Dear Parents, Staff and Students

**Good luck to our Year 10 students**

It was a very special occasion last night when we held the Graduation Dinner for our 2012 Year 10 students.

In their last week at St Pat’s it has been so reassuring to see so many of the students reflecting on their time with us. It has not just been about the classroom lessons but there are so many aspects to what the Year 10 students have learned through their challenges, experiences and interactions over the years.

The Irish Blessing, as part of a prayer by Father Chris Gleeson that I read out to the Year 10 students, sums up our wishes for them:

*May the road rise to meet you,*
*May the wind be always at your back,*
*May the sun shine warm upon your face,*
*The rain fall gently in your fields,*
*And, until we meet again,*
*May God hold you in the hollow of his hands,*
*Father, Son and Holy Spirit. AMEN*

It is fitting that the students’ last formal activity at St Patrick’s is their Celebration Mass tomorrow evening at 6.30pm and all members of the school community are most welcome to attend.

**Awards Days**

Recognition of effort and achievement was the centerpiece of the Primary Awards Day last Friday and will also be for the Secondary Awards Day to be held in the church at 1 pm tomorrow. Thank you to all the parents who came along to support the day, to the staff who put in so much extra time to prepare for the occasion and congratulations to all the students whose efforts are recognised on these important days.

**Reports distributed on Friday**

A reminder that student reports will be distributed on Friday and will be handed to the students themselves; students not at school on Friday will be able to collect their reports next week. Having read through and signed every report I am so proud of the effort that the vast majority of students put into their school life and also of the comprehensive range of information that teachers present in these reports. The office ladies, Bev, Deb and Sarah, have worked tirelessly to ensure that the final product is presented so professionally and is distributed on time. Thank you one and all.

**Welcome to St Patrick’s**

We are still having enrolment interviews for 2013 and have several scheduled for the school holidays with new families arriving in town. We warmly welcome the 46 new students, at this stage, who will be joining us next year from Kindergarten to Year 10 and we look forward to a productive relationship with them all in the years to come.

Phil Stubbs
Principal

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**Thanksgiving Prayer Service**

The whole school came together on Monday in the church to share our Christmas spirit. Students from Kindergarten to Year 10 brought in gifts and cash donations which will be distributed through the St Vincent de Paul Society to those most in need in our community. The tireless work of the numerous volunteers and Mrs Clare Nowland, who accepted the gifts on behalf of the SVdP organisation, is appreciated so much in our local area.
During the last two weeks the Year 10 students have been participating in our Work Experience program. Many have confirmed that certain careers are a realistic goal, whilst others have come to the conclusion that some careers are not for them.

One of the main goals of the program is to give the students a realistic snapshot of a possible career, which may help them make future career aspirations that much easier.

It is with great satisfaction and pride that our Year 10 students uphold the school’s values within the workplace, with all employers giving the students glowing praise. The effort and time that employers give to our students is certainly appreciated by the students, parents and the school. Without their support, the school’s work experience program would not be able to run.

Some of the companies that our students have spent time with include, The Monaro Post, Snowy Hydro, Lambie Street Preschool, Landmark, Stonehaven Constructions, Horizon’s Resort, Geoscience Australia, National Zoo & Aquarium, Monaro Veterinary Clinic, Monaro Truck & Machinery and the Department of Defence (Duntroon & HMAS Albatross).

The companies listed above are only a very small sample of the 45 companies that our students have been with this year. It is a timely reminder that the present Year 9 students can start thinking about work experience for 2013 as some companies are already in the process of organising their placements for next year.

Any questions regarding future work experience placements can be directed to Mr Summerville.

Congratulations to our Office Manager Bev Clarke, who was one of a target group of CEO staff to complete a Certificate IV course in Frontline Management. The graduates were presented with their awards at Raiders Club, Belconnen last week.
Holidays are happening soon which means a new school year ahead. The P&F would love to have new members! Everyone is welcome and we need people to run committees, to help in lots of different ways and to generally be part of the team. Everyone is welcome to all our meetings. Next year has lots of events, which means lots of help!! If you would like to be involved or would like to fulfill one of the exec roles please let us know. Have a wonderful Christmas and a safe new year and thanks to everyone who helped this year. Cheers the P&F Team

St Patrick’s Cooma
Christmas Vigil Mass, Monday 24 December, 6pm
Christmas Day Mass, Tuesday 25 December, 10am
New Year’s Day Mass, 1 January 2013, 10am

St Andrew’s Nimmitabel
Christmas Vigil Mass, Monday 24 December, 9pm

St Mary’s Adaminaby
Christmas Day Mass, Tuesday 25 December, 8am

Christmas 2nd Rite of Reconciliation
Tuesday 18 December 7.30pm, St Patrick’s Church Cooma.

Could all students K - 10 return all LIBRARY BOOKS this week please. This enables all books to be checked and repaired if necessary. Overdue notices will be issued next week. Thank you for your support. Happy holiday reading!
Glenyce Moxon

Our 2013 Student Executive did a great job assisting at the Senior Citizens Lunch held at the Cooma Ex Services Club.

A big thank you to our X Factor star, Vendulka Wichita, who performed a number of songs for the gathering.

Please note the second hand uniform stall will be open for the last time in 2012 on Thursday 13 December between 2.30 and 3.15 pm at the Infants Campus.

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Come and be part of the Children’s Christmas Mass at St Patrick’s on Christmas Eve at 6.00 pm. Children are invited to dress up as a Christmas character (Shepherd, angel, barn animal etc.) If you can join us, practice will be held on Friday 14 December and Monday 17 December from 3.30 to 4.00 pm in the Church. Maybe you would like to do a reading, be a main character, play a musical instrument or just be a character. For more information please contact Carol on 6452 2783 or Sue on 6452 6468.

P&F News
**WHAT'S ON**

**Wednesday 12 December**
Year 10 Picnic Day

**Thursday 13 December**
Secondary Awards Day 1.00 pm in the Church
Year 10 Graduation Mass 6.30 pm

**Friday 14 December**
K-6 Swimming
K-9 Reports Distributed

**Tuesday 18 December**
K-2 Santa and parent picnic
Primary & Secondary Picnic Day

**Wednesday 19 December**
Last day students and staff

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**2013**

**Wednesday 30 January**
Years 1 - 7 first day

**Thursday 31 January**
Kindergarten and Years 8 - 10 first day

**Wednesday 6 February**
Years 1-6 Swimming Carnival
Kindergarten pupil free day

**Friday 8 February**
7-10 Archdiocesan golf

**Monday 11 February**
7-10 Immunisation

**Wednesday 13 February**
K-6 School photos
7-10 long distance swimming

**Thursday 14 February**
7 - 10 School Photos
No Kindergarten

**Monday 18 February**
Year 7 Camp

**Tuesday 19 February**
Year 7 Camp

**Wednesday 20 February**
Year 7 Camp

**Thursday 21 February**
K - 6 Southern Region swimming carnival

**Friday 22 February**
No Kindergarten

**Monday 25 February**
7-10 Swimming Carnival

**Monday 4 March**
Archdiocesan swimming carnival

**Wednesday 6 March**
3-10 Netball Gala day

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**Canteen News**

**VOLUNTEERS**
Thursday 13 December
Misook Barnes
Friday 14 December
Meg Clarke

There will NO MINI CANTEEN ON THE LAST DAY!
THE LAST MEAL DEAL FOR 2012 IS....
HOT DOG with sauce/JUICE or MILK AND SURPRISE!!!!THE COST WILL BE $5.00.
Unless pre-arranged, no other food will be available to Primary and Infants. Thank you.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all my amazing volunteers who have helped me throughout 2012 and to wish everyone a safe and very Happy Christmas and well-earned break. See you all again in 2013!

Carolyn Hely
Canteen Manager

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**Around Town**

- **Michelle’s Swim School – School Holiday Learn to Swim Program:** Monday 7 to Friday 18 January 2013. All levels of Learn to Swim and Stroke Correction will be catered for. Our **Squad Development Camp** will again run for 3 days from Monday 21 to Wednesday 23 January. This Camp is open to all current Squaddies or swimmers who are capable, and will run from 10.00am til 2.00pm each day. Carnival Capers will run in conjunction with the Squad Camp from Monday 21 to Wednesday 23 January from 2.30 to 3.30 pm. This program is to prepare children for their upcoming Swimming Carnivals, and will include Dive Starts, correct turns and finishes for all strokes. For bookings and enquiries phone Michelle on 6452 4289. Or email: michellethomas7@bigpond.com

- **In2Cricket School Holiday Training Camp:** Thursday 24 and Friday 25 January 2013 10am-3pm at the Cooma Squash and Sports Centre, Murray Lane, Cooma. Great way to improve your Cricket skills and understanding - for Boys and Girls Ages 7 -14 - only 15 places available. Cost: $90 (Book early by 1/1/13 and save 10%) includes (Bat, Ball and Bag) all coaching, games and giveaways. Register Online at www.in2cricket.com.au by typing in 2630 (Cooma Cats) or call Stuart 6452 1213 or 0422496400.

- **Vacation Care – Cooma Children’s Centre (OOSH):** Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 5.30 pm from 7 to 25 January inclusive and on pupil free day Tuesday 29 January. Holiday program available at school offices or OOSH located at Cooma Public School. For information, contact Bill or Leonie on