Dear Parents, Staff and

Parents and Friends Association 2013
Last week we held the Annual General Meeting for the P&F Association and it was particularly heartening to see the willingness of those parents present to get involved and take on positions of responsibility for the good of the school and the students. As is frequently the case these positions are often filled by those whose lives are already so busy and the school community is very grateful for their commitment. The P&F Executive for 2013 is:

President – Karen McGufficke
Vice-President – Tammy Byrne
Secretary – Louise Platts
Treasurer – Kris Laird
Catering Coordinator – Marjorie Revelant

While we welcome the incoming executive I would like to acknowledge the wonderful work done throughout 2012 by the outgoing executive and committee members. The fund-raising activities they coordinated were innovative, very productive and certainly a lot of fun at the same time. Thank you to Heather Walker-Broose, Eva Tangye and Justine Pielli as executive members and the willing activity coordinators who brought together so many P&F events in 2012.

Literacy and Numeracy Initiatives 2013
The Catholic Education Office advised us over the last week that we have been successful in securing staffing to implement a number of initiatives in 2013 on the Primary campus and particularly targeting the K-2 students. In terms of early literacy intervention, Kellie Summerville will be here 5 days each fortnight to provide direct support to the Kindergarten to Year 2 students, both individually and in small groups, where most needed. She will be working closely with our Learning Support Teacher Melinda Barrett. We are also part of a small cluster of Catholic schools (Bega, Pambula, Bombala, Cooma) with a dedicated ‘literacy coach’ assigned to these schools. The coach, Mary Kite, will be working throughout the year with classroom teachers to address areas of literacy consolidation and remediation.

We have also been selected to take part in an innovative project called i-READ that provides reading mentors for students. It is the result of collaboration between the CEO and Dr Kaye Lowe from the University of Canberra. i-READ is a program that supports readers in early high school. It aims to surround students with a network of support thereby improving their learning. It also educates mentors, teachers and parents in effective ways to work with struggling readers.

The numeracy initiatives for 2013 are equally exciting with Amanda Knott currently doing training to implement the Numeracy Intervention Program (NIP). This will involve her working with individual students and/or small groups of Stage 1 students to reinforce the understanding of basic mathematical concepts at this early age. We are grateful to our Catholic Education Office for their significant support with these initiatives.

Parent Teacher interviews next week
A reminder that we are holding parent /teacher interviews next week and letters have been sent home to explain the booking procedure. The interviews are to be held on each school campus, including Secondary, and I would encourage you to make yourself known to your child’s classroom teacher/s and discuss ways in which to best enhance their learning throughout the year.

Dragon boat challenge a success
Congratulations to all those students who participated in the dragon boat races last weekend as part of Jindabyne’s Flowing Festival. They were great ambassadors for the school and were beaten by only a short dragon’s head in the final by a much more experienced crew from JCS on a postcard perfect day on Lake Jindabyne. Thank you to the staff and parents who so willingly assisted and encouraged the students throughout the day.

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News Update
Congratulations to our Year 7 students for the positive accounts of their camp at Kianinny this week. Thanks to the accompanying teachers Lou Mackay, Suzanne Stacey and Mark van Ommen. More details on the camp in next week’s newsletter.

Our Stage 2 students are to be congratulated on their outstanding spirit of participation at Sawpit Creek yesterday. Good luck to our Southern Region swimmers tomorrow in Narooma!

Don’t forget the working bee on this Saturday morning from 9 am.

Please pray for those members of our school community who are unwell at this time.

Phil Stubbs
Principal
We once again participated in the Snowy Hydro Junior Division Challenge at the Flowing Festival in Jindabyne last weekend. The team had a practice paddle Saturday afternoon with the competition on the Sunday. The team paddled in two heats before making the final later in the afternoon. In a very exciting race with an extremely tight finish we came second. Congratulations to all members of the team—the students were a credit to both themselves and the school with their enthusiasm, good sportsmanship and willingness to give their all. Thanks to our team captains, Louise Fletcher and Jozeph Nassar, who were outstanding leaders on the day. Special thanks to all the parents, staff and other students who came and supported the team.

By Damian Fletcher, Zara Childs, Miranda McGufficke and Broc Allen.

It is a New Year, new kindy’s, new friendships and new school for the kindy’s. Lucky Year 6 has been able to help them along. Over the past couple of weeks the Year 6’s have been making regular visits to the infants to see the kindergartens and to help them settle in by playing with our buddies. We look forward to the year ahead with our buddies and wish them all the best in years to come. By Damian Fletcher, Zara Childs, Miranda McGufficke and Broc Allen.

When: 27 February for students with surnames starting with A-L
28 February for students with surnames starting with M-Z

Where: Secondary campus

Times: Prebooked times from 4-5.30pm
Drop in times from 5.30-6.30

Booking sheets and other information will go home this week.

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

PLANT, HERB and BOOK ENTHUSIASTS

Bazaar Fair 2013
(School Fete)

Saturday, 2 November 2013
Snowy Ride Weekend
Centennial Park, Cooma
10.00 am – 2.00 pm

Autumn is the perfect time for propagating plants for spring and summer.

Please start taking those cuttings and re-potting plants for our plant stall.

STOP! Do not throw out any books. We will be in desperate need of these for our book stall.

Bring them along on Fair day to Centennial Park.

This is a major P&F fundraiser for 2013 – stay tuned.
Our School Board in 2013 will comprise the following Board Members: Father Paul Huthnance, Principal Phil Stubbs, Assistant Principal Mark Van Ommen, Erika Statham (Chairperson), Kaye Pearce (Secretary), Richard Clarke, Mark Herbert, Bernie Sullivan, Natalie Fanning and Karen McGufficke (P&F President).

The Board welcomes our new members Richard Clarke and Karen McGufficke and takes this opportunity to thank Narelle Allen and Eva Tangye for their involvement and commitment to the Board in 2012 and wish them well for the future. Our thanks also to Angie Intro-nna for her valued input as staff representative.

The Board has a number of key objectives such as to provide an enhanced level of advice and support to our Principal, particularly in the areas of positioning, marketing and growing the school; confirming the school's approach to executive governance: ie, debating, confirming and implementing either the current Board & P&F model or a new School Community Council model and enhancing the Board's role, function and profile.

We encourage all our parents within the school community to take the time to approach any of these Board members to ascertain what new and exciting opportunities may await our students in 2013.

As previously mentioned a very successful Annual General Meeting was held last Thursday afternoon, despite the wild storm in the afternoon we had a good rollup for the meeting. The P&F executive team for 2013 is:

President                 Karen McGufficke
Vice President           Tammy Byrne
Secretary                Louise Platts
Treasurer                Kris Laird

Many of the other roles within the P& F team, have been filled by existing and new parents.

Catering Coordinator will be Marjorie Revelant; Ruby Curtis and Kris Laird will manage the 2nd Hand Uniforms. The Mothers & Father’s Day Stall will be coordinated by Kylie Douch & Natalie Reid.

Once again this year we will be holding our bi annual Fete in November, and Erika Statham will be leading a team to co-ordinate this.

We are looking for parents who would like to take on the role of Parent Liaison, for each stage, further information will be in next weeks newsletter.

Our first major fundraiser for 2013 is the Cooma Show on 9th March, where the P&F will once again run the BBQ and luncheon pavilion. We will need lots of helper to assist with the set up, preparation and serving of food. Further details are in the note included with this newsletter.

Sincere thanks to Heather Walker- Broose, Eva Tangye and Justine Pielli for their contribution to the P&F in executive roles last year.

The P&F team appreciate your continued support and participation.

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WHAT'S ON

Thursday 21 February
K - 6 Southern Region swimming carnival - Narooma
Year 9 Parish Mass 10.00 - 11.00am

Friday 22 February
Kindergarten pupil free day
Yr 9 & 10 Drama/Art Excursion Canberra
K - 10 Raiders visit 9 - 10.30am

Saturday 23 February
Working Bee

Monday 25 February
7-10 Swimming Carnival
K - 6 Parent Teacher interviews

Tuesday 26 February
7 - 10 Police visit
K - 6 Parent Teacher interviews

Wednesday 27 February
K - 6 Parent Teacher interviews
7 - 10 Parent Teacher interviews - surnames A - L

Thursday 28 February
Year 10 Parish Mass 10.00 - 11.00am
K - 6 Parent Teacher interviews
7 - 10 Parent Teacher interviews - M - Z

Friday 1 March
Yr 9 - 10 Drama Workshop
Years 7 - 10 Monaro Rugby 10’s
Secondary Archdiocesan swimming championships Yass
K - 10 Caritas non - uniform day

Monday 4 March
Primary Archdiocesan swimming carnival Narooma

Wednesday 6 March
3-10 Netball Gala day
Thursday 7 March
3P Parish Mass 10.00 - 11.00am

Friday 8 March
Yr 9 - 10 Drama workshop

Tuesday 12 March
Schools Gala Day 9 - 2pm

Friday 15 March
K - 10 St Patrick’s day Liturgy and Celebrations

Monday 18 March
Yr 7 - 10 Archdiocesan soccer gala day
Tuesday 19 March
Yr 8 surf safety day
Friday 22 March
Yr 3 - 6 Auskick

Monday 25 March
Leadership day at Cooba

Tuesday 26 March
Yr 10 War Memorial excursion

Wednesday 27 March
3 - 10 X Country

Canteen News

VOLUNTEERS
Thursday 21 February
Rebecca Hain

Friday 22 February
VOLUNTEER NEEDED PLEASE - especially from 10am to 11am! MEAL DEAL DAY is very busy!

Wednesday 27 February
Mini Canteen
Naomi Saxby

FRIDAY MEAL DEAL - PIE and a juice or milk (please specify) OR HOT DOG, milk or juice AND FREDDO FROG. Both choices are $5.00. THIS IS THE ONLY CHOICE AVAILABLE TO BOTH PRIMARY AND INFANTS. If you have any other requests or thoughts, PLEASE contact me at the canteen or my mobile 0406 763 375.

Thank you for your continued support.
Carolyn Hely
Canteen Manager

Around Town

* Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend for married couples 15 – 17 March at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW. Bookings: 02 4283 3435 or w.sharp@bigpond.net.au. Information: www.wwme.org.au

* Sir William Hudson Memorial Centre (Aged Care Facility) is having a Car Boot Sale - Saturday 23 February 2013 - 8.00am - 1.00pm in the grounds of the Multi-Function Centre - $25 per car and any profit you make is your own - single items above the selling price of $500 will incur a commission to SWHMC of 2.5%. BBQ and cold drinks available compliments of the Lions Club.

* Violin and cello lessons for St Patrick’s School students, beginners to advanced – AMEB exams if required. Phone Jarka Secka 6452 7672 or 0405 661 300. Leave a message if not answered.

* The Canberra Raiders will be holding a training afternoon on Thursday afternoon 21 February at the Cooma Showground for anyone interested for under 16s and below from 4.00 til 5.00 pm.

* Seeking players, coaches and supporters for Season 2013: You are invited to AFL Training for Under 12 Auskick, U14/16s and Seniors/Masters at the home of Cooma AFL Snowy Oval, Yarra Street, Cooma Tuesdays & Thursdays from 5.00 pm commencing 12 March. For more information, phone Stuart Wood 0422 496 400.

* At the Raglan Gallery - Schools “Monaro Art Express” Wednesday 6 March to Sunday 17th March. The work of years 10, 11, and 12 students will be showcased during the annual meeting of the Isolated Children’s Parents Association.

* Chris Isaak: Beyond the sun tour, Easter Sunday 31 March. For more information visit Thredbo.com.au or ticketmaster.com.au

* Snowy Relay for Life: 2 & 3 March in Jindabyne. Too many of us know families affected by cancer. If you would like to Celebrate, Remember and Fight Back, come to Jindabyne on 3 and 4 March. All proceeds go to the Cancer Council. If you would like to make up a St Pat’s team, please see Ms Kovats.