Dear Parents, Staff and Students

**First Eucharist this weekend**

Congratulations to the first group of our Eucharistic candidates who will be receiving this special sacrament on Sunday at 10 am Mass. The second group will follow next Saturday evening 17 November at the 6 pm Mass. Our prayers and thoughts are with the students and their families.

**Heel and Toe Polka on a very busy weekend**

Last Saturday evening we saw the true community spirit of our school in action at the P&F Bush Dance. After an enormous amount of preparation by a small band of parents, the evening at St Paul’s Hall was filled with spirited dancing, hearty food, good company and some pretty good music as well. Thank you to all those members of the school community who came along to join in the fun and support this social and fundraising activity. We will be looking at making the bush dance an annual event and congratulations to the P&F on their efforts.

On Sunday we had many of our students (and some staff members) amongst the winners at the annual Feast of Poetry Festival held at the Raglan Gallery. It was an opportunity to show the creative side of the literary skills that we constantly promote at school, quite apart from a number of our participants getting their poems published in the anthology which is available from the Raglan Gallery.

The town was buzzing as well on Sunday with the sound of buskers on just about every street corner as part of the Australian National Busking Competition. Our Year 9 boys’ Drumbeat group, under the direction of Paul Mackay and Youth Connections facilitator Karen Lonergan, is to be commended for their performances throughout the day.

The Drumbeat group also presented a mini-concert to 1 Orange last week to sharpen up their presentation skills. The younger students were enthralled and really appreciated the chance to interact with the older students and to practice their own rhythmic skills in the classroom. The Drumbeat program is a pastoral initiative that interweaves the rhythms of teamwork percussion with a focus on developing the interpersonal skills so necessary in young adults.

**Leadership**

At this time of year we focus on the students in Year 5 in Primary and Year 9 in Secondary who aspire to be school leaders in 2013. In Year 9 there are 20 students who put their names forward for selection as school leaders and this is a great credit to each and every one of them. I addressed the group today and outlined the exhaustive process of selection and the expectations we have of school leaders. The point was emphasised that leadership should not be seen as a ‘popularity’ contest, as indeed it may involve being quite unpopular when difficult decisions are required to be made. The need to model attitudes and behaviors that are reflective of the ethos of St Pat’s is fundamental to student leadership at our school and we wish all the potential leaders the best of luck in seeing their dream come to fruition.

As I have mentioned previously our aim is to instill lifelong competencies in our students as they move to their senior schooling at the completion of Year 10. In fact it was only yesterday that I had conversations with the Principal at St Gregory’s at Campbelltown and the Boarding Director at St Scholastica’s College in Sydney, both of whom commended our school on the quality of students who are graduates of St Patrick’s. At St Greg’s this year we had 3 students (Harry Roach, Tim Green and Jacob Moon) in the top 10 Year 11 academic performances from a class group of 150 as well as one of them, Harry Roach, elected to the 2013 School Executive. Congratulations to all of these students!

**News Update**

Thank you to the P&F members, current parents and staff members who came along to the welcome BBQ last Thursday for the 2013 Kinder students. Having completed the Kinderstart program the students are full of anticipation for the start of ‘big school’ next year. On Thursday these students also met their Year 5 ‘buddies’ who will play an integral role next year in helping them adjust to the demands of school life.

Good luck to all our Secondary students who commenced their yearly exams today.

Please don’t forget there are copies of the P&F Cookbook “Nourish” available throughout town and at the school office …... a guaranteed great gift idea for Christmas.

Please remember to pray for those members of our school community who are unwell.

Phil Stubbs
Principal
We are looking at better ways to communicate more effectively with our community. Although we have phone and mobile contact information, we would like to ensure email addresses are also up to date.

Can you please forward your email address to: office@stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au.

Please note that any email addresses, like other personal information, will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

Thank you.
Mark van Ommen
Assistant Principal

Last week Stage 2 went to Lambie Gorge and then walked Lambie Street as part of their HSIE studies to learn about the local Cooma history. Mr Geoff Bowland kindly offered to speak to the students about the Aboriginal people of the Monaro and the significance of this area to the Ngarigo People. We thank him for his time. Thanks are also extended to the parents and carers who assisted on the day.

A section of the bush band “The Usual Suspects” on Saturday evening.

“Heel, toe, heel, toe …………..”
“Life doesn’t require that we be the best - only that we try our best”

Cooma Races
Sundowner Cup
Saturday, 1 December 2012

Come and enjoy one of Cooma’s major social highlights of the year! Once again, St Pat’s P&F will be catering and we need lots of cooks for our BBQ and helpers on the day!

Ruby Curtis will be cleaning at the Racecourse on Friday 30 November between 9.15 and 10.45 am. If you can help with the cleaning, please contact Ruby on 0402 038676. Transportation is needed for larger appliances – please phone Karen McGufficke on 0417 496708.

The flyer was distributed in last week’s School Newsletter. Please fill out the roster on the back of the flyer and return it to the school office. If you require another copy of the flyer, please see Mr Joyce in the Primary or call in to the school office.

(Rosters will be emailed out to HELPERS. Please include your email address).

HELPERS gain a FREE pass to the Races.

Chook Lotto

Infants

• Kate Carton KG – Looking after the environment
• Molly Norris 1O – Great listening
• Ava Barrett 1P – Listening during group time

Well done!!

P&F News

Thank you to the wonderful and energetic parents who attended the Bush dance or donated superb prizes and food. It was a successful evening. We all had a lot of fun and were thoroughly entertained by an extremely talented band. It was definitely an evening worth attending.

Just keep in mind when your child has the use of a new resource at school supplied by the P&F, it is from the generous parents who actively support the school community.

Until next time…Eva Tangye and the P&F Team.
Wednesday 7 November
Secondary exams

Thursday 8 November
School Board Meeting 6.30—7.30pm
Secondary exams
Friday 9 November
Secondary exams
Friday 9 November
K-6 Swimming

Sunday 11 November
1st Eucharist 10.00am

Monday 12 November
Year 10 Rural Fire Service cadet program
Tuesday 13 November
Eucharist practice 9.30am
Year 10 Rural Fire Service cadet program
Wednesday 14 November
Stage 3 camp at Cooba
Year 10 Rural Fire Service cadet program
Thursday 15 November
Stage 3 camp at Cooba
Year 10 Rural Fire Service cadet program
P&F Meeting 5.30 pm
Friday 16 November
Year 10 Rural Fire Service cadet program
K-6 Swimming
Saturday 17 November
First Eucharist 6.00—7.30pm

Monday 19 November
Year 10 First Aid course
Tuesday 20 November
Year 10 First Aid course
Wednesday 21 November
Years 9 & 10 Martin Schoo Basketball
Thursday 22 November
Year 10 "Love Bites" Pastoral program
7-10 Performance group VIEW Concert
Friday 23 November
Years 9 & 10 PASS surf trip Tathra
K-6 Swimming
Saturday 24 November
Eucharist Mass & Certificates
Monday 26 November
Year 10 Work Experience
Tuesday 27 November
Year 10 Work Experience
Years 7 & 8 Martin Schoo Basketball
Sacramental Evaluation Meeting 3.40pm
Celebration BBQ Fr Paul 25th Anniversary
Wednesday 28 November
Year 10 Work Experience
Thursday 29 November
Year 10 Work Experience
Friday 30 November
Year 10 Work Experience
K-6 Swimming

Canteen News

VOLUNTEERS
Thursday 8 November
Catherine Pearce
Friday 9 November
Rebecca Hain

Due to swim program, could volunteers please come to the canteen 12 noon until 1.30 pm.

FRIDAY MEAL DEAL - MEAT PIE with sauce and DRINK of choice OR SAUSAGE ROLL with sauce and DRINK of choice with 3 fruit sticks! Both choices will be $5.00.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY CHOICES AVAILABLE TO BOTH PRIMARY AND INFANTS.

Thank you again for your continued support.
Carolyn Hely
Canteen Manager

Around Town

* 2013 Canberra Raiders Membership: Are you looking for something to do with your friends and family on a weekend? Why not consider getting a 2013 Canberra Raiders Membership. For as little as $15 per game, you can attend every match at Canberra Stadium and you also get heaps of cool Raiders items like a cap, scarf and key ring. Visit www.raiders.com.au/membership or call Raiders HQ on (02)6253 3515 for more details. 5 hours of entertainment each weekend for $15 – unbeatable value.

* A REMINDER to all students who have enrolled at Lumen Christi Catholic College for Year 7, 2013. 9.00 am to 3.25 pm. Wear current primary school sports uniform and bring a pencil case, drink, recess, lunch and hat. Please note that a sausage sizzle will be held at lunchtime. Travel - contact Deanes Buslines on 6495 6452.

* Kids’ Fishing Workshop: Kids 8 – 14 years of age are invited to come and learn to fish safely and responsibly. Two workshops are being run - Friday 18 and Saturday 19 January 2013 at the Gaden Trout Hatchery, Jindabyne. $40 cost includes rod and reel combination, shirt, hat, tackle box and show bag. Bookings essential – maximum 25 participants. Phone Stephen Thurstan on 4220 8484 or 0438 245 190 or email stephen.thurston@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

* Multicultural Activity Group in Cooma: invites you, your family and friends to celebrate Diwali Festival in Cooma. Immerse yourself in the Indian Culture and Tradition. Saturday 10 November 2012, starts 7pm at Marlborough Motor Inn. For further information contact Yvi at yvi.henderson@monarofss.ngo.org.au or phone 0458523457.

* St Scholastica’s Boarding College: Meet the Principal & boarding director Friday 23 November, 6.30pm at SMEC. This is an information evening for anyone considering their daughters educational opportunities in the future. Enquiries: registrar@scholastica.nsw.edu.au or phone 96602622.