Dear Parents, Staff and Students

With the celebration of Easter occurring this coming weekend it is timely to reflect on the significance of Holy Week and what it means to us. We should never lose sight of the reality that Jesus gave his life for us so that we might live and in doing so he urges us to reflect on how we live that life so preciously given. As with Christmas let us see beyond the commercialism and secularism of Easter to reinforce the true meaning of this season. We have been focusing on this in many of our classes and this will also be the theme of our Easter liturgy to be held tomorrow in the Church.

The Diverse Life of St Patrick’s

In looking through the newsletters so far this term, and there’s still 2 weeks of Term 1 to go, we can get an idea of the vast range of experiences available to our students. From the St Patrick’s Day celebrations, the War Memorial excursion, the leadership day on Monday, the Sawpit Creek Alpine Discovery activities, the ACT Debating Competition and the many sporting competitions as a few examples, let’s not lose sight of the holistic education that our school offers. It is sometimes easy to find things to question in the life of a school but we should never forget the enormous commitment that teachers make, solely for the benefit of your child or children, both inside and outside the classroom. Likewise those parents who are always so willing to help out with school activities should never be taken for granted and to them we also say a big thank you.

Thank You to the P&F

At the recent P&F Meeting we were informed by the P&F Executive that we would soon be receiving their annual recurrent expenditure donation. In 2013 this amounts to $22,000 which is an invaluable financial boost to the school’s bottom line. Recurrent expenditure is allocated to resources K-10 and includes reading, stationery and KLA resources in K-6, Religious Education resources, Primary and Secondary Library funds, PE and Health resources K-10, assistance with the Seasons program and ICT acquisitions. Our gratitude to the P&F for their generosity and hard work cannot be overstated.

Staff Professional Development

As part of our commitment to keep up to date with the latest developments in teaching and learning, our teaching staff this afternoon are participating in a workshop as part of the I-Read program. The program provides strategies for supporting readers of all ages and is being facilitated by Dr Kaye Lowe from the University of Canberra.

MacKillop College pathway

In the last couple of newsletters we have covered information about the exciting option for a continuation of a senior Catholic education at MacKillop College in Canberra in 2014. I have had many enquiries over the last 2 weeks and I would encourage parents of Year 10 students who are interested in finding out more about this option to contact me for a prospectus or to contact MacKillop College directly (via the Enrolment Director) to arrange a convenient time to visit the school. All our Year 10 students will be visiting the college on 7 May and there is a parent information evening on 15 May at their senior campus.

News Update

Congratulations to our Archdiocesan soccer teams on their efforts last Sunday in Canberra and a big thank you to the supporting parents and staff.

Well done to our Year 7 and 8 debaters who won their rounds in the ACT Debating Union competition on Monday evening.

Well done to our Stage 1 students on their enthusiasm at their mini Swimming Carnival yesterday.

The commitment shown by all students in the school cross country today was outstanding. Well done to all involved.

Congratulations to our MacKillop swimmers last Friday!

Phil Stubbs
Principal

It was all action and fun at the Stage 1 mini swimming carnival.
**1 Purple**

**Marshmallow Maths**

During week 7 & 8, 1P have been learning about 3D shapes. We have had the opportunity to locate 3D shapes in our environment and then created spheres, cones, pyramids and cubes using spaghetti and mini marshmallows. The children worked individually to create their shapes, using a 3D model as a reference. We located the base, corners, face and sides for each shape.

‘I liked making my pyramid; it took a little bit of time to make sure the sides were the right length’ (Kate Carton)

‘I made a rectangular prism; it wasn’t as easy as it looked’ (Olave Wilkinson)

‘The best part about this maths lesson was that we got to eat the tiny marshmallows after we made our 3D shape’ (Jack Kleven)

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**3-6 Soccer Gala Day**

Last Sunday, 24 March, St Patrick’s fielded three teams as part of the Canberra Goulburn Archdiocese Primary Soccer gala day. This is an annual event that brings together over 30 teams from the various Primary schools in the Archdiocese. A special mention must go to Holy Trinity Primary School Curtin for their wonderful organisation of the gala day this year.

Despite very limited preparation each team played with enthusiasm and great sportsmanship. Although the results may not have always gone our way, the students remained positive and competitive through the whole day. I would like to thank Mrs Glenyce Moxon for organising the students and teams, Mr Alan McGufficke and Mrs Donna Smith for managing teams and the parents who came along and provided wonderful encouragement and support.

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**Uniform Stall**

Please note the following times and dates that the second hand uniform stall:

- Wednesday 3 April 2.30pm - 3.15pm
- Saturday 6 April 9am - 10am
- Wednesday 10 April 2.30pm - 3.15pm

These will all be held at the Infants Campus.

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**Leadership Day**

A very successful Leadership Day was held on Tuesday this week at the Jindabyne Sport and Recreation Centre. A full report will be in next week’s newsletter.
ANZAC DAY CARE PACKAGES

We are once again organising Care Packages to deployed members in our Defence Forces and would like to invite you to make a contribution in time for ANZAC Day 2013. Boxes for donations will be located in the Secondary and Primary Libraries. There are some restrictions with what can be donated – please refer to the letter sent home this week for details.

K-6 Easter Bonnet Parade

On Thursday 28 March at 2:00 pm, the K-6 students will be having an Easter Bonnet/Hat Parade. The parade will be at the K-2 Campus.

For students in Kindergarten and Stage One, please work together with your child to make an Easter Bonnet for them to wear. Stage Two and Three students are encouraged to make the hat themselves.

Students can make their hats from scratch or just decorate a hat that they already have. All students who participate will receive a ticket to go in a class Easter raffle. This will be drawn directly after the parade.

I would like to invite all parents and friends to come and watch the students show off their creative designs.

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 those lovely garden and herb plants for spring or going through your book collection to see what books you no longer use that can be sold 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 a Board Game that has not been used by the family for many years. Why not donate these to our Bazaar Fair on Saturday, 2 November 2013 in Centennial Park.

School Fees Assistance

Application Forms for assistance with School Fees for the period of Term 2 2013 to Term 1 2014 are now available at the school office. A new application must be submitted each year and this must be accompanied by copies of at least two current, relevant pieces of documentation. Please note that assistance is limited and applications must be lodged by Friday 12 April 2013. No late applications will be accepted. If further information is required, please contact Mr Phil Stubbs on 6452 1721.

NOURISH EASTER SPECIAL!

Over Easter we are selling Nourish for $25.00 RRP within our School Community. (This offer is exclusive until 3 April ’13).

Contact the School Office for your copy.

Parenting Ideas

We have pleasure introducing you to the first of our inserts ‘INSIGHTS’, a new feature for our school newsletter this year. Today we are starting with the article ‘Helping Kids Unwind’, a particularly relevant topic in our fast paced world. This article, and many others to come, has been written by Michael Grose a parenting educator, author of eight books for parents, writer of parenting columns in News Ltd newspapers, parenting commentator on Channel 9’s Today Show and radio presenter of a parenting segment on Victorian radio. He has written hundreds of articles, all relevant for the mental health and wellbeing of our families and students. His parenting ideas website offers tips and useful strategies and his blog site welcomes communication on various topics.

The following is a sample of wisdom from Michael Grose’s writings:

Ten ways to promote mental health and wellbeing in kids:

1. Model good mental health habits
2. Make sure they get enough sleep
3. Encourage kids to exercise
4. Give them creative outlets
5. Provide a space of their own
6. Talk about their troubles
7. Help them to relax
8. Have two routines – weekday and weekend
9. Foster volunteering and helpfulness
10. Bring fun and playfulness into their lives

P&F NEWS

- Mother’s Day Stall is Wednesday 8 May more details in next week’s newsletter.
- Thank you to the parents who attended our meeting last week. It would be great to see more parents join us.
- The P&F committee would like to wish all our families a very Happy Easter.

P&F Committee
Thursday 28 March
K-10 Holy Week Liturgy 12.10pm

Friday 29 March
Good Friday

Monday 1 April
Easter Monday

Tuesday 2 April
Yrs 7-10 Social

Wednesday 3 April
Primary Rugby 10’s gala day

Thursday 4 April
Yr 7 Parish Mass 10am
K-6 Southern Region Cross Country Cobargo

Friday 5 April
Yr 10 Blue Lake excursion

Monday 8 April
Debating round 3

Tuesday 9 April
Stage 3 “Bali” excursion - Canberra
Yrs 9-10 Youth Expo

Friday 12 April
Last day of term 1

Please refer to School website for more information
www.stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au

Around Town

* Violin and cello lessons for St Patrick’s School students, beginners to advanced – AMEB exams if required. Over 19 years teaching in the Cooma area. Phone Jarka Secka 6452 7672 or 0405 661 300. Leave a message if not answered.

* A confidential family information and support service for Country NSW; A volunteer to meet country people in Sydney, assistance to find short-term accommodation for country people in the city, A referral service to find information, a friendly voice for a chat & visits for country people in hospital. Free call 1800806160 or direct 02 83826434 Monday to Friday 9.30am to 3.00pm

* HARMONY DAY - 2013 Harmony Day Poster Competition: Open to all school students 6 to 18 years of age. Closing date 12 April. For details visit www.movingforwardtogether.com.au, email erniefbnaibrith@ozemail.com.au or phone 9361 6035 or 9321 6304. Total prize money of $4000. All entrants receive a Certificate of Participation.

* Lumen Christi Catholic College: Everyone is invited to attend our Open Day on Wednesday 22 May from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm. Information evenings will be held for Year 7 2014 on Tuesday 4 June from 6.00 pm and for Years 9 and 11 2014 on Thursday 13 June from 6.00 pm. The Year 7 2014 Orientation Day will be held on Friday 22 November from 9.00 am to 3.25 pm. For more information please phone the Enrolment Officer, Barb Gough on 6495 8888.

* Worldwide Marriage Encounter: A weekend for married couples. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset . . . Your Marriage! This is a unique opportunity to recharge your relationship batteries, refocus on each other and fall in love all over again! Weekend date: 14 – 16 June at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW. Bookings: Ardell & Bill Sharpe tel. 02 4283 3435 or wsharpe@bigpond.net.au Information: website www.wwme.org.au

* Story time: For babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers at Cooma Library Monday 8 April 10.30 am – All welcome. Join us for stories, songs, craft & fun! For more information please phone Cooma Library 6455 1730 or email library@monaro.nsw.gov.au