presence of Minister for Education and Training Senator Simon Birmingham and Opposition Leader Bill Shorten at the gathering of 1,400 Catholic educators shows the value the politicians place on the role of Catholic schools in Australian society.

"With just 12 days until the federal election, Minister Birmingham and Mr Shorten have prioritised this event to explain their parties' vision for Australian education and the important role that the 1,731 Catholic schools across Australia play in that educational enterprise," NCEC executive director Ross Fox said.

Tim McDonald, executive director of Catholic Education Western Australia, said the visit "strengthens the already close bond that the 163 Catholic schools in Western Australia have with local and national political leaders in supporting the education of 78,000 students in all parts of the state".

Minister Birmingham told the conference the Catholic school sector is "not an appendage, but an intrinsic and essential part of the Australian education system".

"The values which your sector reflects make a positive contribution to the education of many Australians and provides a steadying influence in an increasingly turbulent world," the Minister said.

He said the Coalition Government is committed to school funding that is "genuinely based on the principles of being affordable, needs-based, stable, simple, fair and transparent".

Mr Shorten, who was accompanied by Shadow Cabinet Secretary Senator Jacinta Collins, reflected on his own Catholic education growing up in Melbourne and recognised the important work of Catholic schools today in supporting students from all backgrounds.

"Catholic schools are as diverse as the nation, from the bush to the outer suburbs to the inner cities, from refugee kids, to country kids, to Aboriginal kids. You name it, you cover the diversity of the Australian story," Mr Shorten said.

Mr Shorten said "it is a good thing and fine thing that we are having a debate in this nation about education funding", but he said it was important that the debate doesn't turn into a divisive one about privileging one school sector over others. He said that debate must not be revisited.

Mr Fox said Catholic education's ability to educate one in five students across Australia is heavily reliant on support from governments, and particularly the Commonwealth Government.

"Catholic school parents make significant financial contributions to the education of their children, spending more than $3 billion in fees per year, supplementing the $7.5 billion in government funding that supported teaching and learning in 2014," he explained.

Dr McDonald said Mr Shorten and Minister Birmingham's attendance enhanced the largest-ever National Catholic Education Commission Conference.

"For the tens of thousands who work in Catholic education, the obvious commitment and admiration these two political leaders have for those educating young Australians will be part of a process of renewal and reinvigoration during these days in Perth and the ongoing work in Catholic schools," he said.
Paddy Pallin Junior XC Ski Event 2016

The Paddy Pallin Junior cross country ski race will be held at 11am on Saturday 2 July 2016 at the Sverre Kaaten Nordic Shelter, Perisher Valley. The race is for children up to 16 years of age (for the 2016 race you must be under 16 years at 31 December 2015).

The Paddy Pallin Junior has been a Perisher Valley event for many years with our records suggesting this is the 58th year. It is one of the OLDEST cross country ski events in Australia and it’s just for the YOUNGEST skiers.

The Paddy Pallin Junior provides an opportunity for juniors to try cross country skiing. It’s a fun ski race (no prizes for first, second and third) where everyone gets a certificate! You can ski in it if you are only two years old or over fifteen, as long as you were under 16 years at 31 December 2015. The distance you ski depends on your age and snow conditions. The older skiers (14/15 year olds) ski up to 5 kilometres, while the younger skiers (3/4 year olds) ski only a few hundred metres.

In 2016 the race will be held at the Perisher Valley Nordic Shelter. After the race there will be the usual festivities – fruit drinks, hot dogs and spot prizes – which will be held in or around the Nordic Shelter. When that’s over, there’ll be fun and games, including an on skis jelly snake hunt!

Entry is on the day, and there’s no charge. Just turn up to register and pick up your bib at the Nordic Shelter from about ten o’clock on Saturday morning 2 July 2016.

Come and give it a go!

For information ring Tim Greville on 0428 159 336

Cooma Library FREE these July School holidays

LIVE COMEDY SHOW
Friday 8th 10am
Andy Jones What’s The Joke

CRAFTY FUN
Wednesdays 6th & 13th

MOVIE DAY
Monday 11th
10.30am The Good Dinosaur & 2pm Goosebumps

Be a part of it! Please book on 6455 1730
www.facebook.com/MonaroRegionalLibraries/
Dear Parents

Parent/Teacher/Student conferences will be held at 4.00pm – 7.00pm on Tuesday 26th July for Primary and at 4.00pm – 7.00pm on Wednesday 27th July for Secondary at the Cooma Ex-Services Club in the main auditorium.

You can now book interviews at times that suit YOUR FAMILY BEST. Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and follow these simple instructions.

BOOKINGS CLOSE on the day of the P/T/S conferences at 12pm.

(Secondary code) 

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Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au
Enter the school event code.
Then follow the 3 simple steps.
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cch38
Go
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(Primary code)

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Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au
Enter the school event code.
Then follow the 3 simple steps.
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8enm7
Go
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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 at any time, and change your interviews - until bookings close.

For parents that 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 10 mins for K-6 and 5 mins per subject in Secondary.

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-visiting the 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 website, and leave some feedback - anonymously if you wish, but please include the school’s name and town.