Dear Parents, Staff and Students

Looking Beyond
Sometimes we get so absorbed in our own lives and preoccupations that we lose sight of the bigger picture of our world. It is when we are touched by the misfortune of others that we are often brought back to reality and we get a wake-up call to put our own life back into perspective. Such a reality was evident at the Relay for Life event last weekend that was held at Nijong Oval over a 24 hour period when many members of our community commemorated the memory of loved ones who had lost their battle with cancer.

The dedication ceremonies held during the event were very powerful and yet intimate enough for loved ones to gain comfort in their effort to seek a degree of closure over the loss of loved ones.

I would like to sincerely thank all the students, parents and staff who participated in or supported the Relay for Life. In terms of raising funds our school team raised the second highest amount and this a great credit to everyone involved. Particular thanks must go to our Year 10 student Lily Crompton who coordinated the school team and fundraising focus. Lily certainly showed how we can achieve so much when we set our minds to it.

A lot of “injured” students
Last Friday saw the Primary Campus looking like a battle zone with an amazing array of bandaged students, splinted limbs and scars that were enough to scare even Dracula himself. It was, of course, our SouthCare Awareness Day when the Primary Campus showed its support for this vital health service which is sponsored by SnowyHydro. The students made donations, explored emergency service vehicles, made paper helicopters in a Science lesson and generally became more aware of the valuable support that SouthCare gives throughout this southern region of the state.

Primary Coordinator Steve Joyce was the driving force behind the whole day and deserves full credit for bringing together the many strands of the day's activities, along with the support given to him by the Primary staff. Again a significant amount of money was raised to assist SouthCare in its work.

Swimming Excellence
This is a particularly significant week for both our Primary and Secondary representative swimmers. Congratulations to the Primary swimmers who competed at the Olympic Aquatic Centre in Sydney on Monday as part of the Catholic Primary Schools' program. The competitors were great ambassadors for the school and should feel very proud of their efforts; a detailed report on the event will be provided in the newsletter.

Our Secondary Representative swimmers will be competing in Sydney this Friday and we wish them all the best of luck. Without the support of the dedicated band of parents who travel with and encourage the swimmers such opportunities would not be available. The whole school community says thank you.

Back to night school for the staff
Last night and tonight the majority of staff is involved for up to four hours each night in upgrading their first aid qualifications with a trainer from Surf Lifesaving Australia. All staff have CPR accreditation and most are current with senior first aid status. This is very reassuring, particularly on excursions and fieldtrips, where staff members are often required to make decisions about a student’s well being following an occasional accident or mishap. The value of first aid training is not only seen at school and basic first aid is a key component of the Physical Education curriculum for all Secondary students.

Good luck to the students participating in the Brumbies’ competitions this week.

Good luck to our Mock Trial team next Tuesday against Canberra Girls’ Grammar at Cooma Courthouse.

Congratulations to our Year 7 and 8 debaters on their commendable performances in Canberra on Monday evening!

Phil Stubbs
Principal
In the next week the Primary campuses will be holding a fire drill. This has to be done once at least once a term as part of our OH & S requirements. Students will be informed of the procedures before the actual drill and debriefed afterwards. If you feel that your child may become upset as the result of a fire drill please contact the class teacher.

Secondary Assessment Outlines
All secondary students have now received their assessment and course information for 2012. These booklets outline course information and give a summary of the assessment tasks they will complete this year. It is vital that students and parents carefully read the requirements outlined in the booklet. If a student is unsure of the requirements or will be unable to meet their obligations with regards to assessment, they must firstly contact their subject teacher.

Thank you
Mark van Ommen
Assistant Principal

On Friday 23 March, everyone dressed up as an injured person or a community worker to raise awareness for the South-Care helicopter. On the day we raised $922!
For lunch we had a sausage sizzle and a fruit drink which was DELICIOUS!
Once we had finished eating lunch, we had the opportunity to go through and look at an ambulance, fire truck and a police car.

Thank you to the people that helped cook the sausages and to the community service workers.

By Molly Caldwell and Thomas Hain (School Captains) and Maisie Ward and Bas de Ruijter (Vice Captains)

On Tuesday 3 April, the K-6 students will be having an Easter Bonnet/Hat Parade. For students in Kindergarten and Stage 1, please work together with your child to make an Easter Bonnet/Hat for them to wear. Stage 2 and 3 students are encouraged to make the hat themselves. Students can make their hats from scratch or just decorate a hat that they already have. For those who make the effort of making an Easter Bonnet/Hat, they 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. The parade will be held at the bottom shelter on the K-2 campus.

Steven Joyce
K-6 Coordinator

Application Forms for assistance with School Fees for the period of Term 2 2012 to Term 1 2013 are available at the school office. A new application must be submitted each year and must be accompanied by copies of at least two current, relevant pieces of documentation. Applications must be lodged by Wednesday 4 April. No late applications will be accepted. Please contact Phil Stubbs for further information.
**Defence Force Care Packages**

Could all students please provide a donation of non-perishable, durable items to be sent to our servicemen and women serving overseas for ANZAC day. Items may include coffee, tea, milo, latte sachets, biscuits, lollies, snacks, new or old magazines, books, DVDs.

Prayers, letters of encouragement or drawings are a wonderful thought for our soldiers; however please do not put anything personal or identifying on them. **No names or addresses of students please.**

Donation boxes are in both school libraries. They will be collected and posted prior to the Easter break.

Amanda Knott

---

**Science Competition - Years 3-10**

If you would like your child to participate in the Science Competition on 6 June, please send $7.00 in a clearly marked envelope to the school office before the end of term.

Mrs Sue Wallace, Science Teacher, Secondary

---

**3-6 Chook Lotto donations**

The 3-6 Campus are looking for prizes that could be donated for Chook Lotto. We are running very low! These items are usually found in most budget shops around town. Please send in any items to your child’s class teacher.

---

**Interschools Gymkhana - 4 to 6 May 2012**

Snowy Mountains Grammar is again running the Southern Region Interschools Gymkhana. It will be held at the Dalgety showgrounds and it will run according to the same format as last year’s gymkhana: showjumping and dressage on the Friday, the gymkhana on Saturday and stockhorse events on the Sunday. Parents of St Pats riders need to contact me so that I can provide information with regard to uniforms, saddlery and browbands. Parents or students can download information and entries on the SMGS website. To avoid a late fee, entries should be returned to SMGS by 27 April. Yards should be booked as soon as possible with Sue West at SMGS.

Sue Wallace, Equestrian Coordinator, (0418 649869)

---

**SRC Quote of the week**

‘Never give up.’

Otto Frank (Anne Frank’s Father)

---

**Nourish**

Our Organising Committee have been immensely busy finalising the first layout and template of ‘Nourish’. Although the emphasis is on the recipes, our school, the local community and our diverse culture will be reflected with some beautiful images. With the overwhelming flood of responses in the last fortnight, we may not be able to use all the recipes submitted due to duplications. Thank you to everyone for the enormous support and contributions. Students and staff who have submitted recipes need to ensure they have completed a declaration or permission slip in order for their entry to be valid for the competitions. This means a ‘Recipe Request form’ needs to be completed. Nourish retails for $20.00 per book. You can download the Pre-order form from the school website: http://stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au/parents/pfformsandnotes.html. Completed Pre-order forms are to be given to Melissa Giuliani 0429 993 440, Erika Statham 0400 787 398, Alison Hemphill 0466 850 723 or left at the School Office in an envelope together with payment. Winners of the prizes will be notified in Week 2 of Term 2. The winners names will be published in the School Newsletter. Our book launch will be a very special evening event and will be held in early Term 3 when ‘Nourish’ is released. More information will be forthcoming in Term 2. We thank our 25 local food producers and retailers for sponsoring and advertising in ‘Nourish’. We are appreciative to Allianz Insurance, our major sponsor, who is providing funds to produce this wonderful cookbook.

---

**SRC Theme Week 9 – ‘Persevering’**

Perseverance is staying committed to something, no matter what obstacles appear to stop you. When we persevere we don’t give up until a problem is solved. We practice perseverance when we stand by our friends when they are having a hard time.

- KG Laura Matthews – for her perseverance in all tasks and coming to school with a lovely smile!
- 1P Thomas Mackenzie – for persevering through all challenges he encounters!
- 1O Rocco Caffarelli – for trying his best and persevering with his handwriting!
- 2O Arthur Bottom – for persevering with reading skills!
- 2P Sophie Janota – for persevering with her spelling!
- 3O Alex Shatrov – for the fantastic work ethic he shows by persevering with every task given to him to complete!
- 3G Will Pendergast – for a great improvement in all areas of learning by persevering with tasks and staying committed to what he begins!
- 3P Hugh Haywood-Mercer – for persevering with his handwriting!
- Music French Steven Harrison – for persevering with his French sentences!
- Library Zara Childs – for persevering in completing all tasks to a high standard!
- School Captains Award Chisomo Banzi – for being fair on the playground and always respecting others!

Well done children!

---

**P&F News**

- The disco last Friday night was a great success! Thanks to everyone who helped out in any way.
- A reminder that the P&F meeting will be held tomorrow evening in the Secondary Library commencing at 6.00 pm. We hope to see you there!!
- Don’t forget to drop us an email with any issues—email hwalkerbroose@bigpond.com.

The P&F team
Thursday—Nancy Bowerman
Friday—Natalee Reid

This week’s MEAL DEAL is 2 party pies/2 chicken nuggets/sauce and drink of your choice...please specify. The cost will be $5.00. This will be the ONLY CHOICE available for Primary and Infants on Friday 30 March.

Thank you so much to all my amazing helpers. If you are able to give some of your time to help me in the canteen on or Wednesday for mini canteen, please contact me through school or on my mobile 0406 763 375.

Carolyn Hely
Canteen Manager