Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

Take a tablet…… or a real book?

An interesting discussion has taken place in the media recently in regard to the tendency to give young children ebooks, including smartphones and tablets, to read as a substitute for parental engagement in the reading process. The leading children’s author Mem Fox has contributed her views by saying that parents must keep reading books – either paper or ebooks – with their children, to help the child comprehend the story and develop empathy with the characters. Kate Highfield, a lecturer at Macquarie University’s Institute of Early Childhood Education maintains that interactive ebooks could distract children who were learning to read because the books focused on animations and sounds rather than meaning. She stated: “…..ebooks are just one small part of a child’s time with text and for this reason we really need to ensure that children still have access to quality books and shared reading with a traditional book.” She continues by raising the issue of the ‘digital park’: “I suggest that parents think of tablets and mobile technologies as a digital playground and, just as you wouldn’t leave your child in the park alone, we shouldn’t leave them alone in the digital park.” Food for thought!

Exciting prospects for 2014

Following the visit by our Director last week we have been granted additional staffing for 2014, enabling us to run 2 smaller Kindergarten classes, as long as the Kinder enrolments justify it. If you are aware of parents who are still deliberating over their child’s schooling for next year please encourage them to contact the school to discuss the enrolment process in order to secure a place in Kinder 2014.

Our Year 7 2014 students yesterday participated in the second of their orientation days where they experienced the high school classroom environment with a Science laboratory lesson, a practical cooking class in Food Technology and some exciting interactions in a Drama class. The purpose of such days is to remove some of the mystery/misconceptions surrounding high school; their first day of high school in 2014 will have only Year 7 in attendance so we can further enhance their adjustment to secondary school.

Rural Fire Service Cadet program

As has happened previously at this time of year, many of our Year 10 students are undertaking the RFS Cadet training program this week. They are learning about all aspects of fire awareness, prevention and mitigation. Our thanks go to Mr Vern Dunning from our local RFS who is coordinating the training and Mr Steve Summerville who organised the program.

St Mary MacKillop College 2015 Information meeting

The latest in our meetings to provide information about the senior Catholic pathway to MacKillop College in Canberra is taking place for Year 9 students today and for their parents this evening at 5.30 pm in the Secondary Library.

Phil Stubbs
Principal
It is now week 6 of Term 4 with lots happening.

- We hope all the students doing the swim program are having fun and improving!
- All Stage 3 students must have their gold licence with them at all times. You never know when a ‘trap’ or ‘Joe’ may pay you a visit. Remember, life seemed pretty unfair and harsh in the goldfields. The students are also currently making equipment used in the goldfields which has been fun.
- Remember your hats for play and sport.
- Congratulations to all those STAR award winners this week.
- Good luck to all those writing their speeches for school captains. Just having a go makes you a winner!

Broc Allen and Miranda McGufficke

Musica Viva

On Monday 11 November at 1:30pm we went to a Musica Viva concert. Mara is the name of the group. There are five members in the band and it is named after one of the members. Kindergarten to Year Eight as well as the Year Nine and Ten Drama class attended Musica Viva. They had many different types of instruments, such as the tapan, guitar, baglama, bouzouki, double bass, darabuka, clarinet, alto saxophone, soprano saxophone, tenor saxophone, and the recorder. The songs Mara played were Daichovo Doncheno, Báidín Fheilimí, Our Corrugated Iron Tank, and Kele Meyrem. Some of the students danced and played percussion instruments to Kele Meyrem and sang along to the Irish folk song.

Written by Brianna Rankin and Chelsea Reeve

Parent Line NSW - is a state funded program managed by CatholicCare Sydney. It is a telephone counselling, information and referral service for parents of children ages 0 to 18 who live in New South Wales. The service includes the Early Childhood Intervention Infoline, providing information and support about concerns regarding child development, disabilities and developmental delays.

Parent Line is available 9am to 9 pm Monday to Friday, and 4pm to 9pm on weekends. It has been supporting NSW parents for over 15 years and answers over 10 000 calls each year.

Calls are answered directly by a team of trained, professional counsellors with training in parenting programs and qualifications in social work or psychology. Each of the counselling staff have many years of experience in helping families deal with ordinary parenting dilemmas and a range of more difficult problems.

Also provided is support and information for professionals working with parents and children, including advice for supporting parents, referral to services, details about how support can be given to families, newsletter articles and more.

Free Parent Line publicity materials are available on: www.parentline.org.au
Counsellors can be accessed on 1300 1300 52

Nominations opened for the K-6 Captains on Tuesday 12 November. The first step for a student who wishes to nominate involves collecting an application form from the K-6 Coordinator, Mr Steven Joyce. Completed forms need to be returned by Thursday 21 November. Only current Year 5 students can nominate.

Fully completed nominations are accepted. The student is then asked to write a speech that must include information about his/her Catholic values, skills, talents and personal qualities that would make him/her a good leader. The speech should be written by the student at home and be one to two minutes in duration. All speeches must be brought to school on Monday 25 November.

Speeches are presented to all K-6 students at the church on the 26 November. The speeches will begin at 9:30 am. Parents and friends are welcome to attend, with seating available at the back of the church. All candidates will need to be dressed in full school uniform.

Immediately after the speeches, the 3-6 students and staff will vote in their classrooms.

The 2014 Captains will be announced at the Awards Day.
Our Annual Awards Day presentations are fast approaching with the K-6 Awards Day scheduled for Thursday 5 December and the 7-10 for Thursday 12 December. If you would like to make a donation toward either or both of these days, please forward to the school office. A receipt will be issued and all donors are acknowledged in the Award Day booklets. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

**STAR Awards Theme – ‘Flexibility’**

Flexibility is being open to change. It means not always having to have your own way. If something doesn’t work, you try a new way. Flexibility is making changes for the better. When you are flexible you enjoy surprises.

* KG Laura Matthews – for the flexibility to adapt to new situations!
* 1O Mitchell Reid – for the ability to take a new approach when things don’t work out!
* 1O Talon Kelly – for the ability to take a new approach when things don’t work out!
* 1P Toby Inskip – for the ability to adapt to a new learning environment with ease!
* 2P Kennedy Purcell – for the way in which she adapts to new learning environments!
* 2O Shea Illitch – for being able to adjust to new plans quickly. Great flexibility of attitude!
* 2O Matilda Saxby-Rendal – for being flexible in maths groups by changing plans quickly!
* 3P Irelend Ward – for displaying flexibility in maths groups by being open to new ideas!
* 3O Clayton Miners – for being able to work well under difficult conditions!
* 3O Caitlyn Pratt – for being able to adapt to a new learning environment!
* 3G Nicholas Zusak – for having the flexibility to change his approach, so that he produces a higher standard of work!
* Music/French - Zara Childs – for having a flexible approach to changes in circumstances!
* Library - Thomas Carton – for being flexible when changes occur!

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Music/French – Zara Childs – for having a flexible approach to changes in circumstances!

Reminder P&F meeting this Thursday 14 November, 5pm in the Primary Library, all welcome.
Thursday 14 November
P&F Meeting 5pm
Yr 10 RFS Cadet Program

Friday 15 November
K-6 Swimming Program
Yr 10 RFS Cadet Program

Monday 18 November
Yr 10 First Aid Course

Tuesday 19 November
Yr 10 First Aid Course
Yr 7-10 Martin Schoo Basketball

Wednesday 20 November
Yr 7-10 Tennis Championships

Thursday 21 November
Yr 10 Love Bites Workshop
Yr 7 - 10 Social (Year 6 invited)

Friday 22 November
K-6 Swimming Program

Monday 25 November
Yr 10 Work Experience

Tuesday 26 November
Yr 10 Work Experience
K-6 School Captain speeches - 9.30am

Wednesday 27 November
Yr 10 Work Experience
K-9 Thanksgiving Liturgy - 12pm

Thursday 28 November
Yr 10 Work Experience

Friday 29 November
Yr 10 Work Experience
K-6 Swimming Program

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

**VOLUNTEERS**
Thursday 14 November
Kim Kleven

Friday 15 November
Karen McGufficke (12.15 to 1.30 pm)

Wednesday 20 November
Meg Clarke

MEAL DEAL FRIDAY - HOT DOG/SAUCE/3 FRUIT STICKS AND DRINK FOR $5.00 OR TUNA OR VEG SUSHI/LOLLYPOP AND DRINK FOR $5.00.

THESE ARE THE ONLY 2 CHOICES AVAILABLE TO BOTH PRIMARY AND INFANTS. TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT, PLEASE CHOOSE ONE OF THE ABOVE IF YOU WOULD LIKE A LUNCH ORDER ON FRIDAY.

Thank you for your continued support.
Carolyn Hely
Canteen Manager

**Canteen News**

**Around Town**

* **Cooma Little theatre** is going to be performing "Once Upon a Witch", a family pantomime which some of our students are involved in. It will be on the first 3 weekends in November and tickets are available for the Cooma Visitors Centre. A brilliant family show!

* **Celebrate Ability Day 2013**: Cooma Community Walk along bike path to Park. Meet at Church Road end of bike path 11.00 am. Bring friends, wheels, bikes – whatever or whoever you like to walk with! Sausage sizzle and music in the Park from 12.00 pm. All welcome. Contact ADHC on 6452 0204 for more information.

* **A REMINDER** to all students who have enrolled at Lumen Christi Catholic College for Year 7, 2014 - Orientation. For travel, contact Sapphire Bus lines on 6495 6452. Time 9.00 am to 3.25 pm. Wear current primary school sports uniform. Bring pencil case, drink, recess, lunch and hat. Please note that a sausage sizzle will be held at lunchtime.