Dear Parents, Staff and Students

Welcome back to Term 2

Hopefully the holiday break brought the opportunity for some rest and recuperation as well as some quality family time for everyone. Term 2 is lining up as yet again a busy one with lots of opportunities for our students to involve themselves both inside and outside the classroom. Highlights of the term include the sacrament of Confirmation next month, the NAPLAN tests, the Year 10 Sydney Excursion and a host of academic, cultural and sporting experiences in the next 9 weeks.

ANZAC Commemoration Services

The spirit which is so much a part of our school was so evident in the ANZAC commemorations in Cooma and Berridale during the second week of the school holidays. More than 60 students and many staff gave up their holiday time to march in celebration of the ANZAC spirit and we can feel very proud of their involvement. Particular thanks must go to our Primary and Secondary Executive, with special mention of our School Captains Sam Patrick’s and Louise Fletcher who delivered the ANZAC address at the Ex-Services Club to a packed audience in the functions room.

The high regard in which ANZAC marches are held was clearly apparent in Sydney when I participated in the main Sydney march along with more than 400 members of my old military unit, the largest contingent in the cavalcade. The thousands of supporters waving flags, cheering, clapping and holding up ‘thank you’ signs made for a very emotional and unforgettable experience for the many hundreds of march participants.

Today our ANZAC liturgy acknowledged the legacy of all of those Australians who gave so much and continue to give in support of the freedoms we sometimes take for granted in our society.

Year 10 visit to MacKillop College in Canberra

Next Tuesday our Year 10 students will be visiting MacKillop College in Canberra for the day to participate in a program focusing on the transition skills required for senior studies and which will also outline the expectations of tertiary institutions such as CIT, ANU, University of Canberra and the Australian Catholic University. It is never too early to start planning for the next stage of a student’s life and the day at MacKillop will provide an invaluable experience.

For those students attending the school in Year 11 next year it will also provide the chance to explore the senior campus, meet some of the Year 11, 2014 students and sit in on some senior classes.

Parents who are considering MacKillop College as the Catholic pathway for their child in Year 11, 2014 are reminded of the information night to be held at the Isabella Plains senior campus in Ellerston Avenue at 6 pm on the 15th May.

Staff changes

We pass on our best wishes to Mrs Lillian Everitt who is moving on to Canberra this term and we thank her most sincerely for her enthusiastic contribution to the Technology and Applied Studies area on the secondary campus. Notice of a replacement teacher will be made to the school community as soon as practicable.

Our Learning Support teacher, Mrs Melinda Barrett, is expanding her involvement in the numeracy intervention program and we welcome her increased presence in the school.

Our tireless cleaner in Primary and Secondary, Mrs Vanessa Winn, will soon be moving to a warmer climate and we wish her all the best and thank her for the energetic efficiency with which she carries out this essential role.

News update

Good luck to our Harry Nichols Shield footballers this Friday and all participants in the Secondary Athletics Carnival tomorrow.

Good luck to our debaters and Archdiocesan tennis reps next Monday.

Don’t forget the St Vincent de Paul Anniversary this Sunday at 10am mass.

Phil Stubbs
Principal
On Wednesday 9 April Stage 3 went on an excursion to Canberra. We went to the Indonesian Embassy and the National Australian Museum. When we got to the Indonesian Embassy we had recess and then we sat in two groups, bus 1 and bus 2. These were our activity groups for the Embassy. I was in bus 1. First we did Indonesian dancing, it was a lot of fun!!! We were taught a dance by a man called Gede. We went through it a few times and then we were split into two groups and performed it for each other! Later we went to a shadow puppet show. It was really funny! I learnt that the evil characters wear red and have pointy features. After the puppet show we saw some amazing Indonesian instruments. They were called a Gamalan orchestra and had an amazing sound!

Written By Sarah Connolly

After the Indonesian Embassy visit we went to the Australian National Museum. We went off and explored the museum. Some of the cool things were ‘k-zone’, where you designed a car or building of the future. Our designs then featured in a film that we watched with 3D glasses. Another cool thing was Phar Lap’s heart and a revolving movie cinema. We then got back on the bus and arrived in Cooma at about 4.45pm. I had a lot of fun at the Museum and the Embassy.

Written by Andrew Pearce

A moving ANZAC ceremony was held in Berridale on a beautiful autumn day with St Patrick’s represented by 9 students - Harriet Greville, Luke Fely, Tom Robertson, Declan Gregory, Josh McConkey, James Cahill, Tim Gregory, Matthew Robinson and Josh Thrum. Matthew and Josh Thrum laid the wreath and Harriet laid a bouquet from her family garden.

Congratulations to all students involved and thank you for the parental support for this important community event.

National Walk Safely to School Day 2013
On Friday 24 May we will be participating in National Walk Safely to School Day. We would like to encourage as many parents, carers and their children to walk to school on this day.

An alternative for those who need to drive their child to school will be to meet at Centennial Park anywhere between 8:30am – 8:45am. Along with parents, carers and teachers, the children will walk to school together. If you cannot walk with your child, feel free to drop them off and they will walk with our school group. We will begin the walk to school at 8:50am.

Please go to the following website or YouTube link:
www.walk.com.au

Steven Joyce
K-6 Coordinator

ICAS SCIENCE COMPETITION for Students in Years 3-10
The ICAS Science Competition is the annual competition which was previously known as the Science Quiz run by the University of NSW.

This competition is a nation-wide, multiple choice, 60 minute test which will be held in class time, at St Patricks later in Term Two. However, entries and the $8.00 entry fee are due at the end of the first week of Term Two. All Year 7 students will be taking part and will be sponsored by St Patricks.

Any students in Years 3-6 or Years 8-10 who are interested in taking part need to collect a permission note for their parents, from the school office or their Science teacher. The competition is now based upon the NSW Science syllabus for students at each particular year group. Tests such as these provide students with experience in handling exam conditions.
In the last week of Term 1 we had our Easter hat parade. The spirit of the parade and the designs of Easter hats were outstanding. The SRC ran an Easter egg raffle, with three baskets choc full of Easter eggs. Thanks to everyone who bought tickets. We raised about $320 dollars. We will be using this money to help with prizes for our Photo competition later in the year. Congratulations to our winners 1\textsuperscript{st} – Ben Smith 2\textsuperscript{nd} - Spencer Walker-Broose 3\textsuperscript{rd} Isadora Barsoum.

**SRC Easter Raffle**

Thank you to everyone who made a contribution to the care packages for our deployed troops! Your contributions will remind the soldiers of home. We collected approximately 70 items (including 17 ‘Courage cards’). That’s more than double last year’s contributions. Anne Devereux, who took the contributions back to the Department of Defence, said ‘Seeing all the items brought a buzz to the office!’ The Department packaged the items and sent them off to our troops within time for ANZAC Day.

**Application for Exemption from Attendance at School**

Under the requirements of the Education Act, parents/guardians are required to apply for exemption from attendance at school in advance of any anticipated absence of their child/ward. The period of exemption will vary according to the circumstances and the exemptions are approved by the Principal. If you wish to apply for exemption from attendance at school for a period of time for your child, application forms are available from the office.

This year is the 200\textsuperscript{th} Anniversary of the birth of Frederick Ozanam the founder of the St Vincent de Paul Society. The St Vincent de Paul conference in Cooma would like to invite all families from St Patrick’s Parish School to celebrate Mass with us next Sunday, 5 May, at 10.00 am. After Mass there will be a morning tea in the Parish Centre to remember Frederick and to celebrate the great works of the Society.

**St Vincent de Paul**

The annual Mother’s Day gift stall will be held on Friday, 10th May in the Primary Library. Students are asked to donate a small gift which will in turn be available for sale for students to buy.

We ask that gifts are wrapped in clear cellophane so that children shopping can see what they are buying. Can all gifts please be given to class teachers by Monday 6th May.

On Friday 10th May every child will have the opportunity to shop at the stall for their mother/carer. All gifts will be available for purchase and priced between $2.00 & $5.00. Funds raised go to St Patrick’s P&F.

Suggestions for gifts include a coffee mug filled with sweets, bath products, nice soap & face washer, lavender bags, pretty plate/bowl, chocolates, magazines, hand cream, etc...

For enquiries or if you are able to help with the stall please contact Kylie Dough at kdough@bigpond.net.au or 0412 666 646 or Natalie Reid on mws@schutebell.com or 0412 910 152. Thank you.

**P&F NEWS**

Don’t forget the Mothers’ Day Stall on Friday 10 May. Please see the separate article for gift suggestions.

The P & F Executive Committee - details if you have any issues please feel free to contact us on:

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<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
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WHAT'S ON

Thursday 2 May
7 - 10 Athletics Carnival

Friday 3 May
Harry Nichols shield

Monday 6 May
7 - 10 Archdiocesan tennis
Debating round 4

Tuesday 7 May
Year 10 Senior/Tertiary transition seminar at MacKillop College

Wednesday 8 May
K - 6 Southern region cross country

Thursday 9 May
Year 8 Parish Mass
K - 6 Athletics carnival

Friday 10 May
K - 6 Brumbies visit
U16 Archdiocesan rugby trials
K - 6 Grandparents and Friends day
Mothers Day stall 10am

Monday 13 May
Debating round 5

Tuesday 14 May
NAPLAN (Language and writing)

Wednesday 15 May
NAPLAN (Reading)

Thursday 16 May
NAPLAN (Numeracy)
P & F Meeting 5pm

Friday 17 May
Interschool's Gymkhana

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

Canteen News
Volunteers
Thursday 2 May
Rebecca Hain, Catherine Pearce and Tania Thornton
(Secondary Athletics - please be at Snowy Oval by 10.00 am. Thank you so much!)
HELP URGENTLY NEEDED TO COOK BBQ AT SNOWY OVAL TOMORROW FOR SECONDARY ATHLETICS, FROM 10am, PLEASE!

Friday 3 May
NO MEAL DEAL THIS WEEK, SORRY!
MINI CANTEEN WILL START AGAIN NEXT WEEK.
If you are able to help in the canteen, if only for 1 hour, I would be very grateful. Please contact me through the school or on my mobile 0406763375. Thank you for your continued support.
Carolyn Hely
Canteen Manager

Around Town

* Do you help care for a Relative or Friend: Are you a Young Carer? Young Carers are children and young people who help provide care for someone who has a chronic illness, disability, mental illness, is frail aged, or has an alcohol or drug problem. Young Carers usually have more responsibilities than their friends - sometimes a lot more. A caring role can put young people at risk of not completing their studies or it may impact on their ability to participate in school or social activities. We can provide a range of support to help Young Carers to complete their schooling, hang out with friends or to simply take the pressure off. These include taking a break from the caring role (respite), time off to study for exams or catch up on schoolwork, tutoring, social support, equipment, transport and help in the home. For a confidential chat please call the Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centre, on Freecall 1800 052 222. Forms and further information are also available from Kevin Dunne (Student Welfare Officer) at school.

* Mother’s Day Jazz Train: Saturday 11 May 6pm departure. Sunday 12 May 11am departure. Cooma Monaro Railway - Travel in style to Chakola Hall on a Heritage Rail Motor. Enjoy live music with Jazz singer Amy Horneman & Jazz pianist mark Bolsius and a 3 course meal. Limited seats available, BOOK NOW at the Cooma Visitors Centre 64551742. Cost $45 per adult & $35 per child (15 yrs & under) $90 per family (2 adults & 2 children).

Support the school with some new shoes!

By purchasing a pair of shoes or runners at any Athlete’s Foot store in Canberra you will be generating a donation for our school. Each pair of shoes or runners purchased (for children or parents) will gain a $5 donation to the school and contribute towards Athlete’s Foot gift vouchers which are distributed to families in the school community. Just mention the name of the school at the time of purchase.