Dear Parents, Staff and Students

The words of St Mary MacKillop were very prophetic in reminding us that we have such a relatively short time here on earth and it is in eternal life that we will realise our destiny. When we look at the impact of individuals during their lifetime we can gain an insight into how they have contributed to the betterment of humanity and I saw this first hand on my recent study trip to Ireland to explore the legacy of St Patrick. Despite him living nearly 1,600 years ago the evidence of St Patrick's impact is stronger than ever and provides such a spiritual focus for people throughout Ireland and indeed the world.

The beauty of the Irish landscape was matched by the warmth and openness of the people we encountered travelling around Ireland. A great highlight was to enjoy the hospitality and good company of the nuns at the Brigidine Convent in Tullow, County Kilkenny. Their convent was the birthplace of the Brigidine Order in 1807 by Bishop Daniel Delaney and they were keenly interested to hear about happenings in Cooma, the second foundation of the Brigidine Order in Australia in 1887. These women have certainly been an inspiration to many throughout their lives in educational and pastoral endeavours. Our warmest wishes from Australia go to Sisters Paula Conway, Agnes Graham, Brigid Fleming, Mary Dalton, Vianney Pepper and Thomasina Murphy.

In looking beyond the prominence of the St Patrick story, the deep faith of the Irish people was so evident in places like St Patrick's Cathedral in Downpatrick where a choir from the local St Patrick's College sang with such beautiful harmonies and again were so keen to hear about our own school at the conclusion of Sunday Mass. This strong faith is further seen throughout Ireland through the presence of the Celtic cross that has inspired the population over many centuries to overcome hardship and adversity.

Term 4 in full swing

There was little time for acclimatisation on return from Ireland and I am very grateful to our Assistant Principal Mark Van Ommen, the Executive and all the support and teaching staff for helping Term 3 come to such a smooth conclusion. This term we have welcomed 6 new students to the school with the hope that their education journey with us is fruitful and enjoyable. As you can appreciate, this is the busiest term with exams, reports and all the end of year activities ahead of us. We have also been busy with enrolment interviews for 2014 over recent weeks with 44 new students at this stage joining us in 2014 from Kindergarten to Year 9.

All the staff have been fully engaged this term with the Staff Spirituality Day on last Tuesday and our first aid updates after school on Wednesday and Thursday. On Monday our students attending St Mary MacKillop College in Canberra next year had further interviews regarding subject selection, and their sense of anticipation is building. Workshops were held yesterday by the Black Dog Institute that deals with depression in its many forms and we are grateful to Mrs Lou Mackay for organising this event. Tonight we have the Year 7 2014 Parent Information evening at 6 pm in the Secondary Library.

Hobart 2011, Perth 2012 and now..... Canberra 2013: Tournament of Minds

For the third year in succession we have a team representing St Patrick's at the Australasian Pacific Finals of the Tournament of Minds competition, to be held in Canberra this weekend. Hundreds of students from Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Hong Kong will converge on the capital for a ‘thinkfest’ of creativity, problem solving and competition. We wish our team all the very best as well as their coach Mrs Sue Stubbs.

News Update

Good luck to KG with their assembly today!

We welcome our Year 7 2014 students for their first orientation day tomorrow.

Next week I will be attending the Annual Archdiocesan principals’ Conference in Canberra and we wish our Kinderstart students a warm welcome next Tuesday.

Don’t forget the Bazaar Fair coming up on 2 November.

Phil Stubbs
Principal
Interschool's Gymkhana

Over the long weekend four riders from St Patricks Parish School travelled to Worrigee (Nowra) to compete at the Berry Interschools Gymkhana. Three intense days of competition took place and included events in the individual disciplines of dressage, hacking, sporting, showjumping, hunter and versatility. Each of the four St Pats riders excelled in at least one of the disciplines and the outcome was the astounding result that St Pats were runner up in the overall school point score from just our four Primary School riders (and just pipped by one point for outright winner of the schools point score) against numerous schools with many more riders. A great weekend was had by the riders (and their support crews) achieving not only brilliant competition results but an even higher level of team spirit, comradeship and sportsmanship being displayed by our equestrian team. Well done and congratulations to Emily Quodling (overall champion rider Year 3), Shelley Kleven, Madeline Stott and Abby Douch (overall champion rider Year 2). Once again, the success and achievements of St Pats students relies so much on the support given by their parents. Congratulations to our riders and their families.

Standing in front of one of the iconic cross-country fences at Worrigee Equestrian Centre - left to right: Shelley Kleven on Sox, Abby Douch on Max, Emily Quodling on Jasmine and Maddy Stott on Eddy.

Pointscore award: Abby and Emily holding up the Runner Up Highest School Pointscore Award.

Science Competition Winners

Congratulations to Science Competition Credit and Distinction Winners

Above, left to right: ICAS Science competition Credit Award recipients: Kiara Henderson, Luke Day, Gabrielle Steiner (Distinction), Tomas Carton (Distinction), Thomas Hain, Lachlan Marks, Andreas Nassar, Clair Schofield. Absent from photo: Broc Allen, Kennedy Purcell.

A Feast of Poetry

Congratulations to all students who entered A Feast of Poetry this year and special mention to those who will receive awards on Saturday 2 November at the Raglan Gallery and Cultural Centre in Lambie Street Cooma.

• Irelend Ward - 1st place in the Primary section
• Miranda McGufficke - Highly Commended
• Ivy McGufficke - Highly Commended
• Summer Rees - Commended

Thank you to all students who took part in our Jump Rope for Heart jump-off day last term. It was great fun even if the weather was a little unpredictable. Our tasting plates were a great success with the students enjoying the opportunity to taste healthy snacks. Our thanks go to Pam Fletcher and her students for making each of the very tasty dips. Thanks also to the parents and staff who cut up vegetables and prepared the plates. It is now time to finalise donations. Please either submit your donation online if you registered to do this or if you used the sponsorship form, please return it to school with your donation by Friday 18 October.

Welcome to Term 4. It is a very busy and exciting term! As well as many more activities, we have: school swimming lessons to enjoy, Year 5 and 6 have their school camp to Birrigai coming up, Stage 3 will have Super 8 Cricket and the netball carnival will be held on 31 October. Don't forget to bring in items for your class basket for the School Bazaar and if you have not already done so, put your name down to help! Thank you.

Broc Allen and Miranda McGufficke
School Leaders

Congratulations to Will Pendergast who is pictured after receiving a Certificate of Participation in the NSWCPs MacKillop Trials in Track and Field.
**Southern Region Public Speaking**

On 17 September, St Patrick's hosted the Southern Region Public Speaking Competition. St Patrick's had four student representatives. Damian Fletcher and Rylie Marks participated in the Premier Division whilst Bronte Hely and Summer Rees participated in the Open Division. The Premier Division consisted of a 3 minutes speech followed by a 1.5 minute impromptu speech. The Open Division consisted of a 3 minute speech. All the speeches were of a very high quality!

Congratulations to Bronte, who won the Open Division. On behalf of all the students, I would also like to thank Lauren Sullivan, who kindly donated her time to adjudicate the speeches. Thank you!

Steven Joyce
K-6 Coordinator

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**SRC Quote of the week**

“If you think you’re too small to do a big thing, try doing small things in a big way.”

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**Primary SRC STAR Awards**

STAR Awards Theme – “Courage”

Courage is doing what needs to be done, even when it is really hard or scary. Courage is needed to try new things. Courage is the strength in your heart. Without courage people would only do what is easy. With courage, you can face any situation. Courage helps you do great things!

*KG Emily Revelant – for the courage to try new things even when they seem difficult!
*KG Thomas Croke – for the courage he demonstrates by always being honest around his peers and teachers!
*1O Charlotte O'Donnell – for showing courage at her start to a new school!
*1O Elle McGufficke – for the courage she has shown to take on new challenges with her broken arm!
*1P Sienna Davies – for having the courage to always speak from her heart and say what is on her mind!
*2P Joshua Hely- for the courage to try new challenges even when they seem difficult!
*2O Chase Davies – for having the courage to attempt challenging tasks!
*2O Chloe van Ommen - for having the courage to try new things, even when she finds them challenging!
*3P Anna Connolly – for having the courage to always have a go at new concepts!
*3O Summer Rees – for having the courage to speak her mind!
*3O Bentley Walker-Broose – for showing the courage to speak his mind and stand up for what is right!
*3G Sophie Janota – for having the courage to always treat others fairly and for always being herself, no matter what the situation!
*3G Darnel Bartlett – for having the courage to be himself around his peers and making responsible decisions!
*Library – Emily Pearce – for using courage by standing up for the things that are right!

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**Head Lice**

There have been a number of reported cases of head lice in Primary during the last week. Please be vigilant in checking your child’s hair regularly for signs of infestation. Lice are tiny and very fast moving making them extremely difficult to see. Conditioner spread over the hair can stun lice for up to 20 minutes aiding in their removal. A metal nit comb is the best tool to use to remove the lice. Treatment with specially medicated shampoo available from the supermarket or pharmacy should follow. Eggs hatch in 7 to 10 days, so if lice are present, treatment should be repeated every 3 to 4 days for a couple of weeks. The only way to break the cycle is to stop the newly hatched lice laying more eggs. Children do not need to be excluded from school once treatment has started.

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**P&F News**

Welcome back to term 4 to all our existing and new families. Term 4 will see two of our major fundraising events happen. The first being our Bazaar Fair on 2 November and then the catering at the Cooma Races on 7 December. Please mark these dates in your diary as well will be requiring parent helpers for a couple of hours on each day. If you have not already done so, and you can help out in some way, please return the Bazaar Fair flyer sent home last week.

Our next general P&F meeting will be on Thursday 14 November, 5.00pm in the Primary Library.

Please contact Karen McGufficke 0417 496708 or Louise Platts 0428 586688, if you have any agenda items you would like discussed at the meeting.

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**Parking to drop off and pick up students**

There have been a number of serious concerns expressed by members of the public and the school community about where and how parents/carers are parking to drop off students, particularly at the Primary Campus. Can you please be aware of parking restrictions in Vale and Murray Streets at all times. The No Stopping areas are clearly designated, with student safety being of prime importance. The school precinct will continue to be monitored by the police so your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

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**Homework Club**

Thursday afternoons from 3.30pm - 4.30pm in the Secondary Library. Suitable for students Yr 6 to Yr 10.

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**BAZAAR FAIR**

St Patrick’s Parish School, Cooma

**Saturday, 2 November 2013 – Centennial Park**

10.00 am – 2.00 pm

(Snowy ride, Buskers Championships and Feast of Poetry Weekend)!

Please RSVP to the Bazaar Fair A4 flyer distributed recently.

We need lots of HELPERS to volunteer some time on Saturday morning with running stalls. Students who lend a hand will receive Community House points and a Certificate of Appreciation.

Our BBQ will be serving breakfast from 8.30 am onwards with scrumptious egg and bacon rolls together with Lattes, Hot Chocolates or Cappuccinos from Curbside Mobile Coffee Van.

If you have books, board games please send them into school now or bring them along to the Fair before 10.00 am.

We also need lots of plants and herbs. Some of our stalls are: Hairspray, BBQ, Jumping Castle, Lucky Dips, Nourish, Sweet Treats and Ice Cream, Cupcakes, K-2 Artwork, Face Painting, Soaps and Fairy Floss, Face Painting, Pick-a-box, Secondhand Books and Games, Show bags, Homemade Popcorn and Toffee Apples, Plants and Herbs, Chocolate Wheel and Money Trees.

Strong people are needed to help set-up and pack up. The Fair is always a great family fun morning, come along and enjoy!

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**Appreciation.**

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**St Patrick’s Parish School, Cooma**

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**Some of our stalls are:**

- Hairspray, BBQ, Jumping Castle
- Lucky Dips, Nourish, Sweet Treats and Ice Cream
- Cupcakes, K-2 Artwork, Face Painting, Soaps and Fairy Floss, Face Painting
- Pick-a-box, Secondhand Books and Games, Show bags
- Homemade Popcorn and Toffee Apples, Plants and Herbs, Chocolate Wheel and Money Trees.

Strong people are needed to help set-up and pack up. The Fair is always a great family fun morning, come along and enjoy!
Friday 11 October
K - 6 Swimming program
Yr 10 White Card course
Yr 7 Bournda Excursion

Monday 21 October
Yr 7 - 10 RE and music workshops

Tuesday 22 October
Yr 7 - 10 RE and music workshops
Yr 3 - 6 Super 8’s cricket
Children’s Mission Mass 9am - 1pm
Kinderstart 9.30am - 11am

Wednesday 23 October
Yr 7 - 10 RE and music workshop
Yr 9 camp
2P Assembly 12pm at Exservices Club

Thursday 24 October
3P Parish Mass 10am
Yr 7 - 10 RE and music workshops
Yr 9 Camp
Kinderstart 9.30am - 11am

Friday 25 October
K - 6 Swimming Program
K - 10 Crazy hat day (for tombola)

Monday 28 October
Stage 3 Camp

Tuesday 29 October
Stage 3 Camp

Wednesday 30 October
Stage 3 Camp

Thursday 31 October
Kinderstart 1.30pm - 3pm

Friday 1 November
K-6 Swimming Program
‘Socktober’ uniform free day

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

THANK YOU! I would like to thank the P&F for their very generous donation of $700.00. This amount will enable me to purchase and upgrade many items of kitchen equipment. Also, thank you to Amanda Andrich of Unique Homemade Products in the Coles arcade. Amanda very generously donated sweet treats for prizes in K-6. Thank You Amanda!

VOLUNTEERS
I have sent out this term’s roster and I am looking forward to seeing you all again. Due to Friday swimming, K-6 will be having lunch at 1.20 pm which means my busiest time will be between 12.00 and 1.30 pm. If this is not suitable for volunteers rostered on a Friday, please contact me ASAP. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility.

Thursday 17 October
Kathy Venables

Friday 18 October
Kim Kleven

Wednesday 23 October
Linda Quodling

MEAL DEAL FRIDAY - $5.00
Sausage Roll/sauce/drink & 3 red licorice
OR
Vegetable or Tuna Sushi/Drink & freddo

Due to the timing THESE WILL BE THE ONLY CHOICES AVAILABLE to K-6.
Thank you for your continued support.
Carolyn Hely
Canteen Manager

* RELAY FOR LIFE: Cooma’s Mad Hatter themed Relay For Life is coming up fast! The overnight event on the 26 and 27 of October at the Cooma Showgrounds will be a fun family friendly event. This year’s Ambassador, much loved local, Cancer Survivor and mother of two Liza Dyball has been instrumental in raising awareness and funds for cancer research and services locally. We are honoured to have Liza as our Ambassador for 2013. If you haven’t joined or registered a team already, don’t hesitate to join now and be a part of this very important community fundraising event! We’d love to see you there and don’t forget your mad hat!! For more information please call Beck on 0403 495 855 or Kristy on 0450 342 045. To register or join a team, simply visit http://relay.cancercouncil.com.au/2013/cooma_2013.

* MCCR GARDEN PARTY, Saturday 9 November: The Monaro Committee for Cancer Research (MCCR) presents the Garden Party on Saturday 9 November at Coolringdon Homestead. It’s a celebration of spring and the Christmas season and it will be just the loveliest afternoon – a day out with girlfriends, delicious lunch from Annabelle at Feed Café, champagne and shopping at unique stalls. Tents will be dotted around the Coolringdon Homestead Parklands and local businesses will showcase a beautiful collection of products. Tickets are $60 including lunch and champagne. Tickets are limited and on sale at the Monaro Regional Library on Saturday 19 October from 10am - 12 noon or at other times from South East Printing, Commissioner Street or online at www.mccr.org.au.

* Cooma Little Theatre presents: “Once Upon a Witch” This production is suitable for the whole family including children of all ages. Productions are scheduled for the first three weekends in November: 1st and 2nd; 8th and 9th; 14th and 16th at 7.30 pm with 2 matinees on 9th and 16th November at 1.30 pm. Tickets (including a special family pass) are available at the Cooma Visitors Centre.

Woolies cards
If you have spare animal cards from Woolworths at home and don’t want them please bring them into the school office for Mrs Wallace to use in Science.

Around Town