**Dear Parents, Staff and Students**

**Pentecost**
As we celebrated Pentecost Sunday last weekend we were reminded of the gifts that each one of us has in our mission to enrich the lives of those around us. The message from Corinthians is that we have qualities we sometimes don’t realise or appreciate and it often takes others to recognise our own strengths. In the same way, it is through our behaviour that other people see our strengths and weaknesses.

The essential meaning of Pentecost is that it is a time of renewal for Christian believers. There is renewed focus on evangelism, empowerment from the Holy Spirit, deeper intimacy with God and fellowship. The celebration of Pentecost imparts faith, hope, a sharing of community and an awareness of a purpose much greater than that centred on ourselves.

**Our final farewell to the old Infants’ Campus**
It was with a mixture of sadness and relief today that I had a final look around the old campus at Cooma North prior to settlement of the sale tomorrow. Memories flooded back of the crowded class assemblies in the old library, of Mary Ferguson and Dell O’Brien interacting with and teaching students, including my own, over many years, of lunchtime soccer matches on the oval and the constant issue of overcoming plumbing problems throughout the old buildings.

The upkeep of the old buildings has been a real challenge over recent years, quite apart from the rates, insurance, security and vandalism. In the last month we have had almost $1,000 worth of damage done on the old campus through a series of break-ins. In whatever way the old site is redeveloped it will still have very fond memories for generations of St Patrick’s students and their families.

**Confirmation preparation under way**
There was a big gathering in the church last night with the first meeting for this year’s Confirmation group. The focus at this stage is on identifying the importance of communities that we belong to and the vital role of family support in enriching our faith. Thanks to the Stage 3 teachers, Lou Mackay, Father Paul and Ken Silich who has taken on the all-important administration role in preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation on Friday 21 June.

**The winds of change**
As you were made aware in last week’s newsletter, I will be retiring from the position of Principal at the end of this year after 23 years teaching at St Patrick’s. It has been an absolute privilege to be part of this school, in whatever capacity, over this time and I look forward to hearing of the many exciting events and achievements of our great school in the years ahead.

I have been asked by the Director of Catholic Education, Mrs Moira Najdecki, to inform you that the recruitment process for a new Principal will begin shortly with the position being advertised in the Canberra Times and The Sydney Morning Herald on 1 June and also on the Internet. It is anticipated that interviews will be conducted in the week beginning 29 July following a clearly structured short-listing process.

**Success at the Interschools’ Gymkhana**
Congratulations to all involved in this significant event last weekend at The Station Resort at Jindabyne. The St Patrick’s team was placed second overall which was outstanding considering the resourcing level of some of the schools in the competition. It was a real team occasion and our thanks go to the parents who worked so tirelessly, to the students for their commitment and to Sue Wallace for coordinating the whole experience. Well done!

**News Update**
Well done to our Archdiocesan cross country runners today in Canberra.

Don’t forget our Walk to School Day on this Friday; we meet at 8.40 am in Centennial Park.

Good luck with the Brumbies’ Gala Day on Friday!

Don’t forget the parent information meeting with our Literacy Coach, Mary Kite, next Tuesday at 5 pm in the Primary Library.

Phil Stubbs
Principal

Website: www.stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au  Email: office.stpatscooma@cg.catholic.edu.au  Phone: 6452 1721
It was certainly a busy time for 2 Purple during Week 3. As part of their Science unit, students were very enthusiastic about investigating and sharing their examples of Living and Non-living things. A few living things brought to the classroom included fish, dogs, cats, skinks and frogs. In Art with Mrs Nuridin, students enjoyed learning the skills associated with Portraiture.

Twelve St Patrick’s riders had an exciting three days at the 2013 Interschools Gymkhana which was held for the first time at Jindabyne at the Station Resort. The three days involved dressage, games, show-jumping, hacking and stockhorse trials. The students’ enthusiasm was infectious and it was a pleasure to see the support they gave each other whether or not they were winning. Overall the St Patrick’s team was extremely successful, coming second to SMGS. Abby Douch, Shelley Kleven and Jane Fitzgerald were awarded the runners up trophy for their age groups.

The 2013 riders were: Will Fitzgerald, Maegan McCraw, Brittany Zollinger, Jane Fitzgerald, Mollie Adams, Kane Trent Smith, Emily Quodling, Shelley Kleven, Abby Douch, Emilee Reid, Molly Norris and Chloe Hemphill. Special thanks to our riders’ parents for all their help during this event.

School Organiser
Sue Wallace

Last Friday Ben Mowen and Peter Kimlin from the Brumbies came to the K-6 morning assembly to tell us what they do during their daily life. We asked them many questions. Each class had a class photo with the players. The gardening group ‘The Rocking Rockmelons’ are naming some of the current winter crop after the players. Last week we planted the Ben ‘onion’ Mowen’s and the Peter ‘bok choy’ Kimlin’s. Ben and Peter thought that was quite funny! K-6 were very lucky to have the Brumbies captain come to visit them. We enjoyed the Brumbies visit and wish to see them again soon.

Written by
Zara Childs and Chelsea Reeve

Primary Athletics

8 yrs Millie Blyton
9yrs Jessica Norris & River Wilkinson
10yrs Lucy Thornton & Jake Galvin
11yrs Amber Martin-Smith & Hugo Steiner, Kiah Joyce equal 1st
12yrs Caitlin Galvin & Remy Oldrey

House Points
4th Caelum 358 pts
3rd Terra 434 pts
2nd Ignis 488 pts
1st Aqua 611 pts

Congratulations to all competitors on a great day!

ACT Brumbles

Last Friday Ben Mowen and Peter Kimlin from the Brumbies came to the K-6 morning assembly to tell us what they do during their daily life. We asked them many questions. Each class had a class photo with the players. The gardening group ‘The Rocking Rockmelons’ are naming some of the current winter crop after the players. Last week we planted the Ben ‘onion’ Mowen’s and the Peter ‘bok choy’ Kimlin’s. Ben and Peter thought that was quite funny! K-6 were very lucky to have the Brumbies captain come to visit them. We enjoyed the Brumbies visit and wish to see them again soon.

Written by
Zara Childs and Chelsea Reeve

Early Arrival

Just a reminder that teachers begin duty at 8.40 am each morning. We would like to encourage parents that children should not arrive before this time as they are not supervised.

3G will have their class mass on Thursday 30 May commencing at 10.00 am. All family members are welcome!

Primary Handball Awards

Last term the Primary SRC organised a handball comp for Stage 2 and 3. Congratulations to everyone who participated - you are all winners for having a go! Thank you also to our umpires. All our winners and good sports received $3.00 tuckshop vouchers courtesy of the SRC.

Stage 3 Boys: Darnel Bartlett & Sam Sergo
Stage 3 Girls: Emily Pearce & Michala White
Mixed handball: Irelend Ward & Fergus Barrett
Stage 2 Boys: Jake Galvin & Lachlan McGufficke
Stage 2 Girls: Alayah Bartlett & Alii Reeve
Sportsmanship awards
Stage 2: Tom Carton, Lochlan Giuliani, Brooke Tangye & Jorja White
Stage 3: Matthew Hopkin & Damon Battye, Anna Connolly & Anna Brayshaw.

Damian Fletcher and Zara Childs
This May is jelly bean month. By donating you will assist in the search for a cure to Type 1 Diabetes.

Congratulations the Stage 3 Sports Captains and School Vice Captains for organising all the activity stations during recess and lunch each day. It is pleasing to see these students maturing and showing their commitment to their leadership positions.

Chook Lotto

Infants
* Abigail Dowton 1O – for listening carefully
* Eric Henderson 1P – for great news and a strong talking voice
* Ben Smith KG – for working beautifully

“There is a longing among all people to have a sense of purpose and worth. To satisfy that common longing in all of us we must respect each other”  Indian Chief

Primary SRC

STAR Awards

Week 4 Theme ‘Respect’

We show respect by speaking and acting with courtesy. Elders deserve respect because they have lived longer and learned many of life’s lessons. Respect looks like expressing even your strongest feelings in a peaceful way.

* KG Abbey Johnson – for the respect she shows her teacher, her peers and her belongings!
* 1O Joe Nichols – for the respect and manners he shows when interacting with teachers and his peers!
* 1P Darcy Brown – for always being respectful to teachers and peers every day!
* 2P Ivy McGufficke – for the respect she shows to her peers in relation to their learning!
* 2O Tom Carton - for always showing respect to teachers and his peers!
* 3O Isabella Cairns – for always being respectful of others and their belongings!
* 3P Jasmin Pascoe – for showing respect towards her fellow peers!
* 3G Sophie Janota – for having respect for her learning by always giving her best and for the beautiful gentle, honest manner she treats her peers and adults!
* Music/French - Brooke Fraser for always being respectful towards those around her!
* Library Andrew Pearce – for showing respect to his peers, teachers and school community.

Well done Children.
Friday 24 May
National Walk to School Day
3 - 6 Brumbies gala day
Yr 10 ADF visit

Monday 27 May
Yr 10 Exams
K-6 Questacon visit

Tuesday 28 May
Yr 10 Exams
Parent Info Meeting: Literacy Assistance with Mary Kite

Wednesday 29 May
Yr 10 Exams

Thursday 30 May
3G Mass
Yr 10 Sydney Trip

Friday 31 May
2O Assembly
7-10 Archdiocesan Basketball

Tuesday 4 June
Yr 10 Sydney Trip
Yr 7 - 9 Exams

Please refer to School website for more information
www.stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au

K - 6 Disco
Friday 14 June
Mark it on your calendar. More information next week.

National Reconciliation Week 27 May – 3 June
Let’s Talk Recognition

Reconciliation is all about improving relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the broader Australian community. 27 May is the day that the 1967 referendum was passed. This was a national vote where more than 90% of Australians voted to change the constitution to better recognise Indigenous people as full citizens. 3 June marks the anniversary of the High Court of Australia’s 1992 judgement in the celebrated Mabo case. In this case the court recognised the Native Title rights of Indigenous peoples, overturned the myth that Australia was empty of people (terra nullius) before colonisation and recognised that Indigenous people did have rights over land. The theme is about the need to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Australian Constitution.

Say Something! Let’s Talk Recognition

There are a number of ways we can have out voices heard:
1. Use social media to share your thoughts, or the thoughts of others:
   📷 📺
2. Upload a picture to Instagram with the hash tag #saysomething2013 to say something visually.
3. Head to Yabun (Koori Radio) and have a chat with us about reconciliation or another issue you’re interested in.

Additional Information: http://www.nswreconciliation.org.au/reconciliationweek

FRIDAY MEAL DEAL - 2 CHICKEN NUGGETS/2 PARTY PIES/Sauce and DRINK OF MILK OR JUICE. THIS IS THE ONLY CHOICE AVAILABLE TO BOTH PRIMARY AND INFANTS. The cost is $5.00.

I would like to make available to purchase a “reusable lunch bag”. This will dramatically cut down on waste, money being lost as well as encouraging students to be more environmentally friendly. An information letter and order form will be sent home soon.

Thank you for your continued support.
Carolyn Hely
Canteen Manager

Volunteers
Thursday 23 May
Kim Kleven
Friday 24 May
Nancy Bowerman
Wednesday 29 May
Mariam Ingle

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Thank you for your continued support.
Carolyn Hely
Canteen Manager

Around Town

* 4 Points of View - Photographic exhibition at the Raglan Gallery commencing with opening Saturday 1 June at 3.00 pm and on display through to Sunday 23 June (Gallery is open Wednesday to Sunday 9.30 am to 4.30 pm). The exhibition features work from 4 local photographers, Brian Hart, Judy Goggin, Tony Sergio and Paul McIver.

* Junior Soccer 2013 - St Patrick’s Junior Soccer welcomes a new sponsor for the U10/11 Panthers. It is with great pleasure that we announce that Simon White from Hillross – Professional Wealth Management, has become a new jersey sponsor for 2013. On behalf of the U10/11 ‘Hillross’ Panthers, Coach Sean Smith and St Patrick’s Junior Soccer, we say ‘Thank You’!

* BRINGING UP GREAT KIDS is a parenting program for those wishing to enhance their parenting skills. This program will help you:
  · discover ways to take care of yourself and to find support when you need it
  · learn more about the origin of your parenting style and how it can be more effective
  · explore messages you have received that impact on your parenting
  · convey the messages you want to your child; and what messages your children might be giving you
  · discover how to overcome some of the barriers that are stopping you from being the kind of parent you would like to be.

Cost: Free
When: Every Tuesday morning for 4 weeks from 11am—2pm starting 4 June 2013
Where: CWA Hall, Myack Street, Berridale

Further Information: Sue-Anne: 6452 3450 (Monaro Family Support Service)