National Refugee Week has been celebrated in Australia since 1986. It provides a platform where positive images of refugees can be promoted in order to create a culture of welcome throughout the country.

“I was a stranger and you welcomed me” Jesus’ words in Matt 25:35.

No one is a stranger to you and no one is ever far from your loving care. Watch over those who are separated from their loved ones and homeland; those who fear persecution and hope for a better life in our community. May we reach out in welcome and compassion to all those who arrive as refugees, embracing one another, so that together your hope O God will be our future.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

We can draw much from the wonderful Art Show this last weekend to inspire us for the rest of the year. There are those who quote international statistics about the loss of creativity in schools. We can prove that wrong! And the Art Show gave us a wonderful opportunity to show that to the community.

I am immensely grateful to a very dedicated team of parents and teachers, led by Melinda Barrett, who made it all happen. It was inspirational.

Our goals were to build community (and that happened before the doors had even opened), to showcase creativity (and that was obvious when the doors opened) and to make some money for the school’s building project (and that was evident after the doors were closed).

We can be proud. Thank you everyone. Together, we are making a difference.

Frances Robertson
Principal

Enrolment time for 2016. We have to plan staffing and the school is required to finalise their students numbers very soon. If you need an enrolment pack and an interview, please contact the Office on 64521721

Next Friday will be a non uniform day with a gold coin donation for the work of Caritas in Nepal. More information on facebook.
It was inspiring to see such community support for the St Patrick’s Parish School Art Show. We have so many people to thank, as an event like this does not happen overnight, nor without significant commitment.

Thank you to the talented teachers and students who produced the beautiful work that was displayed at the Show.

Thank you to the artists who exhibited work from the community and shared their creativity for all to see that this was a worthwhile pursuit.

Thank you to Rashida Nuridin for making the lino print of the school that was used in our promotions.

Thank you to the very generous families and businesses who donated prizes for the raffle and the silent auction and to the families who sold tickets. These two activities alone helped us raise close to $3000.

Thank you to the individuals and families who made generous donations. It was great to see so much community spirit.

Thank you to the parents, staff and past students who donated or prepared food and assisted with serving food and drinks on Friday night and Saturday. We really enjoyed the delicious food.

Thank you to Don for tidying the grounds, to Garry for assisting with lighting, to Steve for organising our outdoors movie theatre and to David for making sure we didn’t freeze.

Thank you to Cooma’s Lambie Street Preschool, MCCR committee and Community Chest team for their encouragement and generous support in loaning us fabric to use at our Art Show.

Thank you to Stypa, the beautiful musical ensemble, for sharing their talents so generously on Friday evening’s opening. Their music helped us to relax and enjoy the artwork, and was a beautiful backdrop to conversations with friends.

Thank you to The Fabric Salon for promoting the Art Show and selling tickets.

Thank you to Stockl Signs and Graphics for designing our posters and tickets. So many people commented on the quality of their work.

Thank you, St Patrick’s Parish Community, for making the many hours spent planning, preparing and pinning (until our fingers bled!) for the Art Show such a rewarding experience.

Together, we have raised over $5000 profit, which will go towards furnishing the new buildings in Secondary, which are to start later this year.

Melinda Barrett
on behalf of the Art Show Committee
Candid Camera at the Art Show
Silent Auction Winners from the Art Show

- **Mixed Media Work, Voss Voyaging Into the Literacy Interior**, donated by Stan Menshic. Winning bid- Brenda Campbell-Brown

- **Michael Salmon Books** donated by Barrett Family - Bobo My Superdog + signed poster - Millie Blyton

- **The Masked Echidna** + signed poster - Lachlan McGufficke

- **Surfer Joe** + signed poster- Ava Barrett

- **The Monster that Ate Canberra** + signed poster - wants to stay anonymous

- **Mother's Love** painted by Katrina Joyce - Winning bid Carol Joyce

- **Uncommon Australians** Book donated by National Portrait Gallery - Coral Talbot

- **One year family membership to the National Gallery of Australia ( donated by the Gallery)** - Erika Statham

- **The Companion** donated by the National Portrait Gallery - Tina Mayhew

- **Kids' soccer package** donated Schulz Family with passes donated by Questacon & the National Dinosaur Museum - Danielle Venables

- **Ute load of wood** donated by the McGufficke Family - Peter Hill

- **Dinner for six** prepared by P&F - Howard Brown

- **Emily Exhibition Catalogue + Guided family tour** donated by National Museum of Australia - Erika Statham

- **Kids baseball pack** donated by Blyton Family with passes donated by Cockington Green & The National Dinosaur Museum - Peter Hill

**Thank you to all who bid on items.**

**The raffle will be drawn on Friday morning at the Primary Assembly.**
The beautiful lino prints of the Convent building of St Patrick’s were specially created by local artist Rashida Abdel-Azziz. They have been professional printed on rag paper and are a limited edition. Only 250 have been printed and signed. There are still some unframed copies available at the Office for just $40. This could be an excellent memento of your connection to St Patrick’s.
A word from the Chair of the School Board

I want to congratulate St Patrick’s professional teaching staff, (with special mention to Rashida Nuridin, the Secondary Visual Arts Teacher) the support and administrative staff, students, parents and our former St Patrick's students who exhibited and those who helped waitress last Friday evening on a wonderful 'Inspired by Others' Art show. The Art Show committee should be proud of their work in bringing all this together.

We have some very clever and talented existing and former students, teachers and parents who have shown that the creative and artistic side of our school is in fantastic shape. Through imagination, touch, feel and the way we demonstrate any form of creative expression, this energy feeds and touches others around us emotionally and intellectually in a very positive way. What can I say? It was truly inspirational for any age.

It was also tremendous publicity for St Patrick’s Parish School, our local community and a credit to everyone involved. Congratulations and well done!

Erika Statham  Chair, School Board

Leaving School before the HSC?

If your child is thinking of leaving school before completing the HSC, the BOSTES Literacy and Numeracy tests should be completed. These tests focus on the literacy and numeracy skills required by school leavers for employment and further education. The results from these tests can be used to show employers. Contact me for more information if required at the school- 64521721 or pam.fletcher@cg.catholic.edu

Star Awards

A Star Award is given to any student who has demonstrated a significant contribution in any area either within the school or beyond it. It is pleasing to report that there have been a number handed out this semester in a range of areas from local council art awards, school debating, representative football to a SERAS scholarship in bull riding. If you know of a student who you think might qualify for this award contact me at school.

Pam Fletcher
Secondary Coordinator

Did you know?

Here on the Monaro it is the home to one of Australia’s most loved native animal... the koala. There is a colony of about 900 koalas. Our local council is seeking support from the community to help protect and preserve their habitat. They want to reduce threats such as bush fires, wild dogs and trees dying. They also want to create more public awareness about koalas on the Monaro. It is interesting that the Monaro koalas are a different breed to other koalas in neighbouring regions. They also eat the bark of trees, not just the leaves.

Watch out for koalas crossing roads, especially out near Numeralla.

Reporters Ivy and Miranda McGufficke
ADF Long Tan awards

It is that time again when we are considering applications for the ADF LongTan awards.

The ADF LongTan Youth Leadership and Teamwork Awards recognise students who demonstrate leadership and teamwork within both the school and the broader community and who display strong values, such as doing one's best, respect for others and “mateship”, that are integral to Australian society.

The establishment of the ADF LongTan Youth Leadership and Teamwork Awards is an important initiative by the Australian Government designed to encourage senior students, tomorrow's leaders, to actively participate in the life of their schools and local communities. The awards are open to all schools in Australia with students enrolled in Years 10 and 12.

The selection criteria should be used as a guide for preparing a comprehensive portfolio to demonstrate suitability for nomination for the award.

The closing date for nominating is Friday 26 June (the last day of school this term). The school’s Leadership Team will meet in Term 3 to decide the best application. Names will be forwarded to ADF and the announcement will be made at the end of year awards ceremony.

Students are strongly encouraged to seek assistance and are invited to submit drafts to either Mrs Fletcher or Mrs Robertson. Much of what is prepared can also be used for other scholarship and employment applications. Therefore, we hope that many Year 10 students will put in the effort to develop a portfolio.

Because this is a prestigious award (with a monetary prize), only quality applications will be accepted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRITERIA</th>
<th>Year 10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LEADERSHIP</td>
<td>A student who achieves leadership results to a very good standard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEAMWORK</td>
<td>A team player who fosters cooperation within teams and routinely makes a positive contribution to the team’s performance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VALUES</td>
<td>A student whose knowledge, appearance and behaviour demonstrate respect for the values of the school and the community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROBLEM SOLVING</td>
<td>A student who generates workable solutions to problems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESOURCEFULNESS</td>
<td>An enthusiastic student who is resourceful in completing tasks within guidelines provided by teachers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMUNICATOR</td>
<td>A student who communicates well with others to complete a task.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COOPERATOR</td>
<td>A student who cooperates well with others to complete a task.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT</td>
<td>A student who is involved in some sort of community activity.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

White Card Course

As part of the preparation process for Work Experience it is a legal requirement that students who may be involved in work in or around a building site must have completed a WHS Workplace Safety Course. Any student wishing to do work experience or work placement which involves any aspect of construction must complete this course. It gives students an accredited certificate which is a useful addition to a young person's resume. Students wishing to also gain the above qualification but may not need it for Work Experience can also participate in the course.

Course requirements and the legislation governing the implementation and checking mechanisms have been tightened considerably. Consequently we have engaged TAFE NSW to conduct a course at the Cooma campus of the TAFE NSW on Thursday 6 August.

The cost for the course has been set at $130 for each student. This money should be paid to the school office by Friday 31 July.
Canteen News

A very special thank you to Year 10 students Mollie Adams and Jake Crawford for assisting me with the lunches for Grandparents’ & Friends’ Day last week. Not only was there the usual high number of lunch orders for a Friday, many more were received from the families who visited the school and in less than an hour we managed to get 70-80 orders to Infants and Primary campuses almost on time, and almost all correct!

My apologies to anyone whose order we didn't get quite right. If I owe you anything please get in touch! Thanks also to Ms Daley who stepped in to help get all of the orders out the door as quickly as possible!

Thank you to all of Infants and Primary families who have participated in the Canteen Survey. If you haven't already completed it, please send in the paper form which was sent home or you can complete the survey online: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/H9BHN7J

If there are any questions about the survey or the online link don’t work, please don’t hesitate to contact me. The survey for the Secondary students will be done in Homerooms by the end of this term.

Volunteers:

Wednesday 17/6, 10am Kelly Gill
Wednesday 17/6, 1.15pm Mini-Canteen Kelly & Marjorie
Thursday 18/6, 10am Jackie Bitar
Friday 19/6, 10am Chris Haylock
Wednesday 24/6, 10am Sue Bottom
Wednesday 24/6, 1.15pm Mini-canteen Denise & Howard
Thursday 25/6, 10am Lisa Walsh
Friday 26/6, 10am Sara Souter

This Week’s Friday Special: Egg & Bacon Roll $4

Don’t forget that anything can be ordered on a Friday!

With the cold weather upon us this term, many students get sore cracked lips, so I am now stocking lip balms for $2. They can be added to your lunch order, or purchased at the canteen counter.

Caroline Blyton
Canteen Manager
Confirmation

“Jesus send your Spirit Lord, as you promised us! We are asking you: O Lord pour out your fire on the earth! Jesus our life is in your hands!”

With these words being echoed in song, our young people will enter the Church at the beginning of the Confirmation Mass this Friday at 6pm. After weeks of preparation, they will take that final and very formal step in becoming full members of the Church. In effect, it takes eleven to twelve years to become a full member of the Church. So it is a lengthy journey.

It is a journey that began at the Baptism of our young people, when they were infants. It was here at this beginning that they were named and claimed for Christ. Their parents and godparents brought them to this first stage of initiation and made the Baptismal promises on their behalf. The waters of Baptism were poured over their heads and the oil of Chrism was anointed on their skin. In Confirmation our young people take that step in their own right, claiming Christ for themselves and taking on a new name to signify that step. This time, they will stand on their own two feet and be presented on behalf of our Parish. They will profess their faith and they will be confirmed by the Archbishop through the laying on of hands and the anointing with Chrism.

Along with a firm basis in prayer, formal requests at Mass, participation in home meetings and programs, practices and the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, our young people have been researching a saint of their choice – someone whose name they will take and whose qualities they will try to emulate.

Here are the names of the saints they have chosen: Bridget, Clare of Assisi, Collette, Christopher, Anthony, Vincent, Anne, Matthew, Timothy, Anastasia, William, Rose, Gregory the First, Patricia, Brigid of Ireland, Charbel, Margaret and Rita. The picture shows some of the stoles that have been made by the Confirmation candidates – the name of the saint, and some symbols of the saint or of the Holy Spirit is incorporated into the design. They are all different and they are all made by our young people. These will be placed over their shoulders after their Confirmation as a symbol of their assent, service and witness in living out the command to love.

The final step to initiation in the Church is the start, not the finish! It’s the start of a lifelong relationship with a community, of following Christ, of trying to live by Gospel values, of being part of the mission of the Church. And that mission is: to go out and tell the good news of Jesus that God is love. And if necessary, to use words.

All are very welcome to join our young people on Friday at 6pm in the Church to celebrate their Confirmation.
Learning Forum with Grandparents and Grandfriends

For the first time ever, we gathered with the grandparents and grandfriends and presented to them a series of questions about learning.

What would you like a day at school to look like for your grandchild?

What does our community need from schools today?

What is the most important learning that a child can have?

What is the best memory from your school days?

What can you offer our school?

How can we build better partnerships with our families?

What do you think is the purpose of a Catholic school?

What stops us from being the best school we can be?

Why is an education worth having?

What do you want from the Principal and Leadership Team?

The senior students recorded the information on a Google Doc and this will form part of the consultation with our community in planning for 2016 and beyond.

We really appreciate this input from our community of Grandparents and Grandfriends. If other grandparents would like to give their considered responses, they are welcome to write to the school or email the Principal at frances.robertson@cg.catholic.edu.au
In the classroom with Grandparents and Grandfriends

Thank you to all the Grandparents and Grandfriends who came to visit the classrooms. Some had travelled quite some distances, even internationally, to be with us. The photos tell a story of love and patience, a guiding hand and a listening ear, a kind word and laughter. It was a delightful morning.
Koori After School Homework Club

Monaro Family Support Service Inc. invites all primary school children from ATSI backgrounds to KASH Koori After School Homework Club which is conducted at Cooma Public School on every Tuesday of school term from after school to 5pm.

Qualified tutors assist with homework, provide a nutritious afternoon tea, and other outdoor and art /craft activities.

Anyone interested please contact Monaro Family Support Service on 64523450 or on cooma@monarofss.ngo.org.au

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Facebook – one of our communications tools

It is interesting to see the growing and changing ways that we communicate with our community. Below is the analysis of the school’s facebook page for one week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>LAST WEEK</th>
<th>PREVIOUS WEEK</th>
<th>TREND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Page Likes</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>326</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Likes</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>266.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Total Reach</td>
<td>6,985</td>
<td>1,107</td>
<td>531.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People Engaged</td>
<td>1,080</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>326.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Have you seen the school’s webpage and facebook page?

Simply go to [www.stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au](http://www.stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au)

We are updating the webpage and it now includes easy access to the newsletter, school notes, the school calendar and a button down the bottom to press to link to the facebook page. You can also just go straight to the facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/StPatsCooma](https://www.facebook.com/StPatsCooma)

You don’t have to be a regular user of facebook in order to see this page and all of the information and photos contained on it. There are often movie clips and a record of events as they happen. Setting it as an alert on your phone means that you may be able to ‘present’ at events, whilst still at work or at home.
Medicare Child Benefits Schedule

Please call Medicare on 132 011 to see if your child is eligible for the Child Benefits Schedule for dental work. To be eligible a child must be:

- Aged between 2 and 17
- Eligible for Medicare
- Receive, or their family, guardian or carer receive, certain government benefits for at least part of the calendar year.

Medicare Child Benefits Schedule entitles children to $1,000 in general dental services. Call your local dentist for an appointment.

The children now love luxury; they have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for elders and love chatter in place of exercise. Children are now tyrants, not the servants of their households. They no longer rise when elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, chatter before company, gobble up dainties at the table, cross their legs, and tyrannize their teachers.

Socrates 469 – 399BC

Combined Primary Schools and Catholic Colleges’ Cross Country Carnival

On Friday, six students travelled to Eastern Creek outside of Sydney to compete in the Combined Primary Schools and Combined Catholic Colleges’ Cross Country Carnival. The course at Eastern Creek winds its way around Sydney Motorsport Park, which is very different to what our students are used to running.

With very large fields in all age groups (some as big as 75 students!) our students participated with enthusiasm and sportsmanship.

Below are the results for our students:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/9yrs</td>
<td>Olave Wilkinson</td>
<td>33rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/9yrs</td>
<td>Mitchell Reid</td>
<td>52nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10yrs</td>
<td>Natalie Revelant</td>
<td>19th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10yrs</td>
<td>Clara Thornton</td>
<td>43rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10yrs</td>
<td>Eric Henderson</td>
<td>21st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12yrs</td>
<td>Troy Rees</td>
<td>66th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations to all of these students. A very big thank you must go to the parents who travelled with their children for this event.

Mr Lawley
Coordinating teacher

Interschool Skiing

ACT-Southern NSW Interschools skiing is on 29-31 July with entries closing 21 July. If interested see Mr Lawley.
Road Safety

We have received reports that when some St Patrick’s students leave the school they are recklessly crossing roads. By reckless, we mean that they don’t always stop and check for traffic; they cross anywhere on the road and they expect traffic to stop for them.

This applies especially to those who ride their bikes to and from school.

Can we remind all to exercise caution when crossing roads. This includes:

- Using designated crossings when moving from one side of the road to the other
- Stopping and looking both ways
- Walking your bike across the road

Jump Rope for Heart

Our Jump Rope for Heart jump-off is Friday 19th June at 12:30-1:30pm on the Primary playground. Please encourage your child to practise their skipping and keep getting sponsors. The online sponsorship site is heartfoundation.org.au

We are also promoting healthy eating so please take extra care with lunch box choices on this day. Fresh is best! The canteen will have great options available too.

If you would like to be part of our jump off, please come along and help turn ropes or even improve your own heart health by doing some skipping.
Head Lice

We have had several reports of head lice in the Primary Campus. Please check your child’s hair today!

Under Department of Education and Department of Health and Human Services policy, your child is required to remain away from school until after use of a recommended treatment and an attempt to remove all of the eggs (nits). Treat only if there is evidence of head lice. Please note that the lice and eggs can be very difficult to see. It is important to make sure all live lice and eggs are removed. This process can be very time consuming but is an important step in breaking the life cycle of head lice.

There is lots of helpful advice available on the internet to support families who are trying to deal with this tricky situation.
MEDIA STATEMENT

12 June 2015

Over the course of this week, the Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn, Christopher Prowse, made the decision to distribute the Australian Catholic Bishops’ Conference Pastoral Letter “Don’t Mess with Marriage” to Catholic families in the Archdiocese through Parishes and the Catholic School system.

This was an effective way to reach a large number of Catholic families in the region.

The Archbishop wanted families to have access to the Pastoral Letter in order to reflect and discuss the importance of marriage today.

“I understand that this is an emotive, hot button issue and we believe, like most civilizations over the millennia and all major religions, that marriage is at the very centre of good living and good life.” The Archbishop said.

"To re-define what marriage means is not an inconsequential moment in our history. We wanted to make a contribution to this discussion."

"We wanted to be able to make a statement that says 'let us really protect that which humanity has given us',” he said.

The Archbishop also said that to have a one sided debate is unsatisfactory: "While I understand that the same-sex marriage debate has an array of complexities surrounding it, our intention is for our students and their families and communities to be informed as much as possible.”

A copy of this letter is available at the Office for any parent who wishes to access it.