Dear Parents, Staff and Students

The passing of a true friend of St Patrick’s: Mary Green

It was with great sadness yesterday that we farewelled Mary Green after she lost her brave battle with illness. Mary epitomised so many of the selfless qualities that we set up as examples to our students: her dedication to the school through the School Board, her enthusiasm for the activities of the P&F Association and her refreshing, optimistic outlook in whatever she did that was related to the betterment of St Patrick’s. We know that she is now in God’s care and our prayers and thoughts are with her husband, Michael, and her boys, Ted, Joe and Tim and the extended family at this time of great loss. May she rest in peace……

Our Welcoming and Leadership Liturgy

On Monday we had the whole school together for the first time this year to celebrate the commencement of the 2012 school year in this Year of Grace which begins at Pentecost. A central part of the liturgy was the induction and commitment ceremony for our 2012 school leaders which comprised the Primary and Secondary Executive, the House Captains and Vice-Captains and the Student Representative Council members. In front of the whole school these students publicly stated their willingness and intention to uphold the values that we hold dear at St Patrick’s and which are characterised through our school motto of “Strength in Gentleness”.

As I mentioned at the ceremony, leadership is not about popularity, in fact at times it can involve the opposite, but it requires us to uphold the beliefs that we know are true and correct. In a sense we are all leaders because of the example we set in our daily lives in everything that we do. Good luck to our 2012 school leaders.

As an extension of the qualities we try to instil in our students it was very heartening yesterday when I spoke to the Principal and Director of Boarding at St Gregory’s at Campbelltown, who had 50 students here to attend Mary Green’s funeral. Their comments were so positive and genuinely affirming about the qualities seen in students who come from St Patrick’s to their school in Years 11 and 12 in terms of their commitment, integrity and strong academic foundation.

Cooma Show Success

Thank you to our tireless P&F and all their willing helpers, both staff and parents, for the outstanding efforts at the Cooma Show over the weekend. We again set the standard for catering by living up to our reputation. The organising committee brought things together in a very short space of time and the whole operation flowed very smoothly. Congratulations to all our students who entered exhibits in the pavilion and particularly to all the Primary classes, all of whom had exhibits. Particular thanks also to our Primary and Secondary Executive for their patience and the wonderful example they set as part of the guard of honour for the Governor-General.

Brumbies Gala Day

Congratulations to our junior and senior rugby teams who yesterday were both winners in their respective categories, up against all of the larger regional schools, as part of this prestigious competition. Again commitment, teamwork and enthusiasm were the order of the day. Thanks to Tim Lawley for his coordination of the day and also to the dedicated band of parent supporters who cheered the players on.

Good luck to our Year 7 students as they head off to Kianinny at Tathra today for their annual camp. This camp presents a great opportunity for social interaction, reflection and the development of interpersonal skills. Our Secondary Executive are accompanying the group and are just as excited as the year 7 students about the next 3 days. Thanks also to staff members Paul Mackay, Sue Wallace, Mark van Ommen and Alyson Hulley.

Good luck to all our competitors and supporters at the Primary Soccer Carnival in Canberra on Sunday.

We apologise for all the variations in the timing of activities over these few weeks but I’m sure you can appreciate that the recent rain events have been the cause of this.

A note will be going home this week regarding the St Patrick’s Day celebrations scheduled for next Monday in the church and at the Showground.

Phil Stubbs
Principal

Website: www.stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au  Email: office@stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au  Phone: 6452 1721
Secondary Parent-Teacher Interviews

For parents of students with surnames from M-Z and anyone else who was unable to come to the first night, interviews will be held at the Secondary Campus on Thursday 22 March. Bookings from 4.00-5.30 pm and drop in between 5.30 to 6.30 pm.

Monaro High for inviting us and to all the skilled and talented outdoor physical activity of rock wall climbing. In the afternoon Mrs Lou Mackay Maths. They are known as ICAS or International Competitions Science, Computing, Writing, Spelling, English and Maths. They are known as ICAS or International Competitions and Assessment for Schools. The primary aim of the ICAS Science competition is not to test students’ prior knowledge. Instead it tests their aptitude for science. The questions require students to make accurate observations and then come up with logical inferences. The Science competition will be run on 6 June for students in Years 3-10, and entries need to be made before the end of Term 1. The entry fee for Science is $7.70. The question booklets are well designed and appeal to students. All students will receive a certificate which is a great reminder of their participation. Furthermore, each student who takes part will be contributing points to their House. If you would like your child to be involved in this competition, please remind them to speak to their teacher before the end of this Term.

Mrs Sue Wallace, Science Teacher, Secondary

On Friday, 23 March 2012, St Patrick’s Parish School will be having a ‘SouthCare’ Awareness Day to raise much needed money as part of the Snowy Hydro SouthCare Awareness Month. Below is an outline of all the wonderful events that the K-6 students will do on the day.

• Students dress up as an injured person or an emergency worker. Each student is to bring in a gold coin donation. This money will go to the SouthCare. There will be a prize for each class for the best dressed person.
• There will be a raffle run by the SRC. The details of the raffle will be mentioned closer to the event.
• Students will be encouraged to bring ‘recyclable’ items to make their own helicopter in class. There will be a prize for each year level.
• Students will be able to make their own paper helicopter as part of a Science lesson.
• We will have a BBQ for lunch where students will be able to buy a sausage sandwich and a drink. The cost and order form will be sent out closer to the date.
• We will have two people from SouthCare who will come to the school to judge the best helicopters and best dressed students.
• Some of our local emergency workers may drop by!
• K-2 students can also bring in their injured teddy bears.

Mr Steven Joyce, K-6 Coordinator

Our Year 10 students have organised a team to participate in the Relay for Life event on the weekend 24 and 25 March. Relay for Life is a fun, outdoor overnight fundraising event bringing communities together to celebrate and remember those who have battled cancer. Teams take turns to walk or run around a track whilst enjoying entertainment, activities and moving ceremonies. The event aims to raise funds for the cancer council’s research as well as raise community awareness about cancer. The team will take turns to walk for 24 hours between 10.00 am on the 24th and 10.00 am on the 25th. We would like to encourage the school community to assist these students with their fundraising endeavours by; either going to the Relay for Life website and making an online donation or by sending a cash donation to the school in a clearly marked envelope. A Relay for Life receipt will be issued by the team. All donations over $2 are tax deductible:


Last Monday, our Year 10 students participated in a pastoral care day called ‘Crossroads’. This started at 9.00 am and finished at 9.00 pm and was held at Monaro High. A wide range of talks and group activities were offered and St Pat’s students and Monaro High students from Years 10 and 11, rotated in organised groups from one activity to the next. Sessions included drug and alcohol safety, road safety, mental health and wellbeing, safe relationships and an outdoor physical activity of rock wall climbing. In the afternoon, the SES gave a demonstration of a mock rescue which displayed the skills of rescue workers and the use of the ‘jaws of life’. Guest speaker Trent Southworth, a former policeman, gave an informative talk on the risks of drug taking, while later in the evening, we were treated to the inspirational speaker Ms Robyn Moore. Robyn is the voice of ‘Blinky Bill’ as well as all the female voice parts of ‘How green is my cactus’; the list goes on in regards to voiceover roles. She also heads the ‘Make a wish’ foundation and her work and influence in this area has been extensive. Her talk was both entertaining and motivational, a wonderful way to finish a long but worthwhile day. Many people were involved in the organisation of the day. Our thanks go to Monaro High for inviting us and to all the skilled and talented speakers who gave presentations throughout the day.

Mrs Lou Mackay

On 9 March 2012, St Patricks cleaned up the school as part of Clean-up Australia Day. Two students from each class had to carry a big recycling bag and follow their classmates. Students went all around the school collecting rubbish. If the rubbish was gross they were allowed to use gloves. Thank you for helping clean up the school.

By Bas de Ruijter (Vice Captain)
Primary SRC representatives were in charge of constructing a Chook Lotto Box for their class and naming them. Congratulations to Mrs Fraser’s Class on constructing the winning entry. The SRC felt that all the classes did such a good job that they all deserved a prize. In a few week’s time the SRC will be providing pizza for lunch. The names of the various boxes were, ‘Mr Feathers’, ‘Gobble’, ‘Chuckles’, ‘Chookinator’ and ‘Cluckers’, Well done and ‘happy Chook lotto-ing’!
Molly Caldwell and Thomas Hain (School Captains).

Chook Lotto

Infants:
- Lachlan Hemphill 1O for great listening
- Eve Commons KG for participating in meditation
- Jack Buckley 1P for sitting sensibly

Thank you to Deziel Barrett’s family and Safia Nassar’s family for donating Chook Lotto prizes. We are in need of more prizes and any donations would be very welcome.

Catholic Schools Soccer Carnival

Good luck to our students playing in the Canberra Goulburn Catholic Soccer Carnival this Sunday. As usual, thanks to all the parents and teachers who have volunteered to assist by coaching and managing teams. We cannot run these activities for the students without you. If you have not received a note with the team names, draw and times. Please see Steven Joyce or call on 6452 1721.

Lost Property

The K-6 Lost Property boxes are once again overflowing. We were surprised to find 22 items of clothing not labelled. If these items are not collected this week they will be sent to the P&F Uniform Clothing Pool. Please label every item of your child’s uniform.

Chook Lotto Box

‘Always act, always walk, always proceed. Neither stand still nor go back’.

SRC Quote

We would like to thank staff, students, parents, carers, Maggie Beer, Hayden Ellerton, Melanie Avery and members of our local community who have contributed recipes for our Nourish’ cookbook. The selection of recipes that we have received has been outstanding. Staff and student competition winners will be announced at the end of Term 1. Information on our book launch and guest speaker will be available in Term 2. A reminder that students and staff who have submitted recipes need to ensure they have electronically completed a declaration or permission slip in order for their entry to be valid for the competitions. Please complete and submit your forms to: Melissa Giuliani 0429 993440 or Erika Statham 0400 787398 ASAP. Please complete a pre-order form to receive your copy of ‘Nourish’ at the purchase price of $20.00. We have a limited run of books being printed. Pre-order forms can be downloaded from the school website: http://stpats.cooma.nsw.edu.au/parents/pformsandnotes.html. Don’t Miss Out! We are grateful to Allianz Insurance, our major sponsor, who is providing funds to produce this captivating cookbook which will compliment any household full of easy fun-filled recipes. We thank our 25 local food producers and retailers for sponsoring and advertising in ‘Nourish’.

A world of recipes sponsored by Allianz the insurer who offers a world of protection

K-6 Disco

When: 23 March, 2012
Time: 6:00 to 7:30pm
Where: Uniting Church Hall
Cost: $5.00
Music by: DJ Jim

Hot snack food and cold drinks on sale. Students only permitted entry when signed in by a parent. Younger siblings welcome BUT must be accompanied by a parent.

Presented by: P&F

Woolies docket

Last year students bought in Woolies docket to help get some educational resources for our school. We got three hundred group readers and sixty calculators. These will be put to use across the K-6 campus. We enjoyed reading the group readers and working out sums on the calculators all the time. Thank you to everyone for sending in the docket!

By Maisie Ward (Vice Captain)

P&F News

- Cooma Show – Thanks to all the volunteers who helped on the day and thanks for all the donations received, they were terrific. A special thanks to all the teachers who also volunteered and helped out. Thanks Marco and Melissa who came home early from a family party in Canberra to help when they knew we were stuck without a Ute and had no way of getting the BBQ’s etc back to school. Thanks to ELGAS for donating the gas for the day. Result? We’ll let you know how much we made once the final accounts etc are in.
- Disco – Friday 23 March is Disco night. Please put it in your diary (information above). Help is needed on the night to volunteer please call Eva on 0413 555 565.
- Class Liaison Parents – We need parents to help us with this. It helps the P&F know what’s important to each year from Infants to seniors so that we can plan for all ages. Can you help??
- Don’t forget to drop us an email with any issues you may have or to let us know you can help. My email is hwalker-broose@bigpond.com

The P&F Team
Thursday 15 March
Year 7 Camp
30 Parish Mass 10.00 am

Friday 16 March
Archdiocesan Football (Soccer) trials
Auskick Gala Day Years 3-6

Sunday 18 March
K-6 Soccer Carnival Canberra

Monday 19 March
St Patrick’s Day
Year 10 Industrial Technology excursion to Tumbarumba

Tuesday 20 March
Antarctic Experience Stage 2 and 3

Wednesday 21 March
3-10 Netball Gala Day

Thursday 22 March
3G Parish Mass 10.00 am
Secondary Parent Teacher Interviews (at the school)
School Board Meeting 6.30 pm

Friday 23 March
K-6 Southcare Fundraising Day
K-6 P&F Disco

Monday 26 March
Year 7 & 8 Debating ACT Round 1
CPS Swimming Homebush

Wednesday 28 March
K-6 Brumbies Gala Day

Thursday 29 March
Year 7 and 10 Immunisations
3P Parish Mass 10.00 am
P&F Meeting 6.00 pm in the Secondary Library

Friday 30 March
CCC Swimming Homebush
Regional Final 7-10 Brumbies Rugby Union

Saturday 31 March
20 Year Reunion

Monday 2 April
Board of Studies Assessment Seminar
Leadership Day
Archdiocesan Winter Trials
Year 7 & 8 Debating ACT Round 2

Tuesday 3 April
7 & 8 Girls Auskick
K-6 Easter Bonnet Parade

Wednesday 4 April
Year 10 Excursion to Blue Lake (to be confirmed)
K-6 Cross Country

Thursday 5 April
Holy Thursday
Easter Liturgy (to be confirmed)
Last Day Term 1

Friday 6 April
GOOD FRIDAY

Monday 23 April
Staff Development Day

Tuesday 24 April
Students return for Term 2

Wednesday 25 April
ANZAC Day
Thursday 26 April
Archdiocesan Touch Trials Cootamundra

Friday 27 April
Anzac Day Liturgy 12.00 pm
3-6 Harry Nichols shield

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**Parent Line Counsellors** are on call 24/7 to discuss any issues that relate to your family—1300 1300 52 or visit our website [www.parentline.org.au](http://www.parentline.org.au).

**Multicultural Community Festival:** Sunday 18 March 9.00 am to 3.00 pm Centennial Park. Contact Yvi at Monaro Family Support Service 6452 3450.

**Helping Learner Drivers Become Safer Drivers:** Free workshops for parents and supervising drivers—18 April 6.00 to 8.00 pm Cooma Ex-Services club. Bookings 4421 2405.

**Cooma Squash and Sports Centre 2012 School Holiday Sports Programs:** Join in the fun these April, July and September School Holidays with our Sports Programs for kids aged 7-14 from 16 to 20 April. Cost $120 for full program or $30/day includes morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. Limited placed, max 15. Includes half-court tennis, mini-golf, driving bay gold, croquet, ten pin bowling, squash, racquetball, soccer, badminton, bumper hockey, air hockey and table tennis. Full supervision of all activities. Phone 6452 1213 to register.

**Cooma Colts 2012 Mini Rugby League Trial Days:** U6, U7, U8 & U9 – Sunday 18 and 25 March at the Cooma Showground. 9.30 am for 10.00 am kickoff. Boys and girls of all skills levels invited to come along and try rugby league. 2 hours of fun and games includes coaching, skill session and games. There will be an opportunity to sign your child/children up for the Rugby League Canberra competition for ages U6 to U16.