Dear Parents, Staff and Students

St Patrick’s Day Celebrations
One of the highlights of our school year was the St Patrick’s Day liturgy and celebrations that were held on Monday this week. It was a great opportunity for the whole school to come together and acknowledge our patron saint’s inspiring story. As a school we could be given no better affirmation than the message that was contained in an email I received on Monday evening from a Primary student’s parent who assisted with the day’s events; she said in part:

“I just wanted to email to say how much I enjoyed today, and how much I appreciated all the effort that went into pulling off all aspects of the day.

I thought the liturgy was beautiful - the prayers were thoughtful and centring, and were well matched with the hymns and music. I loved the Gaelic readings and was so impressed by young Tom (Stage One student Tomas Carton) - I felt privileged to hear Gaelic being spoken in the Church. There was a real feeling of calmness and whole school inclusion. The executive members read so well and appeared so confident, the musicians played beautifully and the dancers were captivating.

The tabloids were great fun and each of the groups I had at my activity participated really well and seem to enjoy the activities they were doing. It was wonderful to see an oval full of yellow and green bodies with smiles on all their faces. It epitomised to me the value in St Pats being a K-10 school and the importance of interaction across all year groups.

So, well done - I was so pleased to have been a part of today - and thank you.”

Thank you to all the staff for their support with the day and particular thanks go to Paul Mackay for his overall organisation, Tomas Carton for his inspirational Gaelic prayer and the parents who assisted so willingly with the liturgy and the tabloid activities.

Keeping a balance in school life
In glancing through the newsletter I am sure you can appreciate how busy school life is. At this time of year sporting activities and competitions take a degree of prominence before the onset of cooler weather; all the football codes are vying for early student interest in their particular brand of football. Regional and Archdiocesan trials and competitions are also prominent, but amidst all this we do not diminish our focus on classroom teaching and learning. Sporting involvement should not be seen in isolation as it is usually a focus for the development of teamwork, concentration and an improvement in physical well-being. These benefits can allow a more settled approach to classroom learning and thus should be encouraged in conjunction with meeting classroom obligations, be that assignments, assessment preparation, regular reading or keeping up with homework exercises. In terms of our sporting news:

• Congratulations to our Primary soccer stars who participated in the Catholic Schools Carnival in Canberra last Sunday. They were such good ambassadors for the school with their enthusiasm and teamwork. Thank you to the parents and staff members who supported the students.
• A great effort was put in by the students at the AFL Auskick Gala Day last Friday. Thank you to Belinda Wilkins for her organisation of the day.
• Well done to all students who participated in the Archdiocesan trials for a variety of sports and the best of luck to those who have progressed on to the next level.
• Good luck to our Primary and Secondary representative swimmers who will be competing at state level in Homebush next week and a big thank you to the parents for providing such valued support.

Year 7 Camp
The general consensus on speaking to the Year 7 students as they returned from their camp last Friday at Kianinny at Tathra was that it was an exhausting but very worthwhile experience. They spent a considerable amount of time developing their interpersonal skills, spirituality focus and awareness of the ways in which we are all different but special in God’s eyes. Thank you to the accompanying staff: Paul Mackay, Mark van Ommen, Sue Wallace and Alyson Hulley.

Our Primary Campus Southcare Awareness Day promises to be a fun-filled experience on Friday this week.

Don’t forget the 2nd Secondary Parent Teacher Interview session tomorrow night.

Good luck to our Secondary debaters next Monday evening in Canberra in the first round of their competition.

Our Primary students are very excited about their disco this Friday evening!

Phil Stubbs
Principal
For parents of students with surnames from M-Z and anyone else who was unable to come to the first night, interviews will be held at the Secondary Campus tomorrow evening. Bookings from 4.00-5.30 pm and drop in between 5.30 to 6.30 pm.

Year 7 Camp Kianinny

Congratulations to Year 7 students on a very successful camp. After all the rain the mosquitoes were out in force but that did not stop the enthusiasm and positive participation of all students.

With excellent food and a wide variety of activities from canoeing, archery, raft building, team rescue and low ropes courses students were occupied and learning in a beautiful outdoor environment.

Students were very cooperative throughout the camp and the Kianinny supervisors remarked how well mannered and involved the students were. Thank you to Meg Bracher, James Minards, Luke Johnson, Keegan White, Harry Fletcher, Claudia Sullivan, Emily Ewart and Gabrielle de Rooy, our Year 10 executive for your supportive leadership role.

Mr Mackay

ARCHDIOCESAN FOOTBALL TRIALS

On Friday four students from the Secondary campus attended the Archdiocesan Football trials in Canberra. Matthijs de Ruijter, Oscar Thomas, Jozeph Nassar and Daniel Towning played two games of soccer against students who were up to 18 years of age for a spot on the Canberra/Goulburn Archdiocesan team. Congratulations to Jozeph Nassar who was selected in the team of 15 to play against teams from all over NSW in the CCC Football Championships to be held at the end of May in Bathurst. Well done to all of the boys for the great participation on the day and a big thank you to those parents who transported students on the day.

Mr Lawley

School Fees Assistance

Application Forms for assistance with School Fees for the period of Term 2 2012 to Term 1 2013 are now available at the school office. A new application must be submitted each year and this must be accompanied by copies of at least two current, relevant pieces of documentation. Please note that applications must be lodged by Wednesday 4 April 2012. No late applications will be accepted. If further information is required, please contact Mr Phil Stubbs on 6452 1721.

This Friday, 23 March 2012, St Patrick’s Parish School will be having a ‘SouthCare’ Awareness Day. This event will used to raise much needed money as part of the Snowy Hydro SouthCare Awareness Month. Below is an outline of all the wonderful events that the K-6 students will do on the day.

Students can come to school dressed up as an injured person or as an emergency worker eg, police officer, fireman. Each student is to bring in a gold coin donation to participate. This money will go directly to SouthCare. There will be a prize for each class for the best dressed ‘injured’ or ‘emergency’ person.

• There will be a raffle run by the SRC. The details of the raffle will be mentioned closer to the event.
• Students will be encouraged to bring ‘recyclable’ items to school to make their own helicopter in class. There will be a prize for each year level.
• Students will be able to make their own paper helicopter as part of a Science lesson.
• There will be a BBQ lunch, where students can buy a sausage sandwiches and a drink.
• Two people from SouthCare will attend to judge the best helicopters and best dressed students.
• The students will have the opportunity to see an ambulance, police vehicles and a fire truck at lunch (depending on there being no emergency callouts).
• K-2 students can also bring in their injured teddy bears.

Please make sure your BBQ orders are in before this Thursday.

Steven Joyce
K-6 Coordinator

Science Competition

Each year the University of NSW run academic competitions known as ICAS or International Competitions and Assesment for Schools. The primary aim of the ICAS Science competition is not to test students’ prior knowledge. Instead it tests their aptitude for science. The questions require students to make accurate observations and then come up with logical inferences. The Science competition will be run on 6 June for students in Years 3-10, and entries need to be made before the end of Term 1. The entry fee for Science is $7.00. The question booklets are well designed and appeal to students. All students will receive a certificate which is a great reminder of their participation. Furthermore, each student who takes part will be contributing points to their House. If you would like your child to be involved in this competition, please remind them to speak to their teacher before the end of this Term.

Mrs Sue Wallace, Science Teacher, Secondary
Congratulations to our students who participated in the Canberra/Goulburn Catholic Soccer Carnival last weekend. Thanks to all the parents, teachers who have volunteered to assist by coaching and managing teams. A more detailed report will be in the Week 9 newsletter.

**Chook Lotto**

* Safia Nassar 10 for lining up quickly and quietly
* Tony Bitar KG for listening well
* Mitchell Reid 1P for donating Chook Lotto prizes

Well done!
Thank you very much to families of Mitchell Reid, Lochlan Giuliani and Elle McGufficke for Chook Lotto prize donations.

**Book Covering**

Thank A big thank you to Deborah Heffernan who helped cover many of the 300 books received from the Woolworths Education Promotion last year.

**Nourish**

As our first deadline approaches for the completion phase of ‘Nourish’ we take this opportunity to thank everyone for their contributions to our cookbook. Some families have entered multiple recipes in the same chapters. With the overwhelming flood of responses within the last week, we may not be able to use all the recipes submitted due to duplications. A reminder that students and staff who have submitted recipes need to ensure they have completed a declaration (found on the ‘Recipe Request’ form) in order for their entry to be valid for the competitions.

We encourage everyone to pre-order copies of the Nourish cookbook at a cost of $20.00 per book. Pre-order forms can be downloaded and completed from the school website: h t t p : / / s t p a t s c o o m a . n s w . e d u . a u / p a r e n t s / p f o r m s a n d n o t e s . h t m l . Completed forms are to be given to Melissa Giuliani 0429 993 440 or Erika Statham 0400 787 398 ASAP please. Winners of the prizes will be notified in the last week of Term 1.

Information on our upcoming book launch and guest speaker will be published at the beginning of Term 2.

We are grateful to Allianz Insurance, our major sponsor, who is providing funds to produce this amazing cookbook. We thank our 25 local food producers and retailers for sponsoring and advertising in ‘Nourish’.

**P&F News**

* Disco – Disco – Disco – This Friday 23 March is Disco night from 6.00 to 7.30 pm at the Uniting Church hall. Cost is $5.00 with music by DJ Jim! Hot snack food and cold drinks on sale. Students will only be permitted entry when signed in by a parent. Younger siblings welcome BUT must be accompanied by a parent. Help is needed on the night—please volunteer please call Eva on 0413 555 565
* Cooma Show – The results are in—we made a profit of $3118.19. What a fantastic result! Thanks everyone.
* Class Liaison Parents – HELP!! We need parents to help the P&F by letting them know what’s important to each year from Infants to seniors so that we can plan for all ages. Can you help??
* Next P&F Meeting – 29 March at 6.00 pm in the Secondary Library– please come along, even to just say hi!
Don’t forget to drop us an email with any issues you may have or to let us know you can help. My email is hwalker-broose@bigpond.com
The P&F team
Thursday 22 March
3G Parish Mass 10.00 am
Secondary Parent Teacher Interviews (at the school)
School Board Meeting 6.30 pm
Friday 23 March
K-6 Southcare Fundraising Day
K-6 P&F Disco 6.00 pm
Monday 26 March
Year 7 & 8 Debating ACT Round 1
CPS Swimming Homebush
Wednesday 28 March
K-6 Brumbies Gala Day
Thursday 29 March
Year 7 and 10 Immunisations
Friday 30 March
CCC Swimming Homebush
Regional Final 7-10 Brumbies Rugby Union
Saturday 31 March
20 Year Reunion
Monday 2 April
Board of Studies Assessment Seminar Leadership Day
Archdiocesan Winter Trials
Year 7 & 8 Debating ACT Round 2
Tuesday 3 April
7 & 8 Girls Auskick
K-6 Easter Bonnet Parade
Wednesday 4 April
K-6 Cross Country
Thursday 5 April
Holy Thursday
Easter Liturgy (to be confirmed)
Last Day Term 1
Friday 6 April
GOOD FRIDAY
Monday 23 April
Staff Development Day
Tuesday 24 April
Students return for Term 2
Wednesday 25 April
ANZAC Day
Thursday 26 April
Archdiocesan Touch Trials Cootamundra
Year 10 Defence Talk
Friday 27 April
Anzac Day Liturgy 12.00 pm
3-6 Harry Nichols shield
Monday 30 April
K-6 Athletics
Tuesday 1 May
7-10 Cross Country
Wednesday 2 May
Year 9 Camp Mimosa Rocks
K-6 Pet Presentation
Thursday 3 May
Year 9 Camp Mimosa Rocks
Friday 4 May
Year 9 Camp Mimosa Rocks

Canteen News
Volunteers
Friday 23 March
Kim Kleven
There will be NO MEAL DEAL on FRIDAY due to the Snowy Hydro fundraising BBQ. There will be no limit of choice from the menu for lunch orders.
Thank you to all my helpers both in the canteen and in setting up the mini canteen, I am very grateful. Thank you also to Catherine Commons and Grant Pascoe for helping out in the canteen this week.
Carolyn Hely
Canteen Manager

Around Town
• PARENT LINE COUNSELLORS are on call 24/7 to discuss any issues that relate to your family—1300 1300 52 or visit our website www.parentline.org.au.
• MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY FESTIVAL: Sunday 18 March 9.00 am to 3.00 pm Centennial Park. Contact Yvi at Monaro Family Support Service 6452 3450.
• HELPING LEARNER DRIVERS BECOME SAFER DRIVERS: Free workshops for parents and supervising drivers—18 April 6.00 to 8.00 pm Cooma Ex-Services club. Bookings 4421 2405.
• COOMA SQUASH AND SPORTS CENTRE 2012 SCHOOL HOLIDAY SPORTS PROGRAMS: Join in the fun these April, July and September School Holidays with our Sports Programs for kids aged 7-14 from 16 to 20 April. Cost $120 for full program or $30/day includes morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. Limited placed, max 15. Includes half-court tennis, mini-golf, driving bay gold, croquet, ten pin bowling, squash, racquetball, soccer, badminton, bumper hockey, air hockey and table tennis. Full supervision of all activities. Phone 6452 1213 to register.
• COOMA COLTS 2012 MINI RUGBY LEAGUE TRIAL DAYS: U6, U7, U8 & U9 – Sunday 25 March at the Cooma Showground. 9.30 am for 10.00 am kickoff. Boys and girls of all skills levels invited to come along and try rugby league. 2 hours of fun and games includes coaching, skill session and games. There will be an opportunity to sign your child/children up for the Rugby League Canberra competition for ages U6 to U16.
• GLOBAL VOLUNTEERING INFORMATION SESSION: Palms Australia is a Catholic organization that has been sending volunteers to developing countries for over 50 years. Through Palms ‘Global Volunteering’ program you can fulfill your mission to educate children and secure them a brighter future while exchanging teaching skills to staff to advance local knowledge. Learn more at our information session for a 2013 placement. Wednesday 11 April 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm at the Griffin Centre, 20 Genge Street, Meeting Room 9, Canberra. Phone Sarah on 9518 9551 for more information.
• 2012 YOUTH WEEK AND SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM THURSDAY 5 TO SATURDAY 21 APRIL: For further information on the activities planned for the school holiday program please phone Emma 0437 135 092 or Cathy 0403 498 322.
• EXPERIENCE ANOTHER CULTURE: In June-July students aged 14-19 from Europe, the USA and Latin America will arrive in Australia to study at local schools for 2-10 months. Opportunities are available to act as a host family in a volunteer/unpaid capacity. To learn more about this opportunity, phone 1300 135 331 or visit the website http://studentexchange.org.au/.
Continuing a long tradition we once again sent two Year Ten Food Technology students as junior stewards in the Food section of the Cooma Show. The two stewards, Ben McConkey and Kiarna Nikora, spent the Friday before the show working with the Head Steward by setting up the displays, assisting the judges and preparing the certificates for the winners.

Mrs Fletcher

Samantha Bird, Emma Burt and Chelsea Case enjoyed the open judging at the Cooma show

Corey Morrison and Kel Macnab checking the competition at the Cooma Show

Last week a number of Secondary students participated in the Brumbies 10’s Gala Day held at Nijong oval. There was a great turn out on the day with teams in both divisions from Monaro High, Jindabyne Central, Snowy Mountains Grammar and Bombala High schools.

The boys in our 7/8 team (pictured above) played exceptionally well against some tough opposition. St Patrick’s drew 1-1 against Monaro in the final. Highlights from the junior team were Carson Barrett’s defense (until he broke his collarbone – heal up quick Carson!) and Zac Saddler’s attacking runs down the sideline.

In the 9/10 division the team (pictured below) played much of the day with only 9 players due to some students having other commitments. In what was a fantastic display of teamwork the boys went undefeated all day! The team’s defense was the highlight with only 2 tries scored against the team all day.

Both teams will now travel to Queanbeyan next week to compete in the Southern NSW/ACT 10’s Finals. A big thank you goes to all of the parents and grandparents who were able to come along on the day and support the students.

Mr Lawley

Last Friday 16 March 2012, thirty-five students from Stage 2 and 3 participated in the NAB Auskick Gala Day at Snowy Oval. Students enjoyed learning the basic skills required to play AFL as well as playing modified games against students from other schools in a Round Robin. Everyone is to be commended for their display of good sportsmanship, teamwork and enthusiasm.

Mrs Wilkins