Dear Parents, Staff and Students

School’s back for Term 4
There were many excited faces yesterday as students returned for the final term of 2012. With many varied activities already in place for the term it is hoped that students will make the most of opportunities presented to them. Year 10 students in particular have a very busy final term of their education at St Patrick’s with their exams in Week 5, followed by work experience and the chance to do a Rural Fire Service training program during those last weeks.

Welcome to our Registration Panel
Next Monday the 7 member School Registration Panel will be visiting the school for 3 days to look at all aspects of how we function. We warmly welcome the panel as the registration process is an opportunity to showcase what is going well at our school and at the same time get some objective advice on future focus. The panel comprises:

* Mrs Terry Gibbons (CEO) Panel Chair
* Mrs Maree Williams (CEO) Senior Officer
* Mr Patrick Kelly (CEO) Senior Officer
* Mr Rod Little – Principal of McAuley Catholic Central School, Tumut
* Mr Adrian Wells – Assistant Principal, Lumen Christi College, Pambula
* Ms Julie Jenkins, Holy Spirit School, Nicholls
* Ms Vicki Livingston, Holy Spirit School, Nicholls

The panel will have the chance to interact with many members of the school community during their time here as well as wade through reams of documentation that are prepared as part of the registration process. Staff members were very busy over the holiday break putting finishing touches to their teaching programs and class displays for next week.

Summer Uniform
With the weather still very unpredictable over these next 2 weeks we have a transition period from winter to summer uniform. During this time please ensure that your child or children have the correct uniform, particularly in regard to leather shoes, sports shoes, socks and other items. The summer uniform guidelines are clearly set out on the school website.

CWA Educational Grants
The Monaro CWA Group has again very generously offered to provide assistance, on a means-tested basis, for parents whose children are transitioning from Year 6 to Year 7 in 2013. The financial grants awarded may be used to assist with the purchase of uniforms or classroom equipment. Application forms may be collected from Steve Joyce on the Primary Campus and the closing date for submission to the office of completed applications is Wednesday 17 October.

Working Bee this Saturday!
All parents are invited and welcome to come along this Saturday to help prepare the school grounds for the registration visit. There will be activity on each campus, so any assistance would be appreciated between 9.30 am and 11.30 am. It would be appreciated if you could bring along your own garden tools, fork, spade, wheelbarrow, yard-broom and even a trailer if you have one.

Help! Please come along this Saturday and give us some attention at the working bee. (A plea from the school gardens).

Please continue to pray for those members of our school community who have suffered recent sad losses or who are in ill health.

Phil Stubbs
Principal
Pastoral Care occurs in our school through many different avenues. Embedded in the day to day operation of the school is both the formal and informal practice that comes through modeling, attitudes and teaching. The different subject areas, classrooms, home rooms, orientations, camps, the school counselor, the chaplaincy program, assemblies, liturgies, all forms of communication, are inclusive of Pastoral Care.

Over the year, a number of further pastoral care opportunities have been available to our students.

- Life Education for K-6
- ‘Cool Kids’ program for years 3-6
- The Seasons-for-Growth program for years 1-10 which deals with loss and grief
- Drumbeat – year 9 boys
- Yoga – year 9 girls
- Youth Connections individual support 7-10
- Homework club for 7-10
- Motivational Media 7-10
- Youth Connections small groups for year 10
- Crossroads year 10

We saw the inauguration of Kidsmatter as Staff Professional Development last term. This is a whole school approach but has a particular emphasis on K-6. Further promotion of this will occur this term and in the following year.

This term, along with other pastoral engagements already in place, we will be including:

- The last of the year 10 girls’ small groups
- The beginning of year 8 boys’ small groups (all year 8 boys will experience this over the next 3 terms).
- A program called ‘Love Bites’ for all Year 10 students
- Further promotion of Kidsmatter – component 1 – a positive school community

The Kidsmatter Journey - so far

- **Kidsmatter** - This is a word that we’re going to be hearing a lot of over the coming weeks, months, terms, years!

- **Kidsmatter supports the mental health and well being of all students.** In a nutshell, this is what Kidsmatter is about – mental health and wellbeing.

- An umbrella term, **Kidsmatter** is a process, not a program. Designed mainly for primary schools, it is a targeted whole school approach which includes all students, staff, parents and community.

- Because we are a K-10 school, and the targeted approach is **whole school**, we decided at St Pats that it was essential that we would therefore include all of our students K-10. The mental health and wellbeing of all our students is important.

- There are four components to **Kidsmatter**. Starting at the beginning, the first is ‘a positive school community’. This looks at a whole range of areas – it includes the physical appearance and structure of the school right through to the emotional and social aspects of relationships. We will be asking students, parents and carers to give input to this later on. Staff have already begun the process.

Our school has dedicated resources, personnel and time to implementing **Kidsmatter**:

- It began with a ‘briefing’ last year by the national facilitator
- Discussions at Executive level, conversations amongst staff and approaches to the school board were made. The school community, in principle, needed to be on board.
- The next step was to establish a **Kidsmatter** Action team representing staff across the school – we have Mike Intron (stage 3 teacher), Belinda Wilkins (Stage 2 teacher), Mark van Ommen (executive member K-10), Kevin Dunne (school chaplain K-10) and Lou Mackay (Pastoral Care Coordinator K-10). As we advance along the way it is hoped that this team will be extended, including parent representatives as well.
- The **Kidsmatter** Action team spent a whole day of intensive training about **Kidsmatter** in general with the national facilitator from Canberra. This happened in February.
- Surveys were then collected and collated from the staff
- Then two of the **Kidsmatter** action team went to Bega for a ‘train the trainer’ day for component 1.
- Mike and Lou then delivered the Component 1 Professional Development training to the staff over two evenings towards the end of last term.
- The **Kidsmatter** action team has looked at all staff responses and is now in the process of collating them.
- Another ‘train the trainer’ day is on in the first week of this term – this will deal with the second component – ‘Social and Emotional Learning for Students’
- Staff training for this will occur in the next year

So, as you can see the process to get **Kidsmatter** started is quite involved and lengthy. **Kidsmatter** is a Federal Government initiative – St Pat’s is one of 1400 schools now using it.
Claim the date: Saturday 3 November is the date set for our much anticipated bush dance. The P&F is planning to hold an auction and a raffle. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. Please contact a P&F representative.

The personalised school caps ordered in Term 3 will be available at the end of this week. These will be distributed in class groups.

Hope you all have a good week!
Cheers the P&F team

Congratulations to Florance McGufficke of Year 8 for winning First Prize in the High School Section of the Monaro Library photography competition which asked for a photo of someone reading in a funny place! Florance photographed the twin lambs of her pet sheep Georgia sitting in her sister Ivy’s lap, reading the book “Where is the Green Sheep?” They sat together in the colourful lucerne.

This year there were 240 entries in the children’s sections of this competition from all states of Australia. Congratulations to the following students whose poems won special awards.

SECONDARY
Penelope Fletcher 2nd place
Hamish Martin-Smith Highly Commended

PRIMARY
Chloe van Ommen 2nd place
Jasmin Statham-Smith Highly Commended

INFANTS
Ava Barrett 3rd place

A Feast of Poetry will be held on Sunday 4 November at The Raglan Gallery and Cultural Centre where prize winners will read their poems and collect their prizes. There are also a number of competitions on the day with generous cash prizes:

Poem on the Spot where you have about an hour to write a short poem based on a word.
Open Microphone – perform any poem of your choice.
Bush Poetry - write and recite an original bush poem.

Please direct any enquiries to Mrs Stubbs.

If you received a perpetual trophy at last year’s Awards Day, please return it to school as soon as possible in preparation for the 2012 Awards Days. Thank you.
**WHAT'S ON**

**Friday 12 October**
K-6 Swimming

**Monday 15 October**
School Registration

**Tuesday 16 October**
School Registration
Eucharist 1st Meeting 6.30 - 8pm

**Wednesday 17 October**
School Registration

**Thursday 18**
Tournament of Minds team in Perth
Parish Council Meeting 6.30pm

**Friday 19 October**
K-6 Swimming

**Saturday 20 October**
Eucharist (request of candidates) 6pm-7.30pm

**Sunday 21 October**
Eucharist (request of candidates) 10am-11.30am

**Monday 22 October**
SPOT Day (Year 7 Orientation)
National Dental Survey

**Tuesday 23 October**
Stage 3 Super 8’s Cricket at Nijong oval
National Dental Survey
First Kinderstart 9.30am - 11.00am

**Wednesday 24 October**
Year 9 Camp - Mimosa Rocks
National Dental Survey
K-6 Water presentation Multi Function Centre 9.30am

**Thursday 25 October**
Year 9 Camp - Mimosa Rocks
Principals Conference ACT
2nd Kinderstart 9.30am – 11.00am

**Friday 26 October**
Year 9 Camp - Mimosa Rocks
K-6 Swimming
3G Assembly 12pm

**Sunday 28 October**
Catholic Primary Netball Carnival

**Monday 29 October**
Eucharist 3rd Meeting (Homes)

**Tuesday 30 October**
3rd Kinderstart 1.30pm—3.00pm

**Wednesday 31 October**
Musica Viva K-8 and Drama 9am - 2pm

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**Canteen News**

**FRIDAY MEAL DEAL**- This Friday the meal is HOTDOG with sauce/Drink of your choice and 3 fruit sticks and 2 red licorice. All this for $5.00!

*Potato pies/lasagna and spaghetti bolognaise will not be available in TERM 4. Sorry for any inconvenience.

**NEW MENU & PRICE CHANGES**- A revised menu is included this week. Thank you to Secondary for their great ideas and designs. Congratulations to Ben Hayden and Florance McGufficke for their winning designs.

**TERM 4 VOLUNTEERS** - A new list will sent home asap so you can enter the dates into your diary. If you are able to help in the canteen, or just for an hour or 2, please do not hesitate to contact me through the school or my mobile 0406763375.

Thank you for your continued support.
Carolyn Hely
Canteen Manager

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**Around Town**

* Junior Cricket Registration Day: The Monaro Junior Cricket Registration day will be held this Friday 12 October at Nijong Oval at 4:30pm. Games will be played in a 9-a-side T20 format with mass participation encouraged. Registration is open to primary school aged children from Year 3 up and high school aged youth up to Year 9. Games will be mostly played on Friday afternoons with the occasional Saturday morning. Registration costs $70 per child and includes insurance, equipment and representative shirt and hat if selected for representative honours. Comp will run for the remainder of term 4 and all of term 1 with a break over the school holiday period. For any further information please call Ben Hearn 0416258422.

* **Sip ‘n’ Swing:** an evening of music, food and wine in support of Monaro Early Intervention Service. Saturday 13 October commencing 6.30 pm at the Car Club, Bolaro Street, Cooma. Tickets $70 per person include entertainment ConneXion Big Band, a souvenir glass and complementary wine on arrival and a gourmet supper. Tickets available from Main-street, 98 Sharp Street, Cooma. Enquiries Kath Nichols 0409 220 987 or email Kathy-cooma@hotmail.com.