**Lent has begun.** It is a season of great power and richness. Embracing the experience of Lent is one of the most valuable things we can do if we want to embrace the fullness of what it means to be Christian.

I watched the students reverently place a cross of ashes of the foreheads of their peers during various ceremonies at school on Ash Wednesday. Ashes bring home the reality that we are mortal, we will die. But ashes are not the end of the story. Easter tells us that there is not just death and endings. Easter comes to tell us that we are also to remember that we were made in love, in the image of God, and to love we will return.

In the meantime... "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house?" (Isaiah 58:6-7)

How might we do this? I suggest we move beyond chocolate/alcohol to declare our own fast—one that is complimented with a feast.

**Fast from judgment, Feast on compassion**
**Fast from greed, Feast on sharing**
**Fast from scarcity, Feast on abundance**
**Fast from fear, Feast on peace**
**Fast from lies, Feast on truth**
**Fast from gossip, Feast on praise**
**Fast from anxiety, Feast on patience**
**Fast from evil, Feast on kindness**
**Fast from apathy, Feast on engagement**
**Fast from discontent, Feast on gratitude**
**Fast from noise, Feast on silence**
**Fast from discouragement, Feast on hope**
**Fast from hatred, Feast on love**

The pictures speak a thousand words inside this newsletter with the pictorial overview of the **Year 7 camp** and the **Secondary Swimming Carnival**. They were both very well organised events and I’m appreciative of the extra work of Mr Mackay, Ms Trigg and Mrs Stacey (Yr 7 camp organisers) and Ms Wawryzniak (Swimming carnival organiser). The staff also appreciated the provision of a delicious lunch by Mrs Erika Statham. Thank you to Mrs Fletcher and the Food Technology students who prepared the hospitality for the **Welcome to Year 7 families** gathering last Thursday evening. The preparation for Kindergarten Support Evening is also underway and Mrs Summerville and Mrs Davies look forward to seeing Kindergarten parents in the Kindergarten rooms at 5.30 Thursday.

This school is a busy place!

*Frances Robertson*
Principal
In a world where everyone rushes from place to place moment to moment, Lord we pray for our young people to STOP; to take the time to find a place for you in their lives.

Lord, help us to dare to dream with all young people, to open our hearts to their longing, to nourish their minds and to REVIVE their spirit with your love.

Lord, teach us to LIVE. You came that we might have life and have it to the full. Give us the courage to choose to follow you. Help us to claim the fullness of life in the way we live each day.

As the young people of this school prepare for Easter, we pray that their hearts be opened to STOP REVIVE and LIVE.

AMEN
Important points about Student Diaries in the Secondary

Every student has been given a Student Diary and it should be with them in every class every day. It is a means of helping the student be organised and, therefore, ensuring that they have the correct equipment each lesson and that all homework and assessment tasks are completed and handed in on time. It is also the place where reminders about upcoming lessons are noted. In addition, it is the place where community service activities are recorded and there is a section for the recording of assessment due dates.

The Student Diaries are an important means of communication between the teacher and the parent - you can use them to write a quick note to a teacher and vice versa. There is even a tear off absentee section.

As a parent you should sign the diary weekly so you know what is happening in your child’s classes. The Homeroom teacher will also sign the diary weekly as a pastoral check for each student.

I would encourage all parents to take the time to have a look at the diary as there is a great deal of useful information to be found in it.

Pam Fletcher
Secondary Coordinator

Hi Everyone!
Tony and I are making a difference and fundraising for Monaro Committee for Cancer Research Incorporated, a cause that is close to our heart. We have set ourselves a goal to raise $1,000.00 and we need your help with a donation, big or small. Simply click the link below to view our fundraising page and donate.

Please visit our fundraising page now:

All donations to this site are sent directly to Monaro Committee for Cancer Research Incorporated and you’ll get a receipt automatically via email.

Help do even more by 'liking', leaving a 'comment' and 'sharing' our page too.

Every little bit helps to reach our target of $1,000.00. So please dig deep for this great cause and help make a difference.

Thank you for your support.
Tony & Beverley Clarke
Valentine’s Day

At St Patrick’s on Valentine’s Day we celebrate the love of friends and inclusiveness rather than romantic love and, in keeping with this idea, there were a range of activities for students to get involved in last Friday. The student leaders sold flowers that students were able to send to others as a symbol of friendship. The student leaders also had a special activity that was carried out in Homeroom, as they wanted everyone to have a ‘feel good moment’ on Friday. So they cut out heart shaped paper and wrote the name of a student on each heart and in Homeroom students took a heart and wrote a positive message to the person whose name was on the heart. There were many smiling faces as the students left Homeroom that day.

It was also great to see the Year 9 students who organised a picnic lunch and invited the rest of Year 9 to share it with them as their way of celebrating friendship.

CANTEEN NEWS

Mini-canteen: Infants and Primary, second break, Wednesday afternoons. Items will be priced from 50c to $2. A variety of healthy snacks will be on offer each week. A big thanks to the parents who are currently working with me to make this happen!

If your children get regular lunch orders, please consider purchasing one of our reusable lunch order bags. You can find the order form here: http://stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au/srcfiles/Reusable-Lunch-Order-Canteen-Bags-V2.pdf

Canteen volunteers (thank you!) for the next week are:

Thursday 26 Feb, 10am: Elsa Wagner
Friday 27 Feb, 10am: Nancy Bowerman
Wednesday 4 March, 10am: Kelly Gill
Wednesday 4 March, 1pm: Kelly Gill & Marjorie Revelant
Thursday 5 March, 10am: Denise Menshic
Friday 6 March, 10am: Rebecca Croke

This Friday the meal deal will be: Bacon & Egg Roll + Drink (please choose from price list) for $6.

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

Caroline Blyton
Canteen Manager

Herbs and Plant Enthusiasts!

Towards the end summer and autumn is the perfect time to start propagating those lovely garden and herb plants for the following spring season on the Monaro. This year we have a colour theme for our Bazaar Fair of Green and Gold including distinct colours of even variegated variations of green foliage.

If you have old terracotta or ceramic pots that you are giving away or giving to Vinnies or Salvos, please think about donating these to our Bazaar Fair.
SWIMMING CARNIVAL

On Friday 20 February, we held our annual swimming carnival. It was a perfect day. A big CONGRATULATIONS to all students who attended on the day. Your outstanding participation in all events and great House spirit, particularly in the salmon relay is to be commended. I would also like to congratulate some students for their enthusiasm and courage which was displayed in the water. Some students were not strong swimmers but they persevered despite the odds. They tried hard, knowing in some cases that they were going to come last, yet they still gave it their best effort.

The Blue Ribbon Event was held again this year. This 50M Freestyle event is based on the six fastest times from all age groups for both boys and girls. Our winners for 2015 were Maai Johnson and Lachlan Marks—CONGRATULATIONS!!

A special thank you to our House captains for their efforts with war cries, of which Terra emerged the winner. Also for their efforts throughout the carnival- encouraging participation in events, fostering House spirit and cleaning up at the end of the day.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the wonderful parents who assisted on the day to act as officials and the staff whose collective efforts contributed to the success of the carnival. Without your support, the carnival would not have run efficiently. A special thank you to Erika Statham for organising and providing staff and parent helpers with lunch on the day.

FINAL POINTSCORE

1st Terra          1111 points
2nd Caelum        834 points
3rd Ignis          684 points
4th Aqua           604 points

AGE CHAMPIONS FOR 2015

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>12 yrs</th>
<th>13 yrs</th>
<th>14 yrs</th>
<th>15 yrs</th>
<th>16 yrs</th>
<th>17 yrs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anissa Porter</td>
<td>Amber Martin-Smith</td>
<td>Miranda McGufficke</td>
<td>Jasmin Statham-Smith</td>
<td>Maai Johnson</td>
<td>Tim Sixt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Troy Rees</td>
<td>Hugo Steiner</td>
<td>Andrew Pearce</td>
<td>Lachlan Marks</td>
<td>Carson Barrett</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RECORDS BROKEN

A number of records were broken on the day. Congratulations to the following students:

MIXED EVENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>TIME 2015</th>
<th>PREVIOUS RECORD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15/16yrs Senior Mixed Relay</td>
<td>Terra</td>
<td>1.03.85</td>
<td>Nil: New event</td>
</tr>
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</table>
## GIRLS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>TIME 2015</th>
<th>PREVIOUS RECORD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16yrs 100m Freestyle</td>
<td>Maai Johnson</td>
<td>1.12.37</td>
<td>1.19.18 (2013)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16yrs 50m Freestyle</td>
<td>Maai Johnson</td>
<td>31.99</td>
<td>32.22 (2003)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16yrs 50m Backstroke</td>
<td>Maai Johnson</td>
<td>36.30</td>
<td>37.98 (2007)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16yrs 50m Butterfly</td>
<td>Maai Johnson</td>
<td>35.80</td>
<td>38.77 (2007)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snr Girls 100m Backstroke</td>
<td>Maai Johnson</td>
<td>1.21.23</td>
<td>1.24.49 (2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Blue Ribbon</td>
<td>Maai Johnson</td>
<td>32.04</td>
<td>33.40 (2013)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16yrs 25m Backstroke</td>
<td>Meg Pearce</td>
<td>20.82</td>
<td>23.82 (2013)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14yrs 25m Freestyle</td>
<td>Chloe Bottom</td>
<td>20.91</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13yrs 25m Breastroke</td>
<td>Emmilee Reid</td>
<td>26.71</td>
<td>28.32 (2013)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13yrs 25m Backstroke</td>
<td>Emmilee Reid</td>
<td>24.69</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
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</table>

## BOYS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>TIME 2015</th>
<th>PREVIOUS RECORD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boys Blue Ribbon</td>
<td>Lachlan Marks</td>
<td>31.77</td>
<td>32.82 (2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16yrs 25m Freestyle</td>
<td>Kealan Battye</td>
<td>15.98</td>
<td>17.95 (2013)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16yrs 25m Breastroke</td>
<td>Kealan Battye</td>
<td>32.75</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15yrs 25m Breastroke</td>
<td>Matthew Chelin</td>
<td>26.00</td>
<td>27.66 (2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15yrs 25m Backstroke</td>
<td>Matthew Chelin</td>
<td>20.56</td>
<td>21.97 (2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14yrs 25m Freestyle</td>
<td>Darnel Bartlett</td>
<td>17.74</td>
<td>18.27 (2013)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14yrs 25m Breastroke</td>
<td>Bailey Harriden</td>
<td>24.93</td>
<td>25.51 (2013)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12yrs 25m Breastroke</td>
<td>William Lehrmann</td>
<td>30.47</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12yrs 25m Freestyle</td>
<td>William Lehrmann</td>
<td>21.59</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ms T Wawrzyniak
(Carnival Organiser)
Lent is a time of renewal for the whole Church, a “time of grace.” God is not aloof from us. Each one of us has a place in his heart. God knows us and calls us by name.

Usually, when we are healthy and comfortable, we forget about others. Today, this selfish attitude of indifference has taken on global proportions, to the extent that we can speak of a globalization of indifference. It is a problem which we, as Christians, need to confront.

We need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience. In Scripture we hear: “If one member suffers, all suffer together.” Lent is a favourable time for letting Christ serve us so that we in turn may become more like him. Allowing Jesus to “wash our feet,” is a symbol of allowing God to serve us through the sacraments.

From being served by Jesus every Christian and Christian community is called to go out and serve and to be engaged in the life of the greater society of which it is a part, especially with the poor, those who are close and those who are far away. In each of our neighbours, we must see a brother or sister for whom Christ died and rose again. **We must serve those close to us.**

Pope Francis says, **“may our communities become islands of mercy in the midst of the sea of indifference!”**

In Scripture we also hear: “Make your hearts firm!” As individuals, we are tempted by indifference. Flooded with news reports and troubling images of human suffering, we often feel our complete inability to help. So what else can we do? We can pray, uniting our voice with the voices of the whole Christian Community. Let us not underestimate the power of many voices united in prayer. If we humbly implore God’s grace and accept our own limitations, we will trust in the infinite possibilities which God’s love holds out to us.

A merciful heart does not mean a weak heart. Anyone who wishes to be merciful must have a strong and steadfast heart, open to God. During this Lent, then, brothers and sisters, let us pray “Make our hearts like yours. In this way we will receive a heart which is firm and merciful, attentive and generous, a heart which is not closed, indifferent or prey to the globalization of indifference.
Bazaar Fair 2015

Stop! Message for Book Worms

Whether you play board games or are just an avid book worm who loves books....

STOP!

A message to all Book Worms; we need plenty of books and board games to sell at our Bazaar Fair 2015 on Saturday, 7 November 2015. What you may see as old or now unloved trash is another person’s treasure.

You may contact Rebecca Hain 0414 709301 or Catherine Pearce 0423 310829
Alternatively, take those books to the Primary Campus and give them to Mrs Giovanna Davies.

Regional and local Swimming fun!
Year 7 Camp at Tathra
It’s Cooma Showtime Again!

Saturday 14 March 2015

St Patrick’s Parish School P&F will be doing the catering for this event.

A BBQ & LUNCHEON WILL BE OFFERED ON THE DAY

We need lots of helpers to assist with cleaning and transporting BBQ and goods on Friday morning and then on Saturday for set up, preparation cooking the BBQ and serving luncheon in the pavilion.

Help is required from 8.00am until finish around 6.00pm. The busiest time is between 1.00 and 4.00 pm, so if you can spare a couple of hours during this time, it would be very much appreciated!

We also require donations of cakes, scones & slices – please leave at school office BEFORE 3.00 pm on the Friday or bring to showground on Saturday morning

Please return the section below to the school office indicating times you can assist no later than Thursday 5 March

or you can advise

Tammy Byrne 0428 645 323 or tammybyrne320@gmail.com

P&F BBQ & Luncheon Saturday 14 March 2015 – Cooma Show Assistance Reply

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name/s:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time/s available:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please tick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday morning for cleaning from 9.00am-11.00am □</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8am–10am □ 10am-12 noon □ 12noon–2pm □ 2pm–4pm □ 4pm–6pm □</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any other time___________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Number:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email Address:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you for offering your time and assistance for this fundraising event. If you have any questions please contact Karen McGufficke 0417 496708, Tammy Byrne 0428 645 323 or Marjorie Revelant P&F Catering Coordinator 0418 485 229.