Dear Parents, Staff and Students

Two very significant events coincide

The combination of last Friday’s Grandparents’ Day and the visit of the Brigidine sisters highlighted the rich history, culture and traditions of our school that we hold so dear. There were gasps of delight when some of the grandparents and parents (as well as some current teachers) recognised Sister Pat and Sister Sheelah, who was Principal 25 years ago, and the current students were so keen to meet the ‘Sisters’ and hear tales of what the school was like when there were weekly boarders and a population of more than a dozen nuns resident in the convent building. Sisters Elaine and Ann also recounted their time as part of the St Patrick’s community with warmth and fondness.

Our Brigidine visitors were here for the launch of the book ‘Providence Provides’ which traces the fascinating history of the Brigidine Sisters in NSW. St Patrick’s in Cooma was the second foundation for the Brigidines in 1887 after Coonamble. The book presents a unique insight into the early days of our school and community. In an excerpt from the early history, Dr O’Haran, Cardinal Moran’s secretary, was quoted as saying some time around 1887:

“Cooma after Sydney is the largest and most flourishing town in the Archdiocese and has the best surroundings and the best Catholic population. A magnificent Convent is first being completed there. It is undoubtedly the best outside Sydney and within the Archdiocese.” (p.24)

‘Providence Provides’ is published by the University of NSW Press and ordering details can be provided through our school office.

NAPLAN is in full swing

Our students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are industriously involved in these national tests at the moment and they are to be commended for the positive manner in which they are completing them. I visited each class group this morning as the students completed Language Conventions, followed by the Writing test. Regardless of the individual outcomes that a student achieves it is important that we acknowledge that they have given their best.

Our attendance rate was very high as usual and it is interesting to note that the national student absentee rate has risen on NAPLAN testing days over the last 6 years. It is unfortunate that there is a 5 month time lag until we get the results but in the subsequent year the diagnostic value of NAPLAN is widely recognised in targeting areas of concern in literacy and numeracy.

News Update

Thank you to the mothers who worked so hard to provide such a wonderful Mothers’ Day stall last Friday. There were many excited Primary students as they clutched their gifts which I’m sure were greatly appreciated last Sunday morning.

Congratulations to everyone involved in the success of the Primary Athletics Carnival last Thursday and particular thanks to the staff and the many parent helpers who gave such valued support.

Don’t forget the P&F Meeting tomorrow afternoon at 5 pm in the Primary Staffroom.

Good luck to our interschool gymkhana team this weekend.

Phil Stubbs
Principal

Please note that we have a new email address; office.stpatscooma@cg.catholic.edu.au
If you are sending emails to our old address we will not receive them.
The last day of term is always celebrated by a very popular Bingo game at recess on the Secondary campus. Josh Steinke, Magdalene Shatrov and Clair Schofield called the numbers, while Mr Dunne supervised.

Stage 5 IST have a new green screen and lighting system to assist in the creation and editing of movies using chroma key technology. Tyler Pielli and Toby Williams were filmed by Emma Holgate doing their version of Michael Jackson’s Thriller dance. The video will be edited and overlaid on to the original so that Tyler and Toby will look like they are dancing with Michael Jackson.

James Cahill and James Cohen showing off the polyhedra they constructed out of spaghetti and marshmallows.

Come along and meet our Literacy Coach, Mary Kite. Mary will present strategies that can help children from Kinder to Year 6 with reading at home and discuss ways of assisting with reading in the classroom.

A reminder to parents that is our playground equipment on the K-2 and 3-6 campuses are only to be used after school by children who are under the direct supervision of their parents/carers. Parent/carers need to please ensure that they are physically present at the playground area watching their child/children after school. We have reinforced this message at school with the students, and would appreciate assistance in this matter to ensure the safety of our students in these areas outside of school time.

The students are well aware of our common safety rules such as not running up and down slides, jumping from nearby garden beds/vegetable gardens onto the play areas! It would be appreciated if parents/carers supervising please ensure children are playing and using areas safely.

A letter to parents with information regarding the Australian Mathematics Competition for 2013 was sent home last week. The competition is open to Years 3-10 students and the cost is $5.00 per student. Permission forms and $5.00 for the entry fee need to be returned to the school no later than Friday 17 May 2013. Parents who require more information regarding the competition can contact Kevin Dunne at the school on 6452 1721.
There will be a training session for all students - girls and boys - interested in becoming an Altar Server. This will take place on Thursday 16 May at 3.40pm in St Patrick’s Church Cooma. Mrs Lou Mackay will be present. For further information, contact the Parish Office on 64522062 or Lou Mackay on 64521721 at school (or 64524716 at home).

**Chook Lotto**

**Infants**

**Week 11, Term 1**
- Archie Blyton KG – for being ready
- Kate Carton 1P – for keeping the classroom clean
- Joe Nichols 1O – for helping Mrs Introna

**Week 1, Term 2**
- Evie Schulz KG – for settling quietly after lunch
- Eric Henderson 1P – for his participation in Numeracy Groups
- Clara Thornton 1O – for wonderful listening

**Week 2, Term 2**
- Tia Quodling KG – for contributing to the sound table
- Matilda Joyce 1P – for her participation in prayer
- Safia Nassar 1O – for donating a Mother’s Day gift

Thank you to all the families who have donated chook lotto prizes during Term 1 and 2.

**Primary SRC Star Awards**

**Week 3 Theme ‘Determination’**

“The difference between determination and stubbornness is that one comes from a strong will and the other from a strong won’t!” Determination is using your will power to do something when it isn’t easy. Without determination things don’t get done. Finish what you start. If obstacles come up, deal with them and get back on track.

- KG Esther Robinson – for her determination to complete all tasks with great care!
- 1O Cooper Koffler – for the determination he shows during writing activities!
- 1P Lottie Walker-Broose – for her determination to do her best in all tasks!
- 2P Poppy Sizmur – for the determination she displays in numeracy groups!
- 2O Sami Frazer – for being a determined student who is focused on improving her work!
- 3P Erin Dodd – for showing determination to complete class tasks!
- 3G Bronte Hely – for always staying on track with work by being prepared to overcome obstacles that come up and having the determination to be herself in all situations!
- 3O Broc Allen – for determination to solve number problems in maths!
- Music/French- Brianna Rankin – for her determination to learn new songs on her flute!
- Athletics- Ursula Ronan – for her determination shown when finishing races at the athletics carnival. Well done Ursula!

**National Cyber Security Awareness Week 20 – 24 May**

The aim of Awareness Week is to help people understand the simple steps they can take to protect their personal and financial information online. During this week, our students will be completing online cyber security activities. Further primary and secondary student activities can be accessed from home via the staysmartonline.gov.au website. Topics include: social networking safely, dealing with cyber bullying, dealing with online grooming, secure your mobile phone.

Ten simple tips to improve online security:

1. Install and update your security software and set it to scan regularly
2. Turn on automatic updates on all your software, particularly your operating system and applications
3. Use strong passwords and different passwords for different uses
4. Stop and think before you click on links and attachments
5. Take care when buying online - research the supplier and use a safe payment method
6. Only download “apps” from reputable publishers and read all permission requests
7. Regularly check your privacy settings on social networking sites. Internet privacy settings allow users to control what cookies are stored on their computer
8. Stop and think before you post any photos or financial information online
9. Talk with your child about staying safe online, including on their smart phone or mobile device
10. Report or talk to someone if you feel uncomfortable or threatened online - download the Government’s Cybersafety Help Button


**National Walk Safely to School Day 2013**

On Friday 24 May we will be participating in National Walk Safely to School Day. We would like to encourage as many parents, carers and their children to walk to school on this day.

An alternative for those who need to drive their child to school will be to meet at Centennial Park anywhere between 8:30am – 8:45am. Along with parents, carers and teachers, the children will walk to school together. If you cannot walk with your child, feel free to drop them off and they will walk with our school group. We will begin the walk to school at 8:50am.

Please go to the following website or YouTube link: www.walk.com.au

Steven Joyce
K-6 Coordinator

**Mothers Day Stall**

A big thank you to all the students who purchased lovely gifts from the mothers day stall for their mums. A total of $850.00 was raised for the P&F to allocate back to the school. Thank you to Natalee Reid and Kylie Douch for coordinating the stall this year and parent helpers on the day Tania Quodling, Sue Bottom, Marjorie Revelant and Michelle Maguire.

P&F meeting this Thursday, in the Primary staff room 5.00pm. Please come along and support the P&F in general, all welcome.

P&F Executive
**WHAT'S ON**

Thursday 16 May  
NAPLAN (Numeracy)  
P & F Meeting 5pm

Friday 17 May  
Interschools Gymkhana

Saturday 18 May  
Interschools Gymkhana

Sunday 19 May  
Interschools Gymkhana

Monday 20 May  
K-6 Enviro Mentors 9am

Tuesday 21 May  
First confirmation meeting 6.30pm  
K-6 Enviro Mentors

Wednesday 22 May  
Archdiocesan cross country

Friday 24 May  
National Walk to School Day  
3 - 6 Brumbies gala day  
Yr 10 ADF visit

Monday 27 May  
Yr 10 Exams  
K-6 Questacon visit

Tuesday 28 May  
Yr 10 Exams  
Parent Info Meeting: Literacy Assistance with Mary Kite

Wednesday 29 May  
Yr 10 Exams

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

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**Canteen News**

Volunteers  
Thursday May 16  
Naomi Saxby

Friday May 17  
Melissa Caffarelli

Wednesday May 22  
Jackie Bitar

A special thank you to all my amazing helpers! Without parent volunteers, the canteen would be very hard to operate efficiently! A very special thank you to Michelle from the CEO, Rebecca and Tania, Naomi, the two Jodies, Marjorie, Trish, Mariam and all who stepped in throughout the Athletic Carnivals and Grandparents day. Also, thank you to Lorraine! FRIDAY MEAL DEAL: HOTDOG with sauce/CHOICE OF DRINK AND 3 FRUIT STICKS OR PIZZA/DRINK AND FRUIT STICKS. BOTH CHOICES ARE $5.00.

Thank you all for your continued support.  
Carolyn Hely  
Canteen Manager

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**Around Town**

* FREE Oral Health Centre: The Cooma Community Health Child Dental service is operating on Mondays and Tuesdays, offering free dental check-ups and dental treatment to all children up to 18 years of age. To access the service please call 1800450046 (this is a free call) and provide your child’s details including Medicare card number. We also provide oral health education talks to schools, child care centres and mothers groups, etc. For more information please call 64553276.

* Storytime for babies, toddlers, preschoolers at Cooma Library Monday 13 May 10.30am – All welcome. Celebrate the recent release of the endangered Corroboree Frog in Kosciuszko National Park. Join us for stories, songs, craft & fun! For more information please phone Cooma Library 6455 1730 or email library@monaro.nsw.gov.au

**Woolworths Earn and Learn**

We are taking part in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program this year. Just collect Woolworths Earn & Learn Points when you shop at Woolworths between Monday 8 April and Sunday 9 June 2013. We can then redeem these for educational resources for our school.

For every $10 spent at Woolworths you will receive a Woolworths Earn & Learn Point sticker. Just place these stickers onto a Woolworths Earn & Learn Points Sheet. Once it's completed, bring it back to school. Points sheets can be collected from your child’s school, office or local Woolworths store. There will be collection boxes at the school office and Woolworths store.

The more we collect, the more we can redeem. Products in the range include resources for Mathematics, English, Science, Art & Crafts, through to Sports gear, Library supplies and more. We are grateful for your support and look forward to a successful program.

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**Application for Exemption from Attendance at School**

Under the requirements of the Education Act, parents/guardians are required to apply for exemption from attendance at school in advance of any anticipated absence of their child/ward. The period of exemption will vary according to the circumstances and the exemptions are approved by the Principal. If you wish to apply for exemption from attendance at school for a period of time for your child, application forms are available from the office.

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**Newsletter by email**

If you wish to receive your school newsletter by email please contact the school office on 6452 1721 or email office.stpatscooma@cg.catholic.edu.au.

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**Brumbies visit K - 6 on Friday 10 May to have a talk to the students.**