Dear Parents, Staff and Students

A Class with Altitude

Last Friday our Year 10 students took on the challenge of the mountains by conquering Blue Lake and Mt Carruthers as part of our annual Altitude Excursion. In perfect conditions at the start of the day we crossed the Snowy River with a sense of anticipation as the uphill climb started. Given that only one or two students had previously visited this beautiful alpine area there were so many unique vistas that met us around just about every corner. Exhaustion was cast aside as every member of the group reached the top of Mt Carruthers (only the second group to do so out of the 28 groups I have taken to this area)!

The highlight of this venture is always the meditation session on top of one of Australia’s highest peaks. The crisp air, the absolute silence, the soft alpine grasses, the racing clouds, all combined to allow us to put our existence on earth into perspective. I encourage each group to treasure this “Carruthers’ moment” and to recall it when the challenges of life seem overwhelming and we need to retreat from the pressures, noise and bustle of life.

Congratulations to all our Year 10s for their effort, enthusiasm and commitment to the day’s activities. Thank you also to Tim Lawley and Bev Clarke who joined us in this unique experience.

Deacon Joe Blackwell visits us today

Our generous contribution to the Caritas Project Compassion appeal was gratefully received by Deacon Joe this morning. He spoke to students on each campus and outlined the valuable work that Caritas does throughout the world, work that is reliant on the generosity of donations such as ours.

Deacon Joe also joined us for the Youth Homelessness Day breakfast before school, which was organized by Mission Australia, when we took the opportunity to think of those young people who don’t have the comforts and security we so often take for granted.

Stage 3 Bali Excursion

The Indonesian Embassy in Canberra was the exciting venue for our Stage 3 students yesterday as they learnt about the gamelan orchestra and the finer points of shadow puppetry during this cultural immersion experience. The students were great ambassadors for the school and thanks to Mike Introna and the accompanying teachers.

ANZAC Day March in Week 2 of the school holidays

One of the most significant occasions in the whole year is our annual ANZAC Day March which will set off from Mack’s Corner at 11 am on Thursday 25th April. Despite the holidays we are hoping for a large contingent of students yet again to represent the school. All students are asked to assemble at 10.45 am and to wear winter uniform. Our school captains, Sam Patricks and Louise Fletcher, will be delivering the ANZAC address at the Cooma Ex-Services Club following the march.

For the first time in more than 20 years I will not be marching with the school in Cooma as I will be marching in the Sydney ANZAC March with my unit from my National Service days, the Officer Training Unit, Scheyville. Of the 64,000 young men who completed national service between 1965 and 1973 there were 1,800 of us who graduated from Scheyville as second lieutenants, and the memories of the rigours and challenges of that training are as strong as ever amongst the graduates on the 40th anniversary of the decommissioning of O.T.U. Scheyville (www.otu.asn.au) Many of my peers from class 2/71 have not met up with each other in the intervening 40 years so there’ll be many tales to tell!

I would like to wish everyone a restful and safe school holiday over the next 2 weeks.

Phil Stubbs
Principal

Deacon Joe explains the work of Caritas to K - 2

Deacon Joe says thank you for our generosity

Thanks to Mission Australia and Cooma Rotary for a hearty breakfast on Youth Homelessness Day today.
Reflections on the Year 10 Geography Blue Lake and Mt Carruthers Walk

• the part where we lay down and closed our eyes was very spiritual
• it was an incredible experience and I’m glad I went
• I was reminded of the importance of silence and how it can help you gather yourself in tough situations
• I loved it, it was very calming
• It made me appreciate taking time to lay down and be silent
• It was a life changing experience - something I will remember for the rest of my life
• I will reflect back on this experience in tough times
• It was an awesome experience – I loved it
• It was certainly worth the hard walk up there
• A peaceful, fun and challenging day
• There is peace after every hardship

Year 10 Geography

Last week Roger Roach, weeds advisory officer with Cooma Monaro Shire Council, spoke to the Year 10 Geography classes as part of the Land and Water Management Unit currently being studied.

He spoke about the impact of weeds as a land degradation issue and had many interesting photos for the students to look at. Thanks to Roger the students have a greater awareness of weeds and their costs to the environment.

Interschools Gymkhana

17-19 May, 2013

Snowy Mountains Grammar is again running the Southern Region Interschools Gymkhana but with a few changes.

This year SMGS has moved the gymkhana to the The Station, Dalgety Rd, Jindabyne. The event will be held later, on the Friday-Sunday, 17-19 May (Week 3, Term Two), and the program has been re-arranged so that showjumping, sporting, stockhorse challenge and dressage occur over most of the days. Furthermore, the gymkhana with the schools parade will be run on the Sunday.

Parents of students who plan to take part in the Friday events need to complete a permission form authorising them to be away from school on that day. However, all riders need to contact me and collect a letter to parents with information with regard to uniforms, saddlecloths and browbands.

Parents or students can download information and complete entries and book yards on line via the SMGS website. To avoid a late fee, entries should be completed by 8 May.

Sue Wallace, Equestrian Coordinator (0418 649869)

ICAS SCIENCE COMPETITION for Students in Years 3-10

The ICAS Science Competition is the annual competition which was previously known as the Science Quiz run by the University of NSW. This competition is a nation-wide, multiple choice, 60 minute test which will be held in class time, at St Patricks later in Term Two. However, entries and the $8.00 entry fee are due at the end of the first week of Term Two. All Year 7 students will be taking part and will be sponsored by St Patricks. Any students in Years 3-6 or Years 8-10 who are interested in taking part need to collect a permission note for their parents, from the school office or their Science teacher. The competition is now based upon the NSW Science syllabus for students at each particular year group. Tests such as these provide students with experience in handling exam conditions.

National Walk Safely to School Day 2013

On Friday 24 May we will be participating in National Walk Safely to School Day. We would like to encourage as many parents, carers and their children to walk to school on this day.

An alternative for those who need to drive their child to school will be to meet at Centennial Park anywhere between 8:30am – 8:45am. Along with parents, carers and teachers, the children will walk to school together. If you cannot walk with your child, feel free to drop them off and they will walk with our school group. We will begin the walk to school at 8:50am.

Please go to the following website or YouTube link: www.walk.com.au

Steven Joyce
K-6 Coordinator
Don’t forget the Mothers’ Day Stall on Wednesday 8 May. Please see the separate article for gift suggestions.

The P & F wish all students, parents and teachers & staff a safe holiday - see you all in Term 2!

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The P & F wish all students, parents and teachers & staff a safe holiday - see you all in Term 2!
Thursday 11 April
Kathy Venables

Friday 12 April
Natalee Reid

Thank you to all my volunteers throughout term 1. Your help is very much appreciated and I could not have done it without you. Just a reminder for Term 2 - often only 1 hour is needed for help, especially between 10.00 and 11.00 am, so if you are able to spare some time in the canteen, please contact the school or my mobile 0406 763 375. Thank you!

AS THE TERM DRAWS TO A CLOSE, SOME ITEMS ARE NOT AVAILABLE AND AN ALTERNATIVE WILL BE GIVEN.

FRIDAY MEAL DEA: NACHOS WITH MEAT AND 3 BEAN SAUCE/CORN CHIPS AND CHEESE, A JUICE OR MILK FOR $5.00. THIS IS THE ONLY CHOICE AVAILABLE TO BOTH PRIMARY AND INFANTS. STUDENTS IN SECONDARY WILL NEED TO PREORDERNON THURSDAY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT.

Thank you all again for your continued support and have a lovely break.

Carolyn Hely
Canteen Manager

Nick Corr, a former student of our school, is undergoing the ride of his life with ‘Bikes for Bibles’ - a fundraising initiative whereby young people (and not so young people) dare to ride their bikes from Broome to Sydney (7196km) over 64 days for the sake of those who are living in difficult situations overseas. Nick has fully funded his own trip and is now hoping to gain some contributions for the cause.

There are 2 aims in this massive undertaking:

1. to raise money for Bibles for the Australian Defence Forces & Chaplaincy work
2. to help address the serious domestic violence problem experienced by women in South American communities. Bible Societies based literacy programme is reaching women at risk in rural-dwelling and indigenous communities where education levels are low. Bible Society is committed to rebuilding these women’s lives and giving them a new future centred on God’s Word and Christ’s love.


A receipt will be provided with donations over $2 as they are tax deductible. FYI: Nick uses a web-based application Strava (similar to a social media website) to map and monitor his training and the ride itself. If people would like to follow the journey, the web address is: http://app.strava.com/athletes/737827