Dear Parents, Staff and Students

Twenty young people made their First Holy Communion during the last month and attended a Thanksgiving Mass on Sunday. With the support of their parents in home group meetings and a larger gathering together at the Church their understanding of Eucharist was deepened. Thank you to the parents for your support at this time. The moments of spending time together with deep and important issues are precious.

When our Stage Five students study Eucharist in class the connection is made to the Jewish Festival of Passover, the celebration of a sacred meal recalling freedom from slavery-deliverance. Jesus took this to another realm, the thanksgiving of His life an offering of freedom from sin. Eucharist has multiple meanings including thanksgiving, sharing the Scriptures, Jesus' sacrifice, the gift of himself and the challenge to each one of us to go out to the world and be a gift to others. This is a challenge but the Christian faith teaches that it is Jesus working within us that gives us strength to give to others. In this sense we need to stay connected to community, to one another and to Jesus.

I once heard the Church compared to a wheat plant. The husk is peoples’ judgements and perceptions of the Church, as well as the Church’s failings. Deeper in the plant are the rich grains of wheat. These grains have the richness of love, kindness, selflessness, forgiveness, healing, faith, miracles, hope, renewal, vision, inspiration and justice. It is this part of Church we all have a responsibility to care for and to nurture and bring to a rich growth.

Congratulations to Fr Paul who celebrated twenty five years of priesthood yesterday. He was joined by his parents, his sister, her three children, his uncle and many parishioners at this celebration. He remarked that life’s journey does present many challenges but looking back over twenty five years he knows that God’s support has been present on his journey. Congratulations to the new secondary Student Executive, who were present and were busy serving. Busy serving too were many of our students’ grandparents-we are blessed with wonderful community support.

Congratulations to members of our school choir and the Performance Group who presented a selection of songs at the VIEW Club Christmas luncheon last Friday. This group will also perform at the Nursing Home. The Year Nine Drumbeat boys will perform in the town park at the Celebrate Ability, gathering. They are hoping to draw in any spectators present to participate in some "tribal rhythms!"

Don’t forget the Cooma Races this Saturday. Please read the notice with this newsletter.

We warmly welcome our Director, Mrs Moria Najdecki, who will be visiting the school next Tuesday morning.

Congratulations to the 21 Primary students who gave their speeches in the church this morning to seek selection to the 2013 Primary Executive. All of the students can be thoroughly proud of their presentations.

Congratulations to our Secondary Martin Schoo competition basketballers. While we were not victorious this year, the students are to be commended for their commitment, enthusiasm and sportsmanship.

Good luck to our Year 10 students who have nearly completed their first week of work experience.

Paul Mackay
RE Coordinator
**Stage 2 Learn about Water Safety**

On Monday 19 November, as part of the Primary Swimming program, Stage 2 students learnt about Water Safety from Betty and Peter Longhurst. The three rules students were instructed to follow when someone is in difficulty were:

1. **Talk** to the person
2. **Reach**
3. **Throw** a rope or any floatable aid

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**PASS Surf Trip**

Last Friday 20 of the Year 9 and 10 PASS students travelled to Tathra to participate in surf and stand up paddle (SUP) board lessons. The students have just completed an assessment on surfing and were keen to put the theory into practice.

Some of the highlights of the day were paddling under the Tathra wharf on the SUP’s and checking out the marine life there and catching waves and standing up on the surfboards.

Congratulations to all students on their behavior and effort on the day, and thank you to Mrs Moxon for helping with supervision.

Mr Lawley

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**Martin Schoo Basketball**

Over the last week students in the secondary campus have been competing against Monaro High School in the annual Martin Schoo basketball competition. There was some great basketball played across all four years with excellent sportsmanship demonstrated from both teams. A highlight from the competition was the extremely close games in the Year 10 boys and Year 7 girls games, as well as our Year 7 boys winning their game. Unfortunately Monaro proved a tough competitor in the other divisions and ended up winning the Martin Schoo trophy again this year. Well done to all students for their effort, participation and sportsmanship.

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**SRC 200 Club**

This term the Secondary SRC ran their first 200 Club fundraiser. Students sold squares for a chance to scoop the grand prize of a $100 gift card at the local store of the winner’s choice. Also up for grabs were the second prize of a $30 gift card and third prize of a $20 gift card. This was an excellent opportunity to raise funds for student use at the school and to support local businesses who often support our school.

Pictured receiving their prizes from Year 9 SRC Rep Louise Fletcher are Mr Introna, who chose a $100 gift card for Mitre Fletcher are Mr Introna, who chose a $100 gift card for Mitre 10, Ashleigh Steinke who chose a $30 gift card for Rhythm and Enya Caffarelli who chose a $20 gift card for Jeans West. Congratulations to all our inaugural winners and look out for our next round of 200 Club in Term One 2013.

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**Nourish**

For a limited time only, Nourish will be available for purchase exclusively from the School Office for only $25. A copy of Nourish would make an ideal Christmas present!

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**Compliments of Season from the School Board**

The School Board wishes all our families, carers and students a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year. We would like to thank all our families who have given up their precious time throughout the year through our P&F and supported any of our school activities.

As we approach the celebration of Christmas and school holiday vacation period, those families who are travelling either domestically or internationally please travel safely. We look forward to seeing you back along with welcoming our new families into our school in 2013.

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**Changes to the Sacramental Program**

In 2013 there will be no program for Reconciliation and First Communion.

Children from now on, preparing for Reconciliation and First Communion, will be required to be a year older than they have been previously.

That is,

- children preparing for Reconciliation will be in year 3 as a minimum age
- children preparing for First Communion will be in year 4 as a minimum age

If there happens to be a child in this age group, wishing to celebrate the sacrament in 2013, then parents are welcome to contact Lou Mackay or Father Paul to discuss arrangements.
Liquor Laws and Under 18’s

With the warm weather upon us and the end of the year approaching, I thought it would be a great time to look at underage drinking and supply of alcohol to minors.

In NSW, there are laws which regulate the sale, consumption and supply of alcohol to people under the age of 18 years (minors). These laws are covered in the Liquor Act 2007 and the Summary Offences Act 1988.

In NSW the law generally states:

Unless you are a parent or guardian or have the authorisation of a parent or guardian, you cannot give or sell alcohol to a minor or buy alcohol on behalf of a minor.


Senior Constable Rebecca Lanyon – School Liaison Police Officer

HELPERS PLEASE

The Primary Campus has received a range of new books for Guided Reading K-6. We are asking for volunteers to cover the books for us. If you are able to help, please see Mary-Ann Fraser or your child’s class teacher and we will arrange for the books to be sent home with Contact. Thank you.

Also, a huge THANK YOU to the Parents and Friends Association for all the work they do for our school, to enable these resources to be purchased.

Vacancy School Board 2013

A vacancy will exist on our School Board at the beginning of 2013. Our School Board provides an enhanced level of advice and support in key areas such as: education, positioning, facilities, philosophy, marketing and growing the school. Please send your Expressions of Interest to: Ms Erika Statham, Chairperson, School Board St Patrick’s Parish School, PO Box 870, Cooma.

Second Rite of Reconciliation (Confession)

The Parish celebration of Reconciliation during Advent is on Tuesday 18 December 2012 at 7.30pm at St Patrick’s Church.

The second rite of Reconciliation is a communal celebration – we gather together, pray together, reflect together and then individually celebrate the sacrament in a quiet space off the sanctuary. It’s a way of preparing for Christmas, recognising the place of God in our lives, rejoicing in that presence and celebrating the forgiveness of our loving God who comes among us as one of us and who knows us more than we know ourselves.

Chook Lotto

Infants

* Jack Buckley – 1P – Working well in numeracy groups.
* Mia-Jade Robson – KG – Great participation in swimming lessons.
* Thomas Fletcher – 1O – Great work in numeracy groups.

P&F News

As the end of year approaches, it’s time to think and plan for 2013. Next year is already looking to be a very busy but exciting year.

Currently the P&F have Executive positions that need to be filled. We are looking for motivated parents who will be able to donate some of their precious time to the school community. Meetings are held approximately twice a term depending on what event is coming up.

The P&F’s objective is to raise money, build community rapport and support other parents. This can only be achieved through people’s willingness to contribute.

The P&F Team.
**WHAT'S ON**

Thursday 29 November  
Year 10 Work Experience

Friday 30 November  
Year 10 Work Experience  
K - 6 Swimming

Year 9 Drumbeat Performance 12.00 pm in Centennial Park

Monday 3 December  
Year 10 Work Experience

Tuesday 4 December  
Year 10 Work Experience  
CEO’s Director’s visit

Wednesday 5 December  
Year 10 Work Experience

Thursday 6 December  
Year 10 Work Experience

Friday 7 December  
Year 10 Work Experience  
K-6 Swimming

Primary Awards Day 12.00 pm Ex-services Club

Monday 10 December  
K-10 Thanksgiving Liturgy 12.00 pm

6-10 School Social—Farewell to Year 10 Welcome to Year 6

Tuesday 11 December  
Year 10 Dinner

Wednesday 12 December  
Year 10 Picnic Day

Thursday 13 December  
Secondary Awards Day 1.00 pm in the Church

Year 10 Graduation Mass 6.30 pm

Friday 14 December  
K-6 Swimming

K-9 Reports Distributed

Tuesday 18 December  
K-2 Santa and parent picnic

Primary & Secondary Picnic Day

Wednesday 19 December  
Last day students and staff

2013

Wednesday 30 January  
Years 1 - 7 first day

Thursday 31 January  
Kindergarten and Years 8 - 10 first day

Wednesday 6 February  
Years 1-6 Swimming Carnival

Kindergarten pupil free day

Friday 8 February  
7-10 Archdiocesan golf

Monday 11 February  
7-10 Immunisation

Wednesday 13 February  
K-6 School photos

7-10 long distance swimming

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**Canteen News**

**VOLUNTEERS**

Thursday 29 November  
Help needed please from 10am to 11.30am.

Friday 30 November  
Natalee Reid

Thank you to Kim for all your help last week.  
The canteen cannot run efficiently without my  
volunteers. Thank you all again for often step-  
pling at the last minute.

**FRIDAY MEAL DEAL - NACHOS with JUICE or  
MILK. The cost is $5.00. THIS IS THE ONLY  
CHOICE AVAILABLE TO BOTH PRIMARY  
AND INFANTS. Thank you.**

We are nearing the end of term, SOME ITEMS  
may not be available and an alternative will be  
offered.

Thank you for your continued support.

Carolyn Hely  
Canteen Manager

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**Around Town**

- **A NEW BOOKSTORE IN COOMA**, Pages of Life is open  
at 130 Sharp Street, Cooma. We offer comfy seats so you  
can sit and browse in comfort, and Saturday book read-  
ings for children from 10am – 10.30 am. If they do not  
have what you are after it stock they can source what you  
are looking for from domestic and international suppliers  
and, if required, locate good second hand copies for you.  
We will be on line as well taking orders by phone or email:  
pagesoflifecooma@gmail.com. Phone: 6452 4283.

- The Hub Youth Centre January School Holiday Pro-  
gram: 14 to 25 January 2013 Monday to Friday. All  
events are free for young people aged 12 to 17 years of  
age. Bookings are essential for catering and food require-  
ments. Contact Emma 0437 135 092, Cathy 0403 498  
322, phone the Youth Centre 6452 5534 or facebook us  
@Cathy Emma Hub.

- **Celebrity Movember Sportsman’s Lunch**: 30 Novem-  
ber Lake Crackenback Resort & Spa. Guests Ben Ikin,  
Michael Milton, Pete Jacobs, Steve Starling, Mark Ella  
and Manuela Berchtold. Adults only event. Tickets $95  
with $5 from each booking being donated to Movember.  

- Cooma Football Club will be having trials for those inter-  
ested in playing in the u12, u14, u16, & u18 2013 Prem-  
erier League Monday 26 November at 5.00pm at Nijing  
Oval. For more details visit club website -  
www.coomafc.org

- **Six a Side Soccer** - Week 6 Draw can be picked up from  
the school office

- **TURNING ON THE TUNED OUT CHILD** – free seminar  
on how to unlock your child’s potential and get them en-  
gaged, enthusiastic & excited about learning. Wednes-  
day 28th November from 5:30-7:00pm at Gunghalin Town  
Library. For more information email Alex Ridley in- 
fo@bouncepcd.com.au to secure your spot (registration  
required for seating purposes).