Dear Parents, Staff and Students

Reconciliation begins
Last night saw the commencement of preparation for the sacrament of Reconciliation by quite a number of our Primary students in our church. The sacramental program began with emphasising the role of the whole family in modelling the behaviours that celebrate the presence of God in our lives, through family prayer, tolerance, respect and forgiveness. We wish the candidates well in this initial stage of their own faith journey.

NAPIDOC/Goulburn Strike 50th Anniversary Mass
It was a privilege for our Religious Education Coordinator, Paul Mackay, and I to accompany 18 students to this celebratory Mass in the Cathedral at Goulburn last Friday. There were more than 700 students present from every school in the Archdiocese; they participated in the Mass led by Archbishop Francis Carroll, who retired 6 years ago, and it was a totally uplifting experience. Archbishop Francis gave a thought-provoking homily that drew parallels between the struggle for recognition over many years by our indigenous people and the challenges of the 1962 ‘Goulburn Strike’ where local families took unprecedented action to secure educational funding justice.

It was a great credit to our students when I received compliments from 2 other Archdiocesan principals about how impressed they were with our students with their reverence and appearance. Well done!

Outstanding success!!
Congratulations are in order for our Year 8 debaters who, on Monday night, won their way into the final of the ACT Debating Union Competition by defeating Canberra Girls’ Grammar. The team comprised Molly Barrett, Annika Rooney, Caitlin Galwey Patrick Herbert and researcher Olivia Knott; the panel of 5 adjudicators awarded St Patrick’s the debate 4-1 and this is just reward for the many hours spent at lunchtimes in preparation under the direction of their coach Sue Stubbs. To get to this level in a competition with 58 teams, many of which have significantly greater resources on hand, is testament to the ability and commitment of students at our school. Again our thanks must go to the loyal band of parents who support the team so wholeheartedly.

Another group that has sacrificed many lunchtimes in preparation is our Year 10 Mock Trial team who were coming equal third in the ACT/South Coast region and they were looking forward to the final round of competition when their opponents forfeited at the last moment as we were preparing to travel to the Canberra Magistrate’s Court yesterday.

Opportunities such as these develop competencies and confidence in many different ways and I would encourage all students to get involved wherever they can in extra-curricular activities.

Peter Rabbit a HIT!
It was hard to determine who was more excited when the K-2 students arrived back from seeing the stage play of “Peter Rabbit” in Canberra yesterday – the students, parents or staff members! It was apparently a resounding success and followed an exciting visit to Weston Park to expend some energy in a very creative playground before the play. It was also great to have some students from St Joseph’s, Bombala, join us on the excursion. Thank you to Katarina Ivancic for her thorough organization of the excursion and to the accompanying staff members who ensured the day’s success.

Ski Programs in full swing
Some weary students have been stumbling off the buses in the past week at the completion of their various ski-days. The comments have been very positive about student participation, cooperation and enthusiasm and again thank you to those involved in organising, coordinating and supporting the programs.

Well done to our Rugby League footballers
Gaining second place against some very formidable opposition teams in the Small Schools Rugby League tournament at Boorowa last Wednesday reflected the sustained and commendable effort put in by our Secondary football teams on the day. Well done to all involved!

Particular prayers and thoughts
I would ask that the whole school community keeps Melinda Barrett and her family in their prayers as she undergoes medical treatment at the moment. Melinda is likely to be absent for the remainder of the term and her well-being is uppermost in our minds and hearts at this time. We are currently exploring staffing arrangements during her absence and parents will be informed accordingly of measures in place.

Phil Stubbs
Principal

A group of our students at the NAI-DOC/Goulburn Strike Anniversary Mass at Sts Peter and Paul Cathedral at Goulburn last Friday.
Teachers have to teach a syllabus that is produced by the NSW Board of Studies. A syllabus outlines what is expected to be taught, how it could be taught and how teachers can assess student learning.

Part of the compliance aspect of school registration is for each teacher to show that what the students are learning in class is consistent with a NSW Board of Studies syllabus. Teachers demonstrate this through their teaching programs, student work samples, assessment handbooks, assessment tasks and timetables. The timetable shows that the required amount of time is spent each year on each subject. Student work samples demonstrate to the registration panel the correlation between teaching programs (what a teacher says they are teaching) and what is actually happening in class. Assessment tasks and handbooks provide the panel with evidence of the variety of ways students can display their understanding and give some validity to how staff allocate A-E grades for a subject.

Once again because we are constantly reviewing and engaging in dialogue with each other about our teaching programs and assessment tasks, staff are well prepared for this aspect of registration. For example we have a peer checking system for our teaching programs. Peer checking serves to ensure teaching programs meet requirements, but also provides us with an insight into how other teachers and subject areas organise their learning activities and assess students. We also seek professional development on pedagogy (learning about learning), which the CEO encourages and often facilitates.

Thank you
Mark van Ommen
Assistant Principal

Ms Suzanne Hill from the Cooma Visitors Centre, explaining to the Year 8 Geography students the instruments in the Stevenson Screen used to take weather measurements for Cooma for the Bureau of Meteorology.
2P Assembly
This Friday 3 August at the Cooma Ex-Services Club commencing at 12.00 pm. Everyone welcome!

P & F MEETING
2pm tomorrow (Thursday) in the Primary Staffroom

Chook Lotto
Infants:
• Jack Buckley 1P – for walking well in lines
• Matilda Joyce 10 – for good listening
• Kyle Ilitch KG – for great listening

Well done children!

The Blossoming Basils gardening group with Cooma Toyota representative, Angie Crawford, in their stunning new gardening outfits. The trees were donated by Cooma-Monaro Shire Council.

Tips on how to protect children online
• Talk to your child about potential online danger.
• Spend time with your children online; find out what sites they visit and who they are talking to.
• Keep the computer in a common room in the house. It should never be in a child’s bedroom.
• Install and use parental controls and blocking software to reduce access to potentially dangerous sites or areas of the internet.
• Make sure you have access to your child’s online account and occasionally check their emails.
• Think of all the places your child can access online services and as far as possible find out what computer safeguards are used by your child’s school, the public library, and at the homes of your child’s friends.
• Talk to the parents of your children’s friends so you are all aware of the potential dangers of online chatting and can watch out for each other’s children when they are visiting.
• If your child is approached by someone it is important to remember that they are the victim and were not mature enough to handle the situation.
• Keep a close eye on your child’s access to all types of live electronic communications (i.e., chat rooms, instant messages, Internet Relay Chat, etc.).
• Tell young people
  o Never ever arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone they have talked to online.
  o Never ever post pictures of themselves onto the Internet or send them to someone they do not personally know.
  o Never ever give out identifying information such as their name, home address, school name, or telephone number.

Watch out for signs of online risk
Is your child spending long hours online, especially at night or do they change the screen as soon as you come into the room?
Does your child get calls from ‘friends’ that you don’t know, or do they make long distance calls to numbers you don’t recognise?
Has your child received a gift or package through the mail from someone you don’t know?
Has your child become withdrawn from the family and their usual circle of friends?

Nourish
We are expecting Nourish to arrive within the next four weeks. Notification of pickup and delivery for pre-orders will be advertised in the School Newsletter. If you missed our ‘Early Bird Special’, you can download the order form from the school website: http://stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au/parents/pfformsandnotes.html Nourish retails for $30 per book. Completed order forms and payment can be left at the School Office. Stay tuned for information on our Book Launch and Guest Speaker together with events occurring during the day for our Primary and Secondary Food Technology students.

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

Secondary Ski day at Perisher

We’re all excited about seeing Peter Rabbit and the black swan wants to join us!
**WHAT'S ON**

**Wednesday 1 August**
Secondary Parent/Teacher Interviews

**Thursday 2 August**
3-10 Australian Mathematics Competition  
Year 8 Parish Mass 10.00 am  
Year 10 Careers Expo in Canberra  
P&F Meeting 2.00 pm - Venue (Primary staffroom)

**Friday 3 August**
Day 3 Secondary Skiing  
2P Assembly 12.00 pm at the Cooma Ex-Services Club

**Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 August**
Reconciliation Request for Candidates this weekend masses

**Monday 6 August**
K-6 Parent Teacher Interviews

**Tuesday 7 August**
Year 7 2013 Info evening (Secondary Library) 6.00 pm  
Year 11 2013 Monaro High School Orientation  
K-6 Parent Teacher Interviews  
Reconciliation meeting in the Church 6.30 pm

**Wednesday 8 August**
Mary Mackillop Feast Day  
K-6 Parent Teacher Interviews  
Southern Region Principals’ Meeting—Pambula

**Thursday 9 August**
Southern Region Principal's Meeting Pambula  
Year 9 Parish Mass  
3-6 Southern Region Athletics Bega  
School Board Meeting 6.30pm

**Friday 10 August**
K-2 Ski Program  
Motivational Media Presentation Monaro High School  
Secondary Ski Program

**Tuesday 14 August**
Caritas Non-Uniform day  
Year 10 OHS White Card Course  
Reconciliation meeting in the Church

**Thursday 16 August**
Stage 3 War Memorial excursion  
Year 10 Parish Mass 10.00 am

**Friday 17 August**
K-2 Ski Program  
Secondary Ski Program  
Poetry/Drama Workshop

**Saturday 18 August**
Reconciliation

**Monday 20 August**
Book Week

**Tuesday 21 August**
NSW & ACT Cross Country Ski Championships

**Wednesday 22 August**
CEO Primary Schools Choir Performance

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**Canteen News**

**VOLUNTEERS**
Thursday  
Rebecca Hain
Friday  
Charlie Hely

- Thank you to all my volunteers – the canteen could not run as smoothly as it does without your help. It is lovely to see some new faces – welcome!
- **FREEZER** - I am still waiting on a replacement so NO FROZEN FRUIT CUPS or CALIPPOS until further notice.
- **MEAL DEAL FRIDAY** - Freshly made HOT CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP and BREAD ROLL with your choice of DRINK - all for $5.00. MUST BE PRE-ORDERED – Please write your order on a brown lunch bag and enclose money by Thursday 2 August.

If you any thoughts or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me through the school or on 0406763375. Thank you for your continued support.

Carolyn Hely  
Canteen Manager

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**Around Town**

- **Kids Fishing Workshop:** For 8-14 year olds - 2 workshops being held on Friday 28 and Saturday 29 September from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm – come and learn to fish safely and responsibly. Instructors are experienced volunteers and staff from the Department of Primary Industries. The day involves fishing techniques, bag and size limits, fish handling for catch and release. Cost $40 includes rod and reel combination, shirt, hat, tackle box and show bag. Bookings are essential (maximum 25 participants). Phone Stephen Thurstan on 4220 8484 or 0438 245 190 or email stephen.thurstan@dpi.nsw.gov.au.
- **This summer – it has to be cricket with your friends:** This summer we’re looking for the next generation of bowlers, batters and catchers. There’s lots of ways you can get involved in cricket with your local club, association or indoor sports centre. Sign up now with your local club or for more information visit: www.playcricket.com.au