Dear Parents, Staff and Students

Funding for Catholic Schools
As you are no doubt aware there have been protracted negotiations between the Federal Government and the states, territories and education authorities over many weeks in an effort to guarantee funding for Catholic schools in the years ahead. Late yesterday we received a media statement from Mr Ross Fox, the Executive Director of the National Catholic Education Commission, which conveyed the following key points:

“Agreement on Commonwealth Government Funding for Catholic Schools

- The National Catholic Education Commission has today welcomed the commitment of all state and territory Catholic education Commissions to the Commonwealth Government’s funding arrangements now known as the ‘Better Schools Plan’.
- This ongoing constructive engagement with the Australian Government enables planning to commence to implement the ‘Better Schools Plan’ funding arrangements arising from the Australian Education Act which was passed on 26 June 2013.
- Catholic schools will now have greater clarity on Commonwealth funding in 2014 and will be able to plan accordingly.
- Catholic education is confident that under this legislation no school will be worse off and these funding arrangements will deliver significant increases over time for every child in the Catholic system.
- Catholic education is appreciative of the constructive way in which both the Minister for Education, Bill Shorten and Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd have engaged in discussions to resolve these matters. The arrangements will progressively deliver increased Commonwealth funding to each State’s Catholic education system based on common measures of student need across all education sectors. To achieve full implementation of the plan, the Catholic sector will participate in the key scheduled reviews, particularly of indexation and SES methodology that are scheduled to occur over the next 16 years.
- Under these arrangements, Catholic education systems, like participating government education systems, will preserve their autonomy and ability to distribute funding according to identified local need.
- Catholic education aims to act in the best interests of its schools, students, staff and families. It works constructively with government and all political parties to best meet the needs of Catholic school students.
- 1 in 5 or 735,403 Australian students currently attend 1,706 Catholic schools across the country.

Parent – Teacher interviews
Thank you to those parents who have taken advantage of the opportunity to speak with teachers on the Primary campus during this week. By establishing regular communication with your child’s classroom teacher it can only enhance the development of each student’s learning and of course our gratitude also goes out to all the teachers who have given up so much time after school to conduct the interviews.

Parents/carers of Secondary students are asked to ensure that their child is making bookings with their teachers for the Secondary interviews which are taking place next Wednesday evening in the Ex-Services Club. If your child has misplaced the booking sheet distributed last week there are additional copies available from the office. Untimetabled interviews will be available from 6 pm so please feel free to come along to discuss your child’s progress.

Good luck to our active students
With the arrival of good snowfalls last weekend the timing could not have been better for all those students involved in our Snowsports programs. Good luck to the skiers and boarders in the Interschools Southern Region competition over the next 3 days and we also hope for a successful Secondary ski day tomorrow.

Our Southern Region Primary athletes have an early start tomorrow for the regional carnival in Bega and we wish them all the best as well. Thank you to the organising teachers and accompanying parents who ensure the success of these activities.

Don’t forget that we’d like all the Kindergarten 2014 applications in by this Friday.

Good luck to our students attending the NAIDOC Mass at St Christopher’s Cathedral in Canberra on Friday.

Come along to the P&F Meeting in the Primary Staffroom at 5 pm tomorrow evening!

Phil Stubbs
Principal

Congratulations

Representatives from Cooma Monaro Shire Council and the Environmental Protection Authority congratulate Year 7 student Gabrielle Steiner on designing the winning entry for the 2013-2014 Resource and Waste Management Calendar which will be distributed throughout the region. Gabrielle has won a trip to the Bournda Environmental Education Centre along with 24 of her peers in October.

Well done Gabrielle and thanks to Mrs Knott for organising the entries!
**2014 Enrolments Closing**

Our enrolment period at St Pat’s will be closing this week. Don’t forget to call into the office to collect an enrolment form if you have a child starting kindergarten next year. Spread the word to family and friends too!

**A Winner for Recycling**

Year 7 student Gabrielle Steiner’s winning entry.

**Parish Mass 20**

20 will be attending the Parish Mass on Thursday 1 August. All family members are welcome to attend. The mass will begin at 10 am.

**Thank You from the Defence Forces**

We have received a letter of thanks from Air Commodore Elfverson, Vice Chief of the Defence Forces, acknowledging our significant contributions to serving Defence personnel deployed around the world. The Care packages and messages of support that were coordinated by Mrs Tina Mayhew and Mrs Anne Devereux were very much appreciated by the recipients, particularly those serving in Afghanistan, and have reflected very positively on the spirit of giving so evident within our school community.

**School Captains Weekly Report**

We hope you had an enjoyable holiday. Good luck to students representing St Pats at the Bega Athletics carnival this week.

Don’t forget to start work on your Book week costumes.

We hope all students participating in the alternate ski programs in the coming weeks have fun. Good luck to the students competing at interschools.

Don’t forget to stay warm and pray for snow.

Always strive to ask questions.

By Broc Allen and Miranda McGufficke.
SRC Vice Captains

**St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal**

A big ‘THANK YOU’ to all the parents and students who donated items for the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. You have helped to warm the hearts and souls of those in our local community.

Cheers!!

**Second hand uniform stall**

The second hand uniform stall will be open from 11am til 12 noon on Friday 26 July 2013 at the Infant’s Campus.

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“Really big people are, above everything else, courteous, considerate and generous - not just to some people in some circumstances - but to everyone all the time.”

**STAR Awards Theme – “Consideration”**

Being considerate means showing kindly awareness or regard for another's feelings. Consideration is thinking about the needs and feelings of others.

- KG Aysha Craig – for the consideration she demonstrates towards her classmates, both in and out of the classroom!
- 1O Clara Thornton – for consideration to her classmates and teacher!
- 1P Annaliese Buckley – for showing consideration to her peers in the classroom and on the playground. Well done!
- 2P Aliyah Bartlett – for the consideration she shows towards her peers in class!
- 2O Rachelle Roberts – for the considerate way she treats her peers!
- 3P Molly Nichols – for always being considerate to her peers. Well done!
- 3O Caitlin Galvin – for being a considerate and thoughtful class member!
- 3G Ryan Birch – for being consistently considerate to others!
- Music/French Hanna Roughley – for showing consideration and kindness to her peers during group activities!
- Library Jacob Ingle – for his considerate manner when using the Library!

Well done Children!

**Bazaar Fair**

BOOK, PLANT, HERB and BOARD GAME ENTHUSIASTS

Whether you love gardening, playing board games or are just an avid reader of books, Autumn is the perfect time to start propagating lovely garden and herb plants for spring and going through your book collection to see what can be sold second-hand at our upcoming Bazaar Fair Book and Garden Stalls.

You may have some old garden terracotta or ceramic pots that do not suit your colour décor at home or that Board Game that has not been used in the family for many years. Why not donate these to our Bazaar Fair on Saturday, 2 November 2013 in Centennial Park?

Bring your donations to our Bazaar Fair from 10.00am to 2.00pm.

**Chook Lotto**

Infants - Term 2 Week 9

- Corey Mills 1O – For listening carefully
- India Dyball 1P – For being mature in class and making super choices!
- Ethan Stacey KG – For donating Chook Lotto prizes

**P&F NEWS**

Meeting will be held this Thursday 25 July at 5.00 pm in the primary staff room. The meeting only go for 1 hour and we welcome all parents.

**Personalised St Patricks School Caps - $15.00:** We are still accepting orders for the caps, please contact Karen McGufficke mkmcgufficke@bigpond.com if would like to order one for your child.

P&F Executive
Thursday 25 July
Southern Region snowsports (Alpine)
7-10 Ski Program
K-6 Southern Region athletics - Bega
7-10 visit by Akram Azimi
K-6 Parent/Teacher interviews
P&F meeting 5pm - Primary Staffroom

Friday 26 July
Southern Region snowsports (Alpine)
NAIDOC Mass - Yr 10 & indigenous students
1P assembly 12pm
Kindergarten 2014 enrolment forms due

Monday 29 July
Debating quarter finals

Wednesday 31 July
7-10 Parent/Teacher interviews

Thursday 1 August
2O Parish Mass - 10am
Yr 3-10 Maths competition
Yr 3-6 Snowsports program

Friday 2 August
Yr 3-6 Snowsports program
Yr 7-10 Ski program
K-6 Disco (TBC)

Monday 5 August
Yr 3-6 Snowsports program

Tuesday 6 August
Yr 3-6 Snowsports program

Wednesday 7 August
Yr 7-10 Ski program

Please refer to School website for more information

www.stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au