Dear Parents, Staff and Students

Welcome back to Term 2

Term 2 has started with our customary unpredictable weather as we are looking forward to another exciting and productive term at St Patrick’s. We particularly welcome the 5 new students who have joined us this term and trust that their educational journey with us will be one of achievement, growth and satisfaction. Classes are into full swing today after many staff members put in a lot of time over the ‘stand-down’ period preparing for Term 2.

We warmly welcome back Sabina Kovats in Secondary as she returns from leave in Term 1.

Your prayers and thoughts

Please keep our Assistant Principal Mark Van Ommen and his family in your prayers and thoughts with the very sad news of his mother’s passing on Good Friday at the end of last term. Margaret Van Ommen’s funeral in Sydney was truly a celebration of her remarkable life; the Mass was concelebrated by 8 priests and the affection and high regard in which she was held was so evident among the congregation at St Kieran’s at Manly Vale. May she rest in peace.

You are also asked to think of Mark’s father who has undergone a serious operation in the last week and we pray for his full recovery.

ANZAC Day March

Tomorrow we have the opportunity to show our awareness of the ANZAC spirit and the legacy that endures so strongly in our society by participating in the ANZAC March. We are hoping for a very strong representation of students and staff to participate in the Cooma town march. Students are asked to assemble at 10.30 am on the footpath between Mack’s Corner and Cooma Toyota in Sharp Street. We will march to the cenotaph for the ANZAC Ceremony and the announcement of the John Holden Memorial Essay prize winner. The school contingent then marches to the Cooma Ex-Services Club from where students will be dismissed at about noon after which they are given some light refreshments outside the club.

Students at the regional towns are encouraged to join in their local marches as well.

A reminder that all students attending the marches are required to be in full school winter uniform.

Our school ANZAC Liturgy for Years 3 to 10 will be taking place on Friday 27 April at 12 noon in the Church where the Guest speaker will be Warrant Officer Robert Drew from the Royal Australian Navy. Our official guests are also Peter McMahon and Ray Peters-Smith from the Cooma RSL Sub-branch.

Catholic Schools Week

Next week we are celebrating Catholic Schools Week throughout NSW and the ACT. We will be having open classrooms on Thursday morning from 10 am to 11 am and on Friday we will be having a non-uniform day to raise funds for the St Vincent de Paul Appeal.

Thank you to our School Counsellor

Our Catholicare School Counsellor, Bruce Walmsley, has informed us that he will be finishing up his role this week after accepting a position at Newcastle University to further his studies. Bruce has made a significant contribution to our school through his support of and rapport with students across all years. He has provided family counselling as well and his warmth and openness with staff will be missed. We wish him all the best for the future. I will inform the school community when his replacement is announced.

Staff Development Day

All of our office, teaching and support staff, as well as the staff from St Joseph’s Bombala, were involved in a very productive day yesterday which explored the key issues of working in a Catholic school as part of the Catholic education system. The central place of Jesus in our lives was the theme and we explored and discussed the many ways in which we can live out a Christ-centred life on a daily basis, either in the workplace or elsewhere.

Please keep those members of our school community who are unwell in your prayers.

Phil Stubbs
Principal

WOW!! Just look at our new play area!
New School Tracksuit Update

The school has been advised that new school tracksuit will not be available until later this year. It was hoped that it would be available from the start of Term 2. The delay is due to the recent devastating cyclone and flooding in Fiji. The material which was selected for the tracksuit is being sourced from Fiji, but unfortunately the factory providing it has been seriously damaged in the recent natural disaster. Further updates on the arrival of the tracksuit will be provided as they come to hand. The School Board thanks you for your patience and understanding in this matter.

Rob Barnes
Chairperson

Reminder - K-6 Athletics

The Primary K-6 Athletics Carnival will be held on Monday 30 April at the Snowy Oval. A letter will be sent home this Thursday.

Year 7 History

Year 7 History students have been studying Ancient Egypt. As part of their studies into the mummification process, the students mummified their own chicken Pharaohs; King Tutankluck, Nefferchookchook and Phillip.

K-6 Educational Playground Art

In the first week of the school holidays, the K-6 playgrounds were given a splash of colour. Students will now be able to enjoy a variety of games such as Alphabet Snake, Number Worm, Spiral Hopscotch, Frog Hopscotch, Goanna Hopscotch, Dragonfly Hopscotch, Spelling Crab, Snakes and Ladders, Chess, Tell the Time, Twister and Maths Target. A big ‘Thank You’ to Lex from Playground Art and to the P&F of 2011.

Steven Joyce
K-6 Coordinator

WHAT'S ON

Wednesday 25 April
ANZAC Day March (students to meet at Macks Corner at 10.30 am)

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
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
K-6 Athletics—Snowy Oval

Tuesday 1 May
7-10 Cross Country

Wednesday 2 May
K-6 Pet Presentation

Thursday 3 May
Year 9 Parish Mass 10.00 am
Open Classrooms—Catholic Schools Week

Friday 4 May
K-10 Non-uniform Day—Caritas
Gymkhana SMGS

Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 May
Gymkhana SMGS

Monday 7 May
Year 7 & 8 Debating ACT Round 3

Tuesday 8 May
Confirmation meeting—Church

Wednesday 9 May
Year 8 Pastoral Day

Thursday 10 May
Southern Region Principals Conference Cooma
K-6 Southern Region Cross Country Cobargo
Y10 Parish Mass 10.00 am

Friday 11 May
Mothers Day Stall

Saturday 12 May
Confirmation Rite of Request

Sunday 13 May
Confirmation Rite of Request
Mothers Day

Monday 14 May
Year 7 & 8 Debating ACT Round 4

Tuesday 15 May
NAPLAN—Years 3, 5, 7 & 9

Wednesday 16 May
NAPLAN—Years 3, 5, 7 & 9

Thursday 17 May
NAPLAN catch-up day
Year 7 Parish Mass

Friday 18 May
K-6 Walk Safely to School day
Year 9 Pastoral Day
3O Assembly at the Club

Canteen

A canteen will be running at the K-6 Athletics Carnival next Monday. Half wraps, hot and cold drinks, chips and lollies will be available.

Around Town

MEIS Blue Autism Awareness Disco Friday 27 April: For students K-6 from 6.00 to 8.30 pm at the Cooma Ex-Services Club. A mini canteen will operate. All children must be signed in and out. Cost $5.00. Fully supervised.