Dear St Patrick’s Community

‘THERE IS NEITHER JEW NOR GENTILE, NEITHER SLAVE NOR FREE, NOR IS THERE MALE AND FEMALE, FOR YOU ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST JESUS.’
GALATIANS 3:28

This week recognises the urgency in addressing violence against women with a special day dedicated to focus on all forms of violence: physical, sexual, economic and emotional. Although it is an International United Nations Day, in Australia, it is referred to as White Ribbon Day.

Violence has a profound and damaging impact on its victims, on men’s and women’s relationships, on their children and on the community as a whole. Violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread violations of human rights. In some countries, up to 7 in 10 women will be beaten, raped, abused or mutilated in their lifetimes. And it’s not just a problem “over there”. Statistics prove that women in Australia are also suffering from brutality, violence and misogyny. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, one in three Australian women will experience physical violence in their lifetime, while 23% to 28% will experience sexual or emotional harm. These are alarming statistics. Violence against women and girls is not inevitable. Prevention is possible and essential. After all, we are all made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27).

This week we are preparing to provide written reports for the summary of each student’s achievements this semester. Assessing students is crucial for informing teachers about how to improve their teaching and instructional programs. It helps students to self-monitor and take responsibility for their learning. The purpose of school reports is also about communicating to parents about their child's growth over the year and areas for future improvement.

It is the school’s goal to provide clear, helpful information for students and parents. However, the limitations of a written report mean that we cannot possibly cover all areas of achievement as comprehensively as we would like. Therefore, after the reports are distributed on Friday 11 December, parents are welcome to make an appointment with a teacher on Monday 14 or Tuesday 15 December after school if they have significant concerns. This can be done through the office.

We are also preparing another report for the school and making plans for the coming year. As a staff, we are examining all details about the school using a specific guideline called the National School Improvement Tool. In 2016, all parents will be invited to contribute to the ‘picture’ of the school using this tool. In the meantime, if you have ideas, suggestions or commendations, you are welcome to email me on frances.robertson@cg.catholic.edu.au.

Yours sincerely

Frances Robertson
Principal
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.

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**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES**

(Friday 25 DEC)

**Cooma and Bombala Parishes**

- Adaminaby 5pm Vigil
- Cooma 7 pm Vigil
- Jerangle 8am
- Cooma 9am

**Delegate 5pm Vigil**

- Bombala 7pm Vigil
- Nimm 9 pm Vigil

**Sunday 27 December**

- 4th Sunday of the month
- See 2 priest timetable

**New Year’s Day Masses**

*Please refer to the timetable included in this week’s newsletter.*

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**Coming of Age Ball**

for

*Young women and men of the district aged 17 years to 22 years*

**Sat 9th April 2016**

**Cooma Multifunction Centre**

**Showground**

*Presented by St Patrick’s Catholic Parish*

**Expression of interest by 7 December**

Miesje Blumer 0417 236 441
Darren Steinke 0427 780 284
A Message from the AP

White shirts in Primary

There have been some enquiries about students in K-6 being allowed to wear white shirts. Communication to Kindergarten parents and in school newsletters this year has indicated that we will be gradually transitioning to white shirts across Primary in the coming years.

The main reason for this was that white shirts are usually significantly cheaper than the fawn ones and it provides uniformity across the school K-10. This decision was informed by discussion at School Board level and with 2015 Kindergarten parents.

For 2016, Primary student may still choose to wear fawn shirts, especially if they have been handed down from older siblings. Primary students may also wear white shirts, if parents choose to purchase these instead of the fawn shirts. From Year 2 up to Year 6, it is optional.

Year 9 camp

The response to an expression of interest letter for the Year 9 camp, sent early this term, did not meet our target for minimum student numbers. We have looked to provide an outdoor education activity for those students who did indicate they wanted to go on the camp.

A letter will be given to all Year 9 students this week outlining the possibility of a day at Tathra learning team skills and paddle boarding. Preference will be given to those who indicated they wanted to attend the camp.

"Monaro in Pictures: Why I live in the Monaro Region".

The competition is designed to capture the spirit of the Monaro Region from the people who live here. The goal of the project is to develop a beautiful coffee table book, which will feature 100 of the best photos entered in the competition. The project is an initiative of the Cooma Monaro Shire Council Arts & Cultural Activities Committee.

Please send all entries to monaroinpictures@gmail.com. Each photo needs to be accompanied by a separate entry form. There is no limit to the number of entries submitted, and there is no age limit for contributors.

Please also check out the Facebook page "Monaro in Pictures Book Project".

The closing date for entries is 30 November 2015. The book will be produced in time to be launched at the "Back to Cooma Festival" to be held during Easter 2016. Good luck!

Arts & Cultural Activities Committee Cooma Monaro Shire Council
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 McGufflce 0417 496708 mkmcgufflce@bigpond.com

P&F BBQ Saturday 5 December 2015 – Cooma Races Assistance Reply

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<th>Name/s:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Time/s Available:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday morning for cleaning from 9.30am – 11.00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday -</td>
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<td>8am – 10am, 10am - 12 noon, 12noon – 2pm, 2pm – 4pm, 4pm – 6pm</td>
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<td>Any other time..................</td>
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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 Melinda Barrett 0439 413700, Karen McGufflce 0417 496708 or Marjorie Revelant P&F Catering Coordinator 0418 485 229
An appeal to take action as a result of Laudato Si

In reading the inspiring words of *Laudato Si* there is a call for a response or action. Here are some suggestions:

- Celebrate beauty—take time outside, offer thanks to God for the beauty of all created things.
- Live in the mindset of global community; make a commitment to give concrete assistance to the needs of the poor.
- Slow down; find time for quiet moments of prayer.
- Practice small acts of love; pick up that rubbish, plant a tree, recycle, reduce consumption.
- Read a section of Laudato Si (it is on line)
- Learn of integral ecology; care of self and care of other.
- Pray for peace in our world
- Pray for the success of the Paris Climate Talks

"...how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace."
- Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*, n 10.

*Peace is not the absence of trouble, but the presence of Christ.*

~Sheila Walsh
Kindergarten's garden

Sunflowers grow really tall (Ava)
I drew big stems and really big circles on the page. I did small circles inside and small petals around the outside. I used oil pastels to colour it all in and then I did a yellow paint wash (Daniel)
The flower grows towards the sun (Dara)
Van Gogh painted other sunflowers like these. I like how the background is yellow and bright. (Oscar)
The sunflowers are like little suns but they're flowers. I liked how we got to do the yellow wash all over the page. (Laura)
Soccer 2015

We are still looking for a number of stray Soccer Jerseys from Season 2015.

Thank you to those parents, Coaches and Team Managers who have already returned their Jerseys.

Some of these Jerseys are brand new or only 12 months old and are worth a great deal of money.

Our new sponsors have spent in excess of $800 per set of jerseys - so we would very much like to see them returned.

So that we are not chasing them next year, if you find one or some of these Jerseys please send them back to the St Patrick’s Primary Campus for Jack Buckley (4M) or Annaliese Buckley (3I).

For further information - please contact Simon Buckley on simon_buckley@bigpond.com

Cooma Parish - Two Priest Mass Timetable
Commences 1st Sunday in December

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<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Cooma</th>
<th>Adaminaby</th>
<th>Nimmitabel</th>
<th>Bombala</th>
<th>Delegate</th>
<th>Numeralla</th>
<th>Jerangle</th>
<th>Bredbo</th>
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<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>6pm Vigil</td>
<td>10 am Sunday</td>
<td>10am Sunday</td>
<td>8am Sunday</td>
<td>5/6pm Vigil</td>
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<td>6pm Vigil</td>
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<td>4th</td>
<td>6pm Vigil</td>
<td>10 am Sunday</td>
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Canteen News

Volunteers - Thank you!
Wednesday 25/11, 10am Kelly Gill, 1.15pm Kelly & Marjorie
Thursday 26/11, 10am Jackie Bitar
Friday 27/11, 10am Rebecca Hain
Wednesday 2/12, 10am Grant Pascoe, 1.15pm Howard & Elsa
Thursday 3/12, 10am Sara Souter
Friday 4/12, 10am Rebecca Croke

As the term comes to an end, I will be keeping most things fully stocked right up until the last day of school. If I do run out of anything, I will substitute items as closely as possible. Sushi will be available Wed-Fri in Weeks 8 and 9, but none will be available in Week 10.

Caroline Blyton
Canteen Manager

Eat a Rainbow at St Pat’s!

FRIDAY MEAL DEAL

2 x Slices Rainbow Veggie Pizza + Slinky Apple = $5.00
Rainbow Fruit Salad & Yoghurt = $6.00

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
25 November

Why This International Day?
- Violence against women is a human rights violation
- Violence against women is a consequence of discrimination against women, in law and also in practice, and of persisting inequalities between men and women
- Violence against women impacts on, and impedes, progress in many areas, including poverty eradication, combating HIV/AIDS, and peace and security
- Violence against women and girls is not inevitable. Prevention is possible and essential
- Violence against women continues to be a global pandemic.
- 35% of women and girls globally experience some form of physical and or sexual violence in their lifetime with up to seven in ten women facing this abuse in some countries.
- An estimated 133 million girls and women have experienced some form of female genital mutilation/cutting in the 29 countries in Africa and the Middle East where the harmful practice is most common.
- The costs and consequence of violence against women last for generations.
Helping Children Cope with Traumatic Media Coverage

In light of the recent terrorist attacks across the world, it is often difficult to deal with our emotions and our concerns about the world we live in. For children, traumatic news stories can often make them feel anxious and stressed, and they will look towards the adults in their lives for reassurance.

While it is important to protect children from excessive media coverage, it is often difficult to isolate their knowledge of these events. In many situations conversations are over heard, media coverage may be mistakenly seen or heard, or playground chatter may lead to your child hearing more than you would like.

In many cases children are confused and upset, rather than traumatised. They need a simplified understanding of these issues and an opportunity to ask questions. They also need to feel safe and loved. By speaking with your children about their feelings you can help them to build emotional literacy.

The Australian National University’s Trauma and Grief Network says parents and carers can help young people to cope with media coverage after a disaster by:

• Limiting the amount of disaster-related media coverage children and young people are able to watch
• Being with them when they are seeing or reading stories so you can talk to them about their fears and answer any questions
• Distracting your child from coverage by doing something with them – heading outdoors for a game, playing a game or watching something else on TV
• Reminding them that there are plenty of good things happening, but these often don’t make the news
• Helping them to feel safe, answering any questions they have
• Providing comfort and affection if they are upset


Martin Schoo Basketball Competition
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.