Dear Parents, Staff and Students

Our Lenten journey begins
As we begin the season of Lent today with Ash Wednesday we are reminded of our own mortality when the ashes are placed on our forehead with the Sign of the Cross. Christ’s death and resurrection are just 40 days away and the Lenten period allows us to focus on the personal renewal necessary to appreciate the true sacrifice and celebration of the Easter season. It is important that Lent is seen as a period of real spiritual growth, rather than just a time to give up a few luxuries or make the occasional sacrifice.

A particular focus for our school this Lent is Project Compassion whereby we are challenging the children to really become aware of social justice by contributing to a range of tangible projects in developing countries. By making students aware of the comparative cost of the basics of life we are hoping to make them realise they really can make a difference.

Leadership
The news of the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI yesterday due to ailing health was just so significant in the history of the Catholic Church, being the first time in more than 600 years that a pontiff has done so. With the announcement of a new Pope before Easter we can hope and pray for a smooth transition and that a new leader of the more than 1 billion Catholics worldwide will usher in a period of consolidation, healing and enduring spiritual growth.

While we are soon to farewell an inspirational leader of our Catholic Church, today was an occasion of great significance and pride in our school when we celebrated the leadership liturgy. The Secondary executive, Primary executive and house captains presented a moving and reverent prayer service where they all publicly declared their commitment to the school community and willingness to uphold the values that are the foundation of our school. The occasion was also our first gathering for the year of the whole school to welcome everyone to the new academic year. Thanks to our Religious Education Coordinator Lou Mackay for her coordination of the liturgy.

New crosses
After a frenetic few weeks of getting quotes, coordinating builders, planning replacement strategies and gazing skywards to avoid falling timber we have 2 beautiful, new powder-coated aluminum crosses on the convent building that will endure for generations to come. A small flock of galahs wreaked havoc on the old cedar crosses (which had stood in place for more than 120 years) over the past 2 months and it was a very perplexed galah that landed on the metal cross within 2 minutes of the new one being installed! Our thanks to Johnny Nassar and Full On Constructions for the efficient and prompt replacement of the crosses.

Parents and Friends Meeting: your chance to get involved
Tomorrow evening we have the 2013 P & F AGM being held in the Primary Staffroom at 5.00 pm. The Parents and Friends Association provides such a vital service in so many aspects of school life. Their fundraising efforts not only provide essential funds for teaching and learning resources but also the all-important chance for social interaction between members of the school community. Please come along to the meeting to show your support for the school and join in the broad range of activities planned for the year!

News Update
Good luck to our dragon boat team at Jindabyne’s Flowing Festival on the weekend!
Good luck to our Year 7 students on their camp at Tathra next week.
Stage 2 are set for an exciting excursion to Sawpit Creek next week. Good luck!
Please keep those members of the school community who are unwell in your prayers and thoughts this week.

Phil Stubbs
Principal
Archdiocesan Golf

Last week Year 10 students Sam Patricks and Alex Childs travelled to Catalina Golf Club in Batemans Bay to compete in the Archdiocesan Golf Championships. On a very hot day both boys played exceptionally well to finish a couple of strokes under their handicap which is a fantastic effort! Sam ended up 3rd in his division and Alex was 4th. Well done to both boys and a big thank you to their parents for their support on the day.

Mr Lawley

3P Class

3P settling into their new class for 2013

Leadership Liturgy

Our 2013 School Leaders reading their Commitment Prayer.

Year 3-6
Swimming Carnival

A beautiful sunny day last Wednesday greeted students for the Years 3 to 6 swimming carnival. Students participated enthusiastically throughout the day, beginning with the open 100m freestyle and finishing with an exciting team relay. Congratulations to all who entered events gaining valuable points for their house. After some close competition Aqua sealed their place as swimming champions for 2013. Thank you to all who made this day a great success.

Age champions are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Boy</th>
<th>Girl</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Jack Kleven</td>
<td>Clara Thornton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Tomas Carton</td>
<td>Shelley Kleven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Hudson Laird</td>
<td>Lucy Thornton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Hugo Steiner</td>
<td>Amber Martin-Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Andrew Pearce</td>
<td>Miranda McGufficke</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

House Points

- Aqua 618
- Caelum 598
- Terra 588
- Ignis 413

The 2013 House Captains, Primary and Secondary.
Parents are reminded to return permission notes for their children who want to participate in the Seasons for Growth programs in 2013. The program is open to students in Years 1 through to Year 10. Please contact Kevin Dunne at the school for further information regarding the courses for this year.

Kevin Dunne
Chaplain/Student Welfare Officer

Welcome from the School Board

On behalf of the School Board, we would like to welcome our new and existing families and students to St Patrick’s Parish School in 2013. We hope your journey with the school is a rewarding and enjoyable experience. Over the course of this year, there will be several exciting new opportunities and initiatives offered to our students.

Stay tuned:
Erika Statham
Board Chairperson

A working bee will be held at the school on Saturday 23 March from 9.00 to 11.00 am. If you can spare an hour or so, please come along equipped with your gardening gloves, tools and a bucketful of energy!! It is incredible how much work we can achieve in a short space of time to help make our school look fresh and fabulous!!

Normal summer uniform is to be worn. If you have PE bring your sports uniform and change after photos.

Thank You

If you wish to receive your school newsletter by email please contact the school office on 6452 1721 or email office@stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au.

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**WHAT'S ON**

**Thursday 14 February**
- 7 - 10 School Photos
- Kindergarten pupil free day
- P&F AGM and Meeting 5 - 6pm

**Saturday 16 February**
- Flowing Festival

**Sunday 17 February**
- Flowing Festival

**Monday 18 February**
- Year 7 Camp Kianinny
- **Tuesday 19 February**
  - School Board Meeting 6.30 - 7.30pm
  - Year 7 Camp Kianinny
  - Stage 2 Excursion Sawpit Creek

**Wednesday 20 February**
- Year 7 Camp Kianinny

**Thursday 21 February**
- K - 6 Southern Region swimming carnival - Narooma
  - Year 9 Parish Mass 10.00 - 11.00am

**Friday 22 February**
- Kindergarten pupil free day
- Yr 9 & 10 Drama/Art Excursion Canberra
- K - 10 Raiders visit 9 - 10.30am

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

**Thursday 28 February**
- Year 10 Parish Mass 10.00 - 11.00am
- **Friday 1 March**
  - Yr 9 - 10 Drama Workshop
  - **Monday 4 March**
  - Archdiocesan swimming carnival

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

**Thursday 7 March**
- 3P Parish Mass 10.00 - 11.00am
- **Friday 8 March**
  - Yr 9 - 10 Drama workshop
  - **Tuesday 12 March**
  - Schools Gala Day 9 - 2pm
  - **Friday 15 March**
  - K - 10 St Patrick’s day Liturgy and Celebrations

**Saturday 16 March**
- Yr 7 - 10 Archdiocesan soccer gala day

**Friday 22 March**
- Yr 3 - 6 Auskick

**Monday 25 March**
- Leadership day at Cooba

**Tuesday 26 March**
- Yr 10 War Memorial excursion

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**Canteen News**

**VOLUNTEERS**
- Thursday 14 February
- VOLUNTEER NEEDED please!
- Friday 15 February
- Meg Clarke
- Wednesday 20 February
- Linda Quodling

**FRIDAY MEAL DEAL-** NACHOS with corn chips, meaty sauce, cheese and sour cream/a drink of choice for $5.00!

This is the ONLY choice available to both Primary and Infants, if you have any special requests please contact me prior on my mobile 0406763375 or at school, between the hours of 9.30am and 2pm.

Thank you for your continued support.

Carolyn Hely

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**Around Town**

* **Cooma District Junior Rugby League 2013 Registration Days for players from U6s to U16s:**
  - Saturday 16 and 23 February at Sports power in Sharp Street. This is an opportunity to guarantee a spot in one of our teams for 2013. In 2012 the maximum numbers allowed to be registered for each team was reached for some of our teams. So please make sure you come down and ensure your place in a team. Sports power promotion – the first 50 players to register will receive a free drink bottle, 10% of football boots and 5% off headgear and should pads. Registration cost - $60 per player, $120 for 2 players and $150 for 3 players and includes shorts, socks, player insurance, NRL pass, qualified coaches, First Aid officers, presentation day BBQ, year book and Colts spray jacket. Players are required for all age groups with limited spots available in all teams – get in early to avoid disappointment. All new players will need a copy of an original Birth Certificate. Parents must accompany children and both signatures are required (U10s and up).

* **Southern Cross Cultural Exchange:**
  - Carefully selected students will arrive in July for one or two semesters from France, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Japan, and Spain. They will attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at our website [www.scce.com.au](http://www.scce.com.au), email scceaustr@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship.

* **Teaching someone to drive can be a happy experience:**
  - You can learn all the simple steps on how to teach a learner driver at a FREE two hour workshop. The next workshop in your area will be held Monday 18 March from 6pm-8pm at Monaro High School, to book call Mitch May on 02 4221 2770.

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