Dear Parents, Staff and Students

As we often hear, the broad life of a school has its highs and lows as the only constant. We were very saddened to hear of the passing of Jim Arrold last week and it was an honour that our Student Executive was able to represent the school at his funeral. Jim was a great supporter of the school and we have few stronger memories than him proudly representing ex-service men and women at our annual ANZAC Liturgy. He regarded this as a great privilege to be invited to do so. May he rest in peace.

Congratulations to our final group of First Eucharist candidates who celebrated the sacrament last Saturday evening in a joyful Parish occasion.

It was wonderful news to hear of the safe arrival of Tao Joyce last week to Steve and Katrina Joyce after an expectant nine months. Tao and his mother (and father) are doing well.

Please keep Mary-Ann Fraser in your prayers as she has had to return urgently to Canada to be with her extended family in a time of need. We are very grateful to Jenna Goggin, a recent graduate from the Australian Catholic University, who has stepped in so ably to take charge of 3 Orange. Likewise, we warmly welcome Melinda Barrett who is taking 2 Orange while Bernadette Moser is on leave.

2012 is on the horizon

With all the activity associated with the end of the year such as reports, Awards Days, Year 10 Farewells, concerts, musical performances and Christmas liturgies, to name but a few, we must also be planning for next year. 2012 will be the year for our School Registration which occurs every 5 years in non-government schools. All aspects of the school from classroom teaching and learning to the maintenance of school buildings will be closely scrutinized by a panel of experts from the Catholic Education Office over 3 days. I will keep you informed of the dates of this important review process. At present Mark van Ommen is also busily preparing the Secondary timetable to ensure it is in place for Day 1 next year. Class groupings are currently being finalised for 2012 as well in Years 1 to 10.

Staffing 2012

The end of each school year involves inevitable changes, not only for students but staff as well. Our Technics teacher Chris Millington is retiring at the end of the year after a significant contribution to the life of the school over many years. In 2012 Sabina Kovats will be returning from leave and we thank Jayne Keegan for replacing her so ably over the last semester. We say a sad farewell to our two Primary teachers who were filling temporary positions, Lauren Devlin and Alice Reardon, who made a very positive contribution to all aspects of school life in 2011. Next year we welcome back Emma Hill from maternity leave as she takes the Kindergarten 2012 class each Friday, to be shared with Angie Introna. The two Stage One classes will be taught by Giovanna Davies and Katarina Ivancic; the Stage Two teachers are Belinda Wilkins and Bernadette Moser and Stage Three will be taught by Steve Joyce, Mike Introna and Mary-Ann Fraser. There are few other staff changes for 2012 as we continue to map out the exciting year ahead of us.

Thanksgiving Liturgy

One of the highlights of our year is the Thanksgiving Liturgy which has been rescheduled to 30 November at noon in the church. This provides a chance for us to think of those less fortunate than ourselves in the community as we contribute to the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. Details are in the newsletter of what items students are invited to contribute.

St Patrick’s influencing the Australian Curriculum?

The Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has just released the draft paper for languages in the curriculum. ACARA is proposing that from 2014 languages will be taught in Primary schools. However, this has been a reality at St Patrick’s where all students from Kindergarten to Year 6 learn French under the very competent tutelage of Tina Rooney and will continue to do so in 2012. Our philosophy behind teaching languages is aligned with the widely acknowledged cognitive development that occurs when languages are acquired from an early age. One of the key contributors to the Australian Curriculum languages draft, Professor Angela Scarino from the University of Adelaide, is adamant about the value of language education in Primary schools. She is quoted as saying: “... when you learn to do things bilingually your whole way of thinking changes.”

Good luck to our Year 10 Work Experience students as they are busily involved in the real world this fortnight and thanks to Steve Summerville for his organisation of the program.

Good luck to our Martin Schoo Competition basketballers (Year 7 and 9) this Friday.

Congratulations to all the Year 5 students who presented their vision for leadership and aspirations for the Primary Executive in 2012. Their presentations in the church today were outstanding.

Phil Stubbs
Principal

“Work Experience students Tim Green and Amelia Anderson trying to decide whether teaching is the career for them!”

Website: www.stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au  Email: office@stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au  Phone: 6452 1721
Dear Parents

In the next few weeks we plan to run a fire evacuation and possibly a lockdown, on all campuses in the school. This is a vital part of school procedures and it is essential that staff and students are kept familiar with evacuation protocols.

We anticipate that some of our younger students may become frightened at the sound of the bells. To alleviate any anxiety your child may experience our K-2 staff will explain to the children why we need to practise evacuating. They will also do a couple of ‘walk through’ evacuations so the children become familiar with procedures.

Our desire is that children become so familiar with lock-down and evacuation that if a real event occurs they will be calm and well prepared.

Thank you

Mark van Ommen
Assistant Principal

A whole school K-10 liturgy will be held next Wednesday 30 November at 12.00 pm in the church (PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN TIME). This liturgy is held each year to give thanks for the many blessings we have received throughout the year. It is also an opportunity to think of those who are in need. To do this we will again support the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. Students in the Infants Department are asked to bring a small gift for a child wrapped and marked to indicate if it is for a boy or a girl. Students in the remainder of the school, 3-10 are asked to bring a money donation sealed in an envelope.

Our community has been generous in the past and we ask all students to once again support our appeal.

Parents are most welcome to attend our liturgy.

Our Year 10 students are out experiencing the world of work this week and next week in a very broad range of occupations.

Fun at the farewell Year 10 and welcome Year 7 2012 social held last week!
EngQuest, an initiative of Engineers Australia, is an extension program that provides an exciting way for students to participate in free, fun, educational engineering activities involving mathematics, science and technology.

This term Primary Learning Support have again worked with selected students from Stage 2 completing tasks and problem solving activities focusing on simple machines and culminating in the design and construction of a water wheel.

These students are now ‘experts’ in simple machinery and look forward to an opportunity to share their knowledge with their peers and students studying water in Stage 1.

Mrs Field and I look forward to expanding this program again in 2012.

Stephanie Lovat

ParSA Awards

KG Lilly Janota—for her strength in gentleness towards her teachers and peers
K1P Sarah McCarthy-Reece—for her kindness and gentleness in her interaction with others
1O Poppy Sizmur—for always displaying care in the gentle way she approaches others
2O Damon Fanning—for the gentleness he displays during prayer discussions
2G Zara Childs—for the gentleness she displays towards those in need
2P Cheynae Hely—for the gentleness she shows towards members of 2P through her actions
3O Penny Fletcher—for her kindness and gentleness in her interactions with all class members
3G Chisomo Banzi—for always being caring and showing gentleness to his peers
3P Joshua McConkey—for showing gentleness towards his peers
Music/French 2G Rylie Marks—for displaying gentleness towards those around her during French and Music

Well done everyone!

SCHOOL FETE: A final profit figure will be published before the end of Term.

COOMA RACES: We need helpers on the roster for Saturday. Contact Libby 0432 631 516. Remember entry into the Cooma Races is FREE. RACE PASSES will be sent home via your child at the school, so please ask them. Ruby is running a team of helpers to clean on Friday, 2 December 2011 from 9.30 am to 10.30 am. Contact Ruby on 0402 038 676. Karen is transporting items out to the Racecourse on Friday. Karen’s mobile: 0417 496 708.

Thank you.
P&F Executive

EngQuest

SRC Quote

Feelings are everywhere -- be gentle.

Chook Lotto

Primary

• Brooke Fraser 2O - for helping in the classroom
• Miranda McGufficke 2G - for always working well in class
• Leah Rogers 2O - for helping a student in the classroom

Congratulations!

Santa Photos

The Santa photos taken at the P&F School Fete are now ready for collection from School’s Studio.

P&F News

2011 Salvation Army Food & Toy Drive

Please drop NON PERISHABLE food items and NEW toys (OH&S does not allow USED toys to be distributed as part of the Salvation Army’s care packages) to the School Office before Thursday 8 December. The 2011 SALVATION ARMY FOOD AND TOY DRIVE benefits Families IN OUR AREA who need our help. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

School Fete:

A final profit figure will be published before the end of Term.

Cooma Races:

We need helpers on the roster for Saturday. Contact Libby 0432 631 516. Remember entry into the Cooma Races is FREE. RACE PASSES will be sent home via your child at the school, so please ask them. Ruby is running a team of helpers to clean on Friday, 2 December 2011 from 9.30 am to 10.30 am. Contact Ruby on 0402 038 676. Karen is transporting items out to the Racecourse on Friday. Karen’s mobile: 0417 496 708.

Thank you.
P&F Executive
**WHAT'S ON**

**Friday 25 November**  
Year 2-3 Transition  
Year 7 and 9 Basketball MHS  
Primary Swimming  

**Tuesday 29 November**  
K-6 Awards Day Practice 11.30 am to 1.00 pm  

**Wednesday 30 November**  
K-10 Thanksgiving Liturgy 12 noon  

**Friday 2 December**  
K-6 Awards Day 12.00 pm Cooma Ex-Services Club  

**Saturday 3 December**  
Cooma Races (P&F Fundraiser)  

**Monday 5 December**  
Year 10 students return  
Year 8 and 10 Basketball MHS  

**Tuesday 6 December**  
Year 10 Graduation Dinner  

**Wednesday 7 December**  
Year 10 Picnic Day  

**Thursday 8 December**  
Last day for Year 10 students  
Primary Swimming (catch-up day)  
7-10 Awards Day 1.30 pm in the church  
Year 10 Graduation Mass  

**Friday 9 December**  
Primary Swimming  

**Tuesday 13 December**  
School Board 6.30 pm  

**Wednesday 14 December**  
K-2 Christmas Concert 12.00 pm  

**Thursday 15 December**  
K-9 Picnic Day  
Parish Pastoral Council 6.30 pm  

**Friday 16 December**  
Last day of Term 4  

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**Canteen News**

Volunteers  
**Thursday**  
Kim Kleven  

**Friday**  
Sally Carpenter and Denise Johnson  

The following items will not be available this term: Lasagna, spaghetti bolognaise and potato pies  

- **THIS FRIDAY’S LUNCH ORDERS**  
  Hot dog and pizza day – no other food available.  
- **MINI CANTEEN**: A mini canteen will be run each week until the end of term on Wednesdays from next week. A note will be sent home as to what is available.  

Thank you.  
Carolyn Hely  
Canteen Manager  

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**Around Town**

- **CELEBRATE ABILITY DAY** (for the International Day of People with a Disability): Friday 2 December Centennial Park – 11am to 2pm. Everyone is welcome. Enquiries to Hilary, Sharon, or Cathy at Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) on 6452 0400.  
- **CRACKENBACK CARNIVAL** at Lake Crackenback on 14 January 2012. Money raised will go to Snowy Hydro SouthCare.  
- **SUPER 8S CRICKET COMPETITION**: Held each Friday evening between 5.30 to 9.00 pm at Rotary Oval and running through to February. Open to cricketers and non-cricketers of all ages who want to have a go at a fast and furious style of cricket. Super 8’s rules include modified batting and bowling conditions to accommodate all abilities with coloured soft style balls and coloured clothing encouraged. With a family festival atmosphere where everyone is welcome to bowl a ball and swing a bat the Super 8’s are set to become a popular family fun night out. BBQ and Canteen facilities will be available. Register a team of 8 students or workmates to have a great night out - call Stuart on 0422 496 400 or visit www.monarocrickeblogspot.com.  
- **IT TAKES 2 YEARS AND $30,000 TO RAISE & TRAIN A GUIDE DOG**! Cooma Pet Shop and East End Café will combine to raise funds for this much needed association on Saturday 26 November from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm. The East End Café will have a yummy BBQ, White Elephant “lane sale” and cake stall. Cooma Pet Shop will have a petting pen, face painting, give-aways and much more. The Vietnam Vets Bike club and their ‘mean machines’ will also be on display. Further enquiries phone 6452 6399.