Dear St Patrick’s Community

**Book Week** parades would be pretty ho-hum if there were no parents and grandparents to share the event with; so despite the poor weather, I was thrilled to see so many people join us last Friday. It was fairly cramped in the Stage 2 building, but you squeezed in and cheered the students. Thank you for making the effort. If you weren’t able to be there, we always try to place information and photos on the school’s facebook page. If you haven’t already checked this out, go to https://www.facebook.com/StPatsCooma and see all the news, often as it is happening.

Because we are seeking involvement of parents, grandparents and parishioners in our school, we want to invite you all to a **community forum on Thursday 10 September at 6.30pm in the Secondary Library** (upstairs off Murray St– opposite the Church). We have a guest speaker, Tim Smith from Catholic Education. An article he wrote last year about parental engagement is included in this newsletter. Parental involvement typically includes school based activities which support the school to run and function, for example volunteering in the canteen, joining in classroom literacy programs, attending special days like Book Week parades or fund-raising through the P&F. Typically, these activities are limited to people who have the time to be on site at school.

We have some important questions to ask:  **How do we engage the parents in our community in the education of their children? How do we ensure St Patrick’s parents have a voice in our school? If one of our parents is interested in being more engaged, how do we fully support them – as a school and as a community? Is there a more open, efficient and appropriate structure to assist better communication and engagement?**

We are starting with a belief that student success is a shared interest of both the school and the family. It is also my firm belief that parents are partners in the learning process, and I want to identify concrete ways that partnership can be activated and sustained. We hope that you can join us to be part of the discussion.

The **Primary and Secondary Tournament of Minds** teams are busy practising their response to the challenges and they will be in Canberra this weekend competing. I appreciate the extra commitment of Mrs Lovat, Mrs Stubbs and Ms Trigg in supporting these TOM teams. We also have **Year 9 students representing the school at a Rotary public speaking competition in Canberra**. The in-school selection competition was held last Tuesday and there were some amazing speeches.

We give a warm welcome to the 2016 Kindergarten students who are beginning their Big Steps program form this week.

Yours sincerely

**Frances Robertson**
Principal
Catholic parents unite in creating distinct new voice on education matters

The term "parent engagement" has become the buzzword for governments, federally and locally.

There has been a common theme in recent years outlining the importance of the role of the parent in the education of their child. Research has been undertaken and data prove what most of us already knew, a child's education is improved with parental engagement in their learning.

However, the terminology has changed in a subtle way. We now speak about parent "involvement" in schools as different from parent "engagement". Engagement indicates being a strong part of a child's learning - being engaged with the whole process and influencing how the learning will occur.

This is a challenge to schools and parents alike as they seek to work in partnership (collaboration) to ensure the best possible learning outcomes for their children.

Parent engagement has always been a strong ethos of the Catholic school. The church tells us that parents, as the first and primary teachers of their child, have the responsibility for their education. While several Catholic schools assist in promoting this engagement with parents, there is still work to be done to ensure strong collaboration, interaction and partnership exist with all of those who make up the education community throughout all sectors.

Not since the famous "Goulburn strike" have Catholic school parents throughout Australia united to ensure their voice will be heard. While the events in 1962 may have been more dramatic, the passion of parents in the Catholic sector for their views to be heard by all forms of government has never been stronger. With government policy mandating parental engagement in Australian schools, the timing has never been more opportune.

This groundswell has led to the formation of Catholic School Parents Australia, a new parent body that for the first time in the history of Catholic schooling in Australia will represent a "distinctly Catholic voice". Two nominees from each state and territory Catholic parent body form CSPA, which represents the parents of more than 730,000 students in Catholic schools in Australia. At the launch of the body in October last year, Brian Croke, the executive director of the Catholic Education Commission of NSW and noted historian, said: "People will not ask why this parent body has been formed - they will more likely ask why it has taken so long."

The formation of a national Catholic parent body has had an immediate impact in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn. Parents and school principals representing more than 25,000 students in Catholic schools in the region gathered recently at a forum in Canberra to unite and launch Catholic School Parents Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

This promises to be a dynamic group that has already gained recognition from all sides of politics in the ACT. Education and Training Minister Joy Burch invited the new body to take an active role in the recently announced cross-sectoral project "Progressing Parental Engagement" in the ACT. This project, in collaboration with the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth, will seek the views of the Catholic sector as a member of the stakeholder group that has been formed to advise the project. This project is a great opportunity for all sectors in the ACT to work to ensure parent engagement in schools is given high priority.

Authentic parental engagement offers opportunities for transformational, beneficial change - for the school, for the community, for the family and for the student. Catholic School Parents Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn is looking forward to the challenge of ensuring that authentic parental engagement becomes second nature in Catholic schools in the region into the future.

Tim Smith is senior officer - strategy and public policy - in the Catholic Education Office, Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.
A Message from the AP

Dear Parents and Students

Secondary electives 2016
We are currently in the process of organising information to go out to our current Year 8 student about Elective choices for 2016. The process for students to submit their selections will be as follows:

Wk 8 Year 8 students will be informed of the elective selection process
Wk 10 Students will receive booklets and parents will receive an explanatory letter

Term 4
Wk 1 Students will receive the first selection form. An information evening for parents will be held in the secondary Library on Thursday 8 October
Wk 2 First preference forms due back to school office Tuesday 13 October by 3:30pm
Wk 3 2nd selection form given out with the lines allocated
Wk 4 Final class lists drawn up and staffed.

Students will have this process explained in detail and be given the opportunity to ask questions. Final allocation of students to elective classes will be determined by the Principal in consultation with teachers and the Leadership team. Electives are for two years.
Our current Year 9 students will be doing the same electives as they move into Year 10 in 2016. This was made clear in the information that was given to students last year.

National Literacy and Numeracy Week (NLNW) 31 August to 5 September
The purpose of NLNW is to celebrate learning and raise awareness of the importance of reading, writing and mathematics skills. A particular focus for 2015 is to encourage positive parent involvement and engagement in literacy and numeracy. Our position is that every week at St Patrick’s is Literacy and Numeracy week, that parents are always encouraged to become engaged and involved in their child’s learning and that literacy and numeracy skills are developed in all KLAs.

Student illness
This winter has been particularly bad for colds, flu and other viruses. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to keep children at home if they are sick. If a child is sick at school, parents/carers will be called to pick the child up. Sending sick children to school not only increases the risk of the virus spreading, but increases the recovery period for the sick child. A sick child is also not going to be as receptive to learning, due to lower energy levels.
We appreciate you assistance in trying to limit the spread of viruses and consideration for the health of staff and the rest of the students.

Thank you
Mark van Ommen
Assistant Principal
The course of true love never did run smooth…………….

Rehearsals are well underway for our school production of Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. The secret garden in the Secondary Campus is currently undergoing a transformation to provide the luscious backdrop for our play and students are taking on their roles as Athenian lovers and mischievous fairies to explore one of the quintessential lines from Shakespeare, that, “the course of love never did run smooth!”

Remember to mark in your diary October 21, 22 and 23 when you can come along to our Athenian grove to marvel at our Shakespearean wonderland.

Tickets will be available from the school office at the beginning of Term 4.

ACT Schools Mountain Bike Championships

Last week eight Secondary students travelled to Mt Stromlo in Canberra to compete in the ACT Schools Mountain Bike Championships. This was the second year that St Patrick’s has entered students and it was fantastic that this year we had two teams, with a number of girls competing for the first time.

In the junior division our boys team finished an excellent 11th out of 46 teams! In the senior division our mixed team finished in 15th, which was an outstanding result. All of the students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and hopefully we’ll be able to send even more teams next year.

A very big thank you must go to the parents who transported the students on the day, and in particular Tony Sergo and Graeme Russell for their help on the day. Photos are courtesy of Tony Sergo and Russell Baker.

Mr Lawley
Do you have a colour or two that you no longer need? We are looking for bottles to be donated to the Bazaar Fair so that we have a range of colours available to make interesting designs. It doesn’t matter if some have been used or not, just send it to the Office.

CANTINE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Do you have a little time to spare? Do you know a community member who would like to spend time in a friendly place helping others? Are you wanting to get to know others in the school community? If so, we would really love to hear from you.

Please call the school and ask to speak with Caroline in the Canteen.

Comedian Sean Murphy – Kid’s Party Confidential!

A FREE show on Friday 2nd October:

11 am at Cooma Library (6455 1730) & 2.30 pm at Jindabyne (Snowy Region Visitors Centre 6450 5600).

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

Join us for an hilarious show about the highs & humiliations of children’s entertainment. You’ll laugh, you’ll cringe, you’ll learn how to tie an incredible balloon sword! Suitable for adults & children 5–13yo.

ESSAY COMPETITION

Rotary Global Essay Competition (ROGEC) is a platform to express your thoughts and ideas on a Global Canvas on range of subjects which we believe ultimately fulfil Rotary’s objectives and make this world a better place to live.

ROGEC invites views and analysis from diverse and distinct cultures, fusing them together in a neatly woven bouquet. The issues like hunger, diseases, inequality, education, conflicts, etc. are common across cultures and countries; the magnitudes and perspectives however are different. ROGEC aims to provide every individual in the Rotary fraternity a global platform to convey a story about the issues, reasons and resolutions.

http://www.rogec.org/index.html
Canteen News

Add some vegie sticks or a slinky apple to your order for Fruit & Veg Month!!

Volunteers - Thank you!
Wednesday 02/09, 10am Linda Quodling
Wednesday 02/09, 1.15pm Elsa and Howard
Thursday 03/09, 10am Kim Kleven
Friday 04/09, 10am Sara Souter
Wednesday 09/09, 10am Kelly Gill
Wednesday 09/09, 1.15pm Kelly and Marjorie
Thursday 10/09, 10am Jackie Bitar
Friday 11/09, 10am Chris Haylock

A reminder that the price list can always be found on the school website: http://stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au/srcfiles/Price-List-Term-3-2015.pdf

Friday Meal Deal:
Sweet Chilli Chicken Tender Wrap, Drink (please choose a milk or juice) & Slinky Apple: $6.50

Anything else from the menu can be ordered on a Friday too.

Don't forget that reusable lunch order bags are available for purchase, only $10.50 each. If you are using yours regularly, can you please see if it needs a clean? Some are bit gross! Thanks!

Caroline Blyton
Canteen Manager

2W Class Assembly

Year 2 will be having their Class Assembly this Friday, 4 September 2015. It is at the Cooma Ex-Services Club from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm.

Second Hand Uniform Sale

On Saturday 12 September, parents are invited to come to the P&F 2nd hand uniform ‘shop’ to top up their uniform supplies or to get ready for the Term 4 change into summer uniform. The roller doors off the lane behind the Infants playground will be open from 10am until 12. There are bargains to be had. If you have uniforms that you wish to donate, please drop them to the Office any time.
Fathers’ Day Gift Stall

4 September 2014

Students are asked to donate a small gift which will in turn be available for sale on the Fathers’ Day Stall on Friday 4 September.

We ask that gifts be wrapped in clear cellophane so that children shopping can see what they are buying.

On Friday 4 September, every child will have the opportunity to shop at the stall for their Father/carer. All gifts will be available for purchase and priced between $2.00 and $5.00. Funds raised go to the St Patrick’s P & F.

Suggestions include: a coffee mug filled with sweets, magazines, sporting items, key ring, gardening supplies.

If you would like to get involved or assist on the day, please contact Natalee Reid on mws@schutebell.com or text 0412910152

Thank you
St Pat’s P & F

LOST Clothing

The P&F have kindly offered to write students’ names on their jackets or jumpers when they visit the Father’s Day stall on Friday 4 September. They will be using a fabric marker and writing the child’s name on the tag. This is one small way of supporting other parents and reducing the amount of lost property at the school.

NSW Interschool Snowsport Championships

Last week a number of students represented the school at the NSW Interschool Snowsport Championships. With such a high level of competition it was fantastic to see so many of our students competing at this level.

Congratulations to all students, particularly Harriet Greville, Charlotte Walker-Broose, Spencer Walker-Broose and Jarrod Pratt who all finished in the top ten in their respective events.

Good luck to Charlotte and Spencer as they head down to Mt Buller for the National Championships in cross country next week.

A very big thank you goes to all of the parents who were team managers, volunteers or provided lifts to students for these events. It is greatly appreciated.

Mr Lawley
Sports Camps Australia
SCA Junior Soccer Camp - Kiama

Location: Nijong Oval
Dates: 22-24 September
Times: 9am-3pm
Fees: $240
Skill Level: All Skill Levels Welcome
Age Group: 6-16 Years
Gender: Co-ed

Sibling discount available for this camp, please contact SCA head office to book!

www.sportscampsaustralia.com.au +1800 753 127

Around Town ....

Cooma Champs Tennis

SCHOOL HOLIDAY TENNIS CAMPS


9am – 4pm ROYAL TENNIS COURTS

2 Day Camp - $100.00 Discounted to $80.00
Discount given if booking and payment received 5 days prior to camp date.

Please call Tom: 0404838049

Cooma Champs Tennis also offers tennis lessons throughout the school Term.

We are enrolling now and we would love to hear from you!

TOM PEREA: ACCREDITED ATPCA / TENNIS AUSTRALIA CLUB PROFESSIONAL.
ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL ACCREDITED.
Cooma Athletics Snowy Oval Cooma North
Come and Try Day/Registration Day
Saturday 12 September 1-3pm

Come to the Snowy Oval on Saturday 12th September to have a throw, jump and a run!

This is also an opportunity for you to register your children for athletics in Cooma for our 2015/16 season. This year we are running our competition on a Saturday. The 2016/16 season begins on Saturday 10 October at 8.45am.

All athletes need to be registered by the first day of competition. If you can’t make registration day, you can go to our website and click on the ‘Registration’ tab for detailed information on registering your child.

For further information about Cooma Athletics please visit our website www.coomaathletics.org.au or email us at coomaathletics@gmail.com

Monaro District Cricket

Monaro District Cricket Association will be holding their Registration Day at 5.30pm on Thursday 3 September 2015 at McDonalds.

It will feature the appearance of two Australian players, Sean Abbott and Gurinder Sandhu, who will be available for autographs, photos and a game in the car park under lights.

All players and families are welcome to attend.

Preschool Storytime at Cooma Library

Wednesday 16 September 10.30am - FREE. No RSVP required. Come and join us for all things spring and birds. Story, songs and craft. See you there!

‘Like us’ on Facebook for regular storytime info:
https://www.facebook.com/MonaroRegionalLibraries or sign up to receive our monthly newsletter via email at www.monaro.nsw.gov.au
COOMA COLTS
Junior OZTAG Competition 2015/16
Term 4 2015 & Term 1 2016
For Boys & Girls from Kindy to Year 8

Signup Afternoon
10 September 2015  4 -5pm Cooma Showground

OZTAG is similar to Rugby League, but instead of tackling each player wears a Velcro belt with braids attached, which the opposition tries to pull off to effect a ‘tag’.
Each school can enter a team(s) in stage age competitions – K/1, 1/2, 3/4, 5/6 & 7/8.
Students from Small Schools can play in Small School Combination Teams, or join a larger schools’ team if necessary.

Thursday afternoons 4:30-5:30 at Cooma Showground
Starting from Thursday 8 October 2015.

$25 per person per season.
Please wear shorts with no pockets, school shirt & studded (soccer/footy) boots & water bottle.

Any parent/carer who may be able to help coach &/or referee are most welcome.
OZTAG is great for fitness, hand-eye co-ordination & develops a sense of achievement through teamwork & fair play.

cdjrl2002@yahoo.com.au  or Bec Inskip 0439 697 708 for any queries.
We hope to hear from you soon.