Dear St Patrick’s Community,

Just as we think that we are finishing up a year we are jolted into the reality that Advent marks the beginning of the Christian year. We light four candles to mark each week in the lead up to Christmas, and remember the focus of hope, peace, love and joy. What lovely qualities to hold onto as we prepare for Christmas!

And before we can welcome Christmas, there is quite a bit to do at school. We are preparing final reports for students and I thank the teachers for the care and time that they have taken with these. The reports will be distributed on Friday 16 December.

On Wednesday we will be welcoming Mr Michael Lee, Principal of St Mary MacKillop College, to the school, to share an exciting new program that we are trialling in 2017. Mr Lee will be speaking to the Year 6 to Year 9 students about an Elite Sports Program that will run collaboratively with MacKillop College and St Patrick’s.

We are also preparing for a new program for 2017 Year 7 students. As well as doing all of the normal subjects, the students will undertake a STEM style program that draws on the skills from Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. We are giving this program a social justice foundation, so it will also have Christian teachings as the basis of understanding and developing a sustainable community. It is an exciting project!

As well as Advent, we have much to look forward to in the coming weeks.

Yours in expectation,

Frances Robertson
Principal
From the AP’s desk

Man Up

A couple of weeks ago I had the pleasure of helping to facilitate the “Man Up” program with our Year 9 male students. The program was developed by Ms Pip Daley, our Wellbeing Support Person. The day allowed time for group and individual reflection on what it means to be a man—societal stereotypes, positive and negative role models, body image and stigma of violence against women.

Sam Stevenson, a White Ribbon Ambassador, presented statistics and facilitated discussion on violence against women. Local identities, Johnny Nassar, Richard Mack, Robert Coyte, Mark Williams and Kevin Dunne, formed part of a panel discussion on a range of issues. These were based on questions such as “What has been your greatest achievement in life?”, “What makes you laugh?” and “What is the best piece of advice you ever received?” I don’t think anyone will forget what Johnny wishes he had as a special gift or talent. The question of “What 10 minutes of your life do you wish you could have again?” presented reflective and often emotive responses for the panel and students.

I would like to thank our panellists for their time and willingness to share their experiences. I would also like to commend Ms Pip Daley for her excellent organisation of the day and for the opportunity to facilitate discussion with our male students. However, the success of the day was down to the maturity and respect shown by our Year 9 boys for the opinions of others. The climate of respect, trust and importance for male issues ensured that all students got something out of our time together.

Below are some images of the male role models identified in our first session.

Mark van Ommen
Assistant Principal

Coming Soon: Advent

The Parish of St Patrick’s is busily preparing for the Advent season leading up to Christmas. There will be a special Children’s Liturgy each Sunday during December at the 10 am Mass.

What a lovely way to prepare for Christmas!
School fees

School fees for Term 4 are now overdue. Please ensure all accounts are finished by this week, unless prior arrangements have been made. Any families experiencing difficulties in meeting their obligations in this area are invited to call the Office to make an appointment to discuss the matter with the Principal.

Semester Two Reports

The students' reports for Semester two will be distributed on Friday 16 December after 2.30pm. If you know in advance that your child will be absent that day, please contact the Office and the report will be posted that afternoon to your home address.

Let us pray that faith, hope and love be strengthened in us this first week of Advent:

Lighting of the First Candle of Advent

Let us pray together:

All: Come, Lord Jesus!
Open our hearts and our minds to all that you give us and teach us during these days of Advent.
NAPLAN 2017

In the next few years, students will be undertaking the NAPLAN on-line using their own devices or a school computer.

A demonstration site has been set up for students and parents to access the demonstration tests, using the NAPLAN assessment platform. Access to the demonstration site is available at: http://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/naplanonline/public-demonstration-site

Please contact Ms Stephanie Lovat if you have questions about this.

School Shoes for Secondary students

In preparation for the 2017 school year, many students may be in a position of needing to purchase new school shoes. The policy regarding school shoes is outlined on the school’s website and in the Yr 7-10 Student Diary, and states the expectation being:

- **traditional, black, leather, lace up, polishable school shoes.**

Suede shoes, canvas slip-ons and black joggers are not acceptable for safety reasons. Elevated shoes and platform heels are not a part of the school uniform.
Spring is here and the outdoors is an inviting place to read. The Food Technology room is another great learning space.
COSA presentation

COSA stands for **Collaborating on Student Achievement** and it is the special program coordinated from Catholic Education to build on the strengths of our teachers.

We would like to congratulate the K to Year 2 teaching team at our school who worked together on action research in the area of numeracy teaching. This has had a positive effect upon our students’ learning.

**Last Friday, Mrs Belinda Wilkins and Mrs Melinda Barrett presented the work of our school at a large showcase of all Archdiocesan schools.**

Many schools in the Archdiocese had displays showing the learning in Literacy, Numeracy and Religious Education that was happening in their schools. Inquiry learning, using a Literacy Block of time for choice in writing and reading, sharing circles and literacy activities, were all found to be areas that improved students’ learning.

We received considerable praise from the consultants, other Principals and teachers on the standard of work and the significant improvement in our students’ work over the last 18 months.

In 2017, one of our goals is to continue to build an expert teaching team, and working together on action research will be key to that.

**Goldfields Life in 5L**

After considerable research, the students have created models of goldfields which they are sharing with the younger Year 3 and 4 students.
Congratulations to Year 6 for creating amazing autobiographies and sharing great memories with one another.
Our school's **K-10 Thanksgiving Mass** will be held on **Tuesday 6 December at 2.10pm** in the church. We hold a Thanksgiving Service each year to give thanks for the many blessings we have received throughout the year. It is also an opportunity to think of those who are in need.

To do this, **we are asking that you support our St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal**. Students in Years 4-10 are asked to bring a money donation sealed in an envelope. Students, K-Year 3, are asked to bring a Christmas gift wrapped and marked with a label for a boy or for a girl. Naturally, any gift will be well received and you can decide on the most appropriate contribution to the Christmas Appeal.

The St Vincent de Paul Society will make up Christmas hampers for those who are in need at this time. They are most grateful for our continued support of their work.

Parents are most welcome to attend our Thanksgiving Mass.

Students performed at the **VIEW Club Christmas luncheon**, singing carols and helping to celebrate this time of year. Members of the VIEW Club also joined in with the singing. Thank you to Judy Costello for a warm welcome and to Leslie Spencer for her musical support. A surprise early visit from Santa enthused the performers. A number of students had played a challenging game of basketball earlier in the day and they deserve praise for finding their voices to help welcome Christmas.
Year 2 have been practise being Year 3 students in 2017, with the help of their Year 3 friends.
Library books are to be returned to school by this Friday 2nd December 2016 or as soon as possible please.
Interested in getting a WHS White Card?

There is a course being conducted at Cooma TAFE on December 5.

It is open to anyone over the age of 15 years.

If you are interested, go on-line and enrol or call into the customer Service desk at Cooma TAFE,
66 Commissioner Street.
Ph 6452 0799 for more information.

Year 9 visit the Australian War Memorial

FUTURE MAKERS: SUMMER HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS
9–13 January and 16–20 January 2017, 9.30am–4pm

Spark your child's imagination this Summer School Holidays with Future Makers, a series of art classes exploring different themes and materials for budding artists aged 10–14.

Future Makers is an incubator of ideas designed to encourage creativity and exploration, as well as a fostering lifelong interest in the arts by introducing students to the exciting world of contemporary art.

Presenting 30 engaging modules covering ceramics, painting, drawing, photomedia and printmaking, Future Makers is led by experienced arts educators at the historic National Art School campus in Darlinghurst.

Cost: per day $130 / entire five-day program $550 – bookings essential

https://www.nas.edu.au/
Canteen News

Winding down....
With the year-end rapidly approaching I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their help and support this year and to wish everyone a safe holiday season.

Life at this time of year is always super busy for families with work Christmas parties, family get togethers and the battle to get to the shops before Christmas day. We can forget to take 5 minutes to de-stress ourselves and just let the moment be. A quote I read this morning reminded me of this "There are no perfect parents, and there are no perfect children but there are plenty of perfect moments along the way."
So please take the time to look after yourselves and enjoy those moments this Christmas season.

With that in mind I am trying to make lives a little easier for parents at this busy time by offering some healthier options in the canteen.

**Chicken Caesar Salad** $6,
**Nuggets and Salad Snack** $2.50,
**Sushi** (assorted) $4,
**Vietnamese Chicken Rice Paper Rolls (2pk)** $6.

Please note Rice paper rolls and sushi are only available Wednesday to Friday.

As the year winds down we will start to run out of items. I will endeavour to replace items that I am out of with something that I think your child will find equally tasty.

**Mini Canteen** will be as usual this week. We will be offering **Mini Tacos for $2** and **frozen water melon slices for 50c** as well as the other usual items. Please don't forget to send your child with a little change so that they can participate too.

This week’s Volunteers are:
Thursday 01/12/2016 Kelly Gill
Friday 02/12/2016 Elsa Wagner

We would also like to advise that **the canteen will be closing for the year after Wednesday 14 December** so that we can do all the necessary cleaning for the break period. Please ensure that your children have a packed lunch on the last 2 days of school.

Rebecca Croke
Canteen Manager

Check out this site for some great things to do in the lead up to Christmas:
Community Council of St Patrick’s Parish School, Cooma

Cooma Races - Sundowner Cup 2016
Saturday 3 December 2016
One of Cooma’s Social Highlights of the Year!
St Patrick’s Parish School is once again running the catering for this event.

We need our families to assist on the roster during the day.
You will receive a FREE PASS to the Sundowner Cup. You may pick up your FREE PASS from the School Office on Friday morning 2 December 2016 from 10.00 am onwards.

Please indicate your preferred times on the roster below along with your contact details, as the completed roster needs to be emailed out to HELPERS the Tuesday prior to this event.

* Come along and join in with the festivities on the day.*

(Please indicate your preference of times below with a tick)

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Please RSVP your completed flyer to the School Office directly or via email to: stpatsoffice@cg.catholic.edu.au by Monday 28 November 2016

Name: ___________________________ Mobile: ___________________________
Email: ___________________________

Friday 2 December 2016

We need 4-5 HELPERS on Friday, 2 December 2016 to assist with preparing and cleaning at the Cooma Race Course in the morning from 10.00 am - 12.00 noon.

Contact: Erika Statham (0400 787398) or Marjorie Revelant (0418 485229) if you can volunteer your time.

(Please indicate your preference of times below with your name and contact please)

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Library Fines? Turn it into ‘Food for Fines’

Monaro Regional Libraries have invited Library patrons to support local charities’ Christmas Hamper Appeals by participating in a ‘Food For Fines’ campaign.

The campaign has been running since 1 October 2016 and will end on 30 November 2016.

If patrons have overdue library items, we invite them to bring non-perishable foods to Library staff, and we will delete their late fees. Donated goods are being donated to local charities.

Patrons can bring late items and non-perishable food goods to Cooma or Bombala Libraries, the Mobile Library or to the Snowy Mountains Neighbourhood Centre until 30 November 2016.

For more information please reply to this email library@monaro.nsw.gov.au or phone Cooma Library on 6455 1730.
Learning takes many different forms at St Patrick’s!