Dear St Patrick’s Community

This week we commemorate International Day of Tolerance... at the same time as sharing the communal grief for those who have lost their lives at the hands of angry people.

In the face of acts of terrorism, we have the hope of education, the power of love, the inspiration of Christ (who was a victim of Roman oppression) and the opportunity to work for a more peaceful world. It starts with an act of kindness. It requires strong characters. We are all part of the solution.

As we work together in our Catholic community at St Patrick’s, let us build strong characters in every one of our students. We are immensely proud of our Catholic heritage and are committed to offering children the opportunity to follow Jesus and be His disciples in all that they say and do.

I have included some prudent advice on building characters from the late Barry Dwyer who is remembered as a noted educator, writer, thinker, scholar, father and grandfather. His words are always wise and insightful.

Some of these qualities will, no doubt, be shining as we head towards the student leadership process for 2016. Speeches and voting happen next week.

I encourage you to check out the school calendar, as there are many important events coming up, where your presence or participation would be very welcome.

Yours sincerely

Frances Robertson
Principal

coming events....

Friday 20 November
Yr 7 (2016) SPOT Day
Yr 10 RFS

Sunday 22 November
Thanksgiving Mass for First Communion candidates

Monday 23 November
Martin Schoo Basketball
Yr 8 & 10

Tuesday 24 November
Primary Leadership Speeches 10am
Repeat of Session 3 of BYOD introduction for parents

Wednesday 25 November
Yr 1 Assembly 12pm
Yr 10 2016 Leadership speeches & voting
DEVELOPING CHARACTER

By Barry Dwyer

To talk of character sounds a little old-fashioned these days. Yet the development of a strong character in children and teenagers is a great preparation for dealing with the inevitable pressures of modern society. For a start, people of strong character are not easily led by others into destructive and foolish behaviour. What does your experience tell you about the ways in which character is developed? Here are some suggestions you might like to consider:

- Build character on the foundations of love and acceptance. A child who feels unconditionally loved is more likely to reach out to the world with confidence and security.
- Show your child respect and expect to be respected. Children learn respect through example and encouragement. A child who has not learnt to control the urge to make hurtful comments to companions and to adults, will find it progressively harder to exercise control of other destructive impulses.
- Have high expectations of conduct. Calmly and consistently enforce limits on behaviour. Give children plenty of opportunities to make personal choices and let them see that all choices have consequences.
- Recognise and encourage acts of generosity, tolerance and thoughtful decision-making whenever you see them.
- Give your child plenty of opportunities for success in a whole variety of activities. This builds self-esteem which is an important element for strong character.
- Talk openly about your beliefs and values. While being understanding and compassionate, be quite clear in the stand you take on issues of right and wrong. Such parental consistency provides a powerful support for any child’s developing character.
Staff News

Recently Mr Paul Mackay made the decision to resign from the Leadership position of Religious Education Coordinator after a 30 year commitment to this role. Mr Mackay will continue teaching at St Patrick’s. Mr Mackay has personified the school’s motto of ‘Strength in Gentleness’ and really tried to bring a deep spirituality to our sense of our faith.

I am pleased to inform our community that we interviewed three quality applicants for the position of Religious Education Coordinator at St Patrick’s for 2016.

Each gave considerable time, effort and professionalism to their application and interview. It was all impressive.

I am pleased to be able to offer Mrs Suzanne Stacey this temporary position for 2016. Suzanne brings substantive experience in a variety of educational settings, qualifications that include a Masters and post graduate study in Education and Religious Education, experience of positions of leadership and a deep and visible commitment to her faith.

We congratulate Suzanne on receiving this offer of a Leadership position at St Patrick’s for 2016.

St Vincent de Paul-Thanksgiving Prayer Service

Our school K-10 Thanksgiving Prayer Service will be held Tuesday 1 December at 2.15pm in the church. Our Prayer Service is held each year to give thanks for the many blessings we have received throughout the year. It is also an opportunity to think of those who are in need.

To do this, we are asking that you support our St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal again this year.

Secondary students are asked to support with a cash donation,
Kindergarten students a gift for a 2-5 Year old
Year 1 a gift for: 6-8 year old
Year 2/3 a gift for: 8-10 year old
Year 4/5 a gift for: 10-12 year old
and Year 6 a gift for: 12-15 year old

The St Vincent de Paul Society will make up Christmas hampers for those who are in need at this time. They are most grateful for our continued support of their work.

Our community has been generous in the past and we ask all in our community to once again support our appeal. Parents are most welcome to attend our Prayer Service.

Thanking you in anticipation of your support.
St Patrick’s on Showcase

Last week our school was showcased in a Canberra Goulburn Catholic Education forum on COSA.

COSA stands for Collaborating on Student Achievement and it is a process of action research about finding better ways to help students to learn. We have focused on developing strategies for numeracy in the early years. The process involved interviewing, gathering data, trialling strategies and following up with our findings. The work was well-received by other schools.

Well, the Showcase is over and it was impressive!

Thank you to all in your school community for the patience, support, commitment and dedication to make the COSA project come to life and represent all that you do. Please thank Stephanie Lovat and Belinda Wilkins in particular for being the face of your COSA project at the showcase. It was a huge effort and I am very grateful for the time and energy they gave (and endured) to bring it to fruition. Thank you for all the extra preparations and production put into this display and presentation.

Thank you also to all the staff for the great sample activities, the collection of data and the contributions that they have all made to make this journey the success that it is. The display and presentation are truly a celebration of the work you have done and are continually doing in your school.

Madonna Pianegonda, Teaching and Learning Officer from Catholic Education

Year 6 Matters

In the next few weeks, Year 6 students will be participating in TAG days. This is where the students will tag along with a Year 7 student for part of a day and have a different experience of High School. The timetable will be prepared and the students will be given this so they can organise themselves. In addition, Mrs Robertson will be meeting with the Year 6 students to talk about their commitment to High School and St Patrick’s expectations of them as the more senior students. These meetings are important but they will be informal and parents are not required to attend. Another invitation is issued to any Year 6 parents who wish to see what is inside the Secondary campus. Many have already made appointments and we are happy to show you around.

School Office Mobile

For K - 6 Parents/Carers, if your child is late please text this number: 0459764337 with child’s name, class, time and reason and office staff will arrange for a late note to be sent to your child’s teacher. If you do this, it will save going to the office.
A Message from the P&F

Congratulations to the Bazaar Fair Committee (Frances Robertson, Erika Statham, Ruby Curtis, Cherie Booker, Marlene Bottom and Eve Rees) for ensuring our school had one of the most successful and enjoyable events in Cooma on Saturday.

The atmosphere was amazing and it was fantastic to see so many of our school families come along and enjoy the day. Also a huge thank you to the parents, students, staff and friends of the school who assisted prior to and on the day of the Fair; your time is very much appreciated.

Our next P&F fundraising function is the BBQ at Cooma Races on Saturday 5 December and again we will be calling on parents and friends of the school for assistance on that day for a couple of hours. It’s a fun time to work together! See the note in this newsletter.

Karen McGufficke
P&F President

THE CATHOLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION

To assist Archbishop Christopher in furthering the mission and ministry of Catholic schools of the Archdiocese, you are invited to forward an expression of interest in one of the following CEC positions for 2016, noting that the Commission meets eight times per year (this may change):

- **Chair, Catholic Education Commission.** Experience and expertise in the chairing of meetings and an understanding of the Mission of Catholic Education are essential.
- **Member, with experience and expertise in the financial area**
- **Member, with experience and expertise in the legal area.**

A one page CV including a reference from your Parish Priest is to be sent to:

Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn
Email: archbishop@cg.org.au

**Closing Date: 4 December 2015** For further enquiries please contact Cathy Moffitt on 6201 9811
Visual Arts in Year 7

Learning en plein air
Canteen News

Volunteers - Thank you!
Thursday 19/11, 10am Kim Kleven
Friday 20/11, volunteer needed
Wednesday 25/11, 10am Kelly Gill, 1.15pm Kelly & Marjorie
Thursday 26/11, 10am Jackie Bitar
Friday 27/11, 10am Rebecca Hain

I’m still looking for someone to help in the canteen for 1-2 hours on the morning of Thursday 10 December, please let me know :)

This Week's Friday Special: Nachos $5

Next week’s Friday Meal Deals will be based on the theme of “Eat A Rainbow” to celebrate colourful and healthy eating.

Caroline Blyton
Canteen Manager

If we could look into each other’s hearts and understand the unique challenges each of us faces, I think we would treat each other much more gently, with more love, patience, tolerance, and care.

~Marvin J. Ashton
Secondary Extended Homeroom – Focus on Gratitude

Gratitude means thankfulness, counting your blessings, noticing simple pleasures, and acknowledging everything that you receive. It means learning to live your life as if everything were a miracle, and being aware on a continuous basis of how much you’ve been given. Gratitude moves your focus from what you think your life lacks, to realizing how much you actually have.

If you think your life is less than perfect, consider this:

If you have food in your fridge, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of the world’s population.

If you have money in the bank, your wallet and some spare change you are among the top 8% of the world’s wealthy.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the agony of imprisonment or torture or the horrible pangs of starvation you are luckier than 500 million people alive and suffering.

If you can read this you are more fortunate than 3 billion people in the world who cannot read.

There is always something to be grateful for and for this we should be thankful. Research has shown that gratitude is the single most important ingredient to living a successful and fulfilled life, and that people who feel gratitude and show their gratitude to others, are happier than those who don’t.

The happiest people do not live with a certain set of circumstances, but rather with a certain set of attitudes. Choosing to be positive and grateful for what you have now is going to determine how you’re going to live the rest of your life. So look for something positive about today. Even if you have to look a little harder than usual, it still exists.

So how can you change your attitude and show more gratitude:

* Start each day with a grateful heart

* Be thankful for what you have and you’ll end up having more

* Show gratitude to others and thank them for what they do for you

* Make gratitude your only attitude each and every day

* When things go wrong, take a moment to be thankful for the many more things that are still going right

* Each day make a mental note or write down three things you are grateful for

Remember: “This is a wonderful day. You’ve never seen this one before” (Maya Angelou) and be grateful for all that you have.

"Piglet noticed that even though he had a Very Small Heart, it could hold a rather large amount of Gratitude." A.A. Milne
Let them run free...What... The wild mountain brumbies!

Writing by Ivy McGufficke

It has been discussed again in the local newspapers; the Kosciusko Horse Management Plan 2008 is under review for discussion.

The Snowy Mountains Bush Users Group, President, Mr. Peter Cochran, has stated that he ‘would like to see aerial culling taken off the meeting agenda’.

He believes that the National Park, Conservationist groups and community groups fighting to protect the wild brumbies all need to come together, sit down and discuss the issue of wild brumbies rationally.

Groups for the wild brumbies want the Government to acknowledge that brumbies are part of Australia’s heritage. The horse has been here since settlement – they are a cultural icon. A wild brumby is ‘a descendent from a run away (wild/free) horse.’

Brumbies have gradually increased in numbers that now live in the National Park and will continue to grow. The question is ‘How to humanly control and manage horse numbers?’ The groups that want harsh aerial culling argue that brumbies are destroying ‘fragile’ eco systems in the Park, they damage streams, wetlands, erode the banks, compact the soil and over graze. All of this then impacts on the habitats of fauna and flora.

However, the community needs to know that other wild animals such as deer, goats, wild dogs and pigs can cause as much damage as well as spread disease. What about the ski traffic, bush walkers, mountain bike riders and fisherman using the Park. Wild brumbies actually keep the grass and shrubs down which is ideal in bushfire seasons.

I support the comments made to the Letters to the Editor dated 9th July, 2014 in the Monaro Post that ‘Government suspend immediately all brumby baiting/lures/trapping and handling campaigns.’
Horse riding groups have been stopped from entering the Parks to catch the brumbies, break them in, sell or relocate them to reduce numbers. This was a safe and humane method.

How can an aerial culling program be humane if brumbies are shot from helicopters and left to drag themselves around injured and starving until they die? Is that dignified? Nature has its own way of culling brumbies and any animals.

Readers need to actually visit a National Park and see the wild brumbies galloping through the long plains to appreciate their beauty.

An article dated 7th July, 2014 in the Southern News stated ‘there are kinder ways to control wild horses numbers’ and Mr. Cochran quoted ‘I cannot accept that anyone that calls themselves conservationists would agree to aerial culling’ – neither could I.

In my opinion, I strongly believe that the horse rider groups should be allowed to enter the Park to catch the brumbies, break them in, sell or relocate them which would reduce numbers. The wild brumbies were the first on the land and then the Government came along and made the land into National Parks.

Another option could be shooting contraceptive pellets into the horses to stop them having foals for at least five years. I also feel that aerial culling is definitely not humane! The wild brumbies have no chance of escaping or defending themselves and if they are injured it is an agonizing and painful suffering for them.

I am passionate about the wild brumbies and believe they should run free! I do not want to see them disappear!!! All groups need to come together and work out a solution.

Ivy McGufficke
MAINSTREET CLOTHING COOMA, THE SALVATION ARMY & 2XL / SNOW FM PRESENTS: THE 2015 CHRISTMAS FOOD & TOY DRIVE

Some families are not as fortunate as our own and, at Christmas time, some of them need our help.

We are not looking for monetary donations, but for donations of non-perishable food items and new toys, which will bring Joy and Relief to those in need.

YOUR School will be participating by acting as a collection point for your donations. Please take your contribution to them for collection PRIOR to Friday 4 December, 2015. All goods WILL be collected during the following week by the SALVATION ARMY, for distribution to needy local families.

Please be aware that Occupational Health and Safety Legislation does not allow for the distribution of second hand toys so please, only new toys.

When you donate, know that your contribution is greatly appreciated.

A HUGE THANK YOU FROM MAINSTREET CLOTHING COOMA,
THE SALVATION ARMY AND, SNOWY MOUNTAINS 2XL / 97.7 SNOW FM.

Grigoryan Brothers
This Time
National Tour 2015

"...guitar playing of uncommon originality and authority. Musicality, expressively and daring..."
— The New York Times

“This Time celebrates the Grigoryan Brothers heroic qualities in harmonious proportion, as they deliver powerful performances of sensuous beauty and soaring vitality.”
— Carolyn McDowell
- The Culture Connoisseur.

4:30pm Sun Nov 22
St Paul’s Anglican Church Hall, Cooma

Tickets:
Cooma School of Music 6452 6067
Or online at: www.trybooking.com/JJYX

Still some tickets left...not to be missed!

Tickets online: www.trybooking.com/JJYX

Visual Arts in Year 7
Who Is Responsible for Tech Abuse? Tom Whitby

For as long as there has been social media, kids have been getting punished for its "misuse" (in the eyes of adults). Because of this perceived inappropriate behaviour in social media, many schools have blocked Facebook, Twitter, and other frequently-used social media sites from their students.

Smart phones are also commonly banned. It's not unusual for teachers and school administrators to dole out punishment for students who don't adhere to these social media restrictions. Consequently, we are holding kids responsible for something that, in most cases, we never taught them to use, but have only forbidden them to use. Where's the adult responsibility here?

A Persistent Double Standard?

Many kids began leaving digital footprints when their parents introduced them to the social media world.

Facebook and Pinterest are rife with naked baby pictures that parents will some day have to answer for. Some parents couldn't even wait for their child's birth before creating that digital footprint, so the digital sonogram photo album was invented, which means that many of our kids became digital citizens by force rather than consent -- before they were even born.

I often wonder how many of these same proud parents who post their kids' pictures on various sites are the same parents who complain to schools about using students' pictures in printed or digital newsletters to identify their positive contributions.

Another parent and teacher concern that astounds me is about children's early access to social media in school. It's as if the only exposure kids will have to social media will come from the school environment. Are these adults unaware that two of the largest worldwide social media sites are Club Penguin (with over 200 million accounts) and WebKinz World (with a similar toddler membership)? Yes, many of these kids have been interacting, socializing, and learning while using social media even before entering school. How could they not when they are surrounded by it daily? How can we forget that we live in a technology-driven society? How can we, as adults, hold these kids responsible for their actions without ever teaching them about the technology they're tinkering with?

Understanding Before Accountability?

If we're going to hold kids responsible for their actions online, we must first give them models of what is appropriate and acceptable. Banning technology use only makes them more curious about this forbidden fruit while we hide our heads in the sand about the consequences of that curiosity.

Of course, it's still our responsibility to regulate technology use. However, we need to apply common sense guidelines for technology use and digital literacy. The tech guidelines of the 21st century can't be based in 19th or 20th century methodology. Schools that established acceptable use policies at the millennium should make sure that these policies are still relevant.

Let's begin teaching digital literacy to the youngest students to prepare them for handling the technology to which they've already been exposed. Once we teach them to be responsible, thoughtful, respectful digital citizens, then we can hold them accountable for their actions.
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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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 Mellinda Barrett 0439 413700, Karen McGufficke 0417 496708 or Marjorie Revelant P&F Catering Coordinator 0418 485 229
Isolated Children’s Parents’ Association social media has gone into melt down after the Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs in response to the Social Services Legislation Amendment (More Generous Means Testing for Youth Payments) Bill 2015 was passed.

Federal President, Mrs Wendy Hick said, “Parents are jumping for joy and many are overcome with emotion as they pass on the news to their year 12 graduates, that their dreams of a tertiary education will now come true!”

After many, many years of lobbying by ICPA Australia the Family Assets Test for Youth Allowance has been lifted!! This monumental development will benefit many rural and remote ambitious students who are currently sitting their final year 12 exams. We anticipate many more of these students, who are underrepresented at university will now fulfil their ambitions, knowing they do not have to overcome the complex parental means tests for Youth Allowance when they are applying for financial support.

Simplifying the parental means tests for these payments will provide additional assistance for working families to support their children to make the transition from school to further study.


For further information and comments please contact:
Nikki Macqueen, Federal Publicity Officer ICPA Australia Ph: 0417 793 705 Email: FedPublicityOfficer@icpa.com.au
Wendy Hick, Federal President ICPA Australia Ph: 0447 474 8491 Email: FedPresident@icpa.com.au

www.icpa.com.au