



St Patrick's Parish School, Cooma

.A School With .Altitude

February 2018

Dear Parents

Our students at St Patrick's are being given an opportunity to participate in two science programs at school.

1. On **Monday 26th February**, the **Questacon Smart Skills Outreach** team will be visiting the school to offer free workshops with the secondary students. Students will have the opportunity to use tools and simple materials to complete various challenges. Workshops on offer include constructing a chain-reaction Rube Goldberg machine, designing a landing platform for a drone, or testing aerodynamics in our vertical wind tunnels. The workshops run for 90 minutes.
2. On **Friday 16th March**, students in **Year 9 and 10 have been invited to participate in the Science and Engineering Challenge**. The Science and Engineering Challenge is a nationwide STEM outreach program presented by the University of Newcastle in partnership with communities, Rotary clubs, universities and sponsors.

Through the Challenge, students experience aspects of Science and Engineering which they would not usually see in their school environment. The Challenge runs a range of programs but focuses on inspiring students in Year 9 and 10 to consider a future career in science and engineering by choosing to study the enabling sciences and mathematics in Years 11 and 12.

Last year St Patrick's was represented by four students in Year 9. These students joined a team from Lumen Christi Catholic College from Pambula and were successful on the day, qualifying for the national final in Newcastle. This year, we would like to send a complete St Patrick's team of 16 students from Year 9 and 10.

The Questacon Smart Skills program will be a perfect experience for the students leading into the Science and Engineering Challenge at Bega on the Friday 16th March. If possible, we would look at possibly transporting the students by car to the event in order to reduce the cost. Two teachers will be attending the day in Bega, so we may only need two or three parents to help with transport.

Could you please return the slip below giving your permission for your daughter/son to participate in the Science and Engineering Challenge and if you may be able to help with transport. Further information regarding the day will be forthcoming once student participation is known.

Frances Robertson
Principal

Steve Summerville
Science Teacher

I give permission for my daughter/son _____ to participate in the Science and Engineering Challenge in **Bega on Friday 16th March**. I give permission for my daughter/son to travel by private car to the event.

I able to help with transport. I am not able to help with transport.

Parent signature: _____

Date: _____