Dear St Patrick’s Community
Welcome back to Term 4. The Spring weather certainly helps to give a bounce to our footsteps.

Last Friday was internationally recognised as the Day of Non-Violence. It is annually marked on 2 October, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence. Gandhi never strayed from that message and he was also a keen advocate for peaceful co-existence between religions, expanding women’s rights and reducing poverty.

The partnership for peace, however, begins with individuals considering the dignity of others. This has been highlighted recently in the media in the long overdue debates about violence in the home. Domestic violence shatters families. On a larger scale, the world has seen its share of bloody wars that rob lives and bring heartbreak and displacement from homes. The ocean of Syrian refugees is evidence of that.

Gandhi reminded us that, “if we are to teach real peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children”. And that is what the focus was for the professional learning day for staff on Tuesday. Matt Casey, who is the Professional Standards Officer for the Archdiocese, led the staff through the restorative justice practices.

“It takes a whole village to raise a child” is never more true than when we consider the role a school plays within the community in the development of young people into responsible citizens.

In an era when school disciplinary traditions and use of punitive sanctions no longer seem to deliver the outcomes we want, we are coming to the conclusion that we must rethink our behaviour management philosophy and practices.

In our 2014-2015 Annual Improvement Plan we agreed to developing responsive and effective practices towards student management and pastoral care.

Schools that have adopted restorative principles report better relationships with young people, greater engagement in learning and a real development of social and emotional competence in learners.

In what way is this “restorative” justice different from what we currently do? (PTO)
Restorative Justice practices demand that we think about what happens to the victim, and how their needs might be met in the aftermath of the wrongdoing. This form of justice also demands that we consider the other stakeholders in what happened – what might their needs be? Who are they?

For starters, this means we have to consider the person who perpetrated the 'crime' (offender, wrongdoer). Punishment of the offender offers little in the way of genuine accountability. Punishment does little to meet a victim’s needs. It does little to address the causes of the wrongdoing. Punishment alone does not make things right, and indeed changes very little for the wrongdoer’s circumstances. However, having significant consequences, which include acknowledging the harm that has been done, are not avoided. **What is added is taking the time to repair the relationships, addressing the underlying needs behind the unacceptable behaviour and to model and teach acceptable behaviour.**

And there is a good foundation...

If we looked at the Bible, there are several Old Testament terms describing God’s healing strategy: *shalom* (peace), *hesed* (loving kindness), *mispat* and *tsedeqah* (righteousness/justice) prominent among them. Other examples include Micah 6:8 (“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness?”), Psalm 85:10-11 (“Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; justice and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and justice will look down from the sky.”), and Psalm 89:14 (“Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.”). Then Jesus plays the central role in God’s healing strategy. He makes central the call to love neighbours, to bring healing into broken contexts, and to offer forgiveness and restoration in face of wrongdoing.

The Gospels tell of Jesus’ own witness to God’s love, a witness that centres precisely on problems of violence, brokenness, conflict and alienation. As Jesus stated, he did not come to minister to those who are well, but to those who need healing (Mark 2:17).

We also have the most beautiful motto; **Strength in gentleness.** Let’s use that as the starting point.

I have been informed that one of our staff members, **Kevin Dunne, will be receiving a most prestigious recognition in the form of a Highly Commended NSW Carers’ Award** from the Minister of Community Services for the NSW Government. The presentation will take place at Parliament House in Sydney on Monday 12 October at 9.30 am. There are only about 10 awards given out each year in NSW during Carers’ Week. Kevin will be accompanied by some of his children when he receives this award. Whilst he is very humbled by this nomination, Kevin was at great pains to recognise two local organisations, Cooma Challenge and the Monaro Home Nursing Service, who have enabled him to keep his wife, Maree, at home in her advanced state of dementia. We are also proud of Kevin’s continuing contribution to our St Patrick’s community. He models compassion and kindness in all aspects of his life.

**Frances Robertson**
Principal
An Expression of Interest is invited...

In order to meet a particular need, we are seeking an expression of interest from suitable and committed applicants for the position of **Support Assistant – Secondary Outdoor**. This position will be temporary and part-time. The hours are 3 hours per day Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 11am until 2pm.

The role involves physical activity, especially during the break times.

Attributes of the successful applicant would be:

- ability to interact positively with adolescents,
- ability to work with students who have a variety of learning and social needs,
- ability to initiate and participate in physical activity with adolescents,
- ability to work collaboratively as part of a support team,
- ability to adapt to a variety of potentially complex situations, and
- demonstrated competency in both written and verbal communication.

This position could also suit a person who is currently studying or working part-time. If you are aware of a suitable applicant, please forward this information to them.

Please email frances.robertson@cg.catholic.edu.au with an expression of interest or for further enquiries.

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Have you seen the school’s webpage and facebook page?

Simply go to [www.stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au](http://www.stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au)

The webpage includes easy access to the newsletter, school notes, the school calendar and a button down the bottom to press to link to the facebook page.

You don’t have to be a regular user of facebook in order to see this page and all of the information and photos contained on it.

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P&F Catering for the Hazeldean Ram Sale

The School’s P&F have been lucky enough to be given the opportunity to provide the catering for the Hazeldean Ram Sale on Saturday 31st October. This will take place on the property. It will be in the form of a BBQ and light morning tea. We are seeking five to eight people who can set up, turn sausages, make a cuppa, serve and pack up. It is pretty straightforward. Others who can provide brownies (preferably uncut slabs) and muffins are also needed. Please contact Karen at mkmcgufficke@bigpond.com

Thank you, in anticipation.
Canteen News

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a wonderful break.

Mini-canteen will be happening for Infants and Primary on Wednesday this week, the first day back at school. Items are priced from 50c to $2.

The canteen price list has not changed for Term 4, please use your Term 3 list when ordering, or access the price list via the school website. Sushi is available Wednesday-Friday.

Volunteers - Thank you!
Wednesday 07/10, 1.15pm Howard and Elsa
Friday 09/10, 10am Rebecca Croke

Caroline Blyton
Canteen Manager

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Hats

It is a school requirement that if students are on the playground and not sitting in the shade, they must have a school hat on.

Research has shown that sun damage in the early years of life is significant in contributing to the development of skin cancers in the later years of life. Being at 800m altitude also means the strength of the sun’s rays is increased.

Awards

The process for determining the end of year awards is about to begin. Staff are given the criteria for each of the awards and asked to reflect on possible candidates. The academic achievements or the community/school service of students are considered across the whole year, not just Semester 2.

Next, teachers meet to discuss who they would like to nominate based on the criteria. We do this because teachers often have additional information about what a student has done or achieved that others may not be aware of. Once the list of nominees is finalised I produce an online survey so all staff can vote.

The survey results are collated. The final decision for award recipients rests with the Principal and school’s Leadership Team.

Thank you to the students who played in the Cricket competition this week. We heard very positive reports about good sportsmanship.

Mark van Ommen
Assistant Principal
“Laudato Si” The Encyclical of Pope Francis

Last term our staff examined Pope Francis’ new encyclical (letter) “Laudato Si” (Praise be to you my Lord) The document is subtitled - On Care for Our Common Home. It is a document concerned with care of the environment and as we too are part of the environment—the care for ourselves. The words Laudato Si come from the beautiful prayer of St Francis of Assisi’s “Canticle of Creation.” St Francis reminds us that our earth is like a sister with whom we share our life, our existence. Pope Francis in his opening words reminds us that there is now much evidence that our environment has been and is being harmed by our actions. New perspectives are required. This is our urgent challenge.

Canticle of Creation—St Francis of Assisi

O Most High, all-powerful, good Lord God, to you belong praise, glory, honour and all blessing.
Be praised, my Lord, for all your creation and especially for our Brother Sun, who brings us the day and the light; he is strong and shines magnificently.
O Lord, we think of you when we look at him.
Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Moon, and for the stars which you have set shining and lovely in the heavens.
Be praised, my Lord, for our Brothers Wind and Air and every kind of weather by which you, Lord, uphold life in all your creatures.
Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Water, who is very useful to us, and humble and precious and pure.
Be praised, my Lord, for Brother Fire, through whom you give us light in the darkness: he is bright and lively and strong.
Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Earth, our Mother, who nourishes us and sustains us, bringing forth fruits and vegetables of many kinds and flowers of many colours.
Welcome to Term 4 – a message from the Board

As we head into our final school term for 2015, we have much for which to be grateful. The fence has been installed within the Secondary Campus over the holiday break. This will enable earthworks to commence on the new building site.

This term will see St Patrick’s students performing Shakespeare ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’ in late October. I encourage our families, students and the community to come along and be captivated, and to see the ‘secret garden’ that has been transformed for this fabulous performance over three nights.

It’s an exciting time for St Patrick's Parish School as we further look at improvements. This term we will be further looking at ways of ‘Engagement in our School’. We would like parents to have the opportunity to be involved in the school. One of those ways is to combine the P&F and the School Board into one more comprehensive organisation, called a School Council. Parents and the Parish will be invited to participate and complete an electronic survey. Presently, we have within the Catholic archdiocese, 48 out of the 57 schools that have done this. Stay tuned!

Our Year 10 students will finalise their education at St Patrick’s in the next ten weeks. This is time for them to be excited and enthusiastic about the challenges that will await them in 2016 as they commence their final two years of secondary education. On behalf of our School Board, we thank them all for the contributions they make to the life and community of St Patrick’s.

This term will be our busiest, in terms of getting involved with our community. In October our P&F are catering at the Hazeldean ram sale. Then on Saturday, 7 November we have our Bazaar Fair being held in Centennial Park along with the P&F catering at Cooma Races on Saturday, 5 December 2015. We invite our families and students to get involved and assist where you can.

On behalf of the members of our St Patrick’s Parish School Board we wish all our families and students a happy, healthy and safe Term 4.

Erika Statham  Chairperson, St Patrick’s School Board

Berry Interschools Equestrian Championships

Congratulations to the following students who performed extremely well (under some trying conditions) at the recent Berry Interschools Equestrian Championships: Colby Douch Year 1, Meg Schofield Year 2, Ollia Stockl Year 2, Abby Douch Year 4, Lilli Jauncey Year 4, Elle McGufficke Year 4, Emmilee Reid Year 7 and Caitlyn Pratt Year 8.

There were quite a few PBs on the day and St Patrick’s Parish School of Cooma won Champion Primary School!
Some useful information for Year 9 and 10

What is a tax file number? A tax file (TFN) number is needed to be paid by your employer. If you do not have a tax file number, you will be taxed at the top rate of 47%!

How do I get one? If you need a TFN, you can contact the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) about applying for a tax file number.

How can students apply for a tax file number? Students can now apply for a TFN online and have their identity verified through an interview at a participating Australia Post office. Students who are unable to visit a participating Australia Post office will need to complete the application form 'Tax File Number - Application or Enquiry for Individuals' form (NAT 1432).

Who pays tax? Australian residents who earn money, have to pay tax. The money we pay goes to the ATO and the government and is used to provide services like healthcare, schools and roads.

Do I have to pay tax? You won’t be taxed on the first $18,200 you earn in a financial year (1 July to 30 June) because this is the ‘tax-free threshold’. Any payments you receive above that amount, including from Centrelink or your employer, will be taxed.

When do I have to submit a tax return? If any tax was taken from your pay, or you earned more than $18,200 in a financial year, you must put in a tax return to the ATO by 31 October, otherwise you may face a penalty. Find out about submitting a tax return on the ATO website.

Do I have to pay tax if I am under 18? The same tax rules apply: once you earn over $18,200 in a financial year, you must submit a tax return.

For more information visit:


Research undertaken by Jen, Will and Lachlan (Year 10)

Parish Home-based Sacramental Program

First Communion

Letters of invitation were sent out in the holidays to those families whose children will be preparing for their First Holy Communion. The first meeting will be on Tuesday 13 October 2015 at 6.30pm in the Church. If you missed out on receiving a letter, and you feel your child in year 4 and onwards should be part of this program, please contact Lou Mackay c/- the Parish Office on 64522062.

21-23 October ....

...in the Secret Garden...
Cooma Lambie Street Preschool Fete

Jumping Castle
Face Painting
Cakes and Sweets
Books
Plants
BBQ and Drinks
Clothes
Toys

Saturday, 17th October
10am. - 3pm.
Bring You Own Device (BYOD) Program Device Specifications & Minimum Requirements for 2016

For the BYOD Program, the student’s personal computing device needs to meet the Device Specifications that are recommended by the school and listed below.

The device specifications identify the minimum system requirements/hardware specifications for the student devices and offer some guidance on some suggested makes and models so that parents are fully informed about requirements that would allow for the device to be functional for a minimum of 3 years and maximises their learning experiences.

**Minimum Hardware Specifications:**

<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>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating System</td>
<td>Windows 7</td>
<td>OS X 10.7 or higher</td>
<td>Windows 7</td>
<td>iOS 6.0 or higher</td>
<td>OS Android</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Windows 8</td>
<td></td>
<td>Windows 8</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Windows 10</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wireless</td>
<td>5GHz 802.11n</td>
<td>5GHz 802.11n</td>
<td>5GHz 802.11n</td>
<td>5GHz 802.11n</td>
<td>5GHz 802.11n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Min Screen Size</td>
<td>11”</td>
<td>11”</td>
<td>10”</td>
<td>9.7”</td>
<td>9” for Nexus/9.7” for Samsung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage Capacity (Hard Drive)</td>
<td>500 GB</td>
<td>128GB</td>
<td>64GB</td>
<td>64GB</td>
<td>Samsung 10.2 GB</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>External Memory Support</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MicroSD (Up to 128GB)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nexus 16 GB &amp; 32 GB storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAM</td>
<td>4GB or higher</td>
<td>4GB or higher</td>
<td>4GB or higher</td>
<td>4GB or higher</td>
<td>2GB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battery Life</td>
<td>6 hours</td>
<td>6 hours</td>
<td>6 hours</td>
<td>6 hours</td>
<td>6 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HP- Pavillon 15 Notebook <a href="http://www.hp.com">www.hp.com</a></td>
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</tbody>
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Further information available from the booklet (office and library) or at the introductory sessions for parents held at the school.

There is a repeat of the first session next Tuesday 13th October at 6pm in the Secondary Library.
BYOD information continued

A tablet device must have a physical keyboard attachment with separate keys for A – Z and 0 – 9 and which physically move when depressed. This requirement is in line with external online assessments (eg NAPLAN).

When choosing to purchase a device make sure you ask about discounts for education. Most companies will provide this to customers, usually in the vicinity of a 10% discount. Information from local providers will be given to parents.

Students have access to a number of Cloud storage accounts provided to them by CE and the school. They include Google Drive, OneDrive, Office 365 and Edmodo. Students should become accustomed to usage such services in order to reduce the amount of data that is stored on the hard drive of the device.

Additional considerations

The following are not requirements of the BYOD program, but are important considerations:

- Protective case/cover
- Headphones
- Accidental loss and breakage insurance

Peer Positive Feedback

During Term Three, Secondary students were given an opportunity to write positive comments about fellow students in their Homeroom as part of a self esteem activity. On a weekly basis, students had been looking at concepts such as self-esteem and self-concept, and were asked to write down a positive comment or provide some positive feedback for each individual. The students did a wonderful job and each student’s positive comments were typed, laminated and turned into a bookmark. Some of the comments included: you brighten up my day, I love your smile, you are a great football player/athlete/artist/dancer, you are so smart and you are a great friend. Students were delighted with the positive feedback they received from their peers. As a conversation starter one night at dinner, ask your child about this experience and ask to see their positive feedback – no doubt you too will be delighted by how your child is viewed by their peers!

And a little thank you from Talia Odone:...

“I would like to thank the St Patrick’s School community for their help and support during my recent illness. I feel blessed to have had so many people, especially the president of the P&F, Karen McGufficke, support our family during this difficult time. I am very grateful.”

Other news...

St Patrick’s Parish School acknowledges the recent death of Mr Norman Devereux, the father of Mrs Pam Fletcher, our Secondary Coordinator. His Requiem Mass will be on Monday at St Patrick’s Church, Cooma, at 9.30am. Please keep the Devereux and Fletcher families in your prayers.
The Duck Race

Rotary Club of Cooma Inc
From Massie Street Causeway
Sunday, 18 October 2015 at 12.30pm

Winners will be notified by phone
Proceeds to Rotary’s Community Projects

TICKETS - $5 each
Available at:-
Rotary Markets - Sundays, 20 Sept & 18 Oct
Leading Edge Electronics - Vale St, Cooma
The Fabric Salon - Vale St, Cooma
Cooma Visitors Centre - Sharp St, Cooma

PRIZES
1st PRIZE - $500
2nd PRIZE - $200 violin and case
3rd PRIZE - $50 gift voucher from Leading Edge Electronics
4th PRIZE - $50 gift voucher from Two Vaults Cafe
5th PRIZE - $30 gift voucher from P D Murphy Cafe
6th PRIZE - $30 gift voucher from Flair for Hair
7th PRIZE - $30 Mystery Pack