Dear Parents, Staff and Students

St Patrick's Celebrations
There are so many aspects of the life of our patron saint that can inspire our own lives and this was the key message of our celebration liturgy last Friday when the whole school came together in our St Patrick's Church. The liturgy had as its introductory theme:

In this Year of Faith, we gather together in prayer to celebrate the life of St Patrick who witnessed to his faith in extraordinary ways, bringing his love of the Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - to those who didn’t know God but who were reaching out to God. Like Jesus did in his own time, Patrick used simple images and things of ordinary, everyday life to explain deep truths about God. He used the shamrock, a lowly little leaf of clover, to explain that God is three and God is one.

The liturgy traced the defining stages in St Patrick’s life, a life of hardship, isolation, awakening, reflection and evangelisation. His story was accompanied by creative dance and uplifting singing. Our thanks go to Lou Mackay for coordinating the whole liturgy, the student dancers, choir group and the student executive for their prayerfulness.

Following the liturgy the whole school moved to Rotary Oval to join in tabloid sports that were very unique and creative. Again our thanks go to Glenyce Moxon for coordinating the event and to the staff and parents who ensured the day’s success.

St Mary MacKillop College pathway
As I mentioned in last week’s newsletter, a feature of our Catholic Schools Week program was a visit from staff and students of the senior campus of MacKillop College at Isabella Plains in Tuggeranong. The Principal, Michael Lee, Senior Campus teacher, Paul Durham, and 3 senior students presented a series of information sessions to Year 10 students, staff and parents. It was emphasised that we are developing this pathway as an option for those students who want to continue with a senior Catholic education as an alternative to moving away from home to attend largely metropolitan Catholic boarding schools. Parents whose children have recently completed their senior education in Canberra, and who have commuted to do so, spoke very favourably about their experiences and the value of continuing a Catholic education.

The response from all audience groups was very positive and some parents are already making arrangements to visit the college. I am also fielding enquiries from parents whose children don’t attend our school, so the proposal is looking very promising for 2014. The Catholic Education Office has indicated that we will need to look at a minimum of 15 students to make the transport proposal viable, and we are hopeful of achieving this goal. There will be a Senior Campus Information Evening held at the college (Ellerston Ave, Isabella Plains) on 15th May at 6 pm and further information can be accessed at the school website at www.mackillop.act.edu.au.

Cluster meetings and National Partnerships Program
A recent development initiated by the CEO is the formation of cluster groups of schools to facilitate professional learning by staff and to better allow professional interaction at the same time. Today we hosted our cluster group for Information and Communication Technology which involved Lumen Christi College, St Patrick’s Bega and St Joseph’s Bombala. A similar cluster has been formed to support our literacy intervention program under the National Partnerships program with our literacy coach, Mary Kite, working closely to support key staff in each of the 4 schools and in particular our literacy intervention teacher Kellie Summerville. Yesterday we were also visited by the CEO Support Officer, Madonna Pianegonda, who is heavily involved in developing our Numeracy Intervention Program which is being so effectively coordinated in our school by Amanda Knott. These are very exciting and proven initiatives targeted at improving learning outcomes, particularly in our K-2 students.

News Update
Don’t forget the P&F meeting at 5.30pm in the Primary staffroom tomorrow.

Good luck to our school leaders at their leadership day at Jindayne Sport and Recreation Centre next Monday.

Congratulations to our Year 8 students on the success of their Surf Safety Day at Tathra yesterday.

Good luck to our MacKillop swimmers on Friday and our Archdiocesan soccer players this Sunday!

Phil Stubbs
Principal

“A School With Altitude”

St Patrick’s Parish School Cooma

20 March 2013

“See the hand of God in all that happens . . .”
St Mary MacKillop (1871)
During Lent we have been singing the song, “We want to live like you, Jesus”. It helps us to think of how we can be more patient and kind to others. We have also made a Lenten Promise Tree and have decided on a special way we can grow to be more like Jesus. Here are some of the prayers we have written:

Dear Jesus,
During Lent, help me to be more like you. Help me to be kind and patient to everyone and help me to love myself too. Amen (Luke Fely)

Dear God,
During Lent, help me to be a better person by helping others. Amen (Gus Brabham)

Dear Jesus,
Thank you for making me a special person. During Lent, help me to say more prayers. Amen (Clara Thornton)

Dear Jesus,
During Lent, help me to listen to Mum. Amen (Charlotte Geelan)

Netball: On Tuesday 12 March, one Year 7/8 team and a Year 9/10 netball team from St Patrick’s, competed in good spirit against a Year 7/8 Lumen Christi team and 5 teams from Carroll College. All games were played with great sportsmanship and also a touch of competitiveness. Overall, Carroll College won both divisions, followed closely by Lumen Christi and St Patrick’s. Ultimately, the aim of the day was participation and a sense of fun-this was definitely achieved, so congratulations to our teams for your effort and cooperation on the day.

Special thanks to Amanda Steinke and Di Hobbs on behalf of the Cooma Netball Association for the use of the netball facility and organising the canteen on the day. Also, special thanks to Ashleigh Steinke and the Year 10 helpers for assisting at the canteen and Mrs Stacey, Will Bottom and Ben Hayden for organising the BBQ. Thank you to the volunteer umpires and scorers who were outstanding. The day could not run without the assistance of staff, students and parents whose collective efforts contributed to the success of the day.

Oz Tag and Soccer: There were some excellent games of Oz-Tag and soccer played at Nijong with over 200 students participating in these two sports. It was great to see students socializing with students from other schools and sportsmanship was on display in all games.

Congratulations to our soccer students who were victorious in the 7/8 division and our junior Oz-Tag players who also achieved success, finishing runner up. Congratulations to all students on their participation and behaviour, and a very big thank you to the staff, students and parents who helped referee, score keep and work in the canteen.

Ms Wawrzyniak and Mr Lawley
The next P&F Meeting will be held tomorrow evening, Thursday 21 March at 5.30pm in Primary Staff room. All parents are welcome to come along.

Catering for the ICPA catering went very well with a profit of $2200! A very big thank you to the following parents who helped with the P&F catering: Marjorie Revelant, Louise Platts, Susie Martin-Smith, Pam Fletcher, Karen McGufficke. Also, thank you to the students who helped with the waitressing on Wednesday night - you did a fantastic job!

We would also like to once again thank Coles for the donation of a lot of the food for the ICPA catering as well as the icy poles for the St Patrick’s Day celebrations.

P&F Committee

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Only one cheque is required when making payments for multiple items.

Thank you.

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Due to some organisational changes it has become necessary to reschedule the AFL Gala Day from this Friday to a later date. Details of arrangements will be provided soon.

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Congratulations to Damon Fanning who has been selected in the South Coast Monaro Under 12 Rugby Union Representative Team. Try outs were held at Braidwood on Sunday 17 March.

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Congratulations to mirrors on 2 November 2013 in Centennial Park.

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We have had a case of head lice reported to the school. Could you please check your child’s hair and treat accordingly. If you do now know what to look for please see your local pharmacist.

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The lost property containers on both the K-2 and 3-6 campuses have been filling up quickly! Please ensure that names are clearly written on all containers, drink bottles and clothing. All drink bottles and containers that have no name on them will be placed in the school bins every Friday. Please understand that this is a hygiene problem as there is often rotting food in these containers. If the students have their name on the container it will be returned; however, they will be expected to complete a school community service task for not looking after the cleanliness of the school playground. This rule also applies to all clothing items but if there is no name on the item of clothing it will be donated to the school clothing pool.

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P&F Committee
**WHAT'S ON**

**Thursday 21 March**
P & F Meeting 5.30 pm - Primary Staff Room
Parish Council Meeting 6.30pm

**Friday 22 March**
Yr 3 - 6 MacKillop swimming trials - Homebush

**Sunday 24 March**
3-6 Archdiocesan soccer carnival

**Monday 25 March**
Leadership day

Archdiocesan winter trials (Soccer, Rugby League, Netball)
Debating round 2

**Tuesday 26 March**
Yr 10 War Memorial excursion

**Wednesday 27 March**
3-10 X-Country

**Thursday 28 March**
K-10 Holy Week Liturgy 12.00pm

**Friday 29 March**
Good Friday

**Monday 1 April**
Easter Monday

**Tuesday 2 April**
Yrs 7-10 Social

**Wednesday 3 April**
Primary Rugby 10’s gala day

**Thursday 4 April**
Yr 7 Parish Mass 10am
K-6 Southern Region Cross Country Cobargo

**Friday 5 April**
Yr 10 Blue Lake excursion

Please refer to School website for more information
www.stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au

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**Canteen News**

Thursday 21 March
Kim Kleven

Friday 22 March
Natalee Reid

Wednesday 27 March
Linda Quodling

Help needed on Wednesday 3 April, please! If you are able to spare a hour or 2, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school or my mobile 0406 763 375. All help is very much appreciated. Thank you.

FRIDAY MEAL DEAL - NACHOS with a DRINK OF JUICE OR MILK - $5.00. If this is not suitable for your child, please contact me regarding an alternative. Thank you. The Meal Deal option is also available to Secondary students. Please pre-order on Thursday to avoid disappointment. Nachos is $3.00 without drink. Thank you.

MINI CANTEEN is available on Wednesday for both Primary and Infants - items priced from 50c.

Thank you for your continued support.
Carolyn Hely
Canteen Manager

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**Around Town**

- **Snowy Super Cats**: Registrations are now open for the Snowy Super Cats Auskick Programs! We are looking for players for Auskick Under 12’s, Under 14’s and Under 16’s in the ACTJAFLL Competition. 2013 season starts Saturday 4 May. For further information contact David Inness on 0411171489 or visit www.coomacats.sportingpulse.net

- **HARMONY DAY - 2013 Harmony Day Poster Competition**: Open to all school students 6 to 18 years of age. Closing date 12 April. For details visit www.movingforwardtogether.com.au, email erniefbrown@ozemail.com.au or phone 9361 6035 or 9321 6304. Total prize money of $4000. All entrants receive a Certificate of Participation.

- **Lumen Christi Catholic College**: Everyone is invited to attend our Open Day on Wednesday 22 May from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm. Information evenings will be held for Year 7 2014 on Tuesday 4 June from 6.00 pm and for Years 9 and 11 2014 on Thursday 13 June from 6.00 pm. The Year 7 2014 Orientation Day will be held on Friday 22 November from 9.00 am to 3.25 pm. For more information please phone the Enrolment Officer, Barb Gough on 6495 8888.

- **WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**: A weekend for married couples. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset... Your Marriage! This is a unique opportunity to recharge your relationship batteries, refocus on each other and fall in love all over again! Weekend date: 14 – 16 June at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW. Bookings: Ardell & Bill Sharpe tel. 02 4283 3435 or wsharpe@bigpond.net.au Information: website www.wwme.org.au

- **Understanding Change, Loss and Grief**: This three hour seminar is an education program which aims to build resilience in adults who are also seeking to deepen their general understanding of the nature and impact of change, loss and grief on their lives. Sunday 24 March, 2.00-5.00pm, cost $15. Please register contact Anne Gifford 0438767881 or email anne.gifford@cg.catholic.edu.au

Please refer to School website for more information
www.stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au