Dear St Patrick’s Community

Last Friday was a National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence and St Patrick’s recognised this day by participating in a Kindness Day. As a Catholic school, we are embracing the Year of Mercy and promoting kindness across our school.

We were fortunate to be joined on Friday by our two Kindness Ambassadors – Bronnie Taylor MLC and Father Mick. Through their respective careers as an oncology nurse and priest, both these individuals have extended the hand of kindness to others.

In the lead up to last Friday students were also reviewing healthy relationships. Infants examined what makes a friend and how can we be friendly to others, Primary students focused on promoting an anti-bullying stance and how to stop bullying, and Secondary students worked through a four week anti-bullying program in their extended Homeroom time. This covers information on what constitutes bullying, why do bullies bully, taking a stand against bullying, cyber-bullying and building resilience.

On Friday there were many activities happening across the school that focused on kindness, including a presentation to all children from our Kindness Ambassadors. There were in-class discussions and activities for Infants and Primary and also the beginning of a Kindness Chain that will continue to grow throughout the year as children perform acts of kindness. Secondary students focused on making and creating activities that sent kindness into our community.

As you go about your day, spare a thought for the meaning of a National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence and extend the hand of kindness to others. In the words of Oscar Wilde, “The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention”.

With kind regards

Pip Daley
Well-being and Support Person
Each Secondary class in the afternoon prepared something for someone else that represented a kind act.

For example, the Stage 5 IST designed and produced some Kindness Bookmarks that they donated to the Cooma Library. These can be collected by any member of the Library to use and enjoy.

The Year 9/10 Timber class created small ‘holding crosses’ to give to elderly members of the community.
The message from St Patrick’s Day

Too often we ask, ‘What’s in it for me?’ There are countless distractions that focus on “me, rather than we”. However, on St Patrick’s day, we can ask, ‘Where do I fit?’ and ‘What can I do?’

True happiness and genuine success does not come from looking inward. There is a famous saying that goes like this: ‘If you want to feel good, then do good’. The simple message is to be less interested in yourself, and more interested in the world around you. What is it that you want to create in the world around you, that you are willing to endure personal sacrifice to bring to life?

That’s where St Patrick comes in. This is how he lived his life. This is what he modelled for us. He also wanted to help people believe in and belong to something big - Christianity- and he was prepared to do something big to make it happen.

Being affiliated with the St Patrick’s journey and the St Patrick’s world can give us purpose and belonging. It is something big. We are not like the TV show “Survivor,” where everyone is focused on choosing the next person to be voted off the island.

We belong! We care about others! We are part of St Patrick’s! The call to action is unmistakable.

Friday was our Day of Kindness. It was another step in truly being the best that we can be. Our strength is in our gentleness - our school motto - and I ask that you remember that you are part of something big and every action of kindness is never wasted. It leads to bigger things.

As you take the steps towards greater kindness remember St Patrick’s prayer: Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ beside me. Then you will truly belong to something big!

Frances Robertson
Are you interested in your child’s literacy progress and the latest research on how to boost literacy levels?

Adjunct Professor Kaye Lowe from University of Canberra will be visiting our school on Monday 4 April from 7.00pm until 8.30pm for a presentation on literacy. Kaye has considerable credibility, experience and qualifications in the area of literacy, which extends from preschool to adulthood. She has published numerous articles and three books and contributed many chapters to literacy publications.

We are having a small supper and if you RSVP, we may be able to provide some limited child care with the Secondary students entertaining the little ones.

Parents and carers can have a profound impact on their children's literacy learning and can make the difference to the reading future of their children. Come along and learn how to help your children with strategies so they can learn to help themselves to become more successful learners.

All parents in Kindergarten through to Year 6 are encouraged to attend.

Help unlock the key to literacy success!

From the AP’s Desk ...

ANZAC day

ANZAC day occurs at the end of the term break (Monday 25 April). Each year St Patrick’s has wonderful representation at both the Cooma and Berridale commemorations.

I would encourage students from K-10 to be a part of this significant annual event. Students wear full winter uniform and could have a bottle of water with them. Meeting times are:

- **COOMA**: Mack’s corner at 10:00 for a 10:30am start
- **BERRIDALE**: Town Square at 10:45am for a 11:00am start
- **NIMMITABEL**: meeting at the Hall at 10.15
- **ADAMINABY**: at 10.45 at the Big Trout
- **BREDBO**: 10.30 at the Community Hall

Word of the week

**Syllabus:** Is a descriptive outline of the topics to be taught. Syllabuses provide teachers with a thorough guide of what is to be taught, ideas on how to teach the topics and possible assessment ideas. Syllabuses also allow students and parents to check that the teacher is teaching the topics required. In NSW, syllabuses are produced by the BOSTES (NSW government) and are located at [http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/syllabus_sc/](http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/syllabus_sc/)

Easter is here. Let us remember the true meaning.

Mark van Ommen
Assistant Principal
Come and join in the fun of the street parade.

We will be gathering at 2.00pm in Baron St (near the bridge) and then processes down to Sharp St at 3pm. All are welcome.

After the success of the fund-raising at the Cooma Show, it's time to gather for a meeting.

Please feel welcome to come and join us at 7pm on Thursday 31 March in the Primary Library (just inside the gates on Vale St). It's an informal and friendly gathering and an opportunity to meet others.

We are also preparing for the Mother's Day stall on Friday 6 May. You could have a some good ideas to share!
St Patrick’s Parish Presents

The Autumn Ball

Saturday April 9, 2016
at the Multifunction Centre

Music Supplied by
Big Connexions Dance Band
(18 Piece orchestra and vocals)

BYO • Drinks & Eats
Tickets: $30 Single / $55 Double
Available at The Fabric Salon,
Tag the Trend, Mainstreet &
St Patrick’s Parish School Office

Artwork by The Monaro Post
HELP REQUIRED FOR THE SECONDARY ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

At present, there is one parent helper for the Secondary athletics carnival. In order for the carnival to run efficiently, extra parent helpers are required. If you are willing to assist on Thursday, 7 April from 9.00am-2.30pm, we would be most grateful.

If you can help, please complete the parental assistance slip which was attached to the information letter and send it in to the office before Thursday 31 March. If you have misplaced the sheet, please ring the office.

Ms Tina Wawrzyniak
Carnival Organiser

Produce Market

Thank you to everyone who has again supported our Garden Club produce market. Last Friday’s market raised $57.30. This was a fantastic effort!

We appreciate the support of our families in supplying and purchasing the goodies.

Kindness Activity Year 8

Students in Year 8 were busy Friday afternoon with kindness, cleaning, card making, being calm and creating a mural with the theme of kindness. The mural will eventually be placed in the foyer of R block and it is hoped it will become an ongoing reminder to practise kindness at all times.

Thank you Year 8
Some important dates

Term 1 finishes on Friday 8 April
Term 2 begins on Wednesday 27 April

Monday 25 April is ANZAC day and we are hoping that our students will represent the school in the ANZAC march beginning at 10:30am. They will need to be in their winter uniform. We will meet at Mack’s corner at 10:00am.

Yr 10 attend the MacKillop Open Day on Wednesday 27 April.

CANTEEN NEWS

For the rest of this term **** TACO TUESDAY **** $4 each. We are getting the hang of it now! A big thanks to my volunteers who are helping with the bulk assembly and transport processes!!

Don’t forget mini-canteen on Wednesday for Infants and Primary students - items are priced from 50c to $2. Mini-canteen is in addition to all students being able to order from the canteen menu every Tuesday to Friday.

Secondary Athletics Carnival Thursday 7 April - Canteen helpers please! I will need a few helpers on the day at Snowy Oval and in the canteen to process the normal K-6 lunch orders in the morning. Please contact me if you can spare 1-2 hours or more. Just phone the school office or email caroline.blyton@cg.catholic.edu.au

This week’s volunteers are (thank you):

Wednesday 23/3 10:00am Kim Kleven,
1:15pm Keira Lennon
Thursday 24/3 Volunteer needed
Tuesday 29/3 9:00am Jackie Bitar
Wednesday 30/3 10:00am Volunteer needed
1:15pm Keira Lennon
Thursday 31/3 Keira Lennon
Friday 1/4 Elsa Wagner

CANTEEN SPECIAL THIS THURSDAY 24 March:
St Pat’s Pasta (Small) + Large Garlic Bread + Juice = $6

Caroline Blyton
Canteen Manager
School Cross Country Carnival

Last week we held our annual Cross Country Carnival at Lions Park, Cooma. This is a fantastic venue for the cross country as the terrain is varied, undulating and is easily accessible to spectators. We were treated to some very good weather for running and our thanks go to all parents, carers, grandparents and friends who came out to watch the students compete.

Congratulations to the following students who were crowned aged champions.

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<tr>
<td><strong>8yrs</strong></td>
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<td>Alana Henderson</td>
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<td><strong>11yrs</strong></td>
<td>Clara Thornton</td>
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<td><strong>12yrs</strong></td>
<td>Shelley Kleven</td>
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The Primary House Champions were 1st Terra, 2nd Caelum, 3rd Ignis and 4th Aqua. The Secondary House Champions were 1st Aqua, 2nd Ignis, 3rd Terra and 4th Caelum.

The first 6 competitors in each age group (combined 8/9) have qualified for the next carnival. For Primary that will be on Thursday 7 May in Wolumla and for Secondary that will be on Wednesday 20 May in Canberra.
LEUKAEMIA FOUNDATION GREATEST SHAVE FUNDRAISING BANQUET
A fundraising evening will be held on Friday 8 April at the Cooma Car Club (catering by Roses with music by the Horneman family!) Full details will be communicated once details are finalised. Please organise a table and book by contacting me on 0437 873 706 or Roses Restaurant on 64524512. Donations can be made at Cooma Newsagency, Rhythm Sports, Alpine Hotel, Woolworths Cooma or online at http://my.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/normadietrich. Thank you in anticipation of your support.
Norma Dietrich

SATURDAY MORNING SOCCER COMPETITION
Registrations now open for the Saturday morning soccer competition for players U6s-U11s. Any child 12 or over will only be able to register in the new Capital Football Junior League. The competition for 2016 starts on 30 April and finishes 20 August. Registrations this year are ON LINE ONLY – go to www.myfootballclub.com.au. You need to register early to allow the school Coordinators time to nominate the correct number of teams into the competition. Contact details for Cooma Football Club can be found at coomafc.net.

Grassroots Coaching Course
Saturday 9 April 9am-12pm at Nijong
This year Capital Football will be holding a free Grassroots course for any parents interested in managing or coaching a Junior team (U6-U11). This course will provide the techniques and drills that will help to coach and guide your young players. The course is for the adults only, however please bring the kids along for some training and small game time, to be supervised by club members and senior players. The canteen will also be open for a sausage and light snacks. Please show your interest by registering at the link below: http://education-ffa.sportingpulse.com/Entry/?EID=14137. For any other info contact mark.planthire@gmail.com.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY TENNIS CAMPS
Camp 1 : Wednesday 13 to Thursday 14 April
Camp 2 : Wednesday 20 to Thursday 21 April
9am – 4pm ROYAL TENNIS COURTS
2 Day Camp - $100.00 Discounted to $80.00
Please call Tom: 0404838049
AFTER SCHOOL ACCREDITED