Dear Parents, Staff and Students

EDUCATION: we can’t afford NOT to invest in it!
The political maneuvering of this past week defies belief when for so long we have heard the pleading of politicians that the most important investment we can make as a society is to ensure we provide the best possible education for our young people. All sectors of the community seem to accept that education requires more, not less, expenditure in order to realize our educational goals, apart from the NSW Government it appears. The proposed cuts to both government and non-government schools will have far reaching implications for years to come. It is possibly because of the incredible public backlash that the original funding cuts mentioned last week were moderated. I would urge all members of the school community to continue to let our local State MP John Barilaro and the Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli know exactly what you think of the anticipated funding arrangements. It is indeed ironic that Adrian Piccoli enjoyed the benefits of an equitably funded Catholic education in Griffith that perhaps allowed him to pursue his current political career.

The Catholic Education Commission (CEC) has been very vocal in its condemnation of the sudden and unanticipated cuts. The Chairman of the CEC, Bishop Anthony Fisher, was succinct in summing up the likely impacts of the NSW Government’s decision:

“The capping from 2013/14 of the pool of government funds from which grants are paid to Catholic schools will obviously put pressure on Catholic school financing, especially as enrolments continue to increase in future years and educational costs rise.

However, Catholic school authorities will act to maximize the value of grants in ways that ensure fee increases for Catholic school families are minimized and any impacts on teaching and school services do not unduly compromise the quality of education for students. Determining the exact resourcing for individual schools and school systems are matters for local decision. It is too early to forecast the impact on individual schools for 2013 and beyond.

This is not about non-government versus government schools: we don’t want cuts to any schools and the sooner we can return to improving funding to all schools the better. We will continue to press for this on behalf of Catholic school parents and the children of New South Wales.”

Stage 3 Southern Region Public Speaking
Yesterday we had the privilege of hosting this event which had representation from schools throughout the southern part of the Archdiocese. All the St Patrick’s students who participated were a credit to themselves and the school for the manner in which they spoke and the welcome they extended to the other students involved.

Congratulations to Madeleine Wood-Iles who was the winner in the Open Division and to Chisomo Banzi who was runner-up in the Premier Division. Our thanks also go to the Primary Captains, Molly Caldwell and Thomas Hain, for their involvement in the day and to our Primary Coordinator Steve Joyce for his thorough organisation of the day.

SPOT Day (St Pat’s Orientation Time)
A few ‘butterflies’ were apparent at the start of our first SPOT Day on Monday when we welcomed the incoming Year 7 2013 students, including 12 new students who are joining us in 2013. It did not take long before the students were fully involved in the activities organised by Secondary Coordinator Pam Fletcher including a student Q&A session with current Year 7 students Laura Cooke, Erin Pearce, Andreas Nassar and Zac Saddler. The Secondary Executive took the Year 7 2013 students on a tour of the school and did much to reassure the students about the realities of high school life. The second SPOT Day will be held early next term when the students get a chance to participate in some secondary classroom activities in Science, Food Tech and Drama.

Assistant CEO Director Mark Hogan
We were all set to give a hearty St Patrick’s welcome to the Assistant Director today when we received the sad news that he will soon be finishing his tenure at the CEO and hence was unable to join us today. Mark Hogan has made an enormous contribution to Catholic education in the Archdiocese over many years and we thank him sincerely for this and wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

News Update
Good luck to our CCC athletes who will be competing at state level in Homebush on Friday!

Our preparations for School Registration on 15 – 17 October are in full swing and teachers are putting in many extra hours to ensure all facets of the visit are prepared.

How exciting to see our Year 9 star, Vendulka Wichta, progress on to the final six in the under 25 female performers on the X Factor on Prime TV. What a great experience for her in New York as we saw last night, taking in the sights and sounds of the ‘Big Apple’ and performing in front of international artist Ke$ha!

Good luck to our Secondary Tournament of Minds team in the state finals in Canberra on Sunday at the Australian National University!

Thanks to our School Archivist and regular relief teacher, Marg Hassall, for organising yet another successful ex-student reunion last weekend!

Please continue to pray for those members of the school community who have suffered recent sad losses or who are in ill health.
Spring is a special time to notice the presence of God’s graces and Blessings.

Spring is here, a time of waiting, of expectation...

Spring is here, a time of...
preparing new ground, planting new plants nurturing new seedlings,
tending new shoots, protecting new buds
A time of...
clearing out the old throwing away the tarnished discarding the wasted, emptying out the junk
A time of...
dreaming new dreams, thinking new thoughts making new plans, growing new goals welcoming new hope
A time of...
holding tight the fragile, embracing the vulnerable nurturing the young, becoming aware of the potential looking to summer
Time to recommit, to begin again the work… the rest of winter is over…
the glory of spring is just beginning.
we take hold of and celebrate the graces and blessings of the gift of spring.

Life sharing, role plays, dramas, games and small group discussions were part of the program secondary students participated in with the Catholic Youth Team last week. Students’ understanding of such issues as friendship, peer support and peer pressure, leadership, challenges and facing life changes were explored. This was done in the context of prayer, fun and games!

The youth team are five young people who have voluntarily offered their time (1-2 years) to work with students as positive role models in a peer support program sharing Gospel values. All involved expressed appreciation for the week. Congratulations to all students for you excellent participation.
SUPER Theme Week 9 – “Staying on Task”
When you stay on task you show the ability to make decisions and follow through on them. By staying on task we show people can count on us. We have much more chance of achieving success when we stay on task. Staying on task means you don’t allow problems to stop you.

- KG Abigail Dowton – for trying her best to stay on task at all times!
- 1P Joshua van Ommen – for his determination to stay on task!
- 1O Talon Kelly – for his efforts to stay on task and complete work to a high standard!
- 2P Shea Ilitch – for staying on task and producing work to a high standard!
- 2O Emmilee Reid – for staying on task and completing all set work in the time allocated!
- 3P Sarah Hartley – for staying on task in class!
- 3G Harrison Jones – for staying on task when working on his own, and improving his group work ethic!
- 3O Darnel Bartlett – for being attentive in class and staying on task with his work!
- Library Damon Fanning – for staying on task and working well during Library time!
- Music/French Bas de Ruijter – for always staying on task during French and Music!
- Primary Captains Kane Trent Smith - for staying on task by always following through with his responsibility for lunch orders!

Well done Children!

“Put your heart and mind and soul into even the smallest tasks. This is the secret of success” Swami Sivananda

SECONDHAND UNIFORMS
The second hand uniform stall will be open on Saturday 15 September at the Infants Campus from 10.00 am.

Well done to James Hayden who made it through to the Mackillop Cricket Trials in Leeton. James was selected for his leg spin bowling and made it through selection trials at Queanbeyan and Temora from a group of 86 students. Unfortunately, James missed out on making it into the final 12 players at Leeton, but is to be congratulated on making it so far against so many talented cricketers!

Secondary Awards Assembly
The Term 3 Secondary Awards Assembly will be held in the Church at 11.00 am Tuesday 18 September. Everyone is most welcome.

P&F News
- 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.
- Have you seen the order form for your child’s personalised official school cap? This is a unique and limited edition offer. Order forms are due back to school Friday 14 September 2012.
- Don’t forget to drop us a line with any issues or to let us know that you can help with the bush dance. Please contact Heather: hwalker-broose@bigpond.com or Eva: tangles71@gmail.com

Hope you all have a good week!
Cheers the P&F team
Thursday 13 September
Poetry & Drama Workshops
Year 9 Geography Snowyhydro visit
School Board Meeting 6.30 pm
Friday 14 September
CCC Athletics Homebush
Stage 3 Sullivan Shield
Year 9 & 10 Drama workshop 9am
Sunday 16 September
Tournament of Minds Territory Final
Tuesday 18 September
7-10 Awards Assembly 11am
Nursing Home visit 1.30pm
Friday 21 September
Last Day of Term
K-6 Poetry and Drama Workshop
Monday 8 October
Staff Development Day
Tuesday 9 October
Students return to school Term 4
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
Friday 19 October
7-10 Gala Day
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)
Eucharist 2nd Meeting (Homes)
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
2nd Kinderstart 9.30am – 11.00am
Friday 26 October
Year 9 Camp - Mimosa Rocks
K-6 Swimming
3G Assembly 12pm
Monday 29 October
Eucharist 3rd Meeting (Homes)
Tuesday 30 October
3rd Kinderstart 1.30pm—3.00pm

Canteen News

Volunteers
Thursday
Volunteer required
Friday
Denise Johnson

FRIDAY MEAL DEAL - 2 Party pies/2 Chicken Nuggets/Tomato sauce and drink of your choice. All this for only $5.00. THIS WILL BE THE ONLY CHOICE AVAILABLE TO BOTH PRIMARY AND INFANTS. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any thoughts or suggestions. Thank you again for your continued support.
Carolyn Hely
Canteen Manager

Around Town

• Capital Football Holiday Clinic: Registration includes 12 hours of instruction, new curriculum, clinic certificate, football poster, great facilities, drinks station, qualified coaches, maximum fun, football superstar comp, survivor tournament, derbystar football. For more information or to sign up visit http://www.capitalfootball.com.au/site/holidayclinics.php.

• 6-a-side Soccer: Kicks off this summer on Wednesday 24 October 2012, at Nijong Oval in Cooma. Go to Cooma Football Club's new website for all the information, and to download the Registration docs (on the "Registration and Rules" page) - www.coomafc.org<http://www.coomafc.org>. So, start getting a team together, register, and join in all the fun of 6-a-side this summer (Under 12s, Under 15s, Open: Mixed, Mens, Womens).

• Michelle’s Swim School: Bookings for term 4 swimming lessons and squads at Cooma Swim Centre and the Hospital Hydrotherapy Pool now being taken. All ages and levels catered for. Phone Michelle on 6452 4289 or email michellesswimschool@bigpond.com.

• Cooma Squash and Sports Centre 2012 School Holiday Sports Programs: Monday 24 to Friday 28 September with our Sports Programs for kids aged 7-14. Places are limited. Register by calling the Cooma Squash Centre on 6452 1213.

• This summer – it has to be cricket with your friends: This summer we're looking for the next generation of bowlers, batters and catchers. There’s lots of ways you can get involved in cricket with your local club, association or indoor sports centre. Sign up now with your local club or for more information visit: www.playcricket.com.au

• Cooma Champs Tennis School Holiday Tennis Camps: Wednesday 26 to Thursday 27 September and Thursday 4 to Friday 5 October from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm at the Royal Tennis Courts. $60 for 2 days. Please call Tom on 0404838049. Camps suitable for beginner to intermediate players. Some great prizes to be won, so come along and have some fun.