Dear Parents, Staff and Students

Congratulations to our First Eucharist candidates

Last Sunday we saw our first group of students participate in their First Eucharist celebration and it was a moving and significant occasion. The second group will be presented at this Saturday evening’s Mass and our thoughts and prayers are with them.

We are reminded during this celebration that we are united with Jesus Christ in a special way, with the word ‘Communion’ indicating this union. By receiving Holy Communion we are sharing in the body of Christ and this reflects back to the Last Supper when Jesus said of the bread that he shared among his disciples, “Take this and eat, this is my body.”

Local experiences abound

During this week we have seen some wonderful opportunities for students to experience a diverse range of activities, all within our local area.

Yesterday the Stage 2 students participated in their town walk, taking in a visit to the Gaol Museum and a study of the mosaic time-walk in Centennial Park. It was a very practical way to develop their understanding of the HSIE units being studied and they were mesmerised by the tales of prison life, at an age appropriate level, presented by Prison Officer Les Strezlecki. It was also obvious that most students had walked past the mosaic time-walk many times and never realised the significance of the images portrayed there, which was a key aspect addressed on yesterday’s excursion. Thanks to teachers Bernadette Moser and Belinda Wilkins, as well as the accompanying parents and a visiting grandmother, who joined in the experiences. For those who have not yet visited the Gaol Museum or studied the mosaic images in Centennial Park they are both highly recommended.

Visitors to the Secondary Campus this week have taken a second glance when almost 20 brightly yellow-clad Year 10 students have been seen rolling out fire hoses, going through safety drills and working out the intricacies of the Rural Fire Service truck. The students are participating in a Rural Fire Service Cadetship this week to increase their knowledge of fire risks and control skills in a supervised setting. We are very grateful to their RFS Trainer, Vern Dunning, the Rural Fire Service organisation for sponsoring the activity and to Steve Summerville for organising the week. While fire safety awareness is the major focus, the complementary benefits of developing teamwork, practical skills and a sense of community responsibility are invaluable for the students. More than half the year group committed to doing this program.

To add to the local focus we waved farewell to our Stage 3 students this morning as they excitedly headed out to Cooba Education Centre at Berridale for their camp until Friday. It is again a wonderful opportunity for students to develop interpersonal skills, teamwork and resilience under the direction of their teachers Steve Joyce, MaryAnn Fraser and Mike Introna. Good luck Stage 3!

Exams completed, now back to business as usual

Congratulations to our Secondary students on the diligent and serious manner in which they approached their exams last week. The classrooms were settled during private study and most students were focused throughout their actual exams in order to do their best. Thanks to Secondary Coordinator Pam Fletcher for the smooth organisation of the exams. Normal 7-10 classes are now resumed as teachers are busily marking the exams and then all teachers K-10 will be working hard to meet deadlines to complete student reports. Our thanks to the office ladies Bev, Deb and Sarah who are particularly busy at this time of year with coordinating exam papers and preparing the foundations for the semester reports.

News Update

Don’t forget the P and F meeting tomorrow at 5.30pm in the Primary Staffroom. Everyone is welcome!

Good luck to our Martin Schoo Basketball teams next week in their competition against Monaro High School.

Please mark Tuesday 27 November on your calendar, iPhone or iPad as there is a celebration in the Parish Centre to mark Father Paul’s 25th anniversary of his ordination. Further details will be given in next week’s newsletter.
The Australian Defence Force Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Award
Awarded to students who have demonstrated qualities of leadership, teamwork, tenacity, and compassion.

St Patrick’s School Student Leadership Award
sponsored by Dr Mike Kelly AM, MP
The award demonstrates leadership by being a worthy representative of the school.

Monsignor JB Ryan Award for Christian Concern (Year 10)
This award is a recognition of the demonstration of Christian values and this necessarily reflects in the way we treat others.

Australian Catholic University Award
This award is given to a student:
· who displays such Christian values as thoughtfulness, consideration and respect for others.
· contributes positively to the Catholic ethos of the school, the Religious Education program and school prayer.
· demonstrates kind, just and inclusive attitudes in their relationships with others.
· enjoys the respect of students and staff.

The Brigidine Award for the Best All-Rounder
Academic - achieves highly across a range of subjects
Attitude - willingness to help others and commitment to excellence
Leadership - is a role model to others
Participation - participates in school and community activities
Sport - represents the school in sport without necessarily being a champion.

Reuben F Scarf Award for Commitment
is given to a student demonstrating consistent effort and a desire to improve.

Stage 2 Guest Speaker
Bede Nichols
Thank you to Anna Moxon for organising Mr Bede Nichols to speak to Stage 2 about how Cooma has changed. Bede told many stories about his youth. Some of the great information he shared was:
· The wool prices were very high during the 50’s
· Children built their own swimming hole in the Cooma Creek and they were allowed to do it
· There was no TV so children had to make their own fun
· Naughty children were hit with the cane at school
· If children swore they were picked up by the police and taken home to their parents
Infants
Charlotte Dakin KG – for listening to the teacher
Talon Kelly 1O – for listening during news time
Jack Buckley 1P – for great effort during numeracy groups

In 2013 there will be no program for Reconciliation and first Communion.

Children from now on, preparing for Reconciliation and first Communion, will be required to be a year older than they have been previously.

That is,
- Children preparing for Reconciliation will be in Year 3 as a minimum age
- Children preparing for first Communion will be in Year 4 as a minimum age

If there happens to be a child in this age group, wishing to celebrate the sacrament in 2013, then parents are welcome to contact Lou Mackay or Father Paul to discuss arrangements.

CAPTAIN NOMINATION PROCESS for 2013

Nominations will be open for the K-6 Captains on Monday 19 November. Students who wish to nominate themselves will need to collect an application form from the K-6 Coordinator, Mr Steven Joyce. All nomination forms are to be handed to the K-6 Coordinator by Thursday 22 November.

Students will need to prepare a speech that includes information about his/her Catholic values and their personal qualities, skills and talents 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 will be presented to the K-6 students and teachers in the church on Wednesday 28 November. The candidates will need to be dressed in full school uniform.

Immediately after the speeches, all students and staff will vote in their classrooms. The Captains will be announced on Awards Day.

CHANGES TO THE SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

In 2013 there will be no program for Reconciliation and first Communion.

Weed and first Communion.

Children from now on, preparing for Reconciliation and first Communion, will be required to be a year older than they have been previously.

That is,
- Children preparing for Reconciliation will be in Year 3 as a minimum age
- Children preparing for first Communion will be in Year 4 as a minimum age

If there happens to be a child in this age group, wishing to celebrate the sacrament in 2013, then parents are welcome to contact Lou Mackay or Father Paul to discuss arrangements.

Book Fair
Where - Secondary Library
When – Beginning - Monday 19 November
Time – 8:00 am - 8:30 am Monday to Thursday
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm Monday to Thursday

Lots of books suitable for all ages, great Christmas presents! Variety trays containing rubbers, pens, pencils and novelties.

Please support our book fair as the school receives a commission from all sales.

Please see attached flyer in this newsletter.

Cooma Races
Cooma Races – Sundowner Cup
Saturday, 1 December 2012

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!! St Pat’s P&F are catering at the Cooma Races and we need cooks for the BBQ and helpers in the canteen on the day. Please complete the roster on the back of the flyer sent home with the newsletter 2 weeks ago. If you need another copy, please see Mr Joyce in the Primary or call the School Office. This is a fun day and all helpers receive a free pass to the races. Come and enjoy one of Cooma’s major social highlights of the year while helping to raise funds for our school!

Ruby Curtis will be cleaning at the Racecourse on Friday 30 November between 9.15 and 10.45 am. If you can help with the cleaning, please contact Ruby on 0402 038676. Transportation is also required to move larger appliances – please phone Karen McGufficke on 0417 496708.

(Rosters will be emailed out to HELPERS. Please include your email address)

Chook Lotto
Infants
- Charlotte Dakin KG – for listening to the teacher
- Talon Kelly 1O – for listening during news time
- Jack Buckley 1P – for great effort during numeracy groups

P&F News

There is only a short time left to order school caps for this year. If you are interested in purchasing one, please contact the school office for an order form.

The P&F are holding our regular P&F meeting this Thursday 5:30pm in the Primary Staffroom. Children are welcome to attend. They can play outside, being supervised through the staffroom windows. This is a really good opportunity to find out what’s going on in the P&F. It is also really beneficial time to make suggestions and contribute to the school community.

See you there
The P&F Team.
Thursday 15 November
Stage 3 camp at Cooba
Year 10 Rural Fire Service cadet program
P&F Meeting 5.30 pm
Friday 16 November
Year 10 Rural Fire Service cadet program
K-6 Swimming
Saturday 17 November
First Eucharist 6.00—7.30pm
Monday 19 November
Year 10 First Aid course
K-6 Swimming Catch up day
Tuesday 20 November
Year 10 First Aid course
Wednesday 21 November
Years 9 & 10 Martin Schoo Basketball
Thursday 22 November
Year 10 “Love Bites” Pastoral program
7-10 Performance group VIEW Concert
Friday 23 November
Years 9 & 10 PASS surf trip Tathra
K-6 Swimming
Sunday 25 November
Eucharist Mass & Certificates
Monday 26 November
Year 10 Work Experience
Tuesday 27 November
Year 10 Work Experience
Years 7 & 8 Martin Schoo Basketball
Sacramental Evaluation Meeting 3.40pm
Celebration BBQ Fr Paul 25 Anniversary
Wednesday 28 November
Year 10 Work Experience
Thursday 29 November
Year 10 Work Experience
Friday 30 November
Year 10 Work Experience
K - 6 Swimming
Monday 3 December
Year 10 Work Experience
Tuesday 4 December
Year 10 Work Experience
CEO’s Director’s visit
Wednesday 5 December
Year 10 Work Experience
Thursday 6 December
Year 10 Work Experience
Friday 7 December
Year 10 Work Experience
Primary Awards Day 12pm Exservices Club
Monday 10 December
K-10 Thanksgiving Liturgy 12pm
Tuesday 11 December
Year 10 Dinner

Canteen News

VOLUNTEERS
Thursday 15 November
HELP NEEDED PLEASE
Friday 16 November
Denise Johnson

Due to the K-6 Swimming Program, could FRIDAY VOLUNTEERS please come to the canteen from 12noon to 1.30pm. Thank you.

FRIDAY MEAL DEAL - HOT DOG/DRINK OF CHOICE and FROZEN FRUIT CUP - ALL THIS FOR $5.00.
THIS WILL BE THE ONLY CHOICE AVAILABLE TO BOTH PRIMARY AND INFANTS.
Thank you for your continued support and a special thank you to Catherine and Rebecca for Friday!
Carolyn Hely
Canteen Manager

Around Town

• 2013 Canberra Raiders Membership: Are you looking for something to do with your friends and family on a weekend? Why not consider getting a 2013 Canberra Raiders Membership. For as little as $15 per game, you can attend every match at Canberra Stadium and you also get heaps of cool Raiders items like a cap, scarf and key ring. Visit www.raiders.com.au/membership or call Raiders HQ on (02)6253 3515 for more details. 5 hours of entertainment each weekend for $15 – unbeatable value.

• Parents of Teenagers Q & A: Are you raising a teenager? Do you have questions and concerns? Join us for a Free Q & A Panel (Light refreshments provided). Wednesday 21 November at 5.30 - 7.30pm at Horizons Resort Lake Jindabyne. For further information contact Sue-Anne Muggleton from Monaro Family support Service 64523450 or sa.muggleton@monarofss.ngo.org.au

• Celebrate Ability Day at Cooma Centennial Park Friday 30 November 2012 from 11.00 am to 1.30 pm. All welcome. A family day of celebration and entertainment, plus a free sausage sizzle! For more information call Department of Family and Community Services Ageing, Disability and Homecare on 6452 0400.

• Kids’ Fishing Workshop: Kids 8 – 14 years of age are invited to come and learn to fish safely and responsibly. Two workshops are being run - Friday 18 and Saturday 19 January 2013 at the Gaden Trout Hatchery, Jindabyne. $40 cost includes rod and reel combination, shirt, hat, tackle box and show bag. Bookings essential – maximum 25 participants. Phone Stephen Thurston on 4220 8484 or 0438 245 190 or email stephen.thurston@dpi.nsw.gov.au.