Dear Parents, Staff and Students

Welcome to the 2012 school year!

Reflecting on my own school days it was usually always a countdown with trepidation as the end of the school holidays got closer; however, that was certainly not the case over the last couple of days as I spoke to many of our students on their return for 2012. For many there was genuine joy in catching up with friends or anticipating the excitement of new classes and teachers. The transition to high school for our 48 Year Seven students went very smoothly on Monday and we hope that their positive start and enthusiasm are maintained. Across the school we welcome 46 new students (and their families), including the new Kinder students who started with a great sense of anticipation and excitement today. Schools certainly are dynamic places to be a part of and 2012 promises to deliver on countless opportunities for your children to reach their potential!

As I’m sure you can appreciate, the start of the school year just doesn’t happen without a lot of planning and work over the ‘holidays’. My thanks go to all the teaching, office and support staff who seemed to appear all too often at school during January to ensure this week’s smooth start.

New faces on staff for 2012

With any new school year there are changes within the school community. Our congratulations go to Stephanie Lovat on her appointment during the school holidays as the Acting Assistant Principal at St Benedict’s, Narrabundah. We wish her all the best and thank her for her significant contribution to St Patrick’s over the last 6 years. Stephanie’s roles of K-10 Coordinator and Learning Support/Reading Recovery teacher are currently being advertised. A very warm welcome is extended to our new staff members this year: Tina Wawrzyniak brings a wealth of experience to her Secondary PDHPE position, Rashida Nuridin’s widely acknowledged artistic talents will be fully utilised in Secondary Visual Arts and we welcome Lillian Everitt who brings extraordinary skills to the teaching of Technics and Technology in Secondary. A warm welcome back also to Emma Hill as she takes the Kinder class each Friday.

Directions for 2012

Every 5 years non-government schools are required to undergo a detailed review of all aspects of the running of the school in a process called Registration. Our registration review is taking place from 15 – 17 October and this will necessitate a focus on all aspects of our Catholicity, teaching and learning, maintenance and facilities, OH&S and so on. During the year we will be refining documentation and conducting our own appraisal of procedures and practices that are already in place in preparation for registration.

Our Religious Education program is being enriched in this ‘Year of Grace’ in the upper Primary and lower Secondary classes through the ‘Make Jesus Real’ initiative. It is a dynamic and practical approach to reinvigorating the central place of Jesus in all aspects of our lives.

We are also developing a master plan for the refurbishment of the Secondary Campus in conjunction with the CEO Planning and Facilities section. Architects and surveyors have already been busy at work over the holidays and this year we will be focusing on planning the most beneficial way of developing the campus in the very near future.

2012 will see the school involved in an Archdiocesan initiative called LIFE or ‘connected learning communities’. All 56 schools in the Canberra-Goulburn Archdiocese will have a web-based portal which will allow communication between staff, students and parents and is aimed at enhancing contemporary teaching and learning using the latest, most affordable technology.

Literacy and numeracy are always key focus areas and staff will be continuing professional development to ensure best practice in the classroom. The Accelerated Reader program continues and we will be involved in the Spellodrome program in response to our 2011 NAPLAN analysis.

This is only part of what’s ahead for our school community in 2012 so let’s look forward with great anticipation to another exciting and productive school year.

I would ask that you continue to pray for members of our school community who are unwell at the moment.

Phil Stubbs
Principal

Website: www.stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au Email: office@stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au Phone: 6452 1721
This term the K-6 campus’ will be trialling a new playground roster. The new lunch hour is at an earlier time from 11:00 to 11:40 am and the afternoon recess break is from 1.20 to 2:00 pm.

What are the benefits of an early lunch and late recess?

- It avoids the hottest part of the day for children to be in the playground.
- It now supports our Sun Protection Policy.
- It helps the nutritional needs of students who may “skimp” on breakfast.
- It can improve concentration levels during their core learning time.
- There are a higher proportion of lunches being eaten.
- Packed lunches are fresher and thus more palatable.
- There is usually less wastage of food
- There can be a reduction in consumption of low-nutrition, high-sugar snack foods at peak hunger times.
- There is an increase in classroom concentration as most lunches contain low GI foods.
- The playground can be more settled with less behaviour problems.
- Younger students will now have plenty of time to eat their recess and to have time to play and interact on the playground.

Students will also be given the opportunity to have a healthy snack at 10:00am. Only items that do not make a mess will be allowed as students will be eating their foods at their table while working. Items that will be allowed are apples, carrots and celery. These items can also be pre-cut and packed into small containers or sealed packs.

In Week 2 the canteen will follow this schedule. Students will be asked to place their lunch orders in the canteen containers each morning before the 9:00am bell. At the end of each morning assembly, the students will be reminded to put their lunch orders into the canteen containers. Any late lunch orders will be collected at 9:30am.

This practise will be reviewed at the end of the Term 1.

Steven Joyce
K-6 Coordinator
We’ve found our archives!
An amazing transformation took place over the holidays, deep in the dungeons of the convent building. For decades our school records and archives have been stored in boxes, folders and bookcases and as you can imagine a school that has been in operation since the 1880’s would have an enormous amount of printed material and records. A company from Sydney was engaged over the holidays to provide a state of the art storage system, to catalogue all our mandatory records and set up an online database that will serve the school for at least the next 50 years. The system allows us to also store historical records of the school in one central location, a fact that delighted our School Archivist, Marg Hassall, when she came across an enrolment register from the 1920’s. The funding for this critical piece of infrastructure came through the School Building Fund, a vital source of financial support for the school. As you can see from the photos, 2 of our office ladies, Bev and Deb, are delighted to have a new storage and archive system that actually works.

Before …

… After!!!
WHAT'S ON

Thursday 2 February
Primary Swimming Carnival

Thursday 9 February
Year 7 Parish Mass

Monday 13 February
Archdiocesan Tennis Young

Wednesday 15 February
K-6 and family School Photos
Secondary Long Distance Swimming Carnival

Thursday 16 February
K-6 Southern Region Swimming Carnival Narooma
Secondary School Photos
Year 8 Parish Mass

Friday 17 February
Secondary Swimming Carnival

Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 February
Dragon Boat Festival

Monday 20 February
Archdiocesan Golf Batehaven

Tuesday 21 February
Shrove (pancake) Tuesday

Wednesday 22 February
Ash Wednesday (Years 3-10)
K-6 Life Education

Thursday 23 February
K-6 Life Education
Secondary Archdiocesan Swimming Yass

Friday 24 February
K-6 Life Education

Monday 27 February
K-6 Parent Teacher Interviews
Year 8 Camp

Tuesday 28 February
K-6 Parent Teacher Interviews
Year 8 Camp

Wednesday 29 February
K-6 Parent Teacher Interviews

Thursday 1 March
K-6 Parent Teacher Interviews

Friday 2 March
K-6 Parent Teacher Interviews
7-10 Brumbies Gala Day

Canteen News

The following items will only be available on special canteen days:
- Sweet Chilli Chips
- Gummie Rings
- Black Licorice
- Smartie Cookies
- Sour Straps

I am in the process of making up the roster for this term and hope my amazing helpers from last year are available again. If you are not, can you please let me know ASAP. If you have any questions or would like to offer a couple of hours of your time, please contact me in the canteen.

Thank you and I look forward to another fantastic year!

Carolyn Hely
Canteen Manager

Around Town

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: 23 – 25 March at St. Mary's Retreat Centre, Douglas Park, NSW. Bookings: Ardell & Bill Sharpe phone 02 4283 3435 or wsherpe@bigpond.net.au or visit website www.wwme.org.au.

Guide Dog Fundraiser was a great success—Thanks to you!

A big thank you to all who supported us with products, donations, advertising and their time to make the Cooma Pet Shop & East End Café Guide Dogs Fundraiser held on 26 November 2011—a memorable event— without you this wouldn’t have happened.

We are very proud to be handing over a cheque for $2200 to guide dogs.

(Alan, Di, Happy Joe Lucky & Sandra)
Recipe Request

St Patrick’s Parish School, Cooma is proud to announce that we are in the process of producing a beautiful cookbook called “Nourish” to be published in 2012.

We need YOUR help by submitting your favourite recipe or two. We would like as many families as possible to participate - any recipe that is special to you, feel free to contribute (even a family secret recipe - we won’t tell!!!). Some suggested categories are: Soups, Brunch/Lunch, Dinners, Sweet Treats (Desserts or Baked Goods), Kids in the Kitchen.

All we ask is that you tell us where the recipe originated (eg Jamie Oliver). We would love you to add a comment, tip or variation to your recipe. Please remember we will only have room for approximately 110 recipes, so we will have to choose the recipes that best reflect the cookbook as a whole.

We would appreciate your recipe emailed to stpatsrecipes@gmail.com titled COOKBOOK RECIPE or alternatively, go to our online recipe request form.


It would be really helpful if you could type up a WORD document and send as an attachment. However we are happy to take recipes any way you want to send them. If it is a hard copy, please place in an envelope addressed to the School Office marked COOKBOOK RECIPE. We would appreciate any contact details so we can check any information where necessary, and don’t forget to add your family details so we can credit your family at the bottom of the recipe!

Please ensure that all recipes are submitted no later than 2nd March 2012 (sorry this is the absolute last day), so hurry so you don’t miss out.

If you have any queries, please contact Erika Statham on 0466 015 600.

I hereby give permission for St Patrick’s Parish School, Cooma to publish my recipe:

Names(s) ____________________________________________

Email: ______________________________________________

Signed: ____________________________________________

Date: _______________ Phone: _______________________

A world of recipes sponsored by: the insurer that offers a world of protection.