Dear Parents, Staff and Students

This Sunday is Pentecost Sunday. It marks the birthday of the Church and the coming of the Holy Spirit. It also marks the official beginning of the Church’s Year of Grace. This is an opportunity for all of us to turn once again to Jesus and ask ourselves what is our commitment to prayer, the Church, community and our own spiritual growth. The Year of Grace offers each one of us the opportunity to step into the life of grace – the free gift of God’s love. It is an invitation to start once again afresh from Christ.

School Board News
The AGM of the St Patrick’s School Board was held last night and our congratulations go to Erika Statham who was successful in being elected as the new Board Chair. The school community would like to express a great debt of gratitude to the outgoing Board Chair, Rob Barnes, for the outstanding job he has done in this role over recent years.

Walk Safely to School Day
A cold, frosty, foggy morning did not deter a large group of our students from participating in the Walk Safely to School day last Friday. Accompanied by a sizeable group of teachers and parents, the students fell into stride behind our Assistant Principal Mark Van Ommen and enjoyed the walk from Centennial Park in the crisp morning air. The walk highlights the fact that we are indeed fortunate that so many students can walk to school in safety in our town. Despite the fact that we were in a large group it was gratifying to see that students stopped intuitively at the pedestrian crossings before proceeding. Thanks to Steve Joyce for coordinating the activity.

Grandparents and Friends Day
Don’t forget that this Friday is a very special day in the school calendar when we invite the grandparents, parents and friends of our K-6 students to share in some of their learning experiences. To see the integration of technology into 21st Century learning is a real eye opener for many of the older generation as are their stories to the young students of how they might have used slate pencils in classes of 60 students after they had chopped the starting wood for the classroom fireplace!! One of the most memorable experiences from previous years is when ex-students of St Patrick’s recount how the school functioned many years ago. It is on occasions such as this that we can really appreciate the rich heritage and history of our school. See you at 12.15 pm on Friday!

Teacher Practicums
Each year we welcome trainee teachers from a range of tertiary institutions who apply to do their ‘teaching prac’ with us. At present we warmly welcome an ex-student Georgia Clear who is with us for 4 weeks in Secondary Drama and English and this week marks the final week for Anna Thornton who has made a great contribution to Stage 2 with Bernadette Moser’s class. These opportunities to experience the classroom environment are so important to familiarise trainee teachers with the challenges, rewards and complexities of contemporary teaching and learning. With the looming teacher shortage as the ‘baby boomers’ retire it is a societal responsibility to ensure we have the best possible teachers working in our schools in the 21st Century and the opportunity to participate in actual classroom teaching through a ‘teaching prac’ is a very effective way of doing just this. We wish both Georgia and Anna all the best with their future teaching careers – a career where you can make a real difference!

Good luck to our Archdiocesan Cross Country competitors in Canberra tomorrow.

Well done to our Year 7 and 8 debaters who competed in Canberra on Monday evening.

Our prayers and thoughts are with all members of the school community and their families who may be unwell at present.

Phil Stubbs
Principal
Some of the Stage 3 students have been helping out the younger ones in mastering different painting techniques. Here we see Kadee Laird and Bas de Ruijter guiding Chloe Hemphill and Tony Bitar with their masterpiece.

Photo by Harrison Chong

NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge 2012

This year in collaboration with classroom teachers, students will be participating in the NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge. The challenge, as well as helping students discover a love of reading as a leisure activity, also helps to develop essential learning habits: being organised, meeting deadlines, being accountable, taking responsibility for their reading and valuing regular reading. Along with the Home reading Program we encourage parents to support the challenge and monitor their child’s progress during the year.

Students may enter their own online reading records at home and at school. Students are asked to read 15 Reading Challenge books and 5 free choice books by the end of August. They are able to choose from an extensive and exciting list of books that offer all kinds of fiction and non-fiction reading adventures.

Through books you acquire knowledge, develop your imagination and improve your mind.

Accept the Challenge and enjoy the adventure!

Glencye Moxon
Librarian

Blossoming Basils ‘Winter Crop’

Last week the Blossoming Basils started planting their winter crop. Fingers crossed Mr Frost is kind to the seedlings over the next few weeks. Some of the crop includes cauliflower, cabbage, carrots, silverbeet, broccoli, kale, garlic, lettuce and onions.

Bell Times

A list of bell times for both campuses is set out below for your reference. Please note that roll call for Secondary students commences at 8.55 am:

**K-6**

9.00 am Classes commence
11.00—11.40 am Lunch
1.20—2.00 pm Afternoon Recess
3.10 pm Final bell K-2 Campus
3.20 pm Final bell 3-6 Campus

**Secondary**

8.55—9.00 am Roll Call
9.00—9.50 am Period 1
9.50—10.40 am Period 2
10.40—11.00 am Recess
11.00—11.10 am Assembly
12.50—1.35 pm Lunch
1.35—1.50 pm DEAR (Drop Everything And Read)
1.50—2.40 pm Period 5
2.40—3.25 pm Period 6

Friday 25 May

- 12.15 pm classroom activities
- 1.00 pm picnic lunch on oval (weather permitting)
- 1.30 conclusion of Grandparents and Friends Day

We look forward to seeing you there!

New school tracksuits now available

The new school tracksuits are now available at South East Embroidery Bombala Street, Cooma.

Year 7 Visual Arts visit the Raglan Gallery

The current Year 7 Visual Arts class visited the “Pigment and Clay” exhibition at the Raglan Gallery last week and were fortunate in having Mrs Brigitte Mackay talk about her work. Matthew Chelin described the works as detailed, colourful and full of light and dark. After looking at the art work students were invited to sketch a piece of art that appealed to them before sharing their drawings with Mrs Mackay. Why not drop in and have a look yourself before 27 May, creativity is always uplifting!

Sabina Kovats
Well done!!!

Infants:
- 1P Lochlan Giuliani for effort in Mathematics
- 1O Rocco Caffarelli for excellent work during Maths Groups
- KG Sienna Davies for her writing

Primary:
- 2P Chloe van Ommen for being helpful to others in class
- 2O Jake Quodling for a Mother’s Day gift
- Music Class—Chloe van Ommen for excellence in writing notes on the stave in Music.

Congratulations children. Thank you to the Hely and Relevant families for Chook Lotto prize donations.

Theme week 5—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 Gus Brabham - for the respect he demonstrates towards his teacher and classmates!
- 1P Ava Barrett - for her respectful attitude towards others!
- 1O Clara Thornton - for the respect she shows her teachers and peers!
- 2O Jorja White - for showing respect to all people in our class!
- 2P Hamish Bottom - for the respect he shows to his teachers and peers!
- 3O Thomas Hain - for always treating teachers and other students with respect!
- 3P Ethan Venola - for always respecting the needs of others!
- 3G Kadee Laird - for the genuine attitude of respect she consistently displays towards her learning, her peers, school property and herself!
- Music French - Matilda Mitchell - for being respectful to those around her in Music and French!
- Library - Alexander Smith - for always respecting others during Library times!

Well done!!!

This week has seen a significant milestone as we enter the final week of editing before this amazing publication is sent off to the printers. Over the coming week’s we will receive an expected delivery date.

Take advantage of the ‘Early Bird Special’ of Nourish at the exclusive price of $20.00 per book up until Friday 29 June. ‘Nourish’ will then retail for $30.00. Don’t Miss Out! Pre-order NOW. Download the Pre-order form: http://stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au/parents/piformsandnotes.html or contact our Sales Promoters: Melissa Giuliani 0429 993 440, Erika Statham 0400 787398 or Alison Hemphill 0466 850 723. Completed pre-order forms and payment can be left at the School Office.

Please ensure when you are making direct debits that you add your bank account holder surname and number of books you are ordering. We still require a completed Pre-order form that can be left at the School Office or handed to one of the Sales Promoters stated on the form.

We are grateful to Allianz Insurance, our major sponsor along with all our local food producers and retailers who are advertising and supporting our school.

P&F NEWS

- WOOLWORTHS EARN AND LEARN – Please collect your stickers at Woolworths every time you shop!! Every card we fill in gives us more money to spend on equipment for the kids!! Ask anyone you know if you can have their stickers, No Card? No worries just bring the stickers into school, we’ll find the cards to put the stickers on.

- Clothing Pool – Don’t forget to make use of the clothing pool! There are loads of items for sale at very reasonable prices and all the clothes are in great condition. Ruby 64522092 and Michelle 64523605 are available to meet you there at various times so please give them a call.

- Class Liaison Parents – MORE HELP NEEDED!! We have some parents to help us with this but we still need more. Can you please lend a hand, it helps everyone and all the kids and it helps the P&F know what’s important to each year from Infants to seniors so that we can plan for all ages.

- Next P&F meeting? Mark 5 June in your calendar. More details next week.

- Suggestions? Please voice your suggestions. We’d love to hear them. Don’t forget to drop us an email with any issues you may have or to let us know you can help. Email hwalkerbroose@bigpond.com

Cheers the P&F Team…

Less than 30 days to go for Southern New South Wales and the ACT to be digital TV ready

Residents who haven’t made the switch to digital TV are urged to get digital ready right now so they can continue to watch all their favourite TV shows. For more information:

- Visit the website—www.digitalready.gov.au
- Call the Digital Ready Information Line 1800 20 10 13
**WHAT'S ON**

**Thursday 24 May**
Year 10 Exams
K-10 Archdiocesan Cross Country Canberra

**Friday 25 May**
Year 10 Exams
K-6 Grandparents and Friends Day
Senior Citizens Lunch

**Monday 28 May**
Year 10 Exams
CCC/CPS Cross Country
Year 7 & 8 Debating
Confirmation meeting

**Thursday 31 May**
2P Parish Mass 10.00 am

**Friday 1 June**
7-10 Athletics Carnival

**Monday 4 June**
Confirmation meetings this week
7 & 8 Debating Elimination round

**Tuesday 5 June**
Year 10 Sydney Excursion
Exams Years 7, 8 and 9

**Wednesday 6 June**
Year 10 Sydney Excursion
Exams Years 7, 8 and 9
3O Assembly

**Thursday 7 June**
Year 10 Sydney Excursion
Exams Years 7 and 9
Year 7 & 8 da Vinci Decathlon
2O Parish Mass 10.00 am

**Friday 8 June**
Stage 3 Sullivan Shield
Stage 2 Southern Region Public Speaking (Moruya)

**Tuesday 5 June**
Year 10 Sydney Excursion
Exams Years 7, 8 and 9

**Wednesday 6 June**
Year 10 Sydney Excursion
Exams Years 7, 8 and 9
3O Assembly

**Thursday 7 June**
Year 10 Sydney Excursion
Exams Years 7 and 9
Year 7 & 8 da Vinci Decathlon
2O Parish Mass 10.00 am

**Friday 8 June**
Stage 3 Sullivan Shield
Stage 2 Southern Region Public Speaking (Moruya)

**Monday 11 June**
Sacrament of Reconciliation 6.30 pm in the Church

**Wednesday 13 June**
Confirmation practice in the Church 9.30 am

**Thursday 14 June**
3O Parish Mass 10.00 am

**Friday 15 June**
Poetry and Drama Workshop
2O Assembly at the Cooma Ex-Services Club 12.00 pm
Confirmation 6.30 pm

**Monday 18 June**
Year 7 & 8 Debating

**Thursday 21 June**
3G Parish Mass 10.00 am
7-10 Rugby League

**Friday 22 June**
Poetry and Drama Workshop
1O Assembly at the Cooma Ex-Services Club 12.00 pm

**Sunday 24 June**
Confirmation Celebration Mass

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**Canteen News**

**Volunteers**
Thursday Rebecca Hain
Friday Catherine Commons and Meg Clarke

- **CORRECTION:** In last week’s newsletter it read the OAK milk is only available to Secondary. It should have read **Iced Coffee only available to Secondary.** Sorry for the confusion—all other flavours available to **ALL** students.

- **MEAL DEAL:** Due to Grandparents and Friends day on Friday for K-2, this week’s Meal Deal is available to PRIMARY only. The meal deal will be a hotdog and sauce, a drink and fruit sticks for $5.00.

- **THANK YOU:** Thank you to all my fantastic volunteers who all help to keep this great service up and running. If you have any thoughts or comments or would like to help out sometime, please call me on 0406 763 375.

Carolyn Hely
Canteen Manager

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**Around Town**

- **ST MORITZ SKI RACING CLUB:** 14 day ski program for local kids 7 to 18 years of age. Transport from Cooma included. Information/Registration Day 26 May at Norris Park from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm. Phone Jacqui Schofield 0400 524 254 or email judelittle@bigpond.com for more information.

- **WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND FOR MARRIED COUPLES:** 20-22 July at Douglas Park, NSW. Bookings: 02 4283 3435 or wsharpe@bigpond.net.au

- **COOMA NORTH PRESCHOOL 60TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS:** On the 27 October this year Cooma North Preschool will be celebrating its 60th Birthday. We are planning to celebrate our 60th Birthday with both a day and night event on Saturday 27 October. Current Cooma North Preschool Director Narelle Avis said “we are looking for past students, staff, families and committee members that would like to be a part of the celebrations. We are also looking for volunteers that can help organise the events.” As part of the celebrations we will be holding an official opening for our decorative creek bed that is being designed based on the Snowy Scheme, tying together both our past and future. Individuals, families and organisations are able to purchase a commemorative paver with their name on it, which will be built into the path surrounding the dry creek bed. Pavers can be purchased from the Preschool at a price of $35 each, orders must be completed no later than Friday 29 June 2012. If you would like to be part of the celebrations, volunteer to help organise the event and/or purchase a commemorative paver please contact the Preschool during school hours on 6452 1198.