Dear Parents, Staff and Students

The 2013 school year is well under way
With the school year into week 2 already routines both at school and at home are no doubt being established. Having visited many classrooms over the past week it is amazing to see how quickly students have settled into an industrious pattern within the school, particularly the Kindergarten children. Acknowledging the need for routine and structure has been more challenging for some than others, but we need to recognise that this is all part of creating an optimal teaching and learning environment.

As part of their child’s education at St Patrick’s I would encourage all parents to make themselves known to their child’s classroom teacher/s and take advantage of any opportunity to establish clear lines of communication, rather than dwelling on a concern. This term we will be conducting parent-teacher interviews across K-10 so please note when and where these interviews are taking place when advertised in the newsletter.

Our school leaders are already very much involved in a range of activities, with the Primary house captains ensuring that the cheering and support for AQUA, TERRA, CAELUM and IGNIS competitors at today’s Primary Swimming Carnival will raise the roof of the Cooma pool. Secondary house captains will be elected later this week and we can be assured they will show the same enthusiasm. Our Primary Student Executives have been busy welcoming the new students in Primary and the Secondary Executives are already running school assemblies.

This year we have some exciting initiatives to enhance teaching and learning, particularly in Kinder and Stage 1 classes, with literacy and numeracy intervention. The funding is coming through the federal government’s National Partnerships Program and we are presently working on the best way of staffing this. Further updates will be given when the structures are in place.

Since Pentecost last year we have been celebrating the Year of Grace throughout which time we have reflected on the gifts in our lives, sometimes which we take for granted, and not the least of which are family and friends. Our Religious Education programs challenge us to appreciate these gifts and to acknowledge that they come from a loving God. The complementary theme this year is the Year of Faith which was proclaimed by Pope Benedict in October last year. The relationship between the Year of Grace and the Year of Faith is very succinctly put by Archbishop Wilson, President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, who writes: “We are confident that, with grace leading to faith, and faith responding to grace, the Year of Faith and our Year of Grace will complement each other.”
Next Wednesday (13 February) is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of our Lenten journey towards Easter. It is a day when we as a community take pause to consider the gift of Jesus in our lives and to reflect on how we can become more like Jesus. In some ways it is a sobering day as it helps us face our own mortality and our own failings - we’re not perfect, we make mistakes, we sometimes do the wrong thing. So this day is one to celebrate our weaknesses as it is a day that marks a return, a getting back on track. Jesus is the model and guide for us. This spiritual walk of 40 days of Lent helps us to maintain a mindfulness of who we are and who Jesus is for us.

The ashes received on the forehead on Ash Wednesday are a symbolic reminder of this humanity – ‘remember that we are dust and to dust we will return’. It helps us to reflect that life is short but that the end of life is the joy of Easter resurrection. Ash Wednesday leads to Easter. This is our spiritual preparation for life.

There will be two Masses celebrated in the Parish on that day – 7.30 am and 6.00 pm. These times are outside of school hours. Because of this, if there are any parents who would like to bring their children to the early Mass before school, supervision and breakfast will be offered at the school in the parish centre afterwards. Please feel very welcome to come along.

Junior Soccer 2013

St Patrick’s 2013 Junior Soccer Competition will kick off very shortly! More information will follow - however here are some notes to add to your 2013 Calendar.

* Player Registrations will open mid February
* Player Registrations will close end of March
* Early May – first round of games

Please note: exact dates will be advertised as soon as they are finalised. The 2013 Season is already being planned - if you can assist in any way, be it with St Patrick’s Junior Soccer (Coaches / Teams Managers) or the actual committee involved with Cooma Football Club - please do not hesitate to contact me. Once again, thank you to all involved with St Patrick’s Soccer 2012 - don’t forget to check out the Cooma Football Club’s New Website: http://www.coomafc.org/. For further details about the 2013 Season please contact Simon Buckley - 0412 245 495 or simon_buckley@bigpond.com

P&F News

The Parents and Friends executive committee welcome you to the new school year and trust everyone had a very relaxing holiday.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 14 February at 5.00pm in the Primary Staff Room and we encourage you to come along to this meeting. At this meeting the upcoming events for the P&F are outlined for the year. There are several executive positions available, and we are after keen parents to fill these. Please contact Eva Tangye or Karen McGufficke if you wish to discuss.

Assistance with the running of the BBQ at the upcoming Cooma Show on Saturday 9 March is needed. A note will be coming out next week with further details.

We look forward to your support and participation with the P&F this year.

Regards
2012 Executive Committee
WHAT'S ON

Friday 8 February
7-10 Archdiocesan golf - Batemahen

Monday 11 February
Immunisations - All Yr 7 & Yr 9 Boys

Tuesday 12 February
K - 10 leadership Liturgy 12 - 1pm Church

Wednesday 13 February
ASH Wednesday
K-6 School photos
7-10 long distance swimming

Thursday 14 February
7 - 10 School Photos
Kindergarten pupil free day
P&F AGM and Meeting 5 - 6pm

Saturday 16 February
Flowing Festival

Sunday 17 February
Flowing Festival

Monday 18 February
Year 7 Camp Kianinny

Tuesday 19 February
School Board Meeting 6.30 - 7.30pm
Year 7 Camp Kianinny
Stage 2 Excursion Sawpit Creek

Wednesday 20 February
Year 7 Camp Kianinny

Thursday 21 February
K - 6 Southern Region swimming carnival - Narooma
Yr 9 Mass 10 - 11am

Friday 22 February
Kindergarten pupil free day
Yr 9 & 10 Drama/Art Excursion Canberra
K - 10 Raiders visit 9 - 10.30am

Monday 25 February
7-10 Swimming Carnival

Thursday 28 February
Yr 10 Mass 10 - 11am

Friday 29 February
Yr 9 - 10 Drama Workshop

Monday 4 March
Archdiocesan swimming carnival

Wednesday 6 March
3-10 Netball Gala day

Thursday 7 March
3P Mass 10 - 11am

Friday 8 March
Yr 9 - 10 Drama workshop

Tuesday 12 March
Schools Gala Day 9 - 2pm

Friday 15 March
K - 10 St Patrick’s day Liturgy and Celebrations

Canteen News

VOLUNTEERS
Thursday 7 February
Volunteer needed please!!
Friday 8 February
Melissa Caffarelli

To enable the canteen to continue to run successfully I rely on help from volunteers - Wednesdays to assist with the Mini Canteen in Primary/Infants and on Thursdays and Fridays to assist with lunch orders. I appreciate everyone’s time is precious and so even an hour of your time would be a great help. Please give me a call at the school or on 0406 763 375. Thank you.

MINI CANTEEN and FRIDAY MEAL DEALS will recommence in week 3. The Mini canteen is for both Infants and Primary and items start at 50c for a frozen fruit cup or Freddo Frog and $1.00 for ice cream cup, chips and fruit salad cup if time and help allows. All the children love this and it is a great way to learn about money.

Meal Deals are on MOST Fridays and the choices published in the newsletter. The Meal Deal days are very popular and this is the day that I require the most help. If anyone has any questions or ideas, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Carolyn Hely
Canteen Manager

Round Town

- Cooma District Junior Rugby League 2013 Registration Days for players from U6s to U16s: Saturday 16 and 23 February at Sportspower in Sharp Street. This is an opportunity to guarantee a spot in one of our teams for 2013. In 2012 the maximum numbers allowed to be registered for each team was reached for some of our teams. So please make sure you come down and ensure your place in a team. Sportspower promotion – the first 50 players to register will receive a free drink bottle, 10% of football boots and 5% off headgear and should pads. Registration cost - $60 per player, $120 for 2 players and $150 for 3 players and includes shorts, socks, player insurance, NRL pass, qualified coaches, First Aid officers, presentation day BBQ, year book and Colts spray jacket. Players are required for all age groups with limited spots available in all teams – get in early to avoid disappointment. All new players will need a copy of an original Birth Certificate. Parents must accompany children and both signatures are required (U10s and up).

- Southern Cross Cultural Exchange: Carefully selected students will arrive in July for one or two semesters from France, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Japan, and Spain. They will attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at our website www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship.

- Preschool storytime at Cooma Library: Resumes this Monday 11th February at 10.30 am. Join us for a story, find your favourite book, and make an artwork! Everyone is welcome, babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers. No need to book. Further inquiries Cooma Library 64551 730