Dear Friends of St Patrick’s

As the term draws to an end, there is a lingering ‘burr under my saddle’ and I feel that I need to address this issue openly.

St Patrick’s aims to ensure an inclusive school environment for everyone; a place of learning, safety and belonging. We outline our school community’s expectations for student engagement, attendance and behaviour. We encourage positive and respectful relationships that value diversity. Together, we work out what a child’s learning, social, emotional, behavioural and environmental needs are to ensure they get the best support and resources available. If required, we can refer parents and their children to community support agencies for specialist intervention, in partnership with the school. Each child’s needs are different and we use different strategies to encourage improved learning or a change is behaviour.

St Patrick’s is a school for all. It does not just open the doors for the clever and compliant. There will be challenging behaviours; there always has been.

St Patrick’s does not ‘kick out’ students. We do not ‘get rid of’ students, as if they are ‘God’s weeds’ to be flung over the fence.

Despite some noise from some quarters about ‘cleaning up the school’, it is not part of my mandate to expel students. I firmly believe that we need to build a better society, not reinforce the status quo.

“I am only one; but still I am one.
I cannot do everything, but still I can do something.
I will not refuse to do something I can do.”
- Helen Keller

I am reminded of one of the most difficult students in history who presented with the most challenging behaviours: Helen Keller. Imagine if Helen had been ‘kicked out’ or Annie Sullivan, her tutor, had given up on her? It was only through the deep compassion and perseverance of Annie, that we have a much richer world today with the wisdom contained in Helen’s teaching and writings.

I am also reminded that Jesus spread the net wide to include the most marginalised and abandoned, foreigners and the ‘unclean’, women and outcasts. His actions remind us that religion is not about dividing people into the ‘insiders’ and ‘outsiders’. Christ’s love and compassion is there for all. And it is unconditional. That is truly the Good News.

Jesus said “I have come that you may have life and have it to the full” John 10:10. That includes the students who are clever and compliant, and who meet and exceed our expectations. It also includes those who struggle to ‘measure up’, for whatever reason; disability, chronic or mental illness, different ways of seeing the world…. All are welcome and, at St Patrick’s, we will do our best for every child.

Yours sincerely

Frances Robertson
Principal
A message from the AP’s Desk...

Over the last year we have made some changes to the organisation of Homeroom. The times have changed slightly and we have included an extended Homeroom into the timetable.

This was a trial. We then spent quite some time surveying various groups about their opinions. Year 7 and Year 10 in particular were given the opportunity to respond to questions. We have also listened to other individuals and surveyed teachers.

In all of this, a clear message has come through about the need to seriously consider addressing the needs of year groups. Both students and teachers wish to be able to spend time with year groups in order to plan and prepare for events, respond to specific matters and be able to share information that is appropriate for that age group. There has also been a call for recognising the importance of the Houses as more than just sporting groups. House spirit is a strong way to build belonging.

Therefore, after considerable consultation, we are moving to an arrangement that encompasses both Year groups and Houses. To do this, we have moved only a couple of people to even up the numbers.

The Homerooms will be organised according to both Year groups and Houses. This means that in Year 7 there will be two Homerooms; one is a combination of Ignis and Aqua and the other Homeroom will be Caelum and Terra. This is the same pattern for each Year group.

This new arrangement will commence in Term 3. All lists and names of Homeroom teachers will be posted then.

Reports for Semester Two will be distributed on Friday afternoon. There are pleasing indications that students are accepting advice about their learning and seeking to make positive changes to help improve. Our Parent/Teacher/Student/Conferences will be in Term 3. These conferences will be held between 4.00pm – 7.00pm on:

- **Monday 20 July** and **Tuesday 21 July for Infants and Primary**,
- **Wednesday 22 July for Secondary**.

All interviews will be conducted at the Cooma Ex-Services Club. You can now book interviews at times that suit your family best. Go to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and follow these simple instructions.
The second verse of the Australian national anthem, 'With courage let us all combine', celebrates the courage of refugees who have refused to deny their beliefs or identity in the face of persecution, fled their homeland and often endured terrifying and dangerous journeys only to face the cruelty of detention before working hard to make a new life for themselves and their families.

This line from the national anthem also serves as a call to action for all Australians: how can we stand up against injustice and work together to make our country one that lives up to its national anthem as a 'nation with boundless plains to share'?

As of 31 March 2015, there are 227 children held in Australia’s immigration detention facilities. This number includes children on Nauru, and on Christmas Island. There are now more in New Guinea. Children are currently held in detention for an average of 14 months. On 11 February 2015, 'The Forgotten Children' report into the situation of children in detention was tabled in Parliament. This report, the result of an inquiry conducted by the Australian Human Rights Commission, details the impacts of conditions in detention on children. Drawing on interviews with more than 1000 children and their parents the report points to psychological damage, delayed development and, most horrifying, 233 assaults involving children, 128 incidents of self-harm involving children, and 33 incidents of sexual abuse involving children.

**Myth:** Australia accepts its fair share of refugees. **Fact:** Australia ranks 22nd when compared with other countries that accept refugees. Developing countries host about 80% of the world’s refugees, with Pakistan currently hosting 1.5 million mostly Afghani refugees. **This year Australia will only offer protection to 13,750 refugees,** a tiny proportion of the 16.7 million refugees that there were at the end of 2013, a year during which 2,821,115 asylum seekers were recognised as refugees globally.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.” Margaret Mead
MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 101st WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Jesus’ solicitude, particularly for the most vulnerable and marginalized, invites all of us to care for the frailest and to recognize his suffering countenance, especially in the victims of new forms of poverty and slavery. The Lord says: “I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me” (Mt 25:35-36). The mission of the Church, herself a pilgrim in the world and the Mother of all, is thus to love Jesus Christ, to adore and love him, particularly in the poorest and most abandoned; among these are certainly migrants and refugees, who are trying to escape difficult living conditions and dangers of every kind. For this reason, the theme for this year’s World Day of Migrants and Refugees is: **Church without frontiers, Mother to all.**

The Church opens her arms to welcome all people, without distinction or limits, in order to proclaim that “God is love” (1 Jn 4:8,16). **From the beginning, the Church has been a mother with a heart open to the whole world, and has been without borders.** This mission has continued for two thousand years. But even in the first centuries, the missionary proclamation spoke of the universal motherhood of the Church.

The Church without frontiers, Mother to all, spreads throughout the world a culture of acceptance and solidarity, in which no one is seen as useless, out of place or disposable. When living out this motherhood effectively, the Christian community nourishes, guides and indicates the way, accompanying all with patience, and drawing close to them through prayer and works of mercy.

Today this takes on a particular significance. In fact, in an age of such vast movements of migration, large numbers of people are leaving their homelands, with a suitcase full of fears and desires, to undertake a hopeful and dangerous trip in search of more humane living conditions. Often, however, such migration gives rise to suspicion and hostility, even in ecclesial communities, prior to any knowledge of the migrants’ lives or their stories of persecution and destitution. In such cases, suspicion and prejudice conflict with the biblical commandment of welcoming with respect and solidarity the stranger in need.

It is necessary to respond to the globalization of migration with the globalization of charity and cooperation, in such a way as to make the conditions of migrants more humane. At the same time, greater efforts are needed to guarantee the easing of conditions, often brought about by war or famine, which compel whole peoples to leave their native countries.

Solidarity with migrants and refugees must be accompanied by the courage and creativity necessary to develop, on a world-wide level, a more just and equitable financial and economic order, as well as an increasing commitment to peace, the indispensable condition for all authentic progress.

**Dear migrants and refugees! You have a special place in the heart of the Church, and you help her to enlarge her heart and to manifest her motherhood towards the entire human family.** Do not lose your faith and hope! Let us think of the Holy Family during the flight in Egypt: Just as the maternal heart of the Blessed Virgin and the kind heart of Saint Joseph kept alive the confidence that God would never abandon them, so in you may the same hope in the Lord never be wanting. I entrust you to their protection and I cordially impart to all of you my Apostolic Blessing.

From the Vatican, 3 September 2014

FRANCISCUS
Congratulations to our Confirmation Candidates.

Thank you to Mrs Mackay for organising the Parish’s sacramental program. Thank you to Mr Joyce and Mrs Moxon for their in-school support.
Message from the School Board

What a term! As we reflect back on the last ten weeks of Term 2, it certainly has been a busy time, full of opportunities and experiences for our students, parents and staff. One of the stand outs of this term undoubtedly would be our ‘Inspired by Others’ Art Show that captured the essence of how we demonstrate and articulate creative expression. This can be a very powerful and positive process that feeds energy to others around us emotionally, as well as intellectually. It is wonderful to see that our creative and artistic side of St Patrick’s is in fantastic shape. The School Board takes this opportunity to congratulate all involved on a tremendous event that has publicly showcased our school in the local community and beyond.

This term has stretched our students in numerous ways. We hope that students can take away one positive aspect from Term 2. We encourage all students to think about how you can make a difference within the community and life at St Patrick’s next term.

Every term our professional teaching, administrative and ancillary staff go ‘above and beyond’, whether this is inside or outside the classroom. The Board takes this opportunity to thank all our staff for their professional expertise, dedication and motivation over this very busy term.

On behalf of the School Board enjoy the holidays everyone.

Erika Statham
Chair, St Patrick’s School Board
Canteen News

Thank you again to the Infants and Primary families who have participated in the Canteen Survey. If you haven't already completed it, please send in the paper form which was sent home or you can complete the survey online: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/H9BHN7J

The survey for the Secondary students will be done in Homerooms this week.

Volunteers:

Wednesday 24/6, 10am Sue Bottom
Wednesday 24/6, 1.15pm Mini-canteen Denise & Howard
Thursday 25/6, 10am Volunteer needed
Friday 26/6, 10am Sara Souter
Wednesday 8/7, 1.15pm Mini-canteen Marjorie & Kelly

Mini-canteen WILL be happening in Week 1 of Term 3!!!

Hot Dogs: I often get asked "why don't you sell hot dogs?", after all, most school and sports club canteens do, they are cheap and easy, and make a good profit. BUT, our school canteen follows the NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy and I have not been able to find a "green" hot dog that meets healthy canteen guidelines (I've looked everywhere! If anyone would like to invent one, let me know!). They are typically high in fat, salt, artificial colours, flavours and preservatives. A hot dog really has no nutritional value and we don't stock or promote "red" food in our school canteen. So, let's try something different! I've sourced some Nimmitabel Butchery Kranskys and these will be the Hot Dog for Friday's meal deal (see photo, I've taste tested and they are very yummy and not spicy for kids). The kranskys are hand-made, and the ingredient list doesn't resemble a chemistry experiment. Obviously they cost more than the cheap bulk frankfurts so this is reflected in the pricing. The Infants and Primary children will get to taste test them on Wednesday at mini-canteen.

This Week's Friday Meal Deal: Hot Dog & Drink $6.50 (sauce and cheese on hot dog included).

Don't forget that anything can be ordered on a Friday!

Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday. See you in Term 3!

Caroline Blyton
Canteen Manager
Jump Rope for Heart

We had a fantastic Jump Rope For Heart jump off last Friday and we raised over $4200. This is above our goal, well done!

Look on our facebook page for the fun pictures. We thank all children for their participation and efforts to raise funds for the Heart Foundation.

Thank you also to the many parents, carers, grandparents and staff who showed their support on the day.

Sponsorship has now closed and this will be finalised by the Heart Foundation through the online process. Prizes for fundraising efforts should arrive early next term.

Thank you again for a fantastic effort.

Yours sincerely

Bernadette Moser   Glenyce Moxon
Musica Viva

On Friday 12 June I went to the Musica Viva concert at the Ex-Services Club with my class. K-8 went as well. The Musica Viva band played jazz music.

Mrs Rooney introduced them and then they performed a song called Pleated Skirts. James Greening played the pocket trumpet and another James played the drums. Zoe played the double bass, but she didn't play with a bow. She used her fingers, which made it sound very nice. I enjoyed listening to Pleated Skirts. I thought it was an interesting song. Next they told us what melody, harmony and beat meant.

The next song Musica Viva played was called Don’s Esky. I think it was the funniest song. James, who played the pocket trumpet, did some dance moves, and we copied him. They showed us the structure. Some of the moves were clapping, waving our hands, and singing. I loved the song. It sounded really cool.

After that, they played a song called Mossman, and Zoe used the bow this time when she played the double bass. The bow sounded very good with this song. This time they just played and we had to think of a story that fitted in with the song. I thought of a dark night, but it was meant to be a rainforest. I found it a bit boring.

The last song they played was Abe’s Tango. We had been working on the tango, so I thought the tango was going to be really fun. They played the tango and got us to do it. I thought they could have done more with it.

It was coming to the end of the Musica Viva concert. The last thing they did was to make up a song with us. They got almost half the school to go up the front. It was a fun song and it was good to see them improvise.

All up I thought it was a pretty good concert. It was my first time seeing a Musica Viva concert and I can't wait to see the next one.

Reporter: Paloma Blyth, Year 5.

State Interschools’ Gymkhana

Last Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday Abby Douch and Shelley Kleven travelled to Horsley Park in Sydney for the State Interschools’ Gymkhana. Congratulations to both girls for reaching this level.

Abby (Yr 4) placed 10th and 11th in Dressage tests and 8th overall in ‘Working Hunter’ and 8th in the ‘Combined Training’

Shelley (Yr 5) placed 1st, 9th and 4th in Dressage Tests, 4th overall in ‘Working Hunter and 1st in Combined Training’.

This meant Shelley now qualifies for the National Interschools’ Championships to be held in October in ‘Combined Training and ‘Working Hunter”. Congratulations on this fantastic result Shelley and good luck.

Abby and Shelley would like to says thanks to their mum for taking them there and giving them tips to ride their horses, ‘Moet’ and ‘Marty’
Great news for Catholic schools and great news for education

The peak body representing Catholic parents in NSW has welcomed the Baird Government’s plan to provide additional funding for classrooms and facilities in non-government schools. Education Minister, Adrian Piccoli today announced an additional $50 million capital works funding over the next four years for non-government schools. The additional funding will be allocated in the upcoming NSW Budget under the Building Grants Assistance Scheme.

The Council of Catholic School Parents (CCSP) NSW/ACT said the decision reverses a capital works funding cut from non-government schools three years ago.

CCSP Acting Executive Director, Linda McNeil, says the new capital works funding will ease the financial burden on Catholic school parents, particularly those in the low to medium income bracket.

“Catholic school parents in NSW contribute to capital works through school building levies and other capital funding. For decades, parents have funded two-thirds of the building works in Catholic schools and this places a burden on many families.

“With one in five children in NSW currently enrolled in a Catholic school and demand for places increasing, there is significant need for new classrooms and schools.

“There are more than 254,000 children now being educated in Catholic schools and the days of the lamington drive are well behind us.”

Ms McNeil said she was particularly pleased that the NSW Government today voiced its support for the right of all parents to choose the type of education that suits their child.

“The CCSP worked hard in the lead-up to the state election to engage with local MPs to convey the importance of our Catholic schools - schools which have been part of the Australian education system since 1806.

“This is about ensuring we have an education system that is fair and equitable and affordable for all children in our state, regardless of whether they attend a Catholic, independent or government school. This is great news for our Catholic schools and great news for education in our state.”

ASX Share market Game

It was anybody’s game there for a few weeks as students relied on their research, hot tips from relatives and good old intuition to build up their portfolio of stocks. Game 1 has ended and several syndicates made a good profit. Special mention and congratulations to our winning syndicate – The Two Damons – who consistently topped the school leader board.

Game 2 starts in July with online registrations from 23 July until 19 August. The live game goes from 20 August until 28 October. Please see Mrs Stubbs if you are interested in investing money on the real stock market, and you like the idea of having $50,000 to use for free.