Dear Parents, Staff and Students

We start our Lenten journey

As we begin the season of Lent today with Ash Wednesday we are reminded of our own mortality when the ashes are placed on our forehead with the Sign of the Cross. Christ’s death and resurrection are just 40 days away and the Lenten period allows us to focus on the personal renewal necessary to appreciate the true sacrifice and celebration of the Easter season. It is important that Lent is seen as a period of real spiritual growth, rather than just a time to give up a few luxuries or make the occasional sacrifice. Our first School Mass for the year involved Years 3 to 10 today and our thanks must go to Father Paul for sharing this celebration of the Eucharist with us.

Release of the Gonski Report on School funding

After much anticipation the Gonski Report, which was released on Monday, provides a blueprint for funding of schools for years into the future. While the recommendations have been proposed there will be a considerable period of political deliberation before they are implemented, or not. The Chair of the National Catholic Education Commission, Mrs Therese Temby, sees the immediate consultation period as critical “to ensure we do not end up with a model that has the potential to put pressure on school fees for parents in Catholic schools.” Mrs Temby continues: “We call on the Australian Government to show strong leadership by committing increased funding for schools sooner rather than later…..We look forward to working with everyone with a stake in this enterprise. We all share a common goal to deliver high-quality education, and to provide every young Australian with the educational experiences they need to reach their potential.”

School Spirit

The spirit that is associated with school life is sometimes difficult to define but it is certainly evident when we see ‘school spirit’ in action. There have been no better examples this year than the enthusiasm and commitment shown by our students at the Primary and Secondary Swimming Carnivals and the dragon boat races at Jindabyne last weekend. The swimming carnivals were characterised by constant support for competitors in the House teams of IGNIS, TERRA, CAELUM and AQUA. The cheering was enthusiastic for everyone, whether they were winning or not in their races.

The House Captains in many cases set the standard for involvement by inspiring and motivating their houses. The Primary carnival had endless chanting of team war cries that were created in the space of two days prior to the carnival. At the Secondary carnival last Friday particular mention should be made of House Captains Amy Stephen and Charles Miners who were on the point of exhaustion after setting the best of examples all day. Well done to all the competitors for their great efforts!

Teamwork and enthusiasm were the order of the day at the dragon boat races at Jindabyne. Teachers Mark van Ommen and Pam Fletcher coordinated the team performances and they were ably assisted by a vocal band of parent supporters. Congratulations to all involved in this exciting activity and a narrow loss by a ‘dragon’s head’ in the final might be avenged in 2013.

Year 7 Pastoral Day

As part of our pastoral focus across K-10, our Year 7 students got into full swing with the activities presented yesterday to focus on teamwork, peer relations and understanding more about ourselves and others. Our thanks to Lou Mackay for coordinating these valued programs.

Don’t forget to practise those recipes this weekend that you’re planning to put into our P&F recipe book extraordinaire “NOURISH”. There’s only a few more days left before the deadline. Remember the recipe entry forms are available online through the ‘Parents’ link on the school website.

Please continue to pray for those members of our school community who are unwell.

Phil Stubbs
Principal
**Mathsmate booklets.** Any student who has not paid is asked to return the permission note and $12 to the school office ASAP so that all the booklets can be distributed to students. Please contact Kevin Dunne for further information.

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**National Year of Reading 2012**

2012 is the National Year of Reading. Throughout the year, there will be initiatives held within the school and the wider community designed to encourage a reading culture in every home. For more information, please check out the following website. [http://www.love2read.org.au/](http://www.love2read.org.au/)

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**Religion ‘God Revealed’**

In Religion, Stage 3 have begun a unit titled ‘God Revealed’ where we become aware of how God is revealed in nature. Here is one student’s account of such a time.

‘My wow moment’

My wow moment was when I was at Bermagui and I was sitting right on the lake with my family. The sun was going down behind the hill and it was so beautiful, that it made me realise how lucky I am. The hills glowed from the sun and the lake burned a dark blue. The fish were jumping out of the water as if they were saying hello. The colours of the sky looked like God spoke to me through pinks, whites, oranges and yellows as the sun went down. It felt special! ‘Written by Molly Caldwell.

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**3 Green**

**PD: Goal setting**

We have also been setting goals in PD, where we work on indicators to help us achieve our goal. Here are a few.

**Goal:** ‘My two week goal is to think for myself and to do my best work.’

**Indicator:** ‘I can do this by not rushing my work and taking my time.’ (Michala)

**Goal:** ‘My one week goal is to be a leader, not a sheep.’

**Indicator:** ‘I can do this by not following people around like a sheep, and being myself.’ (Bas)

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**Antarctic Experience**

All Stage 2 and 3 students have been given a note for the ‘Antarctic Experience’ presentation which will be held on 22 March 2012. Please send the permission note and money in a sealed envelope to your child’s teacher. It would be helpful if you could write Antarctic Experience, your child’s name and class on the front of the envelope.

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**NUT FREE SCHOOL**

As you may be aware, some of our students are highly allergic to nut products. Many of them may suffer life-threatening reactions when in contact with these products. Please remember this when preparing recess and lunch, as some students are bringing in peanut butter and Nutella sandwiches.

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**Wet Weather**

In the event of wet weather, K-2 students will need to be taken to the 3-6 Campus. K-2 students who arrive by bus will go directly to the Stage 2 building. A teacher will then walk the students to the K-2 Campus in small groups. All Stage 2 and 3 students will need to move to the Stage 2 building. At 9:00 am, they will be collected by their classroom teacher.

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**Primary Sport Days**

All Stage 3 and 2P 2O, 1P, 1O & KG Wednesday and Friday

All Stage 3 and 2P 2O, 1P, 1O & KG Tuesday and Friday
The secondary Seasons for Growth program will start on Wednesday 28 February. If you are interested in your child participating please contact Kevin Dunne at the school. Parents of K-6 students who are interested in their children participating in the Seasons for Growth Program for 2012 must complete the permission slip and return to school office as soon as possible.

On Monday, our Year 7 students enjoyed a half day session of Pastoral Care. This was facilitated by an outside community group of three people – Meghan Quinn, Sue-Anne Muggleton and Liz Maxwell. The theme of all sessions was centred around the idea of friendship, and as our year 7 students are made up of a diverse range of young people from different primary school backgrounds, it was a wonderful way for them to learn more about each other in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

Judging from the excited noises that could be heard from the Parish Centre, and the occasional stampede, Year 7 certainly got into the spirit of things through their vigorous participation in a variety of activities. These activities were geared to break down barriers, to open up opportunities to mix with others outside the normal friendship group and to establish ideas for team work and cooperation. This was a very worthwhile way to prepare for the upcoming and exciting Year 7 camp later on next month.

A special thanks goes to the facilitating team – Meghan, Sue-Anne and Liz.

Funding was sourced from the Department of Health and Aging administered by the Rural Youth Health Project.

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Shrove Tuesday (also known as Pancake Day) is the day preceding Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. Lent begins tomorrow (Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent). In most traditions, Shrove Tuesday is the day known for the eating of pancakes before the start of Lent. Pancakes are eaten as they are made out of the main foods available: sugar, oil, flour and eggs. Generally, their consumption was traditionally restricted during the ritual fasting associated with Lent.

It is rumoured that in 1445 a woman had lost track of the time on Shrove Tuesday, and was busy cooking pancakes in her kitchen. Suddenly she heard the church bell ringing to call the people to church for confession. The woman raced out of her house and ran all the way to church; still holding her frying pan and wearing her apron. Pancake races were born.

Go "Aqua"!

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Infants:
* William Dodd 1P – for taking pride in his appearance
* Charlie Pendergast 1O – for super listening
* Kyle Ilitch KG – for listening carefully

Congratulations boys!!
**WHAT’S ON**

**Thursday 23 February**  
K-6 Life Education  
Secondary Archdiocesan Swimming Yass

**Friday 24 February**  
K-6 Life Education

**Monday 27 February**  
K-6 Life Education  
K-6 Parent Teacher Interviews  
Year 8 Camp

**Tuesday 28 February**  
K-6 Parent Teacher Interviews  
Year 8 Camp

**Wednesday 29 February**  
Welcome and Leadership Liturgy 12.00 to 1.00 pm  
K-6 Parent Teacher Interviews  
Secondary Parent Teacher Interviews

**Thursday 1 March**  
2P Parish Mass 10.00 am  
Mock Trials V Bega High 9.30 am to 1.00 pm  
K-6 Parent Teacher Interviews  
Secondary Parent Teacher Interviews

**Friday 2 March**  
K-6 Parent Teacher Interviews  
7-10 Brumbies Gala Day

**Monday 5 March**  
Year 10 Industrial Technology Excursion  
Year 10 Crossroads Day  
Kindergarten Information evening 5.30 to 7.00 pm

**Wednesday 7 March**  
Netball Gala Day

**Thursday 8 March**  
Year 9 Pastoral Day 9.00 am to 1.30 pm  
20 Parish Mass 10.00 am

**Friday 9 March**  
Bruce Coleman visit (Years 7 to 10)

**Saturday 10 March**  
Cooma Show

**Wednesday 14 March**  
Year 7 Camp

**Thursday 15 March**  
Year 7 Camp  
30 Parish Mass 10.00 am

**Friday 16 March**  
Archdiocesan Football and gala day  
Auskick Gala Day Years 3-6

**Sunday 18 March**  
K-6 Soccer Carnival Canberra

**Monday 19 March**  
St Patrick’s Day

**Tuesday 20 March**  
Antarctic Experience Stage 2 and 3

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**Canteen News**

Volunteer Roster  
Friday  
Kim Kleven and Catherine Pearce

**Mini Canteen** will be available to both Primary and Infants EVERY Wednesday at lunchtime, 11.15 am to 11.30 am, weather permitting.

Items available will be priced from 50c to $1.00. I would be very grateful if any parents can spare some time to set up and serve. If you are able to please contact me at the school or my mobile 0406 763 375. Thank you.

The **meal deal for this FRIDAY** is Spaghetti Bolognaise and Cheesy Garlic Bread OR Meat Pie with sauce and Chocolate Milk—$5.00

This will be the ONLY choice of food available to both Infants and Primary.

Thank you.

Carolyn Hely  
Canteen Manager

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**Around Town**

* Cooma North Children’s Centre (OOSH): Before school care 7.30 to 9.15 am. After school care 3.00 to 6.00 pm. Holiday care also available. Contact Bill or Leonie on 0450 127 090 or email ooshcooma@dodo.com.au

* Cooma Squash and Sports Centre: Students aged 7-14 are invited to come to the Cooma Squash and Sports Centre from 4:30-6:30pm Wednesdays for After School Squash and Sports Coaching. For $8 per week or $60 per Term students can come and enjoy all the games and facilities including Squash, Tennis, Golf, Soccer, Badminton, Fussball, Table Tennis, Ten Pin Bowling and much more. Supervision and coaching is provided and kids can join in Cooma Squash Club C & D grade competitions. Parents and Carers also Welcome. For more information please call 6452 1213.

* **TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER:**  
Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in July 2012. Our international students will attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501.

* **AFL Cats and Snowy Supercats:** AFL seeking players, coaches and supporters for season 2012. Junior AFL training U12s, 14s and 16s Snowy Oval Tuesdays and Thursdays 6.30 pm (5.00 pm from 1 March). Bring jumper, runners/boots. Registration days: Saturday 25 February from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm and Friday 16 March from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm. For more information phone Stuart Wood on 0422 496 400.
• 2012 P&F Team - HELP we need new members to give us a hand. Everyone is welcome and even if you can only spare an hour or so please let us know. Help us raise some funds for your kids and the school.
• Cooma Show - Please help on the day, we needs lots of bodies on the ground so that everyone gets time to see the show. If you are already on the roster please don't forget to get your pass for $20 from South East Printing Phone 6452 2614.
• Got Stuff you want discussed? got an item you want to bring up at the next P&F meeting? Just email it in and we'll get it on the Agenda but please don't forget to come along to the meeting to discuss what's important to you. My email is hwalkerbroose@bigpond.com but we'll soon have a P&F email so you can email directly.
• Got an idea? - let us know! It's the little ideas which can bring great results!
• New? - don't know how to get involved? Don't know who to ask? You can come along anytime to one of the meetings, everyone is welcome! Or you can email me directly. We'd love to hear from you.
• Parent Liaison for each class or year group - are you interested in getting involved. We need to have a parent for each year and we need your help. No experience is needed!! and lots of help guaranteed.
• Cheers and looking forward to hearing from you.

The P&F Team

Please keep those Pre-order and Recipe Request forms coming in. We need to make sure we get as many recipes and pre-orders as possible from our parental school community. Remember business retailers, friends and family of our community can make pre-orders.

The forms are available from the school website: Our website: http://stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au/parents/pformsandnotes.html

Parents and Friends making direct debit payments, please ensure you add your bank account holder surname and number of books you are ordering. Even though you have made a direct debit, we still need a completed pre-order form that can be left at the School Office or handed to one of the organisers stated on the form.

When making payment by cheque, make it payable to St Patrick’s Parish School P&F Association.

Students need to place their name at the bottom of their recipes to qualify for the Student Competition while our Staff entry forms have been left with Steve Joyce (Primary) and Bev Clarke (School Office). Recipes must be received by 2 March 2012. Don’t Miss Out!

Great prizes are on offer!

We have 25 local food and retailers sponsoring and advertising in our cookbook.

We will have 110 recipes that will complement our food and personal images of the school. Melanie Avery who is well renowned for her books on food will be our guest speaker at Nourish Book Launch. Melanie will take the time to talk with both our Secondary and Primary students throughout the day, while our book launch will be an evening affair. A date for the Book Launch will be announced over the coming weeks.

Nourish will be an exclusive addition to any household collection on recipes. We are grateful to Allianz Insurance, our major sponsor, who is providing funds to produce this beautiful cookbook along with our local food producers and retailers who are supporting our school and your children. “Nourish” retails: $20.00 per book.