Dear Parents, Staff and Students

Catholic Schools Week

This week marks the official celebration of Catholic education throughout NSW and the ACT with the overarching slogan “Every Child Counts”. The unique nature of our education system allows each child to develop their potential in so many ways in partnership with the parish, families, staff, students and the wider community. With the inspiration of the life of Jesus and his teachings to guide us, we hopefully prepare our students for whatever they might encounter throughout their lives. So frequently at enrolment interviews I have parents allude to the particular qualities of Catholic education, whether they are Catholic or not. Recently I enrolled the children of a past student who had not been back to the school for almost 20 years and his words summed up the feelings of many: “There was something special about the education I received at St Pat’s and I want my children to experience it as well!” Every child counts!

While we are part of the broader celebrations of Catholic Schools Week we also have a range of specific events:

♦ Yesterday we held a Gala Day by hosting more than 200 Year 7 to 10 students from Lumen Christi College in Pambula and Carroll College at Broulee in competitions in OzTag, soccer and netball. The weather conditions were ideal and the Snowy netball courts and Nijong Oval were in top condition. The competition was spirited and a great sense of enthusiasm and fun was evident throughout the day. Congratulations to all the students involved and a big thank you to the parents and teachers for contributing to the success of the day.

♦ Tomorrow (Thursday) we will be having open classrooms in Primary from 9.30 am to 11.00 am so please feel free to come along and see our classes in operation on both the Primary campuses.

♦ On Friday this week we will be having a whole school celebration of St Patrick’s Day which falls on next Sunday. The St Patrick’s liturgy will commence in the church at noon and will be followed by lunch and tabloid sports at Rotary Oval. Activities will be done in House groups and it will be a chance for the House Captains to display their leadership skills.

♦ This evening we are holding a meeting in the Secondary Library to outline for Year 10 parents an exciting proposal for a Catholic pathway for Years 11 and 12, connecting up with MacKillop College in Canberra. We have been in consultation with the Catholic Education Office in planning this for quite a period of time and the proposal is to provide a Catholic option for senior secondary schooling for those parents who do not wish to send their children away to Catholic boarding schools in Years 11 and 12 or who wish to continue with the Catholic tradition throughout their child's education. MacKillop College has an excellent academic reputation as well as a wealth of academic, vocational and extra-curricular opportunities.

We will be welcoming the Principal of MacKillop College, Mr Michael Lee, the Head of the Senior Campus, Mr Paul O’Callaghan, and 3 senior students to the information session. Obviously there are some logistical challenges to be met if the proposal is to be successful but we are determined to address these in a constructive manner.

As any educational research shows, there is no substitute for effective face to face teaching at senior level, and we have had a number of our students complete their senior schooling in the ACT over recent years with great success.

A big thank you to the P&F for the Cooma Show

The whole school community would like to thank the P&F for their hard work in running the BBQ and luncheon pavilion at the Cooma Show last weekend. Particular thanks to catering coordinator Marjorie Revelant and event coordinator Tammy Byrne and the many parents and staff who assisted on the day. This provided a great start to the P&F’s fundraising and social focus for the year.

News Update

Good luck to our debaters who will be competing in Canberra next Monday evening in the first round of the Ford Competition.

Phil Stubbs
Principal

The Gala Day in full swing

Our Master Chefs - Will and Ben
Congratulations to all the students who participated in the Netball Gala Day on Wednesday 6 March. Your sportsmanship, teamwork and cooperation on the day is to be commended.

A special thank you to Angela Sullivan, Louise Fletcher, Annika Rooney, Laura Brown and Ashleigh Steinke for umpiring a number of games throughout the day. This was in combination with playing their own match games. At times, some of these girls did not get a break throughout the day. Their assistance was greatly appreciated.

Overall, the results were very pleasing. The Year 9/10 team won two out of their five games and were commended by officials on their team play. The Year 7/8 (Team 1) had 1 loss, 1 draw and 3 wins. Overall, they came second in their division. The Year 7/8 (Team 2) had 3 losses, 1 draw and 1 win. Overall, they came third in their division.

Well done to all three teams!

Ms T Wawrzyniak

School Captains Weekly Report

Last Wednesday, 3 teams from primary and 2 teams from the high school went down to Cooma’s Netball Courts to play in the Local School’s Netball Gala Day. We played against SMGS, Berridale, Bombala, Jindabyne Central and Monaro High.

Well done to the two Stage 3 teams who tied for second place. There were lots of cheerful faces and lots of laughs.

Well done to the boys and girls who had a go and played with good sportsmanship.

We would like to thank the parents who came and helped, the referees and the netball committee and the teachers who helped organise the day.

We will let you know the results of the SRC handball comp next week.

Written by Damian Fletcher and Miranda McGufficke

Random Fact of the Week

Strawberries are low fat, low in calories, high in vitamin C, fibre, folic acid and potassium and there are over 200 seeds on the outside of each one!

Cooma Show

Food Technology students from Years 8, 9 and 10 entered baked goods in the recent Cooma Show. All students did extremely well with many of them achieving places in the various sections. Some of them are pictured below. Two of our Year 10 students, Emma Burt and Daniel Sharkey, were junior stewards on the Friday and found it to be a worthwhile and enjoyable experience.

Herb Garden

Thanks to the help provided by Will Bottom and Ben Hayden, the Food Technology department now has a herb garden right outside the door of the practical room. The students are already making good use of the herbs with Year 8 students Will Shingles and Katelyn Patricks picking some to use in their hamburgers.
Cooma Show

Thank you to everyone who helped on the day. A big thank you to Coles for the very generous donations and to Tammy & Marjorie for their work. Thanks to all the helpers on Friday who helped clean and those who donated baking and all supplies needed - very much appreciated. A great fundraiser and what a great team we had all day. More details in next week newsletter.

P & F Meeting next Thursday 21st March @ 5.30pm all welcome in the Primary Staff room.

P&F Committee

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Leadership Training Day

All students in leadership positions in the primary and secondary campuses will be attending a Leadership Training Day on Monday 25 March at Jindabyne Sport and Recreation Camp. Students are reminded to return their permission notes and $12 to the office by Friday 15 March. For more information regarding the leadership day please contact Kevin Dunne at the school.

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Bazaar Fair

BOOK, PLANT, HERB and BOARD GAME ENTHUSIASTS

Whether you love gardening, playing board games or are just an avid reader of books, Autumn is the perfect time to start propagating those lovely garden and herb plants for spring or going through your book collection to see what books you no longer use that can be sold at our upcoming Bazaar Fair Book and Garden Stalls.

You may have some old garden terracotta or ceramic pots that do not suit your colour décor at home or a Board Game that has not been used by the family for many years. Why not donate these to our Bazaar Fair on Saturday, 2 November 2013 in Centennial Park.

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2013 Seasons for Growth program timetable is as follows:

- Years 7-10 (Level 4) group started last week
- Years 3/4 (Level 2) group will start Thursday 7 March
- Years 5/6 (Level 3) group will start middle of Term 2
- Years 1/2 (Level 1) group will start middle of Term 2

Each group will have eight sessions followed by a celebration liturgy. There is a follow up session for each group later in Term 4. Please contact Kevin Dunne at the school if you need further information. There are still vacancies in both the Years 5/6 and Years 1/2 groups which will start next term.

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P&F News

Cooma Show

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

Thursday 14 March
ICPA Conference P&F Catering  
K-6 Open Day 9.30-11am

Friday 15 March
K-10 St Patrick's Day Liturgy and Celebrations

Monday 18 March
Yr 7 - 10 Archdiocesan soccer gala day  
Debating round 1

Tuesday 19 March
Yr 8 surf safety day Tathra

Thursday 21 March
P & F Meeting 5pm - Primary Staff Room

Friday 22 March
Yr 3 - 6 Auskick  
Yr 3 - 6 MacKillop swimming trials - Homebush

Sunday 24 March
3-6 Archdiocesan soccer carnival

Monday 25 March
Leadership day

Archdiocesan winter trials (Soccer, Rugby League, Netball)  
Debating round 2

Tuesday 26 March
Yr 10 War Memorial excursion

Wednesday 27 March
3-10 X-Country  
i-Read twilight session

Thursday 28 March
K-10 Holy Week Liturgy

Friday 29 March
Good Friday

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

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**Canteen News**

**Thursday 14 March**
Naomi Saxby

**Friday 15 March**
St Patrick's Day Celebrations

**VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY REQUIRED TO PACK ESKIES AND TRANSPORT LUNCHES TO ROTARY OVAL. HELP NEEDED FROM 12 NOON TO 1.00 PM PLEASE!**

**Wednesday 20 March**
Volunteer needed please!

FRIDAY MEAL DEAL: PIE & sauce and drink/SAUSAGE ROLL & sauce and drink OR SPINACH & RICOTTA ROLL and drink. Each deal is $5.00. Please add an extra 50c for a bag of lollies or freddo frog.

Thank you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Carolyn Hely  
Canteen Manager

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**Around Town**

- **To celebrate Harmony Day** and our cultural diversity; MAGIC (Multicultural Activity Group In Cooma) is presenting the Multicultural Community Festival 2013 on 17 March in Centennial Park Cooma. There will be lots of music and dancing from around the world including the Night Café, Zambezi Rhythmus, Quake Bellidance, Mexi-co Lindo, Canberra School of Sri Lankan Dancing, Indonesian Dance Group and local performances such as the MAGIC group, Cooma Dance Co, Cooma Band, Chris Adams with his friends who performed at the Edinburgh Tattoo. The event is with the Rotary Markets and international food stalls. For more information contact: Yvi Henderson Multicultural Project Officer Monaro Family Support Service Email: yvi.henderson@monarofss.ngo.org.au Mobile: 0458 523457.

- **Violin and cello lessons for St Patrick’s School students**, beginners to advanced – AMEB exams if required. Over 19 years teaching in the Cooma area. Phone Jarka Secka 6452 7672 or 0405 661 300. Leave a message if not answered.

- **Snowy Super Cats**: Registrations are now open for the Snowy Super Cats Auskick Programs! We are looking for players for Auskick Under 12’s, Under 14’s and Under 16’s in the ACTJ-AFL Competition. 2013 season starts Saturday 4 May. For further information contact David Inness on 0411171489 or visit www.coomacats.sportingpulse.net

- **HARMONY DAY - 2013 Harmony Day Poster Competition**: Open to all school students 6 to 18 years of age. Closing date 12 April. For details visit www.movingforwardtogether.com.au, email emie fernbasket@ozemail.com.au or phone 9361 6035 or 9321 6304. Total prize money of $4000. All entrants receive a Certificate of Participation.

- **Lumen Christi Catholic College**: Everyone is invited to attend our Open Day on Wednesday 22 May from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm. Information evenings will be held for Year 7 2014 on Tuesday 6 June from 6.00 pm and for Years 9 and 11 2014 on Thursday 13 June from 6.00 pm. The Year 7 2014 Orientation Day will be held on Friday 22 November from 9.00 am to 3.25 pm. For more information please phone the Enrolment Officer, Barb Gough on 6495 8888.

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