Dear St Patrick’s Community

Welcome to the Jubilee Year of Mercy. The Pope has invited all Catholics to deeply explore the concept of mercy in our lives. In fact we need to go deep into the heart of mercy.

In the ancient tradition of a Year of Jubilee, slaves and prisoners were to be freed, debts would be forgiven, land and possessions would be returned to their owners, and the mercies of God would be particularly manifest (Lev. 25:8-13). Would this be the case for the newly announced Jubilee Year?

The Holy Father states it clearly: “This is an opportune moment to change our lives.” Right here in Cooma, we can demonstrate just what mercy means at the beginning of this important year for the Church.

Advent is a time for preparing for Christmas....so, it is fitting to consider the link between mercy and the experience of Christmas. So many tables will be empty of food treats this Christmas. How can we act generously? So many Christmas trees will be bare of gifts. What are we prepared to share? So many homes will have absent family members. How could mercy and forgiveness change that? Christmas will be marked with aloneness and loneliness for many. Could our open-hearted and open-handed kindness change that?

It is part of the human condition to be discomforted by the “other” – the impoverished, the disenfranchised, the mentally ill, or just those on the other side of the law. Sometimes, there is an unfathomable divide between what is and what could be.

The Year of Mercy has the potential to at least make a dent in that. And Christmas is the time to begin.

Thank you to those who have been generous with their time and gifts for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. These were presented at our Thanksgiving Service this week.

Thank you to those students to have offered to do a day of community service next Monday.

Thank you to those students who are organising the second Colour Day next Tuesday, as a way of supporting those who have been affected by cancer and in memory of our former Visual Arts teacher, Sabina Kovats.

Thank you to our parents who value our Catholic school and who have demonstrated this by supporting the school in so many ways, including volunteering their time for fund-raising.

Thank you to the staff at this school who have cared for our students in so many ways that are beyond their role description. It is all appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Frances Robertson
Principal

"We cannot escape the Lord’s words to us, and they will serve as the criteria upon which we will be judged: whether we have fed the hungry and given drink to the thirsty, welcomed the stranger and clothed the naked, or spent time with the sick and those in prison (cf. Mt 25:31-45).”

Pope Francis

coming events....

Thursday 3 December
Yr 3 Mass 10am
School Board Meeting 6pm
Senior Citizens Lunch at Ex-Services with some Yr 9 students
School Board Meeting 6pm
K-6 Swimming

Friday 4 December
K-6 Awards day 12.30
Celebrate Ability: Yr 5 Drumbeat in the park 11am
Secondary Merit Awards 2pm

Monday 7 December
K-6 Swimming
Yr 9 Community Service Day

Tuesday 8 December
COLOUR DAY with Relay for Life
K-6 Swimming

Wednesday 9 December
Yr 10 Picnic Day
K-6 Swimming

Thursday 10 December
K-2 Christmas Mass with lunch following 10am
Yr 10 Dinner 7pm

Show Your True Colours!
A Message from the AP

Uniform Matters: In the last newsletter there was information that students in Primary can start wearing white shirts from next year. If your child has a fawn shirt they may continue to wear these.

If you are purchasing new uniforms for next year please keep in mind the following

- Girls dresses must be below the knees
- Students should be wearing white socks
- Boys shorts need to be grey, not cargo shorts.
- Shoes need to follow the guidelines below

All school hats that can be purchased are now bucket hats. Local retailers have been informed that this type of hat is what our students MUST now purchase. This is consistent with our sun smart obligations.

Secondary electives 2016: Students have been given their elective choices for next year. As I have mentioned in previous newsletters, students cannot normally change electives, going from Year 9 to Year 10, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Our two elective lines for 2016 are:

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<th>Line A</th>
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<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Visual Arts</td>
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<td>Drama</td>
<td>Food technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information and Software Technology</td>
<td>Physical Activity and Sports Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Photography</td>
<td>Industrial Technology (timber)</td>
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<td>Industrial Technology (timber)</td>
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We have not yet allocated teachers to all elective classes, but students can probably expect the same teachers on these classes that we had in 2015.

Almost all students in Year 8 have received their first and second choice. I have personally seen those who did not get both their first and second choice. Students can come and see me if they have any questions.

In terms of footwear, the expectation is traditional, black, leather; lace up, polishable school shoes. Suede shoes and black joggers are not acceptable for safety reasons. Elevated shoes and platform heels are not a part of the College uniform. The sole should be no more than 2 cm high and the heel 3 cm. Buckle shoes, canvas shoes, ballet shoes, cloth shoes, and slip on shoes are NOT permitted.

Traditional school shoes are leather, have a heel, a sturdy upper and a sole of sufficient density to ensure safety in the differing learning areas where students work.

Shoes which do not meet the College criteria:
- do not cover all of the upper foot
- are not polishable
- do not have a heel
- have a thin sole
- are not robust enough to protect the top of the foot
Thank you to all staff, students and families for their support for the St Vincent de Paul 2015 Christmas Appeal.

The total of cash donations was $513.40.

St Vincent de Paul Society
As a continuing commemoration for our former Visual Arts teacher, Ms Sabina Kovats, we are again celebrating **St Patrick’s Colour Day**!

This is to support Relay for Life, a cause with which she was closely associated.

On Tuesday the 8th of December, students are invited to wear clothing that has the most colours possible and donate a gold coin to go towards Relay for Life. There are lots of activities for you to join in the fun!
Colourful clothing = $1
Hairspray = $1
Nail polish = $1
Wet sponge activities = $1
Guessing competition = $1
Prayer of Pope Francis for the Jubilee

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,
and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.
Show us your face and we will be saved.
Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money;
the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things;
made Peter weep after his betrayal,
and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.
Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman:

“If you knew the gift of God!”
You are the visible face of the invisible Father,
of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy:
let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified.
You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness
in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error:
let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.
Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor,
proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.
We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES  (Friday 25 DECEMBER)

Cooma and Bombala Parishes

Adaminaby 5pm Vigil      Delegate      5pm Vigil
Cooma          7pm Vigil      Bombala      7pm Vigil
Jerangle       8am           Nimmitabel   9pm Vigil
Cooma          9am

All are Welcome
Canteen News
There won’t be a meal deal this Friday, instead we will be Eating Rainbows on Colour Day on Tuesday 8 December. Please see the attached meal deals. Send your order to the canteen by Friday 4 December. Don’t forget that Secondary students can order too! Thanks!

Volunteers - Thank you!
Wednesday 2/12, 10am Grant Pascoe, 1.15pm Howard & Elsa (Mini-canteen)
Thursday 3/12, 10am Sara Souter
Friday 4/12, 10am Rebecca Croke
Tuesday 8/12, 10am VOLUNTEERS NEEDED (Colour Day)
Wednesday 9/12, 10am Kelly Gill, 1.15pm Kelly & Marjorie (Mini-canteen)
Thursday 10/12, 9.15am Sara Souter (K-2 extra lunches)
Friday 11/12, 10am Sue Bottom

I got my weeks a bit muddled last week (!!), so just to clarify, Sushi will be available Wed-Fri in Weeks 9 and 10, but none will be available in Week 11.

A reminder that all IOU’s (staff and students) need to be paid before the end of the term. Please contact me if you need to!

Caroline Blyton
Canteen Manager

Coming of Age Ball
for
Young women and men of the district
aged 17 years to 22 years

Sat 9th April 2016
Cooma Multifunction Centre
Showground

Presented by St Patrick’s Catholic Parish
Expression of interest by 7 December
Miesje Blumer 0417 236 441
Darren Steinke 0427 780 284
Colour Day at St Pat’s!

**PLEASE SEND ORDERS TO THE CANTEEN BY FRIDAY THE 4th, clearly marked COLOUR DAY**

The canteen is offering the two following meal deals on Tuesday 8th of December:

- **Rainbow Wrap**
  - Chicken, Ham or Tuna
  - **Slinky Apple**
  - Rainbow Fruit Salad & Yoghurt

  **Price:** $5.00

- **2 x Slices**
  - Rainbow Veggie Pizza
  - **Slinky Apple**
  - Rainbow Fruit Salad & Yoghurt

  **Price:** $5.00

**PLEASE SEND ORDERS TO THE CANTEEN BY FRIDAY THE 4th, clearly marked COLOUR DAY**
We are progressing closer to the implementation of the BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) program in 2016 for all Year 6 – 10 students. A number of important points to consider when preparing your child for the program are:

When purchasing a device follow the minimum specifications sheet. If this is neglected the device may not work or work inefficiently on the school network.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Device</th>
<th>Laptop</th>
<th>Mac Laptop</th>
<th>Windows Tablet</th>
<th>iPad Tablet</th>
<th>Android Tablet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Operating System | Windows 7  
Windows 8  
Windows 10 | OS X 10.7 or higher  
Windows 7  
Windows 8 | Windows 7  
Windows 8 | IOS 6.0 or higher | OS Android |
| Wireless | 5GHz 802.11n | 5GHz 802.11n | 5GHz 802.11n | 5GHz 802.11n | 5GHz 802.11n |
| Min Screen Size | 11” | 11” | 10” | 9.7” | 9” for Nexus/9.7” for Samsung |
| Storage Capacity (Hard Drive) | 500 GB | 128GB | 64GB | 64GB | Samsung 10.2 GB  
External Memory Support  
MicroSD (Up to 128GB)  
Nexus 16 GB & 32 GB storage |
| RAM | 4GB or higher | 4GB or higher | 4GB or higher | 4GB or higher | 2GB |
| Battery Life | 6 hours | 6 hours | 6 hours | 6 hours | 6 hours |
| Device Example | Dell Inspiron 3000 or 5000 series  
Toshiba Satellite L50D-B  
Acer Aspire E5  
HP-Pavilion 15 Notebook  
[www.hp.com](http://www.hp.com) | 11-Inch MacBook Air  
[www.microsoftstore.com](http://www.microsoftstore.com) | iPad Air 2  
(9.7, Wi-Fi)  
[www.samsung.com/au](http://www.samsung.com/au)  
Nexus 9  

Consider some form of insurance for the device in the event of it being lost, stolen or damaged.

Purchase a protective case or carry bag for the device.

There is no need to purchase Microsoft Office. This is because all students have an Office 365 account provided to them by Catholic Education. This enables each student to download Office 365 onto five separate personal devices. They can access Word, Excel, Power-point and other software applications through their Office 365 account.

All students have access to cloud storage services. These include One Drive, Google Drive and Edmodo.

You may wish to ask the advice of local providers when selecting a device. These include Leading Edge Electronics, Dean’s Computers, Percy’s and Betta Home Living. You can also seek advice from the larger retailers in Canberra or even purchase from the major computer companies websites. Acer has provided the school with information about their services to school’s BYOD programs. They have a dedicated portal that deal with BYOD. [BYOD.acer.com.au](http://BYOD.acer.com.au)

If you have any further questions regarding the BYOD program for 2016 please ring the school.
Minnie Vinnies Pen Pals

St Patrick’s Minnie Vinnies has teamed up with another Catholic school in England who participate in the Minnie Vinnies program. We have started writing pen pal letters to each other. St Patrick’s wrote first and just the other day, we received a response from the students at St Edward’s School in Runcorn in Cheshire, England.

Here are some of the thoughts of our students

“I was excited” – Lucy Thornton

“It was interesting to learn about someone else on the other side of the world.” – Nowell Utrush

“I felt happy because I am making new friends.” – Georgia Rumball

“It was really cool to write a letter instead of using technology.” – Molly Brabham

“It was fun and interesting to have a conversation and write to someone whom you had never met before.” - Ivy McGufficke

“It was exciting to know that other people had joined Minni Vinnies, like we did.” - Julia Bottom

“I felt excited because one day we could meet up with them.” – Charlotte O’Donnell

“I felt excited because Maisie (my Minnie Vinnies Pen Pal) and I had so much in common.” – Lilly Janota

“It was really cool to know that we have sent a letter all the way over to the other side of the world and we got a response back.” - Chloe Hemphill
Year 1 Assembly
CELEBRATE ABILITY

FRIDAY
DECEMBER 4th
CENTENNIAL PARK
COOMA
11am—1pm

Live music and entertainment
Displays, information stalls and more
Free Sausage Sizzle

International Day of People with Disability
2015 Theme: Inclusion matters: access and empowerment for people of all abilities

For more information:
Caroline 6452 2156 • Kristy 6455 1934

Merit Award Winners last week
School Board Message 2015

As we head into the final weeks of Term 4 we can reflect back on what has been a positive, challenging and a year full of opportunities for our students and our communities. In Term 4, we celebrated our first Shakespearean play, A Midsummer’s Night Dream in the ‘Secret Garden. The Secondary Campus came alive over three intriguing evening performances. Our Bazaar Fair was all about building connections with our families and our wider local community, whilst we celebrated the immense talent of creative energy within our school. We continued to build on our funds for the fit-out of the new Visual Arts/TAS building. What a success this was. We continue to progress with our building on the Secondary Campus. Year 10s have just completed their RFS training last week and the secondary basketball teams competed in the Martin Schoo competition. Our school has also been running sessions on BOYD in the lead up to 2016 commencement. The list of activities goes on.

We say farewell to our Year 10 students as they are now in their final two weeks of schooling at St Patrick’s. We thank them for the contributions they have made to the life of our school over many years. We wish them all the best as they look forward to the excitement, opportunities and challenges that will await them as they embark on their final two years of secondary studies.

Our School Board and P&F members embraced the challenges and opportunities of moving forward as we looked at Community Councils and what this will entail. We will be moving into the next phase of this in 2016. What excitement, energy and parent involvement that will bring to our school and community. Stay tuned.

St Patrick’s has further enhanced our professional working relationship with St Mary MacKillop College over these past twelve months. This year we will see their existing Year 12 cohort of former St Patrick’s students conclude their secondary education.

On behalf of the School Board, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff at St Patrick’s for their dedication, professionalism, enthusiasm and motivation over these past twelve months both in and out of the classroom.

We wish all our students, families and staff a safe, peaceful and happy holiday.

Erika Statham
Chairperson, St Patrick’s Parish School Board

Students sing for the View Club

Students in the Primary Choir and the Secondary Music Group sang Christmas Carols and songs at the View Club’s Christmas function last Friday. It was wonderful to be able to join with a Community group that performs great service and is so appreciative of young people.

The students were in great voice. Thank you to the secondary musicians and Mrs Wilkinson for your support. The students were given a small gift for their participation.
The Cooma Races will be held at Ti-Tree Racecourse Cooma, on Saturday 5th December 2015

St Patrick’s Parish School P&F will be doing the catering for this event

A BBQ WILL BE OFFERED ON THE DAY

We need lots of helpers to assist with cleaning on Friday morning
Then on Saturday for set up, cooking the BBQ and serving

Help is required from 8.00am until finish around 6.00pm.
(The busiest time is from 1.00pm – 4.00pm, so if you can come between these times for a couple of hours it would be appreciated)

Please return the section below indicating times you can assist to the school no later than Wednesday 25th November 2015

Or you can advise
Karen McGufficke 0417 496708  mkmcgufficke@bigpond.com

P&F BBQ Saturday 5 December 2015 – Cooma Races Assistance Reply

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<tr>
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<td>Time/s Available:</td>
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| Friday morning for cleaning from 9.30am – 11.00am  
| Saturday - 8am – 10am, 10am – 12 noon, 12noon – 2pm, 2pm – 4pm, 4pm – 6pm  
| Any other time.........................|  
| Mobile Number:   |  
| Email Address:   |  

All helpers will receive a free entry ticket to the races.

Thank you for offering your time and assistance for this fundraising event, if you have any questions please contact Melinda Barrett 0439 413700, Karen McGufficke 0417 496708 or Marjorie Revelant P&F Catering Coordinator 0418 485 229
Year 9 visit to the Australian War Memorial

Last Friday Year 9 travelled to Canberra to visit The Australian War Memorial as part of their study of the History topic area ‘Australians at War”. The group was accompanied by Mrs Hulley, Mr Van Ommen and joined at the AWM by Mr Carrick who recently completed a teaching practicum at our school.

After a short film introducing the Memorial and its background, the students were divided into three groups and given a guided tour of the World War One exhibits by staff from the Education Centre.

Once again our students were complimented on their behaviour and general demeanour by several members of the public and are to be congratulated for the respectful way that they conducted themselves at such a significant national site.