Dear Parents, Staff and Students

Welcome to our new Principal

The announcement was made by the Catholic Education Office last week that Mrs Frances Robertson has been appointed Principal of St Patrick’s Parish School from the beginning of 2014. I know you will join me in extending our warmest congratulations to Mrs Robertson on behalf of the whole St Patrick’s community. Her extensive experience in both Primary and Secondary education in the Wagga Wagga Archdiocese over many years will ensure that the enduring traditions, achievements and spirit of St Patrick’s are in very safe hands indeed. We look forward to welcoming Mrs Robertson to our school community in the not too distant future.

Keeping safe online

At our Southern Region Principals meeting last week in Batehaven there was considerable discussion about the ever changing presence of communication technology so readily accessible to young people these days. While this technology brings many benefits for users, it also carries with it a clear responsibility that it is used wisely at all times. The Archdiocese is currently developing policies that cover the appropriate use of social media and the responsibilities that go with mobile phones, iPads, iPods and tablets that are brought to school by students. In the meantime we all have a responsibility to attempt to keep up with developments in technology and its associated applications.

There are websites that contribute to our awareness as well as campaigns that are conducted to make our children safe online. Already this year we have had class visits in Years 5 to 10 by the Police Youth Liaison Officer, Senior Constable Rebecca Lanyon, from Queanbeyan Police to emphasise the need for safe online behaviour.

The government website www.cybersmart.gov.au has links to an extensive range of information and activities that can assist us in keeping up with recent developments and challenges. Some of the key findings of a recently released report by the Australian Communications Media Authority (ACMA) include:

The percentage of Australian eight to nine year olds who rate the internet as ‘very important’ in their lives has doubled since 2009, according to research released today by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA).

‘Whether it’s for study, playing games or connecting to friends and family, young Australians are placing more and more importance on the online aspects of their lives,’ said ACMA Deputy Chairman Richard Bean.

“For most it’s a positive experience but parents need to think about starting conversations about cyber safety with their kids earlier,” he added, with fewer eight to 11 year olds reporting having discussed these issues with their parents than 12 to 17 year olds.

The ACMA study also looked at children’s and young people’s perceptions of the challenges they face online, and the role of other people - family, friends and teachers - in helping them navigate their way safely and positively.

Some further key findings include:

• While access via a computer still predominates, children and young people are increasingly gaining access to the internet on their mobile devices: 8 to 11 year olds use more than two devices to access the internet, and teenagers use at least three devices.

• Up to 35 per cent of 8 to 11 year olds have their own mobile phone, rising to 94 per cent of 16 to 17 year olds.

• The majority of teenagers report using privacy settings on their social networking sites, with 66 per cent of 16 to 17 year olds reporting their profiles are private. Younger teens are slightly less likely to have private profiles or take other steps to manage their privacy.

• Parents are the main source of advice and support for young people who are experiencing difficulties online. Up to three quarters of 12 to 17 year olds have talked to their parents about how to stay safe online.

News Update

Good luck to our Primary Choir in the Archdiocesan Choir Festival today in Canberra.

The best snow conditions of the season happened for our Secondary Snowsports students yesterday and the conditions are looking great for our K-2 Ski Program students on Friday. Congratulations to our youngest students on the excellent reports that came from their first day at Thredbo last Friday.

Best wishes to our Year 10 Geography students as they complete their coastal studies fieldwork at Bournda today.

Good luck to our Archdiocesan athletes in Canberra tomorrow!

Please keep those members of our school community who are unwell in your thoughts and prayers.

Phil Stubbs
Principal

Yr 10 Geography students enjoyed a beautiful day at Bournda today.
In the past, screening for scoliosis was funded and completed in schools. When school screening was abandoned, the Spine Society of Australia introduced the Self-Detection Program as a preventative health measure.

WHY? Scoliosis (spinal curvature) affects adolescent girls and 25 per thousand are at risk of developing a significant curve. Three girls per thousand require active treatment (spinal brace or surgery).

During July and August, it is recommended that all schools with girls in Years 7 and 9 participate in the National Self-Detection Program (NSDP). The brochure can be accessed directly via a link on the Scoliosis Australia homepage at www.scoliosis-australia.org.

It is recommended that girls, with parental support, complete the self-detection program and if concerned, the website provides advice from certified specialists as to how to manage scoliosis and where to seek advice.

If you require further clarification, please feel free to contact Ms Wawrzeniak.

Winter can be very long in Cooma! For some of us, it’s not a problem and we cope well; for others it’s even a delight to hit the slopes and enjoy the snow; and to others still, winter can a difficult and sometimes desperate time dealing with the cold and the increased power bills to ward off that cold.

To support the St Vincent de Paul Society help those who are struggling, we will be having a non-uniform day for the whole school next Wednesday, 21 August. Students are asked to consider the needs of others and to bring a monetary donation to support this cause.

A seminar with the NET Team (National Evangelisation Team) has been organised for all Secondary students as follows:

- Monday 26 August 2013 - Year 9
- Tuesday 27 August 2013 - Year 7
- Wednesday 28 August 2013 - Year 8
- Thursday 29 August 2013 - Year 10

The NET Team is a dynamic group of young people who are employed by the Catholic Archdiocese to work with youth in a peer support mode. Each member of the Team has given up work or study for one or two years in order to engage in this ministry of Youth to Youth. They share their faith and life experience in an inspiring, exciting and enjoyable way and they have been very well received in youth groups and schools throughout the Archdiocese.

The team has been coming to our school each year and it is a great pleasure to welcome them back. The seminar promises to be a very worthwhile experience for our Year 7 to 10 students. Students are asked to help cover costs by bringing in $10.00 by Thursday 22 August 2013.
**Father’s Day Gift Stall**

**Friday 30th August 2013**

Students are asked to donate a small gift which will in turn be available for sale for students to buy. We ask that gifts are wrapped in clear cellophane so that children shopping can see what they are buying. Can all gifts please be given to class teachers by Monday 26th August.

On **Friday 30th August** every child will have the opportunity to shop at the stall for their Father/carer. All gifts will be available for purchase and priced between $2.00 & $5.00. Funds raised go to St Patrick’s P&F.

Suggestions for gifts include a coffee mug filled with sweets, magazines, books, sporting items, key rings etc.

We also require helpers to conduct the stall on **Friday 30th August** from 9am.

Enquiries or if you are able to help with the stall contact: Natalee Reid on mws@schutebell.com or text 0412 910 152 or Kylie Douch on kdouch@bigpond.net.au or text 0412 666 646.

**Primary SRC**

**STAR Awards Theme – “Making an effort”**

- KG Rhys Sands – for making an effort to concentrate during writing tasks!
- KG Tyrell Bartlett – for making an effort to concentrate during writing tasks!
- 1O Joshua van Ommen – for the fantastic effort he makes during skipping activities!
- 1O Tony Bitar – for the improvement and effort made with his handwriting!
- 1P India Dyball – for making a huge effort in her reading. Well Done!
- 1P Ryder Cochran – for making an effort to complete set tasks with care. Well done!
- 2P Thomas Fletcher – for making an effort with presentation of his school work!
- 2P Georgia Manning – for making an effort with solving multiplication problems!
- 2O Remi Brademanne – for making an effort with all class work!
- 3G Caitlin Manning – for making a great effort to follow directions and to ask when she wants to use something!
- 3G Amber Martin-Smith – for making a consistent effort to give her best to every task and for the effort she gives to making others feel accepted and appreciated!
- 3O Will Pendergast – for making a great effort with his homework and spelling!
- 3P Sean Dixon – for making an effort with his handwriting!
- 3P Brianna Rankin – for making a big effort with her maths work!
- Library Isadora Barsoum – for always giving her best effort during library lessons!

**PLANT, HERB and BOOK ENTHUSIASTS**

**Bazaar Fair 2013**

**(School Fete)**

**Saturday, 2 November 2013**

Snowy Ride Weekend
Centennial Park, Cooma
10.00 am – 2.00 pm

Spring is almost upon us which is a perfect time for picking those plants for our summer Bazaar Fair.

Please start taking those cuttings and re-potting plants for our plant stall.

**STOP!** Do not throw out any books or board games. We will be in desperate need of these for our book stall.

**Bring them along on Fair day to Centennial Park.**

This is a major P&F fundraiser for 2013 – stay tuned.

If you have misplaced your Bazaar Fair form you can download a copy from the school website: [http://stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au/parents/pformsandnotes.html](http://stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au/parents/pformsandnotes.html). If you have not already done so, please return the flyer to the school office ASAP.

The Bazaar Fair Committee thanks you for your ongoing support.

**NOURISH**

Nourish is still available for purchase at $25.00 per book or 3 for $60.00 from the School Office.

Why not give dad a helping hand in the kitchen and purchase a copy for Father’s Day?

Nourish is filled with a huge selection of fantastic tried and tested recipes. This beautifully presented hard-covered cook book is a must for your collection! Call into the office today to secure your copy at this special price!

**St Patrick’s Parish School P&F Association**

**Billy G’s Gourmet Cookie Dough Fundraiser**

We are conducting a Billy G’s Gourmet Cookie Dough Fundraiser in the lead up to our Bazaar Fair.

A number of Cookie Dough varieties will be on sale with some fantastic prizes to be won, including IPADs. Order forms will be distributed soon, so stay tuned! Further updates in upcoming School Newsletters.
**What's On**

**Thursday 15 August**
- Archdiocesan Athletics
- Yr 10 Parish Mass 10.00am
- Parish Pastoral Council Meeting 6.30pm

**Friday 16 August**
- K - 2 Ski Program

**Monday 19 August**
- 7 - 10 Snowsports
- Bookweek

**Tuesday 20 August**
- Southern Region Snowsports - X Country

**Wednesday 21 August**
- Non-uniform Day Vinnies Winter Appeal

**Friday 23 August**
- Bookweek Parade 12 noon

**Saturday 24 August**
- Tournament of Minds ACT Southside

**Monday 26 August**
- Yr 9 NET Team visit

**Tuesday 27 August**
- Yr 7 NET Team visit
- 8.00 am Drama Excursion

**Wednesday 28 August**
- Yr 8 NET Team visit

**Thursday 29 August**
- Yr 10 NET Team visit

**Friday 30 August**
- Father's Day Stall 9.30am
- 2P Assembly 12 noon

Please refer to School website for more information
[www.stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au](http://www.stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au)

---

**Canteen News**

**VOLUNTEERS**
- **Thursday 15 August**
  - Nancy Bowerman
- **Friday 16 August**
  - Karen McGufficke
- **Wednesday 21 August**
  - Jackie Bitar

**MEAL DEAL**
- **Thursday 15 August**
  - Macaroni Cheese/Frozen Fruit Cup and Drink of Choice for $5.00
  - CHICKEN OR VEGETABLE SUSHI/FROZEN FRUIT CUP AND DRINK OF CHOICE. THIS IS ALSO $5.00.
- **NO OTHER CHOICE WILL BE AVAILABLE.**

- **Questions or suggestions please contact me through the school.**
- **REUSABLE LUNCH BAGS:** I still have a couple of bags for sale. They are green trim and cost is $8.00. If there is enough interest I will place another order. Please let me know if you are interested.

- **Thank you for your continued support.**
  - Carolyn Hely Canteen Manager

---

**Around Town**

- **Plant Propagation Workshop:** 24 August at the Cooma Community Garden. Course covers propagation by seed, cuttings and division. Also hot house design and irrigation. Workshop cost of $70 includes morning tea, take home plants and seedlings. Bring along any plants that you wish to propagate (bring branches of fresh/new season’s growth wrapped in wet paper). Course will benefit anyone wanting to mass produce plants for a vegetable/market garden, tree wind breaks, home production nursery or just a home garden. Bookings are essential. For a booking form email nodig1@bigpond.com or contact Cooma Community Garden 0408 640 845.

- **Padua Class of ’83 Reunion:** A Reunion is planned for Saturday 9 November 2013. The organising committee are trying to locate ex-students who would have completed Year 10 at Padua Catholic High School in 1983. This includes students who may have left a little earlier as well as teachers who would have had the pleasure of educating us! Please contact Kerrin Hardie (Prout) on 0404 462 292, kezzah68@gmail.com, or visit Facebook: Padua High Wanniassa Class of ’83.

- **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 at Monaro High School on Monday 28 October from 5.30 to 7.30 pm. Book now on 02 4221 2770 Mitch May.