Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

Leadership

Some of the strongest and proudest memories I will carry from St Patrick’s are occasions such as the Primary Executive leadership speeches presented yesterday in the church, which closely followed the Secondary Executive leadership speeches last week. 14 Year 5 students put themselves forward for selection for the 4 executive positions and they all gave passionate, sincere speeches, sometimes interspersed with their own unique (and even quirky) sense of humour. It was a privilege to be present at this event.

The candidates ranged from several students who have been at St Patrick’s since Kindergarten through to a couple of students who have joined us just this year. Without exception they spoke of their affection for the school, their desire to represent their peers and to give something back to the school from which they have gained so much. There was even mention of the desire to emulate previous generations of their family by gaining an executive position.

Regardless of the outcome of the elections, the students can all be seen as winners in their own way for having the courage of their convictions. The same can be said of the 19 Year 9 students who presented themselves for consideration for the 2014 Secondary Executive.

Our congratulations go to the successful Secondary candidates: Andrew Bartell, Emma Locker, Clair Schofield, Charlie Keegan-Bull, Angela Sullivan and Jesson Bowerman.

The anticipation will continue with our 2014 School Captains being announced today at the St Vincent de Paul Thanksgiving liturgy.

Is it really cricket or just a game?

Being a cricket tragic (i.e. the armchair variety when it comes to the Ashes!) I have been intrigued by the reaction in the media and elsewhere to some of the comments made by senior national players towards their opponents in recent days. It seems that sledging, intimidation and borderline physical bullying are all condoned because “it’s part of the game”. The same could be said of many competitive sports at various levels. The question this raises is “What message is conveyed to those who see or experience this behaviour?” Would the same behaviour be acceptable outside of the sporting arena, in the school playground for example? The answer is emphatically “NO”.

Perhaps we need to ask ourselves if we have applied the same non-acceptance of bullying we have blatantly seen in areas beyond the school playground. Have we voiced our concern at the behaviour seen in the chambers of our parliament? Have we contacted sporting authorities about on and off-field transgressions and intimidation that disgusts us?

As a school we constantly address the issues of bullying and resilience through our pastoral programs which include initiatives such as the ‘Insights’ newsletter inserts, Youth Connections, pastoral days, the School Chaplain and Counsellor, the gender group discussions at all year levels with our Pastoral Coordinator, the Seasons for Growth program, the Kidsmatter program, police talks, the NET team visits, to name but a few. These initiatives count for very little if the modelling that students are exposed to outside of school does not confront bullying consistently and constructively at home, along with a recognition that resilience is a valued reality that we all need to develop.

Thanksgiving Liturgy

The spirit of generosity that epitomises St Patrick’s is seen no more clearly than at our St Vincent de Paul Thanksgiving Liturgy that took place today for the whole school in the church. Those less fortunate members of our community were front and centre in our thoughts and actions as the whole school gave so generously to help the vital work that Vinnies does throughout the whole year but especially during the Christmas season.

As outlined in previous newsletters, this liturgy allows us to make our thanks for the gifts and graces this year, with our hearts and minds, and also through the tangible way of making a donation to the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Phil Stubbs
Principal

Our school captains for 2014 are Clair Schofield and Jesson Bowerman.
Congratulations to Year 5 students who did their speeches for leadership positions for 2014. There were so many inspiring qualities within each student.

Today the school held the annual Thanksgiving Liturgy. The primary and infants children were asked to bring in suitable gifts to go to St Vincent De Paul to make a child’s Christmas special. We also had the opportunity to give thanks for the year we have just had and to celebrate Jesus’ birth at Christmas.

The basketball competition is still going strong and all students are enjoying the lunch time games.

Thank you to Mrs Moxon for sourcing all the new library books that students have access to read.

Well done to students who received Chook Lotto prizes and Star Awards for your hard work.

Remember your hat and drink bottle as the weather is warmer than last week.

Have a great week.

Broc Allen and Miranda McGufficke - Primary Leaders

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**Leaders' Report**

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Have a great week.

Broc Allen and Miranda McGufficke - Primary Leaders

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**SCHOOL FEES**

You are reminded that Term 4 fees are now due. Please ensure that all outstanding fees are finalised in the next fourteen days to allow the school to meet its end of year financial obligations. If you require a copy of your statement or have any questions, please contact the office on 64521721.

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**Farewell to Mr Phil Stubbs**

A farewell function for our Principal, Mr Phil Stubbs, will be held on Tuesday 17 December 2013.

We will be joining our Parish community at the weekday Mass in the Church at 5.30 pm; afterwards there will be drinks and nibbles served in the Secret Garden on the Secondary campus.

**For catering purposes, please RSVP by Friday 6 December 2013 to St Patrick’s Parish School office.**

School Office Phone: 6452 1721 or Email: office.stpatscooma@cg.catholic.edu.au

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**TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

On Wednesday, 20 November, a number of students from Years 7-10 participated in the annual school tennis championships. All games were played competitively but in good team spirit.

A special thankyou to my 9/10 PASS students for umpiring many games on the day.

Congratulations to the following students who are the 2013 champions.

**Final results for the day were:**

- **Yr 7/8 Girls Singles:** Meg Pearce defeated Erin Pearce 7/5
- **Yr 7/8 Boys Singles:** Patrick Connolly defeated Jarrod Pratt 6/0
- **Yr 7/8 Mixed:** Patrick Connolly/Erin Pearce defeated Josh Thrum/Molly Caldwell 6/0
- **Yr 9/10 Girls Singles:** Bella Salvestro defeated Nicola Pearce 6/2
- **Yr 9/10 Boys Singles:** Christian von der Burg defeated Jesson Bowerman 6/2
- **Yr 9/10 Mixed:** Christian von der Burg/Emma Holgate defeated James Russell/Emma Locker 6/3

Ms T Wawrzyniak

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**The St Patrick’s School Choir 2nd place winners are pictured below with their trophy.**

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**Students who assisted at the Bazaar Fair are pictured with their certificates of appreciation.**

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Our Annual Awards Day presentations are fast approaching with the K-6 Awards Day scheduled for Thursday 5 December and the 7-10 for Thursday 12 December. If you would like to make a donation toward either or both of these days, please forward to the school office. A receipt will be issued and all donors are acknowledged in the Award Day booklets. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Sundowner Cup - Cooma Races

Saturday 7 December

P&F running the BBQ & Catering
If you can help on the Friday or Saturday please complete the note which was with last week’s newsletter and return it to the school office by this Friday. Lots helpers will be needed on the Friday for setup, then on Saturday with setup, BBQ and pack up. If you do not have the note just advise Karen McGufficke mkmcgufficke@bigpond.com or 0417 496708 of your availability. This is our last fundraiser for 2013, so please come along and help.

Help Wanted!!!!
We are in need of willing parents who would like to cover new readers in contact.
Please see or call Giovanna Davies at school.
Thank you in anticipation of your help.
**WHAT'S ON**

- **Thursday 28 November**
  - Yr 10 Work Experience
- **Friday 29 November**
  - Yr 10 Work Experience
  - K-6 Swimming Program
- **Monday 2 December**
  - Yr 10 Work Experience
- **Tuesday 3 December**
  - Yr 10 Work Experience
  - Yr 6 Sexuality Information evening (Ruby Curtis) 5pm - 6pm
- **Wednesday 4 December**
  - Yr 10 Work Experience
- **Thursday 5 December**
  - K-6 Awards Day 12pm - 1.30pm
  - Yr 10 work Experience
- **Friday 6 December**
  - Yr 10 Work Experience
  - K-6 Swimming Program
- **Saturday 7 December**
  - Cooma Races - P&F BBQ
- **Sunday 8 December**
  - Parish BBQ 11am - 1pm
- **Monday 9 December**
  - Yr 10 Farewell Liturgy 12pm - 1pm
- **Tuesday 10 December**
  - K-2 Santa Visit 12pm - 1pm
  - Yr 10 Graduation dinner 6pm - 10pm
- **Wednesday 11 December**
  - Yr 10 Picnic day
- **Thursday 12 December**
  - Yr 7 - 10 Awards Day - 1.30pm
  - Yr 10 Graduation Mass 6.30pm - 7.30pm

Please refer to School website for more information

www.stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au

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**Canteen News**

**VOLUNTEERS**

- **Thursday 28 November**
  - Kathy Venables
- **Friday 29 November**
  - Marjorie Revelant
- **Wednesday 4 December**
  - Jackie Bitar

**FRIDAY MEAL DEAL - THE ONLY CHOICES AVAILABLE ARE PIZZA/DRINK and fruit cup OR freddo OR HOT DOG/DRINK and fruit cup OR freddo (please specify). Also note sauce is 20c extra.**

OR

**TUNA OR VEGETABLE SUSHI/DRINK and FRUIT CUP OR FREDDO. Please specify.**

Carolyn Hely
Canteen Manager

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**Around Town**

- **Cooma Ex-Services Children’s Christmas Party:**
  - Members - don’t forget to register your child (aged 10 and under) as soon as possible – phone 6452 1144. Registrations closing shortly! This year’s party will be held on Sunday 15 December at the Club.
- **Isolated Children Parent’s Association (ICPA)** will be holding their AGM on Thursday 28 November at 5:30pm at the Ex-Services Club, Cooma. All members, friends and interested community members are invited to attend.
- **Kids Choice Cooma (formally Kindy Patch):** Now offering before and after school care as well as vacation care. Please see Fran or Jodie for enrolments. Bookings essential. Program of activities for school aged children. Snacks provided. Child care benefit will apply. Call into Kids Choice or call 6452 5955 for more information – 1 Campsite Place off Mittagang Road.

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**2013 Christmas Food & Toy Drive**

Help make Christmas special for those in need this Christmas season.

Donations of non-perishable food and good should be delivered to Cooma Salvation Army by the 7th of December.

Christmas on the Mountain. Saving helping families.

2013 Christmas Food & Toy Drive, 1 Campsite Place, Cooma NSW. Phone: 6452 5955

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*Please refer to School website for more information*