Dear Parents, Staff and Students

Catholic Schools Week
This weekend marks the beginning of Catholic Schools Week when we raise awareness and celebrate the distinctiveness of Catholic schools.

Catholic Schools Week is about strengthening relationships between all those who have a stake in our schools – students, staff, families, priests, parishioners, and members of the wider community, by showcasing what happens in our schools every day.

Our theme for this year is *Every child counts!* which reminds the community that every student in Australia deserves a good education. The theme ties into our schools' philosophy of individualised learning and provides good links to fundraising, social justice opportunities and scriptural themes. During next week we will be sharing experiences with Catholic schools from the coast and Canberra as well as having our own liturgy and celebrations on Friday 15th, prior to St Patrick’s Day on Sunday 17th March. On Thursday 14th March we will be having open classrooms in Primary to provide an opportunity for parents and friends to experience the dynamic nature of a Catholic education in our school.

Principals’ Retreat
Last week 57 Principals from across the Archdiocese gathered at Bateman’s Bay for our annual retreat. Such an event provides a unique opportunity for professional dialogue and sharing of experiences in our schools ranging from just over 20 students to those with almost 1,800 students. The uplifting spiritual theme underlying the retreat was presented by Father Tom Thornton from Batehaven who related the letters of St Paul to our own lives and in doing so he emphasised the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus made, so succinctly expressed in Isaiah 53:5-7:

> Crushed, because of our guilt.  
> The punishment reconciling us fell on him, and we have been healed by his bruises.

Opening of Cooma Universities Centre (CUC)
Today marked a very significant event in the history of Cooma with the opening of the Centre which has been funded by Snowyhydro and Cooma Monaro Shire Council. The CUC provides state of the art tertiary education facilities for the local community and will be a base for any tertiary student studying a distance education course through any university in Australia. It is hoped that some courses and lectures will be run directly from the centre in coming years, so please lend your support to the centre in whatever way you can.

Cooma Show this weekend
This weekend presents the ideal chance to mix with other staff and parents by helping out with the catering at the Cooma Show. This very worthwhile fundraising effort is a major event for our Parents and Friends Association so please look at the flyer that was sent home yesterday with all students and join in the fun on Saturday at the Cooma Showground.

Thank you

Phil Stubbs  
Principal

Our Primary and Secondary Captains

Year 8 Music students trying to master their G chord.

A real musical ensemble.

School Board Member Richard Clarke, a moving force behind the Cooma University Centre, celebrating the official opening today with our Secondary Executive.
School Captain’s Weekly report

This week twelve St Pat’s students competed at the Southern Regional Swimming carnival held in Narooma on Monday. Congratulations to all those who participated and good luck to Amber, Hudson and Miranda who will be competing in Sydney on 22 March. We would also like to thank all the parents and students who cheered on those who were racing and to the parents who provided transport to Narooma.

Random fact of the week
Bananas: Over 100 billion bananas are consumed (eaten) annually in the world, making bananas the fourth largest agricultural (farm) product in the world. Did you know that eating bananas can cheer you up?

Hand Ball Comp
This coming Friday the Primary SRC will be starting our stage 2 and 3 hand ball comp.

Written By Damian Fletcher and Miranda McGufficke

Drama Workshop

Last Friday our Year 9 and 10 Drama students took part in a very lively drama workshop with accomplished monologue actor and poet Harry Laing. They spent the day working on developing character and writing monologues that were engaging. Harry worked with the students to help them understand how dialogue and physicality combine to create a character an audience can really believe in. This is the third time Harry has conducted a full day drama workshop for students at the school and, as always, the day was filled with energy and had a real buzz of creativity.

The elective Food Technology and Commerce classes recently attended a talk by Mrs Gina McConkey and Mr Nick Moon who are two of the Health and Building Surveyors with Cooma Monaro Shire Council. The students learnt about some of the legal aspects of the food industry and participated in a discussion and demonstration of the importance of correct hygiene and safety when handling food. It was an entertaining and interesting talk and we thank Gina and Nick for their time.

Thank you to all those Primary parents and students who supported our Mini Vinnies mini canteen on Tuesday. We were able to raise $128 for Project Compassion. We are encouraging students all through Lent to donate some of their spare change for Project Compassion, so any more donations would be greatly appreciated. The money raised will go towards buying items in need for poorer countries.

Mary-Ann Fraser
Mini Vinnies Coordinator

Last Friday a small number of secondary students attended the Archdiocesan Swimming Carnival in Yass. In less than ideal conditions, our swimmers again achieved a high level of success. Our junior girls relay team of Katelyn Patricks, Maai Johnson, Jasmin Statham-Smith and Molly Janota won their event and have qualified for the Combined Catholic College Swimming Championships, along with Timothy Sixt in the 50m breaststroke and butterfly. Katelyn Patricks and Maai Johnson have also qualified in individual events.

Congratulations to these students and the rest of the swim team on their participation and effort. A very big thank you goes to the many parents who helped timekeep on the day. Without volunteers these types of events don’t run as smoothly, so thank you.

Mr Lawley

Energetic Primary Students

Stage 5 PASS students helping Stage 2 students at sport this week.
URGENT…Help still required for the Cooma Show:
Can you spare 1 hour of your time to help? We need some assistance with set-up and cleaning on Friday morning in the kitchen at the Multifunction Centre, together with some muscle power and a ute to transport BBQs to the Showground Friday morning. We also require help-ers from 11.00 am onwards on the Saturday. More dona-tions of cakes, slices and scones are also needed. Please contact Karen 0417 496708 or Tammy 0428 645 323. Thank you.
P&F Committee
WHAT'S ON

Thursday 7 March
3P Parish Mass 10.00 - 11.00am

Saturday 9 March
P & F catering for Cooma Show

Tuesday 12 March
Schools Gala Day 9 - 2pm

Wednesday 13 March
ICPA Conference P & F Catering

Thursday 14 March
ICPA Conference P & F Catering

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

Monday 18 March
Yr 7 - 10 Archdiocesan soccer gala day
Debating round 1

Tuesday 19 March
Yr 8 surf safety day Tathra

Thursday 21 March
P & F Meeting 5pm - Primary Staff Room

Friday 22 March
Yr 3 - 6 Auskick
Yr 3 - 6 MacKillop swimming trials - Homebush

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

Canteen News

VOLUNTEERS
Thursday 7 March
Kathy Venables

Friday 8 March
Rebecca Hain

Wednesday 13 March
Jackie Bitar

FRIDAY MEAL DEAL: HOT DOG/SAUCE & DRINK OR 2 PARTY PIES/2NUGGETS/SAUCE & DRINK. BOTH DEALS ARE $5.00. If these options do not suit, please contact me in the canteen.

MINI CANTEEN: This is offered every Wednesday with items priced from 50c.
Thank you for your continued support.
Carolyn Hely
Canteen Manager

Around Town

- Storytime at Cooma Library Monday 11 March 10.30 am – All welcome. Celebrating Harmony Day with our special guests, Cooma’s Multicultural Group (MAGIC). Join us for stories, songs, craft & fun! For more information please phone Cooma Library 64551 730 or email library@monaro.nsw.gov.au

- To celebrate Harmony Day and our cultural diversity; MAGIC (Multicultural Activity Group In Cooma) is presenting the Multicultural Community Festival 2013 on 17 March in Centennial Park Cooma. There will be lots of music and dancing from around the world including the Night Café, Zambezi Rhythms, Quake Bellidance, Mexico Lindo, Canberra School of Sri Lankan Dancing, Indonesian Dance Group and local performances such as the MAGIC group, Cooma Dance Co, Cooma Band, Chris Adams with his friends who performed at the Edinburgh Tattoo. The event is with the Rotary Markets and international food stalls. For more information contact: Yvi Henderson Multicultural Project Officer Monaro Family Support Service Email: yvi.henderson@monarofss.ngo.org.au Mobile: 0458 523457.

- Cooma Colts Football Club will be holding a Come Try Day for under 6s-under 9s Sunday 10 & Sunday 17 March 2013 at the Cooma Showground 10am - 11.30am. Coaching, games and lots of fun Kids can register on the day.

- Cooma Netball Association has there registration day this Saturday 9 March 10am till 1pm at the Netball courts Yanni Street, Cooma. Competition will start Saturday on 16 March 2013. Enquires can be forwarded to coomanetball@hotmail.com.au

- Cooma Rugby Club will kick off the 2013 season next week with registration days for senior and junior players. Registration day and free sausage sizzle from 4pm on 7 March at Rotary Oval. For more information please contact Pieta Manning bredbo.mannings@gmail.com 0400348658

- Photograph Competition: ‘Be Active, Be Happy, Be You’. Open to 12-24 Yr olds. You can enter a single or series of framed photographs. Cash prizes for each category, award presentations and exhibition 12 April. For further details contact Emma on 0437135092. Entry forms can be collected from school office.