Dear St Patrick’s Community

The first encyclical of Pope John Paul II shared with Catholics on March 4 in 1979 was called Redemptor hominis. It examined the major problems confronting the world at the time. John Paul II began his papacy during a crisis of self-doubt and internal criticism in the Catholic Church, a theme that continues today. He alluded to this in the encyclical’s introduction, stating his confidence that the Church "is much stronger than the symptoms of doubt, collapse, and crisis." He says that Jesus is real and living. That is our prayer; to see Christ in everyone, especially during the Lenten period and as we consider the challenges presented by Caritas.

Last week we held the AGM for the P&F. It’s a great opportunity to acknowledge the work of the 2014 committee leading the P&F and their supporting coordinator roles. We welcome the following people to the various roles for 2015: President - Karen McGufficke, Vice President - Tammy Byrne and Marlene Bottom, Secretary - Brian Williams, Treasurer - Sara Souter, Catering Coordinator - Marjorie Revelant, 2nd Hand uniform shop Coordinators - Ruby Curtis and Melinda Barrett, Art Show Coordinators - Denise Menshic and Melinda Barrett, Mothers’ and Fathers’ day stalls Coordinator - Natalee Reid, Bazaar Coordinator - Erika Statham. This is a great team to be working for the school. Each of these leaders will be building a supportive group of parents for the various functions and events. Please contact either Karen or any team member if you want to share in the fun! Next week we will let you know the names of the parent liaison for each campus and outline their roles.

The first Kindergarten Support Evening was held last Thursday led by Mrs Giovanna Davies and Mrs Kellie Summerville. This is just one of the many ways that we want to continue to build the partnership with families for the benefit of young people’s learning.

School fees need to be finalised this week for Term 1. Please see inside this newsletter for the alternative ways you can do this. Parents are encouraged to make an appointment with me if there are any difficulties in this area.

I hope that you have found the Interim Reports a useful starting point for a conversation with your child and his/her teacher. We are aiming to improve the communication between school and home and this is one small step in that direction.

Frances Robertson
Principal
What do we do when we're facing an upcoming big event, celebration, or special occasion in our lives? We prepare for it. Holy Week and Easter are “big events” in the liturgical year of the Church and in the spiritual life of a Christian. So, as Christians, we prepare spiritually for these through the forty days of Lent.

This means that, during Lent, we rededicate ourselves to prayer. There are as many ways to pray as there are prayers in this world, but a few prayer methods can help us in particular to spiritually prepare ourselves during Lent:

Make abstinence a prayer or make a commitment to do something positive for others a prayer...Whenever you encounter the thing you are abstaining from or making an effort to do something for others, take a moment to say a prayer in recognition of your wholeness in God. Thank God for the freedom to be wholly yourself without this or in what you have done to help someone else.
Canteen News

** Don't forget Mini-Canteen is on Wednesdays for Infants and Primary, items from 50c to $2 **

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

- 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
- Wednesday 11 March, 10am: Marjorie Revelant
- Wednesday 11 March, 1pm: Marjorie Revelant & Howard Brown
- Thursday 12 March, 10am: VOLUNTEER REQUIRED
- Friday 13 March, 10am: Chris Haylock

This Friday the meal deal will be: Sweet Chilli Chicken Tender Wrap + 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. If your children have received one of these surprises, please send me a note to let me know if they did or didn’t like what they got ;) Items have been sourced from our local health food shop, Moontree. This week's surprises are slithery, last week’s were suckable ;)

Caroline Blyton
Canteen Manager

The location for all the Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences is the Ex-Services Club.
Catholic Schools Week, March 8-14 is rapidly approaching. The theme is ‘Educating for Today and Tomorrow’.

The main aim of the annual event is to build community awareness about the strengths and distinctiveness of Catholic schools. This week provides an ideal opportunity to convey the rich and unique history of Catholic education.

This special week is also about strengthening relationships between all those that have a stake in our schools—students, staff, families, priests, parishioners, and members of the wider community.

The theme for 2015—‘Educating for today and tomorrow’—aptly ties in with the 50th anniversary of Gravissimum Educationis.

Gravissimum Educationis, the Declaration on Christian Education, is a document of the Second Vatican Council and was created by the Synod Fathers in 1965. The document recognised the continuing need for the Church to support parents in the education of their children so that they might be better equipped to participate professionally in the social, political and economic life of their communities.

Catholic schools are places which help young people learn how to live their lives, achieve cultural growth, receive vocational training and engage in the pursuit of the common good.

Minnie Vinnies

Minnie Vinnies is a school version of St Vincent De Paul, where students will be given the opportunity to be involved in charitable works throughout the year.

Congratulations to these students who volunteered to be part of our Minnie Vinnies group in 2015.

The main reasons, these students stated, for joining Minnie Vinnies was:
To make a difference and to do something for people less fortunate than us
To have a go at something different
To put back into the community
To care for others and to be active carers
To show citizenship and to grow
St Patrick’s Parish School

Fee Payment Method

Cash or cheque
This can be made at the School Office or send in cash or cheque with the Remittance Advice on your fee statement.

EFTPOS
This can be made in person at the School Office.

Credit Card
Payments can be made in person, over the phone, fax, email or by using the Remittance Slip on your fee statement.

BPoint
This facility allows you to have regular payments taken automatically from your Mastercard, Visa or Bankcard. Please contact the Finance Officer to arrange this payment.

BPay
A lump sum payment can be made using the BPay facility. The BPay Biller Code and Reference number can be found on the bottom left hand side of your fee statement. You can also use BPay to pay your fees in installments. Calculations of installments can be made by the Finance Officer.

Direct Debit
Forms are available from the School Office. It is the responsibility of families with Direct Debit arrangements to ensure their payments cover their obligations for school fees prior to the end of the school year. Direct debits can be made weekly, fortnightly or monthly as directed.

Centrepay
For families in receipt of a Centrelink payment, fees can be deducted directly from this benefit. Please contact the Finance Officer for more information.

PAYMENT OF FEES
Fee statements are forwarded within the first two weeks of each term. Fees are due 30 days after the date of issue. The school relies on prompt payment of fees to meet our financial commitments.

Please contact the Finance Officer at the School Office for any fee queries or if you anticipate a delay in meeting your fee obligations within the required period. This will avoid follow up action being taken.

If you are currently experiencing financial difficulties, please make contact with the Principal. Remember, if we don’t know your circumstances, we aren’t in a position to provide assistance. Applications for fee concessions commence in Term 2 and carry through until Term 1 of the following year. These concessions are managed confidentially and sensitively.

Where there is a failure to communicate with the Finance Officer or Principal over a difficulty to meet your commitment to pay, the matter will be forwarded to an outside collection agency for follow up.

A family is entitled to a refund of prepaid fees if they withdraw a child in the first half of a term and have given at least two weeks’ written notice.
It is the duty of the State to ensure that every child receives an education of the highest quality and *it is the duty of parents to comply with the compulsory education requirements of the Education Act 1990.*

**Responsibilities of Parents:**

*Regarding the absences of their children from school, parents must provide explanation promptly by means such as a telephone call, written note, text message or email to the school within 7 days from the first day of any period of absence.*

If there are 5 days in total where there has been unexplained absences, the school will contact the parents/guardian.

If there are 10 days in total where there has been unexplained absences, the Principal or delegate will formally contact parents/guardian with a letter.

If there are 12 days in total where there has been unexplained absences, a meeting with the Principal or delegate will be requested in writing.

If there are 15 days in total of unexplained absences the Catholic Education Office will be informed and a Mandatory Report will be lodged with Family and Community Services.

If there are 20 days in total of unexplained absences Formal Undertakings being (Legal Process) will commence.

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**Year 8 Science**

Year 8 have been learning about the conductivity of electricity as part of their unit of work. This experiment connected students to an electrical source and then the students were able to experience the relay of power.

One student, Jake Barron described it as a jolt to the whole body. “It was great to experiment with either one foot or two feet on the ground. The effect was very different. This is a great way to learn about electricity.”
Upcoming election – Message from the Director of Schools

NSW State Election
It is time again to turn our attention to the NSW State election which is due to be held on 28 March 2015. We encourage school communities to write to local Members and other candidates in relation to the key messages listed below.

Key Messages
The key messages that need to be conveyed to all stakeholders:

1. A significant public funding gap exists between Canberra-Goulburn’s Catholic systemic schools and government schools in the same area.
2. Catholic schools save taxpayers billions of dollars each year by educating 251,000 - or one in five - NSW students.
3. Catholic schools require a more equitable share of capital funding to expand school places to meet growing demand.
4. Parents of Catholic school students contribute to the NSW education system twice – as taxpayers and through school fees.

Fundamental arguments
The average cost of educating a student in a Canberra-Goulburn Catholic systemic school in NSW is $11,510 per year. The average cost of educating a student in a government school within the diocese’s boundaries is $13,695 per year. Canberra-Goulburn’s systemic Catholic schools teach the same curriculum as government schools while saving State and Federal taxpayers more than $3,600 per student each year.

It would cost NSW taxpayers at least $3 billion more each year if all Catholic school students had to be accommodated and educated in the government school system.

Without Catholic schools, the NSW Government would need to fully fund the education of an extra 251,000 students - at an additional cost to taxpayers of more than $3 billion a year.

It is far more cost effective for the NSW Government to help Catholic schools with the cost of building new schools and/or classrooms than for taxpayers to fully fund - and staff – the additional government schools required to meet the expected growth in students.

Catholic schools receive a tiny fraction of the NSW Government’s capital funding budget for schools.

NSW Catholic schools need to add 80,000 student places by 2031 – requiring some 20 new schools and the expansion of hundreds more across the state.

The Government is relying on Catholic schools to maintain or grow their current share of students; otherwise, it will be forced to take on more of the education burden and fully fund the construction and operation of more government schools than is currently forecast.

The NSW Government must send a message to Catholic school parents that it values their significant contribution and supports their ongoing investment in the state’s schools (government and non-government).

Community and media attention has begun to focus on State issues which will now become increasingly prominent. Now is the time to encourage your school communities to get involved.

Early action on this issue has the greatest potential to benefit Catholic education and to secure our desired funding goal. Draft letters for your use and for use by parents are now available on

Both the Government and the Opposition are now refining their policy positions for the election campaign. It is important that Catholic education obtains a bi-partisan commitment to Catholic school funding to ensure sustainable funding in the future. We are hopeful that we might achieve this at the State level as a result of the work of school communities.

If you need any assistance, further information, or if you have any other ideas or suggestions please contact Tim Smith, Senior Officer – Strategy & Public Policy  tim.smith@cg.catholic.edu.au

You are encouraged to write to your local Member and candidates to emphasise the importance of these messages.

Major Party CANDIDATES

John Barilaro  NATIONALS  monaro@parliament.nsw.gov.au  (02) 6299 4899
Steve Whan  LABOR  steve.whan@parliament.nsw.gov.au  (02) 9230 3324
Peter Marshall  GREENS  monaro@nsw.greens.org.au
Communication between Parents and the School

The purpose of this document is to serve as a general guide for ensuring effective communication from parents to teachers, staff and administrators. Communication refers to both the sending and receiving of information, such as email and notes, and verbal communications such as telephone conversations and face-to-face meetings. In order to ensure a successful exchange of information, it is important that all parties follow a few key principles.

Good communication between teachers and parents doesn't just happen. It requires special skills such as good listening techniques, tact, kindness, consideration, empathy, enthusiasm, and an understanding of parent-child relationships.

Our beliefs at St Patrick's:

- All families have strengths. Family members care about each other.
- Parents are learners too. Parents have important perspectives about their children.
- Cultural differences are both valid and valuable. Many family forms exist and are legitimate.

Therefore, we endeavour to:

- Recognise that schools and homes have shared goals.
- Respect caregivers and communicate that respect.

We have mutual responsibilities to:

1. Maintain respectful and open communication
   - Always use a respectful and polite tone
   - Request, don’t demand
   - Be ready not just to provide information, but to listen to observations and perspectives
   - Enter the exchange with an open mind and assume a shared best interest for the child
   - Be prepared to work collaboratively to solve problems

2. Maintain confidentiality
   - Recognise that confidentiality may limit information that can be shared from school to parents, including consequences for other students' behaviours. We are not at liberty to write about a third party.

3. Take time to respond to communications
   - Make every effort to respond within 48 hours to parent communications, with the understanding that the teaching day sometimes precludes immediate responses
   - Take the time to collect information before responding

4. Recognise that
   - The Student Diary in Secondary school is an excellent tool of communication and should be regularly signed by both parents and the Homeroom teacher.
   - Parents provide the school with an email address that can be used for school communication (such as teacher correspondence, newsletter, notes)
   - Parents need to inform the school of any change to their email address. This can be done by emailing office.stpatscooma@cg.catholic.edu.au
   - Teachers can choose to have a meeting over sensitive issues that are raised in an email
   - Parents can email absentee notes to teachers. These emails need to clearly identify the name of the child and the parent with the date/s and reasons for absences.
   - Whilst email is a convenient form of communication, excessive use of emails can reduce productivity, damage trust and become a form of harassment. Whatever is written in an email can be used in legal proceedings
   - Parents can choose to email teachers if they wish. The St Patrick's staff work email is available to the community: all staff email addresses follow this structure first.surname@cg.catholic.edu.au
Next Thursday, homemade pickles will be available from the Primary Campus at 8.30am for $4.00 a jar (and there are only 10 jars). Thanks to Miranda and Ivy McGufficke for using our tomatoes to make this fresh and tasty offering.
St Patrick’s Parish home-based Sacramental Program 2015

Term 1
Registration
(Friday 27th March 2015)

Letters of invitation to register in our Parish home-based Sacramental Program for 2015 have been sent out to families whose children are in Years 3, 4 and 6. If you would like your child - or children - to be part of the program this year, you are asked to complete the registration form and send it to the Parish Sacramental Coordinator, Lou Mackay, or our Parish Priest Fr Mick MacAndrew, c/- St Patrick's Church; or phone 64522062; or email: lou.mackay@cg.catholic.edu.au by Friday 27th March 2015. If you feel you may have missed getting this letter, or if you are new to our Parish Family-based Sacramental Program and would like to know more about it, please feel free to contact us.

Term 2
CONFIRMATION

This is a four week course offered to families who have children in Year 6 and onwards. The first session is for the whole group in the Church. Children and parent(s) attend these meetings. The following three sessions are in home groups at a time and day that most suits the family. All four sessions are of one hour duration. The program includes Reconciliation one evening, a practice held during school hours prior to the celebration of the Sacrament and a Thanksgiving Mass afterwards. **Confirmation will be celebrated this year on Friday 19th June 2015 at 6.00pm with Archbishop Christopher Prowse.**

Term 3
RECONCILIATION
(Confession)

This is a short three week course offered to families who have children in Year 3 and onwards. The sessions are one hour long. Children and parent(s) attend these meetings. They are followed by the celebration of the Sacrament in August at a time that is convenient to the family. The program is a very gentle one that is suited to young children. **Reconciliation must be celebrated before undertaking the First Communion program. Reconciliation will be celebrated on 15 and 22 August 2015.**

Term 4
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

This is a short three week course offered to families who have children in Year 4 and onwards. The first session is for the whole group in the Church. Children and parent(s) attend these meetings. The following two sessions are in home groups at a time and day that suits the family. All three sessions are of one hour duration. A practice is held during school hours prior to the celebration of the Sacrament. **Note: Reconciliation must be celebrated before undertaking the First Communion program. First Holy Communion will be celebrated on 7 and 8 November 2015.**
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

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<tr>
<th>Name/s:</th>
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<td>Time/s available:</td>
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<td>Friday morning for cleaning from 9.00am-11.00am</td>
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<td>8am–10am □ 10am-12 noon □ 12noon–2pm □ 2pm–4pm □ 4pm–6pm □</td>
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<td>Any other time__________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cake □ Slice □ Scones □ How many? __________</td>
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Mobile Number:                                |

Email Address:                                |

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.
Introducing
Book Clubs LOOP
for Parents

LOOP is the NEW Scholastic Book Clubs Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for Parents.

If you want to pay by credit card for your online Book Club order, our new platform makes it easy! It eliminates the need for paper order forms plus your online order is submitted to the school safe and sound.

Log-in to www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP or download our NEW iPhone and iPad app from the App Store!

- For a quick start, just click on ORDER in the top menu or REGISTER first to save your details for next time
- Select your school and your child’s class
- Add your child’s first name and last initial (so the school knows who the book is for)
- Enter the item number from the Book Club brochure
- You can order for multiple children at once if they attend the same school
- All orders are linked directly to the school for submission to Scholastic. Books will still be delivered to your child’s classroom if you order by the close date
- There’s no need to return paper order forms or payment receipt details to your school!

For a quick how-to-order video, log-in to www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP and click on HELP in the top menu.
Hi Everyone!

I am making a difference and fundraising for Monaro Committee for Cancer Research Incorporated, a cause that is close to my heart. I have set myself a goal to raise $10,000.00 and I need your help with a donation, big or small. Simply click the link below to view my fundraising page and donate.

Please visit my fundraising page now: http://specialoccasion.gofundraise.com.au/page/StrictlyReidN

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' my page too. Every little bit helps to reach my target of $10,000.00. So please dig deep for this great cause and help make a difference.

Thank you for your support

Natalee Reid (Parent)

Accelerated Reader

All students in Years 5, 6 and 7 are participating in the Accelerated Reader program (AR) this year. This program suggests a reading range for each student and enables them to set targets to work towards. Each book that is part of the program has a corresponding book level and number of points. Students earn these points by completing a short online quiz after reading their book.

AR is based on research that suggests that reading practice at a challenging level improves comprehension, vocabulary and literacy skills. If students are to become successful and motivated readers, they need to be reading books that are neither too easy for them, nor too hard. Books that are too easy do little to improve reading skills and can lead to boredom. Books that are too hard are equally ineffective and stressful and can lead to frustration.

Students are aiming to read for 30 to 45 minutes most days. Some of this will be achieved at school and the rest during their own time. Your child’s preference may be to read independently, but it is still valuable for them to read with someone or for you to read to them.

All participating students should have brought home a letter outlining how you can check on their progress at home by logging on to the website for Renaissance Home Connect.

There are thousands of popular books, both fiction and non-fiction that are AR books as well as many picture books. Quizzes can only be completed at school but you can check if books you have at home are part of the program by visiting: www.arbookfind.com.au
We have once again been invited to take part in the current, continuing Big hART event which will culminate in an exhibition and performance at the Raglan Gallery on May 2nd of this year.

We are very excited to be part of this project which will focus on the memories and experiences of a number of senior citizens of Cooma and their memories of the Snowy years.

An eminent photographer, Sam Townsend, will work with students next Wednesday to develop their photographic and interview skills.
Snowy Supercats

2015 AFL Auskick Program

The NAB Auskick program offers the chance to learn all the skills of AFL in a fun and safe environment! **No matter the skill level come along and give it a go!**

**Ages:** Kids aged between 5 & 12 years old

**Dates:** Every Saturday from 23 May to Saturday 27 June 2015 - 9:30am – 10:30am

An additional session will be on Saturday 25th of July when we get to take part in the halftime activities at the GWS v Geelong game in Canberra.

**Cost:** $60 Includes Auskick Bag, Ball, Magazine, Hat, Footy Cards Coaching, Snack, Drink

**Time:** Sessions are 9:30am – 10:45am Saturdays except for our ½ time AFL

**Venue:** Snowy Oval, Yarra Street, Cooma

Register: at [www.aflauskick.com.au](http://www.aflauskick.com.au), type in the local postcode (2630) and follow the prompts or register at the first sessions. For further information about the program please contact Stu Wood on 0422 496 400

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**Snowy Supercats 2015 AFL Season**

The Snowy Supercats AFL teams are looking for players for Auskick (5yo-10yo), under 12's, Under 14’s and Under 16’s in the ACTJAFL Competition. ACTJAFL Season 2015 starts on Saturday 2nd of May and games are played in Cooma, Jindabyne and Canberra.

**Training:** Takes place at Snowy Oval, Yarra Street Cooma on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:00pm - 6:30pm.

**Cost:** $60 Includes Coaching, Games,

   Shorts and Socks additional $20 if required

   Jumper provided

**Contact:** Anyone interested can contact Stuart Wood on 0422496400 or visit [www.coomacats.sportingpulse.net](http://www.coomacats.sportingpulse.net)

Snowy Supercats AFL, Cooma Cats AFL and Auskick AFL Registration Days or Register Online at [www.coomacats.sportingpulse.net](http://www.coomacats.sportingpulse.net)

- **Thursday 5 March 2015** 5:30pm – 6:30pm, Snowy Oval, Yarra St., Cooma
- **Saturday 14 March 2015** 10am – 2pm, Cooma Show, Cooma Showground, Cooma
- **Sunday 15 March 2015** 10am – 12pm, Cooma Markets, Centennial Park, Cooma
- **Thursday 19 March 2015**, 5pm - 6pm, Snowy Oval, Yarra St., Cooma
- **Friday 27 March 2015**, 3pm - 4pm John Connors Oval, Jindabyne
The Cooma Lambie Street Preschool Management Committee and Staff would like to invite all interested persons to attend the

**2015 Annual General Meeting**

**When:** Monday 16th March 2015  
**Where:** Lambie Street Preschool  
3-5 Lambie Street Cooma  
**Time:** 7:00pm start (Followed by Wine and Cheese)  
**RSVP:** Friday 13th March

In recent times the Early Childhood Industry and in particular Preschools have been subject to major changes, including changes in curriculum, governance and funding. This has caused some huge challenges for our preschool to remain viable. Lambie Street Preschool prides itself in offering a quality early educational program for children aged 3 to 5 years of age. We would love to have your company for our AGM this year to hear how these changes are affecting not only our preschool, but the Cooma Community as a whole.