Dear Parents, Staff and Students

Welcome to Term 3
Welcome back to the start of Term 3 and we can be assured of a vast range of opportunities and challenges for all of our students in the weeks ahead. We welcome 7 new students to our school community, joining us from Kindergarten to Year 7, and trust that their involvement with St Patrick’s is a long and productive one.

Much of this term will be focused on preparation for School Registration which takes place in Week 2 of Term 4 (October 15 to 17). Registration is a process that occurs every 5 years in non-government schools and involves a panel of educators coming into the school for nearly 3 days to examine every aspect of the school functioning. This includes our spirituality, the curriculum, staffing, classroom practices, pastoral processes, finances, the school physical environment, right through to the school’s vision for both the short and long term. Registration is very thorough and can be a rewarding process in many ways as it affirms positive elements of school life that are in place as well as providing objective advice on future focus areas. A key part of the whole process is the interaction that the panel has with members of the whole school community. Further information about Registration will be provided throughout the term.

Kindergarten 2013 and Year 7 2013 enrolments
It is most important that we finalise our Kinder 2013 enrolments to assist the staffing process for 2013. As I’ve mentioned previously we can take no more enrolments for this year’s Stage One and Kinder classes and a waiting list has been established, so it critical that we project our 2013 enrolments as accurately as possible to determine class formation. If you still have an enrolment form outstanding, or you know of someone intending to enrol their child in Kinder next year, we would ask that the forms are handed in to the office urgently so that interview schedules can be arranged.

Parents of current Year 6 students will be invited to a Year 7 2013 Information Evening on Tuesday 7th August in the Secondary Library at 6.30 pm. This will be an opportunity for current parents, and the quite significant number of new enrolments for Year 7 next year, to hear about the curriculum structure, adapting to high school life and the broad opportunities that exist for secondary students at St Patrick’s. We will also be displaying the exciting concept plans for the redevelopment of the Secondary Campus which have just been received from the architect.

Snowsports Programs
With winter well and truly having us in its grasp our thoughts turn to our snowsports programs. The response to our interest surveys has been overwhelming from Kindergarten through to Year 10. Our local alpine environment provides a unique opportunity to experience skiing or snowboarding in an affordable, safe and supervised manner through our various programs.

This year for the first time we are having a Kinder/Stage One ski program at Thredbo, in response to great parent interest (and we assume students as well)! An enormous effort has been put in by Glenyce Moxon and Tim Lawley over many months to set the snowsports programs up. The incidental benefits of the programs have been very evident over many years: these include the development of a greater sense of responsibility, self reliance, coordination and more diverse social interaction, all in an environment of fun and activity on the ski slopes. Safety of the students at all times is uppermost in our minds as you will see from the information letters that have been sent home.

Staff go back to the classroom
Monday of this week saw all the staff intently engaged in our computer labs, learning about the LIFE Learning Management System which is a web-based interactive system in use throughout the Archdiocese to improve student engagement and teacher proficiency at the same time as integrating technology more fully in the learning process. As we develop our LIFE portal we will keep you informed of progress and opportunities for student, parent and staff interaction with it. It really is an exciting and innovative aspect of teaching and learning for the 21st Century! Thanks to Steve Joyce and Amanda Knott for their lead-up work over the last few months to prepare us for the launch of LIFE.

News update
Good luck to our Interschools skiers and snowboarders next week at Perisher as well as our Secondary Rugby League teams at Boorowa next Wednesday. Good luck also to our Mock Trial team next Wednesday as they compete in the ACT Supreme Court in this round of the competition.

Phil Stubbs
Principal
As you may be aware the St Patrick’s school registration visit will occur from 15 to 17 October next term. Each week this term, I will outline some of the planning, considerations and documentation that is required for school registration.

School registration occurs every 5 years and is facilitated by an external team. In this archdiocese the team is made up of CEO staff and executive team members from other schools. Although an important aspect of the registration visit is to check that a school complies with legislative and system requirements, the main focus is on future planning. Consequently the final registration report will outline our journey as a school community; where we have come from, what we are currently doing now and how this will help us achieve our goals for the future.

Mark van Ommen
Assistant Principal

Well done to all those primary students who entered our inaugural SRC photo competition. It was great to see the talent and diversity in our Primary campus. Thank you to the Primary SRC Photo Committee (Josh McConkey, Sara Knott and Harrison Chong) for instigating this novel idea. Also thank you to all the Primary leaders who designed and laminated the certificates and organised the photo display in the Library. A big thankyou to Schoo’s Studio for their time and generosity and for the Primary SRC for buying the prizes.

Congratulations to all our winners. There were many more than mentioned below.

KG Category - Creative – Charlotte Geelan “I’m hiding, but can still see you”

1P Category - Posed – Harriet Greville “My little Cousin”

1O Category - Life/Nature – Lachlan Hemphill “Buddy, my frog”

2P Category - Creative – Olivia Heise “Beautiful Tree”

2O Category - Posed - Ivy McGufficke “Too cute for the camera”

3O Category - Life Nature – Ryan Birch “Line of Tranquillity”

3P Category - Creative - Hugh Haywood - Mercer “Sunset”

3G Category - Posed - Harrison Jones “Bubba”

Mike Introna
Sullivan Shield Coordinator

Well done to the boys’ Stage 3 Sullivan Shield team which won all three games without having a point scored against them. St Pats 10 v St Clares 0, St Pats 16 v St Thomas 0, St Pats 10 v Waniassa 0. This means the boys now play in the Sullivan Shield Trophy Division in September. More details to come. Also well done to the 2 girls’ Oz Tag teams which also performed well. Congratulations to all the students who participated in this event and represented the school with pride, enthusiasm and good sportsmanship. A big thank you to all the parents who were present on the day, in particular Mrs Hain and Meg Bracher and Jack Williams who took responsibility for the girls’ teams. Thank you also to Mark Pendergast for driving the bus and to Meg Bracher, Jack Williams and Jack Johnson for helping to coach the Oz tag sides in their lunchtimes.

Mike Introna
Sullivan Shield Coordinator

God’s grace is on the loose amongst us. Coincidence is a name God uses when he doesn’t sign his name. What if coincidence is grace! (Fr John Chalmers)

Grace is God’s practical concern for us in the uncertainties of our lives. (Fr Pat Richards)

Grace is the energy of divine love, rolling into our lives like waves, never ending tides, towards the shores of human need. (Bill Huebsch Grace God’s Greatest Gift)

Grace is the free and undeserved gift that God gives us to respond to our vocation to become adopted children. (Catholic Cathechism)
There have been two cases of head lice reported to the school today. Please check your child’s hair tonight and treat accordingly. If you are unsure how to treat nits, please consult with your local Chemist. We must remind all parents and children that hair longer than the shoulders must be tied back securely at school. This means ponytails, pigtails or plaits. Hairbands are not enough to secure the hair and prevent the spreading of lice.

Navigating Teenage Depression

Depression is more common than you realise. A free community education seminar is being offered on ‘Navigating Teenage Depression’

When: Wednesday 25 July 2012
Time: 6.30pm-8.30pm
Where: Monaro High
Who: the whole community, in particular parents, teenagers and people who work with young people.
Facilitator: a speaker from the Black Dog Institute.

The seminar comprises of an overview of what depression is, how to spot early warning signs, understanding the risk factors, role of personality is relation to depression, what to do and how to build personal resilience.

Building personal Resilience

A free community education workshop is being offered on ‘Building personal Resilience’

When: Thursday 26 July
Time: 9.30am – 12.30pm
Where: Sovereign Inn
Who: relevant for people seeking to enhance their own personal resilience to life’s stressors.

The workshop looks at what resilience is and how adversity can play a positive role in our lives. Places are limited - RSVP 93828203.

Introducing ‘Kidsmatter’

Do kids matter? Of course! They matter to families, to schools and to the community. ‘Kidsmatter’ is a framework designed to bring together these three groups to improve children’s mental health.

Good mental health is vital for learning and life. Children who are mentally healthy are better able to meet life’s challenges. They also learn better and have stronger relationships with teachers, family members and peers.

At St Patrick’s Parish School Cooma, we will be introducing the ‘Kidsmatter’ framework. As it is a process, and not a program, Kidsmatter will be implemented over a period of time. We hope to involve as many of the school community as possible.

There are four component areas of focus involving learning, planning and action for addressing children’s mental health.

- Component 1: A positive school community
- Component 2: Social and emotional learning for students
- Component 3: Working with parents and carers
- Component 4: Helping children with mental health difficulties

Component 1 will commence later this term. Further information will appear in the school newsletter. You are also invited to visit the website: https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/primary/

Kidsmatter is a national mental health initiative, developed in collaboration with the Australian Government Department of Health and Aging, beyondblue: the national depression initiative, the Australian psychological Society, and Principals Australia.

Chloe van Ommen, Joshua van ommen and Harriett Greville representing St Patrick’s at the Paddy Pallin Junior Cross Country Championships held at Perisher Valley on Sunday 1 July. Thank you to Tim and Pip Greville who organised the races and the “jelly snake” hunt.

Chook Lotto

Thank you to Erin Alexander for donation of Chook Lotto prizes!

Paddy Pallin Junior Cross Country race

The much anticipated cookbook “Nourish” will be delivered shortly. Thank you to all our families and local community members who have pre-ordered over the previous school semester. The Nourish Committee will be busy filling and delivering these orders and making sure our customers are fully satisfied with the final product.

If you did not get an order in, the book will be available for purchase soon at a cost of $30.00 at various business houses. Download an order form from the school website www.stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au (P&F Parents Forms and Notes) and send in to the school office with your payment. Stay tuned for information on our Book launch evening and events occurring throughout the day for Primary and Food Technology students!
Thursday 28 June
Friday 20 July
Day 1 Secondary Skiing
Wednesday 25 to Friday 27 July
Interschool skiing at Perisher
Thursday 28 July
K-6 Ski Program
Friday 27 July
Day 2 Secondary Skiing
K-6 Ski Program
3G Assembly 12.00 pm at the Cooma Ex-Services Club
Monday 30 July
K-6 Ski Program
Tuesday 31 July
K-6 Ski Program
K-2 Peter Rabbit Theatre Production in Canberra
Reconciliation meeting in the Church 6.30 pm
Wednesday 1 August
Secondary Parent/Teacher Interviews
Thursday 2 August
3-10 Australian Mathematics Competition
Year 10 Careers Expo in Canberra
2P Assembly 12.00 pm at the Cooma Ex-Services Club
P & F Meeting 2pm - Venue (Primary staffroom)
Friday 3 August
Day 3 Secondary Skiing
Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 August
Reconciliation Request for Candidates this weekend’s masses
Tuesday 7 August
Year 7 2013 Info evening (Secondary Library)
Reconciliation meeting in the Church 6.30 pm
Wednesday 8 August
Mary Mackillop Feast Day
Thursday 9 August
3-6 Southern Region Athletics Bega
School Board Meeting 6.30pm
Friday 10 August
K-2 Ski Program
Friday 17 August
K-2 Ski Program
Monday 20 August
Book Week
Wednesday 22 August
CEO Primary Schools Choir Performance
Thursday 23 August
K-10 Archdiocesan Athletics (Canberra)
Monday 10 September
Spot Day Year 7 Orientation
Thursday 13 September
CCC Athletics Homebush
Friday 14 September
Poetry & Drama Workshops
Sunday 16 September
TOM Territory Finals
Thursday 20 September
TOM Australasian Finals
Friday 21 September
Last Day of Term

Raglan Gallery and Cultural Centre: Opening hours Wednesday to Sunday 9.30 am to 4.30 pm. Sense of Place is a screening program of Contemporary Australian video art showcasing the work of artists united by their investigation of cultural identity and the evolving concept of “Australian-ness”. Coming soon: The Hill – An exhibition of paintings, etchings, video and sculpture by Jen Mallinson, Sue Chancellor, Lorna Crane and Poppy Benton. Opening by Andrew Gray Regional Arts Development Officer South East Arts at 3.00 pm on Saturday 4 August. Continues through to 26 August.

Ski de Femme/Fast and Female: Sunday 22 July – Check-in at 9.00 am at the Perisher Nordic Centre. Book in online or just roll up o the day. Under 20s register online and for $10 you receive an official Fast and Female Buff. Register on the day for $20 Under 20 includes buff and lunch. Adults $30 includes lesson, morning tea and lunch. Register at www.FastandFemale.com. For more information, contact Allison Stoddart 0416627747 or Rhonda Cunningham 0405963450.

Term 3 volunteer list coming soon! Please let me know if you are unable to help on the allocated day and/or if you are able to help less or more.

Changes to Canteen Menu: A new menu will be available soon with some price and item changes.

Thank you for your continued support.

Carolyn Hely
Canteen Manager

Our staff getting involved in 21st Century technology and applications under the guidance of CEO Information Technology Officer, Steve Carter