We are called to our faith is a wonderful theme for St Patrick's for 2015. Faith is a funny word. It means different things to different people. To me, it is like the wind...you can't see it, but you feel it and you know it is there. Ultimately, faith is about believing, even when all is not 100% clear.

Last week at the induction of new leaders at the Opening Prayer Service, I said to the students:

Faith is about believing in yourself, knowing that you are a good person. It is about believing in each other, looking for image of God in every person you meet. Faith is about believing in God. Our God.

But faith only goes so far. To be truly powerful, it has to be accompanied with action and service.

If you believe in yourself, what will we see in your actions? How will you try to be the best that you can every day at school and at home in 2015?

If you believe in others, how will you demonstrate this through service this year? How will you honour other people, regardless of whether they are your best friends or not?

If you believe in God, how will God know? Will it be through your prayer? Or your participation in liturgies and Mass? Or your following of Jesus' teachings?

You have to match your faith with actions!

But I like to think of faith as a key that can open door... let's open the door to our faith this year and make it a very good year for everyone at St Patrick’s.

I am very proud of the way that our new leaders are responding to the challenges that being presented to them. This leadership is not about personality or charisma; it is about action and service. The focus for this year will be to help these leaders to: model the way (in particular 'Strength in Gentleness'), inspire a shared vision (being a ‘School with Altitude’), challenge the status quo (respectfully!) to work for something even better, and most importantly, enable others to be involved and included. They will need to have faith and work with both their head and their heart.

Francois Robertson
Principal
Dear Minister,

I write to advise you that I have approved the provision of assistance to St Patrick’s Parish School, Cooma under the NSW Government’s Building Grants Assistance Scheme (BGAS).

As you may be aware, the NSW Government introduced the Building Grants Assistance Scheme for non-government schools in the 2010/11 financial year. This scheme replaced the Interest Subsidy Scheme and provides funding to non-government schools in a fairer way.

In 2014/15, funding for the Building Grants Assistance Scheme amounted to over $11.7 million.

Under the Building Grants Assistance Scheme, NSW non-government schools may apply for assistance for the planning, construction, alteration, extension, renovation, relocation or upgrading of educational facilities.

The scheme is administered by the AISNSW and NSW Catholic Block Grant Authorities. The Block Grant Authorities assess applications that meet the criteria as set out in the BGAS Guidelines. Each Block Grant Authority has provided schedules for recommended building projects. Payments on behalf of the schools are made to the Block Grant Authorities.

This building project is for the refurbishment of Technical and Applied studies learning spaces. The project involves a total cost of $992,894 of which $695,026 is being provided under BGAS, with the remainder being funded by the school community.

Yours sincerely,

Adrian Piccoli, MP
Minister for Education

5 FEB 2015
MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Last Tuesday, I attended the first St Patrick’s School Liturgy for 2015. It was a wonderful Liturgy that drew upon the notion of building bridges, not only within our community, but within the world and in particular it focused on the root bridges of Cherrapunji in the remote Khasi Hills of India. The strength of many roots are said to make the bridges strong enough to hold up to 50 people.

A unique video is available on You Tube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a6M7AHrl2p4 and as another website states "bridges aren't built - they're grown......"

It is with this in mind that we look towards continuing to grow our own bridge between St Patrick's the Church and St Patrick's the School.

Fr Mick has been welcomed by the Parish and now through this recent Liturgy the school. This year is a time of new beginnings for new and returning families and on behalf of the St Patrick's Parish we pray that all teachers, support staff and parents have a wonderful 2015. We would also like to wish all students, both new and returning across the three campuses - a fantastic 2015. As you embark on another school year, remember to......“Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life.” Proverbs 4:13

St Patrick's Parish Cooma, has their own website and we invite you to visit it at http://www.stpatricksparishcooma.org.au

Simon Buckley
Chairperson - St Patrick's Parish Pastoral Council

MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD

What an exciting time for St Patrick’s Parish School in 2015 and 2016. As we can all share in the good news that St Patrick’s has been given financial support from the NSW Block Grant Authority (BGA) for the construction of new TAS and Visual Arts building in the near future.

Congratulations to our Principal, Frances Robertson, her leadership team and staff on the work that went on behind the scenes, the many long hours on this project together with applications, consultative meetings with various stakeholders in achieving this goal. Well done!

As this project unfolds, our school parental and student communities will be updated through school Facebook website and our School Newsletter, so please stay tuned.

Erika Statham
Chairperson

Staff matters

Mr van Ommen will be taking leave for the remainder of this term. Mrs JoAnne Evans will be taking Mr van Ommen’s classes.

It is with pleasure that we announce that Mr Steve Joyce will take up the Acting Assistant Principal role. Mrs Rebecca Nasser will be taking some of Mr Joyce’s classes, so he can fulfil his new duties.

To assume the role of K-10 Coordinator, Mrs Suzanne Stacey has accepted the position.

Ms Wawryzniak is also taking leave and will be replaced by Ms Pip Daley.

All Kindergarten parents are invited to attend a Kindergarten Support Evening on Thursday 26th from 5.30-6.30pm in Kinder Rooms. See separate invitation.
In line with the requirements of the national curriculum, students need to be assessed on what they know using a variety of methods, not just the “take-home” formal assessment tasks. Over the course of this year, all Key Learning Areas (KLAs) will be using ‘formative’ processes to assess students. This will involve students undertaking several tasks during class time. The students will benefit from the processes of self-assessment, peer-assessment and descriptive teacher feedback. These processes have been shown to help students to know and understand how they can improve. These processes also encourage independent learning. Students may have the opportunity to get regular feedback as they work towards an end product. Students will also have opportunities to reflect on feedback and improve on their work. Some student work will be kept in a portfolio or a reflective journal or a diary and assessed by a teacher in order to contribute to a grade for their report.

Why are we doing this?

1. Board of Studies requirement - This type of assessment is a Board of Studies requirement and is a focus of both the Catholic Education’s plan and our Annual Improvement Plan for St Patrick’s.

2. We are making the classroom work count! We have been concerned that sometimes students only make a serious effort on tasks that have been identified as a formal Assessment Tasks.

3. We can’t ignore the research. Contemporary educational research from experts such as John Hattie and Dylan Wiliam has shown that ‘formative’ processes are amongst the most effective ways of improving student achievement.

Assessment for and assessment as Learning can be understood through the three key questions identified by John Hattie and Helen Timperley (2007). This form of assessment provides opportunities for students to check:

1. Where am I going?
2. How am I going?
3. Where to next?

These three key questions allow our students the opportunity to understand what they are required to do to successfully complete their tasks, the opportunity to check how they are going and the opportunity to understand what they need to do to do better next time.

The school recognises the importance of the home and school partnership in improving educational outcomes for students. We also acknowledge the benefits of parental support when it comes to managing home learning routines and the completion of assessment tasks. In order to help parents to support their children with the challenging demands of secondary high school, we provide an assessment booklet for every student and access to calendars for each year group which detail the dates of all assessment tasks for each subject. This information will also be on the school’s website. Naturally, there will be times when it is essential to change the date of a task, but the students will be full details about this.

Students need to be assessed on what they know using a variety of methods, not just the “take-home” formal assessment tasks. Apart from on-going work, in-class tasks may also include timed written responses or examination style tasks. For these tasks, prior study and preparation is vital to positive student achievement.

Parents’ access to this information allows for more involvement in their child’s learning through:

- the ability to have informed conversations about assessments coming up;
- encouraging and supporting students to establish effective time management and organisation; and
- opening the communication between the parent, teacher and student.

Pam Fletcher  Secondary Coordinator
Canteen News

A reminder that mini-canteen will be offered to Infants and Primary students in their second break on Wednesday afternoons. Items will be priced from 50c to $1. A variety of healthy snacks will be on offer each week.

Canteen volunteers for the next week are:

Wednesday 18 February 10am: Linda Quodling
Wednesday 18 February 1pm: Howard Brown & Marjorie Revelant
Thursday 19 February 10am: Denise Menchic
Friday 20 February 10am: Sara Souter
Wednesday 25 February 10am: Sue Bottom
Wednesday 25 February 1pm: Grant Pascoe & Marjorie Revelant
Thursday 26 February 10am: Elsa Wagner
Friday 27 February 10am: Nancy Bowerman

This Friday the meal deal will be: Bacon & Egg Roll + Organic or V8 Fusion juice for $6.

Put the code word "Green" on Friday's lunch order to receive a surprise from the canteen.

Instead of muffins this week, the Secondary students are trying out different flavoured healthy pancakes, here's the link to the Healthy Kids Association website if you would like to try them at home: http://healthy-kids.com.au/healthy-pancake/

Finally for this week, just a friendly reminder to make sure enough money is enclosed for your Infants and Primary lunch orders please!

Caroline Blyton
Canteen Manager

Pancake Recipe

Pancakes are a wonderful thing to cook with kids because there are endless flavour possibilities and they can be healthy!

Makes 12

- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1 egg
- 1 cup self-raising flour
- 1 cup wholemeal self-raising flour
- 25g polyunsaturated or monounsaturated margarine

Method

1. Whisk milk and egg together in a jug.
2. Sift flours into a bowl. Make a well in centre. Add milk mixture and whisk until just combined.
3. Heat a large non-stick frying pan over medium heat. Brush pan with margarine. Using 1/4 cup mixture per pancake, cook pancakes in batches for 2 to 3 minutes or until bubbles appear on surface. Turn and cook until cooked through. Transfer to a plate. Cover loosely with foil to keep warm. Repeat with remaining mixture, brushing pan with margarine between batches. Serve.

Variations

Apple and cinnamon – add one grated apple and 1 teaspoon cinnamon to mixture
Banana – add two mashed or sliced bananas to batter
Raspberry and pear – add 1/2 cup frozen or fresh raspberries and one grated pear to mixture
Sweet corn – for a savoury pancake, add one small tin salt reduced sweet corn kernels to mixture
A change in policy....for Secondary

We have decided to rethink school policy on use of technology such as iPods, phones during class time in Secondary.

This school has been pretty sensible about the use of these during break times but the question remains about class time.

We would still ask if it reasonable, respectful and responsible?

We could consider:

- only with teacher permission (that’s reasonable)
- only use one earplug (for safety reasons – that’s responsible)
- not able to be heard by others (that’s respectful)
- unplugged to talk with others (that’s respectful)

We would have to be clear that this could not be a free-for-all to badger a teacher. There would be times when this was not appropriate and that would be the teacher’s decision. Most of the time students would be engaged in active explicit teaching or interacting with others for their learning... but there are some times, for some students, when it might be appropriate to be able to ‘zone out’ in order to be creative or concentrate on a particular task.
“How many days go by without uttering these words...
please, thank you, sorry
Let us say these words in our families”

Pope Francis

2015 Archdiocesan Assembly

St Clare’s College, Griffith, ACT
The Joy of the Gospel in Marriage & Family Life
20 March: Mass
21 March: Talks & Expo
Archdiocesan Assembly 2015

Embrace 2015: The Joy of the Gospel in Marriage and Family Life

Friday, 20 March at 7pm - Mass at St Christopher’s Cathedral
Saturday, 21 March - St Clare’s College, Griffith

Expo commences 8am, Conference begins at 9am. Day concludes at 4pm

**COST:** Free A donation will be collected at the end of the day

A great opportunity for everyone, whether or not you are a regular Mass attendee, to:

Join with people from across the Archdiocese at the Friday night Mass. Married couples will receive a special blessing.

Hear three excellent keynotes

Archbishop Christopher Prowse, Professor Greg Craven (ACU), Lara and Tim Kirk

Browse the Expo for the many offerings that our Catholic groups offer our community.

Activities for children of all ages

Online Registration before the day essential Register at embrace2015.org.au.


**Friday, 20 March 2015**

7pm Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral led by [Archbishop Christopher Prowse](#). All married couples and families present will receive a blessing by the Archbishop. If you are unable to attend the Assembly on the Saturday, you are most welcome to attend the Mass only. Register at embrace2015.org.au.

**Saturday, 21 March 2015**

The doors will open at 8am at St Clare's College where you will be able to browse the Expo, enjoy a coffee and pick up your program for the day. Proceedings will commence at 9am with prayer. The Archbishop will follow with his keynote speech on *The Joy of the Gospel in Marriage and Family life*.

Morning tea will be followed by two more keynotes. Professor Greg Craven, Vice Chancellor, Australian Catholic University and local couple, Tim and Lara Kirk will deliver their insights into Catholic life today and what that really means for modern day couples and families.

Lunch will be at 12:15pm where once again you can explore the exhibitions and connect with people from around the Archdiocese and beyond.

Children of all ages will be catered for. A program for pre-school, primary and secondary students will be facilitated by our Youth and Young Adults Team. A crèche will be running, but there are only a few spaces left. Registration is essential.

A special part of the afternoon will include various and diverse Catholic stories from peers experiencing different challenges in their daily lives while still being able to embrace the joy of the gospel in family and married life.
Hosted by Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn (CatholicLIFE)
Sponsored by ACTRTL

HOW TO HAVE
'THE TALK'
WITH YOUR CHILD

Family Life Educator John Shay from Cairns Diocese will run a seminar for parents of primary school children on how to discuss issues of sexuality with your children.

Place: Rheinberger Centre, Yarralumla ACT

Date: Tuesday 24th February

Time: 7pm-8.30pm.

Cost: $5 donation at the door

Enquiries: info@catholiclife.org.au

Register at www.bit.ly/thetalk_parentsession

Research indicates that children prefer to seek information about sex and sexuality from their parents more than any other source, and perceive their parents' advice to be trustworthy. But parents often feel inadequate in their own understanding or unsure of how to respond appropriately.

If you have very young children and would like to be well prepared for discussions as they arise, this Parent Session will help you feel more confident and comfortable in giving your child positive, accurate, reassuring and age appropriate information and guidance.
The School magazine is on its way!

There is one copy per family and these will be distributed this week.

It is a wonderful pictorial of the 2014 year. The school thanks Mrs Amanda Knott for her enormous amount of work in preparing and collating this magazine.

Some Year 8 students got a sneak preview yesterday.

SELWYN SNOWFIELD’S RACE AND DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

Selwyn's RADS program provides a challenging environment for children to improve while exploring the whole mountain. Children from the age of seven and with intermediate skiing or boarding ability and above are able to join our exciting and rewarding ski and snowboard training program, run by qualified coaches from the Selwyn Snowsports School.

RADS is conducted over 12 days consisting of two 2hr training sessions per day. Training times are 10am-12pm and 1pm-3pm. Dates: 28 June, 29 June, 30 June, 5 July, 6 July, 7 July, 12 July, 19 July, 26 July, 2 August, 9 August, 16 August. Cost: $621 or casual rates available. If you require further information or want to register please contact our friendly staff on 02 6454 9488.

Junior Soccer 2015

St Patrick's 2015 Junior Soccer Registrations are now open!

♦ Matt Gibbs is the new St Pat's Co-ordinator for 2015
♦ Registration Forms are now online through www.myfootballclub.com.au
♦ 2015 Season will kick off Saturday 2nd May
♦ Teams will be combined boys and girls
♦ Age groups are from Under 6 - Under 11 (Under 12 players will now be part of the new Cooma / Canberra Football Junior League)

For further details about the 2015 Season / Registration Information or if you can assist with St Patrick's Junior Soccer (Coaches / Teams Managers) please contact Matt Gibbs - mattgibbs1009@gmail.com or Simon Buckley - simon_buckley@bigpond.com

Cooma / Capital Football Junior League 2015

Cooma Football Junior League U12 – U18 Registrations are now open.

♦ Cooma Tigers are hoping to field teams in as many age groups as possible this season, so all boys and girls interested in playing are encouraged to register
♦ Home games in Cooma (Nijong Oval) and Away games in ACT
♦ An informal training and information session for players from U12 – U18 will be held at:
  ♦ **Nijong Oval, Cooma - Saturday February 21, 2015 - 10am – 12pm** *
♦ Registration Forms are now online through www.myfootballclub.com.au
♦ 2015 Season kick off will be advised shortly

More details are available by contacting Cooma Junior Soccer Development Officer - Brett Simpson - magiclean-cooma@gmail.com or Mark Burke - mark.planthire@gmail.com
Year 7 students were joined by the Year 10 Student Leadership Team for the annual three day camp to Kiannini, near Tathra. They left on Monday this week. Thank you to the supporting teachers, Mr Mackay, Mrs Stacey and Miss Trigg for their commitment to this undertaking. The purpose is to continue the theme of adventure for high school, and to take time to really bond as a group that includes all the newcomers to our year.
MATHEMATICS ENRICHMENT – Mathletics

Dear Parents,

Mathletics is an online mathematical resource where children develop their mathematical thinking, knowledge of number facts and operations. It supports each child’s learning from Kindergarten to Year 12 by responding to their strengths and areas for development. Children instantly know if they are on the right track and can work through the curriculum at their own pace. Mathletics allows children to revise what they have learnt at school and refine skills at home, which is like having a personal Maths tutor 24 hours a day. Weekly parent emails allow you to monitor your child’s progress. This program uses Australian voices and interesting graphics to engage and motivate children to learn. Mathletics is based on the Australian Curriculum. To have a look at this site, go to http://mathletics.com.au

Normally, a private subscription would cost $99.95 for 12 months. We would like to offer students a subscription to Mathletics, at a special school subscription price of $34.50. This subscription will expire February 2016. If you would like to have this resource for your child to use at home, please complete the form below and return to school by Monday 23rd February with correct money in an envelope.

Kind Regards

Melinda Barrett
Learning Support Teacher

Frances Robertson
Principal

Mathematics Enrichment – MATHLETICS – Return by Monday 23rd February

I would like to purchase a subscription to Mathletics for my child/children to use at home.

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Amount Enclosed $_____

Parent signature: ___________________________ Date: _______
Keeping COOMA CREEK Clean Day

SUNDAY MARCH 1, 2015

KEEP COOMA CREEK CLEAN DAY - EXPLORE THE COOMA CREEK WALK

Join us to explore the Cooma Creek and learn about why we should Keep Cooma Creek Clean. Discover the history of the creek, who else uses the creek as their home (including platypus, water rats, frogs and ducks) and what we have been doing to help keep the Cooma Creek clean. Suited to all ages. The walk will be followed by a free BBQ and waste vehicle display.

WHERE: Starts at Norris Park for a leisurely walk to Nijong Oval and back for a BBQ.

WHEN: 10:30am - 12noon

WHO: Everyone is welcome - including friends, family, kids

Contact James Johnston 6455 1920 for more information

Designed by The Monaro Post
Free Professional “Back to School’ Support for NSW Parents

January can be a stressful time for families with children returning to school, especially for parents of young children beginning Kindergarten. Parent Line NSW provides a 7-day-a-week service for parents who may need to discuss problems, gain new insight and be referred to face-to-face services. Our professional counselors with expertise in working with families with complex issues provide emotional support, well-researched parenting strategies and up-to-date information.

Parent Line NSW is a state funded program managed by CatholicCare Sydney. In the last financial year the program provided counselling, support and information to more than 7,000 people who were involved in raising a child. 40% of callers have used the service before and have found it so helpful they have called back. Parent Line helps parents with a wide range of issues including behavioural problems, separation anxiety, other child mental health concerns, child development, bullying and child issues around parental separation. Parent Line also helps parents manage stress around their parenting.

Parent Line NSW also manages the ADHC funded Early Childhood Intervention Information Line for families who have questions and concerns about their child’s development or who have a child 0-6 years who has been diagnosed with a disability. Parents can seek support and guidance about understanding what this means to their family and in finding support services for their child.

Free Parent Line publicity material is available on www.parentline.org.au and the Parenting Counsellors can be accessed for the cost of a local call from a landline (some charges apply to mobile phones) on 1300 1300 52

Sincerely

The Parent Line Counselling Team