Dear Parents and Friends of St Patrick’s community

St Patrick’s Parish School acknowledges the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to the elders both past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Aboriginal Australia. We must always remember that under the concrete and asphalt this land is, was and always will be traditional Aboriginal land. As we share our own knowledge, teaching and learning together within this school, may we also pay respect to the knowledge embedded forever within the Aboriginal Custodianship of Country.

Archaeologists believe that Aboriginal people had been living on Monaro for as long as 20,000 years before Europeans arrived. Although it was originally thought, by Europeans, that the Monaro Aboriginal people only resided in the high country during the warmer months (heading to the south coast district during winter), it is now understood that some groups lived on Monaro year-round. The two main groups on Monaro were the Ngarigo people of the tablelands and the Wogul or Wolgalu group in the high country. ‘Boona, Queen of Cooma’ was the recipient of a heavy silver plate (the custom being to present prominent Aboriginal people with ‘King Plates’ in recognition of services they rendered to white people), who was alive around 1900. Boona Street in Cooma is named after her.

Welcome back to Term 3. I look at the calendar and am amazed at the energy already there on the page: it speaks of keen students, very committed teachers and supporting parents. There is much learning to happen and it is going to happen in a variety of places: in classrooms, on the snowfields, on the stage, in the Church, in the library and outside in the open.

We are currently advertising for a new Canteen Manager and applications can be forwarded to me by next Monday. This position is often the lynchpin of the school if we get the right person to help build community. I congratulate our Canteen Manager, Carolyn Hely, on her appointment to a new position and wish her well as she takes on the challenges there. She has certainly transitioned our Canteen to a healthier and more nutritious option and set it on a solid path as a viable business.

At the end of last term, I informed you of the death of Sabina Kovats, our Visual Arts teacher. Her funeral was held in the holidays in North Sydney. For those who were unable to attend the Sydney service, a Memorial Service will be arranged in Jindabyne, probably at the end of this month. A notification will be made through the local newspapers. I continue to be amazed by the heartfelt comments made by parents, students and staff about Sabina’s spirit, generosity and vitality. There are photos and commentary included inside this newsletter and in every photo that has been located, she is closely working with students. She clearly took pleasure in being with students, as shown in this photo with Tim Williams.

A picture speaks a thousand words.

Kind regards

Frances Robertson

Principal
From the AP’s Desk

Staff Professional Learning Day at the beginning of the week

On Monday, staff engaged in two presentations related to *Kidsmatter* and assessment strategies and procedures.

*Kidsmatter* is a framework designed to promote positive mental health and well-being in students. Module 3 was aimed at working with parents and carers. It was agreed by all that parents and carers can have significant positive effects in children’s academic achievement and adjustment to the challenges of school life. We then devoted some time to discussing ways we can support parents and carers and build stronger-school home relationships. Thank you to Mr Introna, Mrs Mackay and Mrs Wallis for their presentation.

The second part of the day was a very focused session on assessment and how it can help learning and inform our teaching practices. Thank you to Mrs Stacey, Mrs Lovat and Mrs Fletcher for their parts of the presentation.

Chewing gum

In Secondary (and to a lesser degree in Primary), we continue to have issues with student bringing and using chewing gum at school. Some students continue to spit used gum on carpets and stairwells. The amount of time it took the cleaners to remove the gum was comparable to removing students’ written graffiti on walls. It is a ridiculous waste of resources and time. All students have been warned there will be stern consequences if teachers suspect students of using or bringing chewing gum to school.

Snowsports

Thank you to Mrs Davies, Mr Lawley and Mrs Moser for organising the Snowsports programs for 2014. More details and information will be given to students closer to their respective Snowsports dates. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to experience learning in a different environment. A worthwhile alternative program has been designed for those students who are not participating in the Snowsports program.

Focus for term 3

The upcoming Parent-Teacher-Student conferences are a good opportunity to talk to your child’s teacher/s about goal setting for the semester. We frame goal setting by the acronym SMART; Specific, Measureable, Achievable, Realistic, Timely. This may help students and parents when they meet with teachers. Secondary students are encouraged to bring their student diaries to record their learning goals for the term.

and coming events....

**Tuesday 22 July**
Oliver! Rehearsal
6pm Information session MacKillop Yr 11 2015

**Wednesday 23 July**
Yr 7 enrolment information tour
MacKillop Yr 11 2015 interviews

**Thursday 24 July**
Yr 7-10 snowsports
Primary Southern region athletics
Secondary Archdiocesan Netball
Yr 6 Captains visit to Cooma North Pre-school
P&F Meeting 7pm

**Friday 25 July**
K-2 Wombat Stew performance
NAIDOC Mass
Yr 10 Winter Sleep out for Vinnies

**Tuesday 29 July**
Kindergarten visit to Lambie St Preschool
Oliver rehearsal 12pm
Yr 7-10 Parent/Teacher student conferences
Reconciliation meeting 6.30pm

**Wednesday 30 July**
Yr 7-10 Snowsports
Southern Region Interschools Alpine

**Thursday 31 July**
Southern Region Interschools Alpine
Yr 3-6 snowsports
Yr 10 Careers Expo
Vale Sabina Kovats

Sabina was prayerful, responsible, committed, curious, interested, playful, caring, thoughtful, compassionate, humble, open, artistic, creative, inventive, supportive, courageous, a listener, hopeful, a learner and a teacher and these are just a few of the aspects that are part of the beautiful person that we were fortunate to know and have present in our community.

Sabina sketched this drawing while taking notes at a staff in-service on accelerated learning. The teacher on the right is depicted as a life-long learner. The student in class has all good reason to celebrate the learning process. Sabina was committed to and celebrated life-long learning.

Sabina wrote in her notes: "How is more life brought to the classroom?" She noted: Through role play, excursions, simulations, guest speakers, community service, exchange visits, celebrations, visuals, community expertise, sharing resources and planning.

When Sabina reflected about change in education- (the drawing of the learner to another place) she wrote, "For things to change, I must change." This reflects her passion for learning and her passion for understanding the student in her care and their place in the learning process.

"Sabina was a lovely lady. She was always smiling despite what was going on behind the smile.

She would always stop and have a chat and made it very easy to speak with her about anything. She was a kind and conscientious teacher for all our children and a wonderful woman to know. We will miss her greatly."

"My boys were footyheads, but they loved art because of Sabina. They would do anything for her!

I will always remember that my art work was auctioned at a special art exhibition in both in Cooma and Jindabyne. She made me love colour. I felt that I could paint all the time.

She nurtured in the students and had a great belief in their ability. She was incredibly aware of any talent and zoomed in to find and enrich it.

Sabina was an incredibly tranquil and helped others to find this in themselves.
Position vacant - Canteen Manager

Applications are invited from suitably experienced and qualified people for the part-time position of Canteen Manager at St Patrick's Parish School. A full duty statement is available from the school office.

To be considered for this position, you must meet the following criteria:

* Food Handling Certificate or equivalent
* Excellent communication skills both written and verbal
* Demonstrated understanding of healthy eating and ability to prepare, cook and promote healthy foods
* Viable management of financial operations, including ordering, banking and reporting
* Knowledge of the Fresh Tastes @ School NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy
* Understanding of WH&S principles

It is a requirement of employment that a Working with Children Check has been obtained.

Applications for employment should address the above listed criteria and be accompanied by a current resume including two referees. Please forward applications addressed to the Principal to office.stpatscooma@cg.catholic.edu.au by Monday 21-7-14

Parish Home-based Sacramental Program for Reconciliation (confession)

Children who are in Year 3 are invited to take part in the Parish Home-Based Sacramental Program for Reconciliation (Confession). The first meeting for both parent(s) and child(ren) will be on Tuesday 29th July at 6.30pm in the Church.

For further enquiries, please contact Lou Mackay, care of the Parish Office (62522062) or phone 64521721.

SNOW! SNOW! SNOW!

Now we are set for our school snow sports program. Remember primary ski payments are due Monday 21 July. If your child did not previously indicate that they wanted to participate in the snow sports program there are still a few places available. Please contact the school indicating your child’s desire to participate.

bernadette.moser@cg.catholic.edu.au

Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences

Thank you to the parents who have made their online bookings for the Secondary (29-7-14) and Infants/Primary (5-8-14) P/T/S Conferences. These are from 4pm until 7pm in the Ex-Services Club.

Following the detailed reports that arrived home at the end of the last term, the purpose of these conferences is primarily to set goals for the coming term. Therefore, five minutes has been allocated for each appointment. This ensures that everyone has the chance to meet the teacher. (Where there is a class of 30 students, this means a total of at least 150 minutes—two and a half hours—quite a long time of talking after teaching all day.)

If parents feel that they have other matters that they wish to discuss, a separate time that is mutually agreeable needs to be set aside.

Being located at the Club means that it is warmer and much more secure for everyone.

If any parent is uncertain about the online booking system, there is an opportunity available after school in the Primary Library on Thursday 24-7-14 from 3.30 until 4.30pm, where Mrs Lovat will demonstrate. The office staff will also take a phone call and place the booking for you.

This is a change for some people and after we have trialled it, we will review the process.
School Board - Welcome Term 3

The School Board welcomes our families, teaching and ancillary staff, carers and students back to school for an exciting and challenging Term 3. We welcome any new families to St Patrick's Parish School and hope your journey and love of education with our school is an enjoyable and rewarding experience. We hope you all had an opportunity to take a well earned rest over these winter holidays.

In Term 2, our School Board has been busy in a number of key areas. Firstly, there was the letter you would have read in last term's School Newsletter compiled by our board member, Bernie Sullivan. I would encourage all our families to be sending letters to our local member, Mr John Barilaro, Member for Monaro in Queanbeyan, email: monaro@parliament.nsw.gov.au and The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP in Sydney, email: office@berejiklian.minister.nsw.gov.au. This is a concerted effort to obtain a fully subsidised bus transport which will benefit and ensure the continuation of the on-going partnership between St Mary MacKillop College and St Patrick's School, Cooma. At the beginning of 2015 a fifty seater bus will be required to see the beginning of the next phase of this successful partnership, as a full compliment of our students will be attending both Year 11 and 12 cohorts at St Mary MacKillop College, Isabella Plains in Canberra.

In Term 1 and 2 our Principal, Frances Robertson was preparing and submitting a DA application to our local Cooma-Monaro Shire Council. This is for a stage 1 of the proposed building refurbishment of our Secondary Campus. Because we want to share information within our local and school communities, there was a display in the shop front window in Vale Street. This included the architectural drawings of our proposal of the secondary campus and photos of current students within our school. We hope that you saw it.

I would like to thank all our staff in all three campuses for their dedication and the time that they devote in ensuring our students are encouraged to reach their full potential in life.

In mid August, our School Board members will have the pleasure of meeting Mr Timothy Smith. Tim is employed by the Catholic Education Office (CEO) in Canberra and heads Strategy and Policy portfolio. Tim will meet our Board members and share his professional expertise on strategic governance in education for Catholic School Boards and Community Councils.

Erika Statham
Chairperson of the School Board

Raglan Gallery Visit

Year 9 & 10 will be walking to the Raglan Gallery this Friday 18 July, period 5 & 6 to view ‘The Graham Family’ exhibition.
NSW Interschool Equestrian Championships.

Over four days of competition from June 19 - June 22 two riders from St Patrick’s Parish School travelled to Sydney International Equestrian Centre (SIEC) at Horsley Park and competed at the NSW Interschool Equestrian Championships.

The competition conducted by horse sport governing body Equestrian NSW was held over the 4 days and covered a range of equestrian disciplines. There were approximately 700 horses at this competition with horses and riders travelling from all over NSW to enjoy the fabulous state of the art equestrian facilities purpose built at SIEC for the initial purpose of hosting the Olympic Equestrian disciplines back in 2000. It is simply horse sport heaven.

Shelley Kleven (Year 4) and Abby Douch (Year 3) went on to ride and represent St Patrick's in the primary school division. A great few days were had and some fantastic results were achieved - especially taking into account the huge age bracket of competition – our riders have years left in this Primary division.

Shelley and Abby showed fantastic team spirit and sportsmanship qualities - always watching and cheering each other on for every event over the entire four days and being incredibly supportive during the highs and lows – and be assured there were some.

It was also great to hear former St. Patrick's Cooma student Will Fitzgerald's name being announced as a placegetter more than once. Congratulations to Will on his success.

Individual results were:

Shelley Kleven
- 10th Combined Training 45cm (includes a dressage test and showjump round).
- 1st Working Show Hunter Point score Event - comprised of 2nd in the rider section, 1st in the under saddle section and 1st in the in-hand section (interestingly the jumping section results were not included in the final point score due to a major oversight by officials - but we believe Shelley also placed highly in this component of competition too).
- 1st Dressage Prelim 1.2
- 6th Dressage Prelim 1.3

Abby Douch
- 8th Combined Training 45cm (includes a dressage test and showjump round)
- Eliminated from Show Hunter Point score Event after a fall in the under saddle section (was leading up to this stage)
- 13th Dressage Prelim 1.2
- 10th Dressage Prelim 1.3

Shelley Kleven has now qualified to compete at the Interschool National Championships being held at Werribee Victoria in September for which she (and Mum) will now be madly preparing for. We wish her the best of luck in her preparation and competition. Lucky we have new St Patrick's saddlecloths and helmet covers – thanks to the St Pats P&F - but that’s another story coming very soon.

Thank you to Kylie Douch for this report

www.stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au
Design a Bookmark

Attention all kids!

As part of Children's Book Week 2014 we are holding a competition to design an awesome bookmark for Monaro Regional Libraries.

Let your imagination run wild and create an original 2D work of art! The name “Monaro Regional Libraries” must appear somewhere in your design!

All entries should be handed in before Tuesday 13 August so they can be judged and awarded during Book Week.

Please make sure your name, age, address, phone number and email are on the back of this sheet when you hand in your entry.

The template on this page must be used for your design. You can hand in as many as you want!

Have fun!
Parent /Teacher /Student Conferences

Dear Parents

Parent/Teacher/Student conferences will be held at **4.00pm – 7.00pm** on **Tuesday 29 July** for Secondary and at **4.00pm – 7.00pm on Tuesday 5 August** for Primary.

You can now book interviews at times that suit **YOUR FAMILY BEST**.

Go to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and follow these simple instructions.

**BOOKINGS CLOSE Tuesday 29 July at 12pm** for Secondary and

**Tuesday 5 August at 12pm** for Primary.

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Go to


Enter the school event code.

Then follow the 3 simple steps.

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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](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) at any time, and change your interviews - until bookings close.

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For parents who 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 strictly 5 mins and 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-visited the [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://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

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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](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) website, and leave some feedback - anonymously if you wish, but please include the school’s name and suburb.