Dear St Patrick’s Community

This Friday we acknowledge International Day for Families. The International Day of Families is observed on the 15th of May every year. The Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 1993 and reflects the importance the international community attaches to families. The 2015 theme is ‘Stronger Families, Stronger Communities’.

This year's theme highlights the important role families play as the central building block of our communities and that community wellbeing is enhanced by family wellbeing. Belonging to the St Patrick’s family is important to us all.

It is a time to celebrate with your family, make contact with your extended family and friends, and share in the enjoyment of family activities within the wider community. It is a time to celebrate the meaning of family and to make the most of family life. Let's take the time to reflect on the critical role that families play in teaching, supporting and nurturing children especially as they grow, and in supporting community elders. A family is the starting place to follow Jesus’ words 'This is my commandment; love one another as I have loved you.” (Jn,15:9-17)

On the weekend the Year 10 students worked together to make little bouquets of flowers to give to mothers in the community. They distributed them at the weekend Masses and then visited the Sir William Hudson Nursing Home to spend some time with the elderly mothers there. Year 10 students also have an ongoing commitment to supporting Caritas in Nepal, especially after the earthquakes. They are taking turns to cook soup for 'Soup Mondays' to raise funds. There is more information inside this newsletter.

Many other students are taking up challenges, whether it is the commitment to train and prepare for the CCC Swimming carnival, prepare for inter-schools equestrian events, participate in some challenging debating competitions, train for, and participate fully in athletics carnivals or the Archdiocesan Cross Country event or begin preparation for the daVinci Decathlon... there is something for everyone in the St Patrick’s family.

Yours in peace

Frances Robertson
Principal

coming events....

Thursday 14 May: Year 8 Parish Mass
Monday 18 May: enrolment interviews for 2016 Kindergarten commence. Please call the office for an appointment.
Monday 18 May: Year 7 Immunisations
Tuesday 18 May: NIDA workshop
Tuesday 18 May: Information Tour for 2016 Kindergarten. Please call the Office to make an appointment.
Wednesday 20 May: Archdiocesan Cross Country
Thursday 21 May: Year 6 Parish Mass

Change of Dates to note

MONDAY 18 May is the Primary Athletics Carnival.
FRIDAY June 12 ‘Grandparents & Friends’ Day
FRIDAY/SAT June 12 & 13 St Patrick’s Art Show
A message from the AP’s Desk...

This week the students in Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 participated in the national assessment of NAPLAN. This school uses this valuable information as a benchmark in tracking the students’ progress over time. We monitor and adjust our teaching programs to better respond to students’ needs. It is, however, just one aspect of how we monitor the progress of students.

One of the main criticisms of NAPLAN has been that the results are released too late in the school year to be used as an effective diagnostic tool for students. ACARA announced a phase-in of NAPLAN becoming an online test from 2017, with schools having until 2019 to take up this approach to testing. Testing NAPLAN online would ensure a faster turnaround of results for teachers and parents, as well as delivering tailored exams to suit different student levels. Under the "tailored test design" model, the test’s difficulty is adjusted to suit the student as he or she progresses through the questions.

ACARA said the trials showed online tailored tests resulted in more precise assessments of students' progress than the traditional paper-based exams. They were also cheaper to administer and comparative results were available within three weeks.

We have been pleased with the general approach of the students to the NAPLAN this week. They have displayed a positive attitude and behaved responsibly.

There is further information in this newsletter about whooping cough and also a response to the Federal Budget.

Mark van Ommen
Assistant Principal

CANTEEN NEWS

Reusable Lunch Bags - I am waiting for more stock to arrive; hopefully they will be here next week. This term there will be green, pink, purple, red or yellow from which to choose. There is an order form in the Canteen section of the school website, or just add a bag to your normal lunch order. A reminder to parents to please give the bags a regular clean too!

I also have drawstring sports bags for sale at only $8. Great for footy, soccer, dancing or even a library bag! Pink or blue designs are available.

Thank you to the parents who helped in the canteen at the Secondary Athletics Carnival last week - I really appreciate the support.

Volunteers:
Wednesday 13/5, 10am Sue Bottom
Friday 15/5, 10am Rebecca Hain
Monday 18/5, Snowy Oval - Primary Athletics: Sara Souter, Kelly Gill, Jackie Bitar, Nicole Alexander (times to be confirmed) more helpers would be welcomed
Wednesday 20/5, 10am Kelly Gill
Friday 22/5, 10am Catherine Pearce

Friday Meal Deal: Small St Pat’s Pasta + Small Garlic Bread = $3
Large St Pat’s Pasta + Large Garlic Bread = $6

Add anything else from the menu on a Friday too. Please note that you can order ANYTHING on a Friday, not just the meal deal.

Caroline Blyton
Canteen Manager
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 19 May</td>
<td>Information tour for <strong>Kindergarten 2016</strong>&lt;br&gt;Meet at Primary Library, Vale St between 5.30 and 7.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before 30 May</td>
<td>Enrolment application forms due to our Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 18 May to Friday 12 June</td>
<td>Interviews for <strong>Kindergarten 2016</strong>&lt;br&gt;Meet at Primary Library, Vale St between 5.30 and 7.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 3 &amp; Term 4</td>
<td>BIG Steps Program &amp; KINDER START Program</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Contact Information**

Cnr Vale & Murray St Cooma or PO Box 870 Cooma NSW 2630
Website www.stpatscomoosa.nsw.edu.au
Email office.stpatscomoosa@cg.catholic.edu.au
Soup for NEPAL

Congratulations to the Year 10 students who have been running the Soup Day on Mondays for the Secondary students and staff. It's just $2 for a cup of delicious homemade soup and some bread.

Year 10 are raising funds for those in Nepal who have been affected by the two major earthquakes.

All St Patrick's community are also welcome to add to the little pool of money going to Nepal. You can just send an envelope with a small donation to the office with 'NEPAL' written on the front...Alternatively you can log onto www.caritas.org.au/nepalearthquake and make an online donation.

Caritas Australia, part of the second largest humanitarian network in the world, has worked in Nepal for decades.

Their strong presence, local partnerships and Church network enabled them to mobilise immediately after the quake. Caritas Nepal has been distributing tarpaulins, food and water to devastated families in Kathmandu valley's worst affected areas.

Caritas has already provided over 31,000 people with temporary shelter kits and distributed food to more than 2,000 families in Kathmandu valley, Gorkha and other hard-hit areas.

With the support of the international Caritas network, Caritas Australia and Caritas Nepal will in the coming months reach over 175,000 people with much needed shelter, water and hygiene kits.

Here are some examples of what your donations could do:

- $75 could provide tent shelter to help up to 15 families
- $105 could provide noodles for 3 families for 1 week
- $180 could provide 60kg of rice, enough for 8 families for 1 month
- $225 could provide water for a 15 families for 1 week

In such overwhelming circumstances, our thoughts, prayers and support are with those affected by this devastating earthquake.
Athletics Carnival for Secondary students
SECONDARY ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

On Thursday 7 May 2015, we held our annual athletics carnival at Snowy Oval. The weather was lovely, making for a perfect day. A huge CONGRATULATIONS to all students who attended on the day. Your outstanding participation in all events and great house spirit is to be commended.

A special thank you to house captains for their efforts with war cries, for which Caelum emerged the winner. Also a thank you is for their efforts with relay organisation, encouraging participation and at the end of the carnival with clean up and packing up of equipment.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff and the wonderful parents who assisted on the day to act as officials. Thank you to Caroline Blyton and the ladies in the canteen who kept students’ energy levels at their peak throughout the day. We also appreciate the fact that Erika Statham catered for the staff! The collective efforts of staff, parents and students contributed to the success of the carnival. Without your support, the carnival would not have run efficiently.

| 1st    | Aqua   | 889 points |
| 2nd    | Caelum | 840 points |
| 3rd    | Terra  | 689 points |
| 4th    | Ignis  | 659 points |

**FINAL POINTSCORE**

**AGE CHAMPIONS FOR 2015**

Congratulations to the following students who have excelled in athletics and are age champions for 2015:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 yrs</td>
<td>Annisa Porter</td>
<td>Will Lehrmann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 yrs</td>
<td>Julia Davies</td>
<td>Hugo Steiner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 yrs</td>
<td>Maria Tarasyuk</td>
<td>Remy Oldrey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 yrs</td>
<td>Abby Macnab</td>
<td>Matthew Chelin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 yrs</td>
<td>Annagh Weston</td>
<td>Patrick Connolly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 yrs</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tim Sixt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RECORDS BROKEN**

Congratulations to the following students who broke records on the day:

**GIRLS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>TIME/DISTANCE 2015</th>
<th>PREVIOUS RECORD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**BOYS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>TIME/DISTANCE 2015</th>
<th>PREVIOUS RECORD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jnr Boys 800m</td>
<td>Remy Oldrey</td>
<td>2.50.53</td>
<td>2.52.56 (2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys Blue Ribbon</td>
<td>Matthew Chelin</td>
<td>12.21</td>
<td>12.46 (2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jnr Boys Relay</td>
<td>Ignis</td>
<td>59.77</td>
<td>59.98 (2012)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ms T Wawrzyniak
(Carnival Organiser)
Project Cosmopolitana has wound up its Cooma phase for the present and the opportunity it afforded our students was both rich and rewarding. Over series of workshops, students from Years 8, 9 and 10 learned the skills of formal photographic portraiture, interviewing, theatre design, song, poetry and story writing and music making.

All of this culminated in the recent Project Cosmopolitana community dinner and music night held at the Multi-Function Centre in Cooma, where our students played with the band Mikelangelo and the Black Sea Gentlemen, had their stories, poems and photos on public exhibition and conducted further interviews with members of the wider Cooma community.

Here are just a few of the comments that some of the children made about their experiences.

- Jasmin Statham-Smith, “I really enjoyed turning people's lives into stories and poems....”
- Gracie Mead, “I really enjoyed working with the musicians to create music that told the story of going down into the tunnels...”
- James Hayden, “It was really enjoyable learning about different people's stories and how they came to Cooma...”
- Tilly Thomas, ”I loved working with the different types of people who taught us to do things and also learning about Cooma's past. It gave me a new appreciation for this great little town.”
- Declan Gregory, ”I really enjoyed interviewing Josipa (Pusswald) because she had an interesting story and was just a very lovely lady.”
- Madeleine Rooney, “Project Cosmopolitana was a great experience to be part of. It was fun to write and perform songs about Cooma with Mikelangelo and the Black Sea Gentlemen.”
- Maai Johnson, ”It was an amazing experience working together to make songs. It was lots of fun!”
- Jen Fraser, “Being involved with the band was lots of fun and gave us a good insight into how a professional band operates.”
- Erin Pearce, “It was a truly memorable experience interviewing Keith Montague about his memories of the Snowy Scheme. It made me feel like I was living back then.”
- Dominic Holgate, “The project gave me a chance to work with professional musicians and they really made me feel valued for my music. It was awesome!”

Parish Home-based Sacramental Program

Confirmation

Letters of invitation have now been sent out to those families whose children will be preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The first meeting is on Tuesday 19 May 2015 at 6.30pm in the Church. If you missed out on receiving a letter, and you feel your child in year 6 and onwards should be part of this program, please contact Lou Mackay c/- the Parish Office on 64522062.
STRIVING to understand *To Kill A Mockingbird*

As part of our commitment to learning through varied experiences one of our Year 10 English classes spent the morning at Cooma Court observing the proceedings of two criminal cases to further their study of the novel *To Kill A Mockingbird*.

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**Mother's Day Stall-thank you**

2015 Mothers' Day stall raised $750 which was great. Thank you to all families who supplied gifts. Thank you also to Natalee Reid who co-ordinated the stall. Thank you to mothers who gave their time to serve the children - Kylie Douch, Sue Bottom, Tanya Janota, Joumana Nassar, Michelle McGufficke & Marjorie Revelant.

Thank you to Michelle McGufficke for labelling blitz of sports jackets or sloppy joes when students arrived at the library. We were pleased to see that majority of jackets or sloppy joes were labelled already.

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**Harry Nichols Shield – A Belated Thank you**

My apologies for not including these ‘thank yous’ in last week’s report:

- A special thank you to Mr Harry Nichols (aged 96) who made the effort to present the trophy and speak to all the students about the value of playing sport, sportsmanship and dealing with losing.
- Thank you to Cooma Colts for organising the day; we realise these days don’t just happen!
- Also thank you to Mrs Reid (Mitchell’s mum) for washing the jerseys, and the high school boys for running the water, Carson Barrett, Matthew Robinson, Tim Gregory and Matthew Chelin for running the line, Remy Oldrey and Declan Gregory for refereeing.
- Last but not least, thank you to our parents who supported all students during the day!

Mike Introna
Organiser
Some serious shopping for Mothers’ Day
Southern Region Cross Country Carnival

On Thursday 7 May 2015, 45 students from 3-6 went to Cobargo to represent our school in the Southern Region Cross Country Carnival. We caught a bus which took about 2 ½ hours. Mrs Introna and Mrs Moser were very happy that no buckets needed to be used!

When we got there we walked the course so we knew where to run. The weather was sunny and beautiful, with a light breeze. The races went in this order: 12yr boys and girls, 11yr boys and girls, 10yr boys and girls, 9yr boys and girls and last but not least, the 8yr boys and girls. Some of the finishes were so close!

At the end of the day, 18 students excelled themselves by making it on to Canberra for the next round. Two students, Clara Thornton and Olave Wilkinson, came 1st. Well done everybody!

On the way home we had a quiz where you could win a chocolate. It was a fantastic day and we would like to thank our teachers Mrs Introna and Mrs Moser and all the parents who helped out on the day, in particular, the Buckleys, who brought their shade tent and tarp for us. Thank you!

Lucy and Lisa

As a parent of a St Patrick’s Parish Primary student, who competed at Cobargo Southern Region X-Country competition, I want to say congratulations to all students for their sportsmanship and good behaviour. Congratulations to St Patrick’s Parish Primary students who qualified for Mt Stromolo X-Country competition on Wednesday 20 May. Thank you to Mrs Angie Introna & Mrs Bernadette Moser who travelled with and co-ordinated students during the day.
SHINE AWARDS

SCHOOL BANKING

To St Patrick's Parish School Commonwealth School Banking families

Please note the following School Banking days:
Week 5 - Thursday 21 May
Week 6 - Wednesday 27 May
Week 7 - Thursday June 4 June

There are a number of School Banking students who are entitled to T2 Reward & have been or will be sent a note informing them to return tokens they have & Reward voucher. The Reward voucher needs to be returned by Week 9 so the items can be given to student in Week 10.

Families who would be interested in their child/children participating in Commonwealth School Banking at St Patrick's Parish School, contact me on 0418485229/64521652 for an information pack to be given to your child/children.

Marjorie Revelant
St Patrick's Parish Commonwealth School Banking Co-Ordinator

Take your students one giant leap forward with School Banking in 2015.
A galaxy of prizes for your students are on offer including a trip to Disneyland
AUTHOR - ILLUSTRATOR
VISIT:
MICHAEL SALMON
ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL: VISITING COOMA PUBLIC
Monday 1st June: 11:30-12:30 + Book Signing

AUTHOR SIGNING

- Activity/fun books $3
- Activity/Sticker books $5
- Chapter books $10
- Picture-story books $8 - $10
- Large format, flap books $20
A fantastic four days of competition at The Station resort, Jindabyne saw St Patrick’s equestrian riders do extremely well competing against numerous schools and around 170 riders from NSW.

The competition is a great event catering for all levels of riders in a setting which is conducive to great school team spirit not only out on the equestrian arena but also in the very social accommodation arrangements.

The competition this year covered the individual disciplines of One Day Event, Dressage, Show jumping, Showing, Sporting, Stockman’s Challenge, Interschool Challenge, Fancy Dress and new to this year was the inaugural invitational team penning event. It was fitting that Year 10 student Keeley White in her last year as a St Patrick’s rider was invited to be part of the very first team penning at SMIEC and went on to place 4th. Congratulations Keeley.

Some other individuals highlights included Emmilee Reid, Lisa Haylock and Abby Douch completing the always testing One Day Event. Abby had a fall cross country but was determined enough to get back on and go on to complete an otherwise sensational round. Lisa flew the cross country and Emmilee was determined to get around this year and did just that. Shelley Kleven went brilliantly in the six bar show jump event finishing up clear in the 90cm round and very sensibly retiring on that high note. Elle McGufficke achieved an outstanding PB not only riding her first dressage test unassisted but going on to place 2nd. Ollia had a great start to her Interschools career picking up some lovely ribbons as did Caitlyn Pratt doing a great job in the Secondary division. Molly and the white ghost pony Casper just kept smiling all weekend and did great. Colby was slow to start but finished up happy with his ribbon count on the ever reliable Max pony. Jessica Norris and Maddie Stott went great guns in the hotly contested (mostly secondary) galloway ring and Jess also picked up a very handy ribbon in her cross rails showjump.

All the St Patrick’s riders impressed us with their team spirit, sportsmanship, eagerness and citizenship and we are all really looking forward to the next Interschools events on the calendar.

**Results for St Patrick’s riders:**

**COLBY DOUCH – Year 1 – riding "Kylandee Maxwell"**
- 3rd Year 1 Rider
- 2nd Walk, Trot & Lead Race
- 3rd Keyhole Race
- 4th Bending Race
- 3rd Fancy Dress School Team

**MOLLY NORRIS – Year 3 – riding “Casper”**
- 3rd Fancy Dress
- 4th Consolation Pony
- 3rd Fancy Dress School Team

**BRIDGET STOTT**
- 1st Chief groom/strapper

**MADDIE STOTT – Year 5 – riding “Instyle Denison Downs”**
- 2nd Led Hunter Galloway
- 2nd Year 5 Rider
- 4th Team of Three riders – each from a different year (Lisa Haylock & Caitlyn Pratt)
- 4th Pair of Galloways Hacks (Jessica Norris)

**OLLIA STOCKL – Year 2 – riding “Pebbles”**
- 2nd Year 2 Rider
- 4th Led Hunter Pony 13-14hh
- 3rd Fancy Dress
- 2nd Key Hole Race
- 3rd Fancy Dress School Team

**ELLE McGUFFICKE – Year 4 – riding “Honey”**
- 2nd Primary Preparatory Dressage
- 3rd Walk, Trot & Lead Race
- 3rd Consolation Rider
- 1st Consolation Pony
- 3rd Fancy Dress School Team

**ELLIE McGUFFICKE – Year 4 – riding “Honey”**
- 2nd Primary Preparatory Dressage
- 3rd Walk, Trot & Lead Race
- 3rd Consolation Rider
- 1st Consolation Pony
- 3rd Fancy Dress School Team
ABBY DOUCH – Year 4 – riding “Bamborough Domino” & “Kylandee Maxwell”

2nd Primary Prelim 1:1 Dressage 1st Primary Prelim 1:3 Dressage
4th Primary Prelim 1:1 Dressage 2nd Year 3/4 Non jumping Interschools Challenge
2nd Year 3/4 Jumping Interschools Challenge 2nd Year 3/4 Stockmans Challenge
4th Barrell Race 2nd Flag Race
2nd Keyhole Race 3rd Bending Race
2nd Walk, Trot & Lead 3rd Led Show Hunter Pony
3rd Led Show Hunter Pony 1st Ridden Hunter pony ne 12.2
1st Ridden Hunter pony over 13.2 and ne 14hh Reserve Champion Ridden Show Hunter Pony
2nd Educated Pony 3rd Pleasure Pony
1st Year 4 Rider Champion Primary Rider
2nd Pair of Ponies (Shelley Kleven) 1st Pair of Primary Riders (Shelley Kleven)
1st Team of Three riders – each from a different year (Shelley Kleven & Emmilee Reid)

OVERALL AGE CHAMPION – YEAR 4

SHELLEY KLEVEN – YEAR 5 – riding “Amaranda Moet”

5th Primary Prelim 1.1 Dressage 1st Primary Prelim 1.3 Dressage
2nd Primary Novice 2.1 Dressage 4th Interschools Challenge Jumping
4th Showjump 60-65 AM7 5th Stock Horse Challenge
1st Led Show Hunter Pony 1st Ridden Show Hunter
Champion Show Hunter Pony 1st Educated Pony
1st Pleasure Pony 1st Year 5 Rider
Reserve Champion Primary Rider 2nd Pair of Ponies – (Abby Douch)
1st Pair of Primary Riders – (Abby Douch) 3rd Fancy Dress School Team
1st Team of Three riders – each from a different year (Abby Douch & Emmilee Reid)

OVERALL AGE CHAMPION – YEAR 5

JESSICA NORRIS – Year 5 – riding “Tambo”

2nd X rails Showjump 5th Pair of Galloways (Maddie Stott)
4th Galloway Hack 4th Bending Race
3rd Fancy Dress School Team

LISA HAYLOCK – Year 6 – riding “Crawford”

7th Primary ODE 6th Primary Preliminary 1.1 Dressage
5th Bending Race 3rd Hunter Galloway
1st Primary Rider Consolation 3rd Fancy Dress School Team
4th Team of Three riders – each from a different year (Maddie Stott & Caitlyn Pratt)
EMMILEE REID – Year 7 – riding “Banjo”
3rd Stockmans Challenge 2nd Year 7 Rider
1st Pair of Secondary Riders (Caitlyn Pratt) 3rd Fancy Dress School Team
1st Team of Three riders – each from a different year (Abby Douch & Shelley Kleven)

CAITLYN PRATT – Year 8 – riding “Comets Haley”
1st Pair of Secondary riders (Emmilee Reid) 3rd Fancy Dress School Team
4th Team of Three riders – each from a different year (Maddie Stott & Lisa Haylock)

KEELEY WHITE – Year 10 – riding “All That Cocoa”
4th Team Penning inaugural invitational only event
2nd Flag race 5th Bending Race
6th Barrel Race 4th Consolation Rider Year 10-12

Congratulations to all our riders – each and everyone of you made progress and did your very best or achieved a personal best and that’s what we’re after.

Thanks to the parents for your input and support of all riders – we know it was exhausting but hope you found it rewarding too.

If there is anyone else out in the St Patrick’s Parish School community who would like information on Interschool Equestrian events please email kdouch@bigpond.net.au so we can include you in the mailing group.

Just a little (sad) note – the St Patrick’s equestrian team would like to wish fellow riders Bridget and Maddie Stott all the very best with their move back to their home state of Victoria. Bridget and Maddie along with Mum Sally & Dad Wes have been with us for 2 fun years of good times, friendship and lots of ribbons and now they will be sorely missed by our future equestrian activities. We sincerely look forward to the day when we bump into them at another horse event on some lovely, green grassy showground somewhere – until then girls – eyes up, heels down and kick on – we will miss you but are looking forward to seeing you again.
WHOOPING COUGH (PERTUSSIS)

What is whooping cough?
Whooping cough (also known as pertussis) is a highly infectious respiratory illness caused by the bacterium *Bordetella pertussis*.

Whooping cough can affect people at any age. Infants less than 6 months of age are most at risk of developing serious complications from the disease such as pneumonia, seizures and brain damage. Whooping cough can be life threatening for a young infant.

What are the symptoms?
Whooping cough usually begins like a cold with a runny nose, tiredness, a mild fever and a cough. Typically, people can go on to develop bouts of severe, uncontrollable coughing which may result in vomiting. A high-pitched “whooping” sound may also be heard when the person gasps for air while coughing. The cough typically lasts for two weeks or more.

In some cases, a mild but persistent cough may be the only symptom of whooping cough, particularly in older children and adults. Infants are also less likely to have the typical symptoms of whooping cough. They may not have a cough at all but may appear to be gagging and gasping for air. They are often unable to feed well and may become blue around the mouth.

How is whooping cough spread?
Whooping cough is easily spread to other people by droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It can also be spread by direct contact with secretions from the nose or mouth of an infected person. It is most easily spread to those living in the same household or in close contact with the infected person.

It can take anywhere from 6 to 20 days (commonly 7 to 10 days) after coming in contact with pertussis for the disease to develop.

How long does a person remain infectious?
A person is infectious for as long as 21 days from when the cough first begins, or until they have completed 5 days of a course of appropriate antibiotics. The cough can continue for many weeks, despite antibiotics.

Individuals with whooping cough should be excluded from childcare facilities, school, work or settings where there are people at risk of infections, until they are no longer considered infectious.

Who is most at risk from whooping cough?
Anyone can get whooping cough. The majority of cases are in adults and adolescents. Parents, grandparents and others in close contact with infants such as healthcare providers and childcare workers are at risk of passing the infection to infants.

Infants less than 6 months of age who are too young to be fully vaccinated, account for the majority of hospitalisations and deaths from whooping cough.

What if I have been in contact with whooping cough?
If you or your child have been exposed to someone with whooping cough while they are infectious, watch out for symptoms and see your doctor if you develop a cough.

If you have a cough and your doctor suspects you have whooping cough, a swab from the back of the nose/ throat or a blood test can confirm the diagnosis.

Babies less than 6 months of age and those who are at risk of passing the infection on to them, who have had significant contact with an infectious person may benefit from a course of preventative antibiotics. Your GP can provide advice on whether you need a course of antibiotics.
Protection from whooping cough
Vaccination is the most effective way to avoid whooping cough infection. However, immunity does fade over time and it is still possible to get whooping cough even if you have been vaccinated in the past.

People with a coughing illness should avoid contact with infants less than 6 months of age and other people who may be vulnerable to illness.

Vaccination

Children and adolescents
Whooping cough vaccination is offered to all children as part of the funded National Immunisation Program. The first dose can be given from 6-8 weeks of age, followed by doses at 4 and 6 months and a booster dose at 3 ½ to 4 years of age. A further booster dose is given in high school through the school immunisation program in the ACT.

If your child has missed one or more of their vaccinations, please see your doctor to arrange a catch up.

Adults
An adult booster vaccine is available for purchase on private prescription from your doctor and is strongly recommended for anyone in contact with young infants, including health care workers, child care workers or anyone working or living with infants.

Any adult wishing to protect themselves against whooping cough should discuss vaccination with their doctor.

For those planning a pregnancy
The adult booster vaccine is recommended for those planning a pregnancy. It can be given before the pregnancy, during the third trimester of pregnancy or as soon as possible following the birth of the infant. Talk to your health care provider about vaccinations for pregnancy.

A booster may also be given if five years or more have passed between a previous booster dose and the expected date of birth.

Need more information?
For more information about whooping cough, contact your doctor or call the Health Protection Service, Communicable Disease Control Information Line during business hours on (02) 6205 2155.

Communicable Disease Control Section at Health Protection Service is responsible for the investigation and surveillance of notifiable or infectious conditions in the ACT in order to control or prevent their spread in the community. This includes the promotion of immunisation, education and other strategies that help to limit the spread of diseases. Whooping cough (Pertussis) is a notifiable disease. Cases notified to ACT Health are investigated by Public Health Officers.

Acknowledgements

Accessibility
The ACT Government is committed to making its information, services, events and venues, accessible to as many people as possible.

- If you have difficulty reading a standard printed document and would like to receive this publication in an alternative format—such as large print or audio—please telephone 13 2281 or email HealthACT@act.gov.au.
- If English is not your first language and you require the translating and interpreting service—please telephone 131 450.
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Media Release

Schools not ‘out of the woods’ on medium to long term funding

The peak body representing Catholic school parents in NSW and the ACT says the one-year funding boost announced in last night’s Federal Budget does little to allay fears about the medium and long term funding for all Australian schools.

The Federal Budget includes a 5.4 percent per student funding increase for Catholic and non-government schools and a 9.55 percent per student increase for Government schools in 2015-2016.

While describing the one-year funding increase as a positive move, Executive Director of the Council of Catholic School Parents (CCSP) NSW/ACT, Linda McNeil says schools are clearly ‘not out of the woods’ when it comes to funding beyond 2017.

“While we are happy that the Federal Government’s funding commitment will meet the real costs of education for all Australian schools in 2015-2016, we’re still very concerned about what happens beyond 2017,” she said.

“The budget has done nothing to dispel our fear that after 2017 the Federal Government will use the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as the basis for the indexation of school funding.

“While CPI has averaged less than 3% over the past decade, the real increase in school costs is around 5.5%.

“There’s no doubt in our mind that linking school funding to the CPI will only result in significant funding losses for all schools, which will mean cuts to staffing and resources.

“The impact of such losses would be significant for the Catholic sector where families may be forced to fill the funding gap.

“The education of all Australian children, regardless of which school they attend, is far too important to be indexed against CPI. We urge the Federal Government to be upfront about its plans for school funding beyond 2017 for the benefit of all Australian school children.”

The Federal Government has also announced a $5 million initiative to raise awareness of the positive benefits of parent engagement in education.

“Parent engagement is one of the Federal Government’s four pillars of a quality education and we welcome the move to strengthen this government’s commitment to increasing parent involvement and engagement in their child’s education journey,” she said.

13 May 2015

The Council of Catholic School Parents (CCSP) is the peak representative body for parents with children in Catholic schools in NSW and ACT.
Authorised by Linda McNeil, Executive Director, Council of Catholic School Parents NSW.