Dear Parents, Staff and Students

**Funding for Catholic Schools**

All sectors of the education community are eagerly awaiting the release of the Gonski Report next week which looks at the funding model for all schools and will provide recommendations for school funding over the next decade and beyond. It is hoped that the report recognises that in terms of recurrent government funding and parent contributions, Catholic schools are funded at approximately $1,130 less per student than government school students. Details of the funding arrangements are available on the MySchool website and they make for a very interesting analysis.

In the words of Therese Temby, Chair of the National Catholic Education Commission:

“...the only conceivable way forward is for the Gonski review to acknowledge the significant part that Catholic schools play in Australian education, and for the government to nurture an equal partnership with the Catholic education system.....this partnership can help all sectors continue to deliver for all Australian students, and ensure that our country remains academically competitive....”

**A day in the life of St Patrick’s**

Visiting a range of classes each week, I continue to be impressed by the enthusiasm of our students, the absolute dedication of our teachers and the diverse opportunities for all types of learning, both within and outside the classroom. While the mainstream curriculum is so important, it is often the incidental learning that allows students to realise their “School with Altitude” moments.

**Congratulations on our new staff appointments**

Following recent interview panel processes I am pleased to announce the appointment of Mary-Ann Fraser as the Acting K-10 Curriculum Coordinator and Melinda Barrett as the Learning Support Coordinator and Reading Recovery Teacher. Congratulations to both teachers as we look forward to their ongoing contribution to the diversity of school life.

**Parents and Friends Association already in action for 2012**

A small but enthusiastic group of parents who attended the P&F Annual General Meeting last night ensured the vision for the P&F will again become reality this year. 2012 office-bearers will be announced in the near future and already planning is under way for the Cooma Show catering.

One of the key initiatives for 2012 is the ‘NOURISH’ recipe book project which promises to be a stunning addition to any kitchen. If you haven’t submitted your recipe yet or ordered your copy of the book you can download the relevant forms from the school website ‘Parents’ links on the home page.

Good luck to our dragon boat team this weekend at the Flowing Festival at Jindabyne!

Please continue to pray for those members of the school community who are unwell.

Phil Stubbs
Principal
Anaphylaxis is a severe and sudden allergic reaction, usually to the ingestion of nut products or an insect bite. Our school canteen is nut-free and all nut products are prohibited in the Primary school. With a number of anaphylactic children in the school we would urge you to ensure that your child is aware of their responsibility to be ‘nut aware’ at all times at school. All staff have been trained in dealing with anaphylactic reactions and Epipens are on hand if required for urgent treatment.

NO HAT, NO PLAY!

Please note that if any student comes to school without a school hat, they will be asked to sit down on a seat in a designated sheltered area of the K-2 and 3-6 campuses. This rule is designed to be in line with our Sun Smart policy and also helps protect students from sunburn. We would encourage all students to come to school wearing their school hat each morning.

The Mathematics Department will be introducing a course in advanced problem solving this year. Initially we will be offering this course to Stage 4 (Years 7 and 8), but will look to develop a course for Stage 5 later this year.

We have designed a series of workbooks, based on the Australian Mathematics competition, that will extend concepts taught in class. Each term students will receive 9 questions, which they have the whole term to complete. At the end of the year those who complete the course will receive recognition at our Awards Day.

Naturally this course is designed to cater to our more capable Mathematics students. I will be encouraging several students in Mathematics to participate, however all students who would like to try the course can see me for a workbook. There is no cost for the term 1 workbook, but a small fee will be charged for workbooks in terms 2-4.

Below is a sample question:
If you have 50c, $2 and $1 coins, in how many ways can you make up $10?
(A) 21 (B) 36 (C) 30 (D) 33 (E) 35

Mark van Ommen
What is happening in 3P!

- We have Library on Mondays. It's going well because there are some new books that came in over the holidays. (Bronte Hely)
- Homework has got a lot harder. (Fergus Barrett)
- So far so good! (Damon Fanning)
- We have been reading a book called Rowan of Rin by Emily Rodda. After each chapter we have to do a task that goes with it. We are up to chapter four. (Caitlin Hain)
- Every day at 10:00am we have an apple, carrot or some celery. (Jasmin Statham-Smith).
- Once a day we get a brain teaser. It is our job to find out the answer. Mr. Joyce always says “if you ask the right question, you will get the right answer”. Each day they get harder and harder. (Maddison Ward)
- In our class there are a lot of musical people. It’s so nice listening to everyone’s music. (Dominic Holgate)
- We are learning about Antarctica. We have learnt heaps about it already. Antarctica is very cold and icy! (Brooke Fraser)
- In 3P, Mr Joyce tells us stories. They can be scary, but most of the time they are funny. (Caitlin Galvin)

2012 Primary Environmental Group' Fresh Veggie Market

Thursday 16 February 8.30 – 9.00 am at the Primary Campus. No herbicides or pesticides have been used.

- Tomatoes 3 for $1.00
- Cucumbers $0.50 each
- Basil $1.00 a bag
- Flatleaf parsley $0.50 a bunch

First in first served!

Infants:

- Ava Barrett 1P – for good listening
- Koby Grech 1O – for good listening
- Charlee Tozer KG – for a great effort in the first couple of weeks of Kindergarten

Well done!!

Head Lice

We have had some reported cases of head lice within the school. To try to keep some control of these pesky little creatures, please try to make a habit of checking your child’s hair regularly and treat accordingly if lice are present. Please visit www.kidspot.com.au for more information.

P&F News

- **2012 P&F EXECUTIVE**: The 2011 P&F Executive would like to congratulate our new incoming P&F Executive team. We wish them every success throughout this coming year. We know our growing parental school community will give them all their full support as they embark on the busy schedule. The funds that are raised by our P&F are used for Educational Resources across the school.

- **“NOURISH”**: Our Pre-order and Recipe Request forms have now been distributed and we look forward to receiving many recipes and pre-orders over the coming weeks from our parental school community. Don’t forget these forms are now accessible from the school website at: http://stpatsooma.nsw.edu.au/parents/pformsandnotes.html. Parents and Friends making direct debit payments, please ensure you add your bank account holder surname and number of books you are ordering. Even though you have made a direct debit, we still need a completed pre-order form that can be left at the School Office or handed to one of the organisers stated on the form. Reminder for students to enter the competition by entering a recipe. A separate competition is being run for the staff at the school under a similar format to the student competition with a great prize on offer. Staff entry forms have been left with Steve Joyce (Primary) and Bev Clarke (School Office). Recipes must be received by 2 March 2012. Remember to add where the recipe originated from so we can credit your family in the book. Pre-orders and payment of “Nourish” can be made either by direct debit from the Pre-order form or you may pay by cheque. Please make it payable to St Patrick’s Parish School P&F. We can only cater for 110 recipes, so we will have to choose the recipes that best reflect the cook book as a whole. We have approximately 17 businesses throughout our region advertising in the book. “Nourish” will be unique to our school and local community. Food and images of our school community will be a key highlight of the book along with the fabulous recipes. We are grateful to Allianz Insurance, our major sponsor, who are providing considerable funds to produce this beautiful and professional cook book. “Nourish” is $20.00.

- **COOMA SHOW**: 2012 Executive team will be distributing a flyer next week. Parents who are working on the roster during the day may obtain a pass for $20 from South East Printing on 6452 2614.

- **2011 P&F THANK YOU**: Thank you to everyone within our student and school parental community who have supported the outgoing P&F Executive team. It’s been an absolute pleasure.

P&F Executive 2011

Chook Lotto

- Ava Barrett 1P – for good listening
- Koby Grech 1O – for good listening
- Charlee Tozer KG – for a great effort in the first couple of weeks of Kindergarten

Well done!!

A world of recipes sponsored by Allianz - the insurer that offers a world of protection.
**WHAT’S ON**

**Thursday 16 February**
- K-6 Southern Region Swimming Carnival Narooma
- Secondary School Photos
- Year 8 Parish Mass 10.00 am

**Friday 17 February**
- Secondary Swimming Carnival
- Primary Trials in Queanbeyan (Basketball, Cricket & Tennis)
- K-6 Enviromonitors

**Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 February**
- Dragon Boat Festival

**Monday 20 February**
- Archdiocesan Golf Batehaven
- Year 7 Pastoral Day 9.00 am to 1.00 pm

**Tuesday 21 February**
- Shrove (pancake) Tuesday

**Wednesday 22 February**
- Ash Wednesday Mass (Years 3-10) 10.00 am
- K-6 Life Education

**Thursday 23 February**
- K-6 Life Education
- Secondary Archdiocesan Swimming Yass

**Friday 24 February**
- K-6 Life Education

**Monday 27 February**
- K-6 Life Education
- K-6 Parent Teacher Interviews
- Year 8 Camp

**Tuesday 28 February**
- K-6 Parent Teacher Interviews
- Year 8 Camp

**Wednesday 29 February**
- Welcome and Leadership Liturgy 12.00 to 1.00 pm
- K-6 Parent Teacher Interviews
- Secondary Parent Teacher Interviews (venue TBC)

**Thursday 1 March**
- 2P Parish Mass 10.00 am
- Mock Trials Vs Bega High 9.30 am to 1.00 pm
- K-6 Parent Teacher Interviews
- Secondary Parent Teacher Interviews (venue TBC)

**Friday 2 March**
- K-6 Parent Teacher Interviews
- 7-10 Brumbies Gala Day

**Monday 5 March**
- Year 10 Industrial Technology Excursion
- Year 10 Crossroads Day
- Kindergarten Information evening 5.30 to 7.00 pm

**Wednesday 7 March**
- Netball Gaia Day

**Thursday 8 March**
- Year 9 Pastoral Day 9.00 am to 1.30 pm
- 2O Parish Mass 10.00 am

**Canteen News**

**Volunteer Roster**

**Friday**
- Cassie Mackenzie and Denise Johnson

- A very big thank you to all my volunteers for all the hard work you do. Due to the early lunch on the K-6 Campus, I am still in need of more help between 9.30 am and 12.00 pm. If you are able to offer a couple of hours I would be very grateful. Please contact me at the school on 6452 1721.

- This week’s MEAL DEAL is 2 party pies/2 nuggets/ sauce/frozen fruit cup and mixed lollies. **All for only $4.00!** This will be the only hot food choice for Primary and Infants. If you have any feedback regarding the meal deals or suggestions for the canteen, please do not hesitate to call me. Thank you for your continued support.

Carolyn Hely
Canteen Manager

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**Around Town**

**Cooma District Junior Rugby League Inc.**

- Registration Day will be held for ALL players on Saturday 18 February. Registration fee includes socks, player insurance, pass, qualified coaches and first aid officers, presentation day BBQ, year book and Colts polo shirt. **PLAYERS REQUIRED FOR ALL AGE GROUPS WITH LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE IN ALL TEAMS. GET IN EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT. All NEW players will need a copy of an original Birth Certificate. Parents must accompany children as both signatures are required.**

**Cooma North Children’s Centre (OOSH):**

- Before school care 7.30 to 9.15 am. After school care 3.00 to 6.00 pm. Holiday care also available. Contact Bill or Leonie on 0450 127 090 or email ooshcocoa@dodo.com.au

**Cooma Squash and Sports Centre:**

- Students aged 7-14 are invited to come to the Cooma Squash and Sports Centre from 4.30-6.30pm Wednesdays for After School Squash and Sports Coaching. For $8 per week or $60 per Term students can come and enjoy all the games and facilities including Squash, Tennis, Golf, Soccer, Badminton, Fusball, Table Tennis, Ten Pin Bowling and much more. Supervision and coaching is provided and kids can join in Cooma Squash Club C & D grade competitions. Parents and Carers also Welcome. For more information please call 6452 1213.

**TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER:**

- Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in July 2012. Our international students will attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit www.scce.com.au, email scceaus@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501.

**AFL Cats and Snowy Supercats:**

- AFL seeking players, coaches and supporters for season 2012. Junior AFL training U12s, 14s and 16s Snowy Oval Tuesdays and Thursdays 6.30 pm (5.00 pm from 1 March). Bring jumpers, runners/boots. Registration days: Saturday 25 February from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm and Friday 16 March from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm. For more information phone Stuart Wood on 0422 496 400.