Dear Parents, Staff and Students

Thank You

As this will be my last formal newsletter as Principal of St Patrick’s Parish School I would like to take the chance to express my gratitude to the St Patrick’s community for your support over the past 23 years. At my farewell assembly presented by the students on Monday there were images projected onto the screen that covered my almost quarter of a century involvement with the school. It brought back many memories of how much the school has been a part of my life and what a privilege it has been to be associated with St Patrick’s, either as classroom teacher, Coordinator, Assistant Principal or Principal.

As teachers we are aware of the enormous responsibility involved in nurturing the development of the children in our care – not just academically but spiritually, physically and emotionally as well. I could ask for no greater affirmation of what the teachers at St Patrick’s are committed to doing than through the words expressed in a letter from a parent of a Year 10 student last week:

“ (the school) managed to achieve the right balance between support and care and enough pressure to achieve and grow…”

The willingness of staff to foster this growth is at the core of St Patrick’s, but it can only be done in partnership with parents. As I mentioned in my address at the Primary Awards Day, parents are the first educators of their children. Schools alone cannot impart all the necessary lessons in life unless the values, expectations, limits and responsibilities are promoted at home in the first place. We can, and must, work in partnership with each other to achieve the desired goals for your children. This is no more important than in the faith life of your children – I would urge you to continue to make that connection with the life of Jesus, whether you are Catholic or not, as a model for how to live our lives to the fullest.

As I said to the graduating Year 10 students at their formal dinner last night, the path ahead for them contains both certainties and uncertainties. But by focusing on the 3 certain pillars in life there should be few obstacles that they cannot surmount or at least come to terms with. These are Friends, Family and Faith.

It is not possible to express my gratitude enough to the staff for their dedication to the children at St Patrick’s, to the staff of the Catholic Education Office in Canberra, to the parents for their unstinting support of so many aspects of school life and to the vast majority of students who reflect the spirit of a ‘School with Altitude’ each and every day. Thank you.

Year 10 Graduation

What a fine group of young people came together last night for the Year 10, 2013 Graduation Dinner to celebrate their final days at St Patrick’s, culminating in their Graduation Mass tomorrow evening at 6 pm. We wish them all the very best in their future endeavours and trust that the lessons learned at St Pat’s will help carry them through their lives.

Cooma Races

Our thanks go to all the parents, staff and helpers who contributed to the success of the catering at the Cooma Races last weekend. There could be no better example of the spirit of cooperation within the school and the funds raised will directly benefit our students. Congratulations to the P&F Cooma Races Organising Committee for all their hard work and success in bringing the event together.

Staffing Update

As we are still in the process of finalising staffing for 2014, some positions in Primary cannot be confirmed as yet. Once classroom teachers for 2014 are finalised, we will indicate class teacher allocations on the school website in the “What’s the latest news?” tab on the right hand side.

Phil Stubbs
Principal

Santa paid a surprise visit to the K - 2 Campus and was kept busy taking orders and distributing gifts.

Thanks, Santa!
Christmas Message

As we reflect on the past twelve months it has been a challenging and rewarding year for our School Board. One of the many achievements is the partnership now evolving between St Patrick’s Parish School and St Mary MacKillop College in Isabella Plains, Canberra. Commencing in 2014, many Year 10 students from this cohort year will be attending St Mary MacKillop College to complete their final two years of senior secondary education.

We take this opportunity to wish our graduating class of Year 10 2013 all the best and thank them and their families for the contributions they have made to life at St Patrick’s, for many of these students, over the last eleven years. I am sure these students will take with them many fond memories of our school and the teachings that have been inspired by our experienced and dedicated teaching staff.

Our students have excelled in a number of key areas across academic, sporting, Science, Mathematics, Geography, debating and Tournament of Minds competitions. Along with the many opportunities the school provides for students to participate in extra curriculum and pastoral care programs.

The School Board conveys Compliments of the Season to all our staff, families and students. We look forward to seeing you all in 2014.
STAR Awards Theme – ‘being successful’
Success is having a goal and working towards it. You achieve success by having a clear focus and doing things one step at a time with as much care and concentration as you can. A successful person makes things happen. Being successful is persevering until you get results.

- 1O Erin Alexander – for being successful in numeracy and literacy activities – well done Erin!
- 1P Angus Wood – for being a fluent and successful reader – well done Angus!
- 2P Shelley Kleven – for being successful in swimming and equestrian events – well done Shelley!
- 2P Hudson Laird – for his success in Yr 4 Numeracy groups in solving challenging tasks!
- 2P Cheyenne Connell – for being successful with literacy activities – well done Cheyenne!
- 2P Jack Williams-Hartas – for the success he has had in Science this term!
- 2O Rylee Byrne – for being successful in adjusting to a new school this year!
- 2O Olivia Bottom – for being successful at improving her reading skills!
- 3P Fergus Barrett – for having a successful year. Well done Fergus!
- 3O Connor Inskip – for his successful application and determination to improve his skills in class!
- 3O Sarah Hartley – for being successful with her writing this year!
- 3G Emma Hopkin – for being successful at being a generous giving person and for her great mathematical thinking skills!
- 3G Troy Rees – for being successful at integrating well into a new school and for his gentle calm nature!
- Music/French – Emily Pearce - for being successful in consistently improving her knowledge about reading music!

St Patrick’s Parish School P&F invite you to

2013 Ladies Christmas Party
An event to celebrate the end of another busy year for all the ladies of the Snowy Mountains

- Saturday 21 December 2013
- 7.00 pm
- Cooma Hotel Upstairs Function Room
- $30 pp includes a glass of bubbly on arrival, canapés and live music!

Tickets available from The Fabric Salon, Vale Street Cooma. Enquiries to Kylie Douch 0412 666 646 or Joumana Nassar 0411 270 317.
Thank you! I would like to start with a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has helped me throughout this year. You have all made my job here a lot more fun with your sense of humour and enthusiasm! I hope to see you again next year!

Volunteers
Thursday 12 December
Catherine Pearce
Friday 13 December
Volunteer needed please

MEAL DEAL FRIDAY: Due to the end of term, many items are not available so this Friday will be MYSTERY MEAL DEAL for $5.00. This will include a drink of choice AND??????? (Something yummy!!!)
TUESDAY WILL BE THE LAST DAY OF CANTEEN FOR 2013. I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and wonderful 2014. See you next year!
Thank you again for your support.
Carolyn Hely
Canteen Manager

Cooma Children’s Centre (OOSH) - Vacation Care Service, Summer holidays from Monday 6 January to Tuesday 28 January 2014, located at Cooma Public School - Commissioner Street Entrance. Bookings essential call 0450127090 or email ooshcooma@dodo.com.au

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2014

Wednesday 29 January
Yr 1 - 7 return to School

Thursday 30 January
Kindergarten First day of School
Yr 8 - 10 return to School

Monday 3 February
Yr 7 - 10 Archdiocesan Golf

Thursday 6 February
Yr 7-10 Long distance swimming

Friday 7 February
Primary swimming carnival 9am
No Kindergarten

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

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Yr 7 - 10 Awards Day - 1.30pm
Yr 10 Graduation Mass 6.30pm - 7.30pm

Friday 13 December
K - 2 Christmas concert 12pm - 1pm

Monday 16 December
Yr 3 - 6 Fun Day
Yr 7 - 9 Picnic Day

Wednesday 18 December
Last day of Term 4

Thursday 19 December
School Holidays

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