Dear Parents, Staff and Students

National Reconciliation Week 2013

We are currently celebrating National Reconciliation Week from 27 May to 3 June with its theme: “Let’s Talk Recognition”. This is seen as an opportune time to recognise and value the importance of First Australians and focus on the significance of reconciliation to all Australians. As a school we are exploring different ways this week of acknowledging past actions and understanding the rich heritage of Indigenous Australians. It is particularly significant that our 11 students with Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island heritage feel proud to proclaim their background and will continue to do so into the future.

A very moving aspect of this week was the offering of the Prayer of Dreaming at the Secondary assembly on Monday morning:

God of Holy Dreaming, Great Creator Spirit,
From the dawn of creation you have given your children the good things of the Earth. You spoke and the gum tree grew.
In the vast desert and the dense forest, and in the cities and at the water’s edge, creation sings your praise. Your presence endures at the rock, the heart of our Land. When Jesus hung on the tree you heard the cries of all your people and became one with your wounded ones: the convicts, the hunted, the dispossessed. The sunrise of your Son coloured the earth anew, and bathed it in glorious hope. In Jesus we have been reconciled to you, to each other and to your whole creation. Lead us on, Great Spirit, as we gather from the four corners of the earth; enable us to walk together in trust from the hurt and shame of the past into the full day which has dawned in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our thanks go to Mrs Amanda Knott, our Aboriginal Contact Teacher, for her coordination of the activities for National Reconciliation Week.

Parent information meeting: Reading Focus

Last night we had a very good roll-up for our information meeting to give parents guidance with how to encourage their children to read and to develop a culture of reading in the home. The meeting was facilitated by our cluster Literacy Coach, Mary Kite, who regularly visits CEO schools throughout the southern part of the Archdiocese to work with students, parents and staff to improve literacy skills and understandings.

QUESTACON Science Circus

All of our students in K-6 were treated on Monday to a fascinating cross-section of science based activities that really got them thinking about the science of life around us. The presenters, Nina and Martha from QUESTACON in Canberra, had a captive audience as they experimented with air pressure and gravity as part of their presentation. To see nine students standing safely on an inverted table that was supported by only six inflated balloons really tested our awareness of air pressure and its characteristics.

Busy times for Year 10 students

Our Year 10 students began their Semester One exams today and these will continue over the next couple of days and we wish them the best of luck, although there is no substitute for sustained preparation for exams. They will be amply rewarded for their efforts this week when they embark on the annual Year 10 Sydney Excursion for 4 days from next Tuesday. They will be fully absorbed with non-stop action which includes experiences such as Sydney Aquarium, a Harbour Bridge walk, the Powerhouse Museum, the ABC Studios, Paddy’s Markets, ice skating, the Manly Ferry, the Maritime Museum, Taronga Park Zoo, the Jewish Museum, St Mary’s Cathedral, the State of Origin football match, the Sydney Aquatic Centre and the stage show “The Addams Family” – and that’s not all! The organisation of these experiences is a mammoth task and our deep gratitude goes to Mrs Lou Mackay for all the effort that she has put into it. The accompanying teachers, Mr Steve Summerville and myself, will do our best to keep up with the pace of everything and there’ll be a full report in the Week 7 newsletter.

St Mary MacKillop College pathway for 2014

This exciting initiative for a Catholic pathway for senior education in Year 11, 2014 continues to gather momentum with 17 of our students enrolled at this stage to attend the college from the start of next year. The Principal, Mr Michael Lee, will be visiting Cooma on 13 and 14 June to conduct interviews with the enrolled students and their parents about their academic programs for next year.

News Update

Thank you to all the students, parents and teachers who joined in the National Walk to School day last Friday! Good luck to our students in Years 7 to 9 with their exams next week.

Phil Stubbs
Principal

Our Walk to School group last Friday
On Friday 24 May two St Pat’s teams competed in the Brumbies’ Rugby Union Gala Day at Rotary Oval. It was a fantastic sunny day and the students played with enthusiasm and great team spirit. St Pat’s were undefeated on the day. Thank you to Sam Rolfe and his two assistants for organising the grounds and refereeing the games. Congratulations to Bailey Rogers who has won a competition to be a Junior Brumby for a day. He and Sam Sergo will warm up and be on the bench with the team on June 7 when they play the Rebels.

Glenyce Moxon

Since the end of Term 1 we have been working closely with the teachers and children at Lambie Street Preschool on our drama unit entitled Children’s Entertainment. Drama students study the educational and developmental rationale behind developing entertainment for children and are working on creating short educational performances for the preschool children. So far this term our students have enjoyed familiarising themselves with the target age group, playing with the preschool students, having lunch with them and joining in with their music and movement time and literacy and numeracy activities.

Students in Stage 3 have been learning the skills of public speaking. On Tuesday 21 May, the top speakers in each class were chosen to compete in the Rostrum Public Speaking Competition. Congratulations go to Damian Fletcher who won with his speech ‘The Snake’. He will now compete in the quarter finals on 5 June at the Cooma Ex-Services Club. Congratulations must also go to Miranda McGufficke who came in second place, Rylie Marks and Bronte Hely who tied for third place and to the other finalists Will Lehrmann, Ursula Ronan, Sophie Williams, Chelsea Reeve and Michala White. Well done to all students!

Just a reminder that teachers begin duty at 8.40 am each morning. We would like to encourage parents that children should not arrive before this time as they are not supervised.

Congratulations and good luck to Bailey Rogers, Broc Allen and Damon Fanning who were selected to represent the Archdiocese in Rugby Union following trials held in Yass last week!

We are taking part in the Woolworths Earn & Learn points program this year. Just collect Woolworths Earn & Learn Points when you shop at Woolworths between Monday 8 April and Sunday 9 June 2013. We can then redeem these for educational resources for our school. For every $10 spent at Woolworths you will receive a Woolworths Earn & Learn Point sticker. Just place these stickers onto a Woolworths Earn & Learn Points Sheet. Once it’s completed, bring it back to school. Points sheets can be collected from your child’s class, office or local Woolworths store.

There will be collection boxes at the school office and Woolworths store. The more we collect, the more we can redeem. Products in the range include resources for Mathematics, English, Science, Art & Crafts, through to Sports gear, Library supplies and more. We are grateful for your support and look forward to a successful program.

3O will be attending the Parish Mass on Thursday 30 May. All family members are welcome! The mass will begin at 10:00 am.
This May is Jelly Baby Month. By donating you will assist in the search for a cure to Type 1 Diabetes.

Jelly Baby Guessing Competition. As part of Jelly Baby Month, there will be a jelly baby guessing competition on Thursday and Friday. During Recess and Lunch, all students will have the opportunity to guess how many jelly babies are in the jar. It is just 50 cents per guess!

The winner of the competition will win the entire jar of jelly babies! http://www.jdrf.org.au/help-find-a-cure/jelly-baby-month

Chook Lotto

Infants

* Jorja Geelan KG - for showing respect
* Cooper Inskip 1P - for being a great class helper without being asked
* Joe Nichols 1O - for fantastic listening

Well done children.

Thank you to Ethan Stacey for donating prizes for chook lotto!

SRC Quote of the week

“Don’t walk in front of me I may not follow, don’t walk behind me, I may not lead, walk beside me and just be my friend.”

Names on Clothing

Please check your child’s school jumpers, jackets and hats to ensure that names have not disappeared through washing. All children should be now dressed in the winter school uniform. It is expected that all K-6 students are wearing a tie, unless they are wearing a school skivvy. Students are also able to wear a plain black or green beanie.

K-6 Lunch Time News

Students eat their Lunch at 11:00am and Recess at 1:20pm. We encourage children to eat their sandwich/big lunch at first break and their recess/snacks at the second break. Why? Many children are really hungry by 11:00am. An early lunch enables them to receive the nutritional value they need for their learning. Before this was implemented, students were fuelled on mostly snack foods until 1.20pm in the day.

For parents with students in Kindergarten, please talk to your child about the need to save their recess for the afternoon. It has been noted that some Kindergarten students have been eating all the food at 11:00am.

The fruit break will remain at 10.00am daily.

St Patrick’s Parish School Cooma
P&F Association presents
BAZAAR FAIR 2013

Snowy Ride weekend – Saturday 2 November 2013

Cooma and enjoy the festivities in Centennial Park from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm.

We have a great committee with some fantastic ideas! We would love to hear from our parental community. If any parent is interested in helping organise this major fundraising event and would like to be part of an innovative, creative and flexible team, please contact Erika Statham on 0400 787 398.

Head Lice

There have been a number of reported cases of head lice in Primary during the last week. Please be vigilant in checking your child’s hair regularly for signs of infestation. Lice are tiny and very fast moving making them extremely difficult to see. Conditioner spread over the hair can stun lice for up to 20 minutes aiding in their removal. A metal nit comb is the best tool to use to remove the lice. Treatment with specially medicated shampoo available from the supermarket or pharmacy should follow. Eggs hatch in 7 to 10 days, so if lice are present, treatment should be repeated every 3 to 4 days for a couple of weeks. The only way to break the cycle is to stop the newly hatched lice laying more eggs. Children do not need to be excluded from school once treatment has started.

Saint Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal

The Saint Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal is on again for this year. Please bring in pre-loved or new jumpers, blankets, beanies, gloves or winter apparel to donate to this worthy cause. The clothing can be left at the Primary Library or at the school office. Please send in goods by 7 June. Thank you for your support.

Alex Smith, Rylie Marks and Josie Platts
Mini-Vinnies group

P&F NEWS

DISCO for 14 June has been postponed date to be advised.

P&F Executive
WHAT'S ON

Thursday 30 May
30 Parish Mass
Yr 10 Exams
Friday 31 May
2O Assembly
7-10 Archdiocesan Basketball
Yr 10 Exams
Tuesday 4 June
Yr 10 Sydney trip
Yr 7 - 9 Exams
Wednesday 5 June
Yr 10 Sydney trip
Yr 7-9 Exams
Thursday 6 June
Yr 10 Sydney trip
Yr 7-9 Exams
Friday 7 June
Yr 10 Sydney trip
3G Assembly 12pm
Wednesday 12 June
Sullivan Shield Rugby League
Seasons Liturgy 11am
Yr 7-10 Rugby - Monaro High
Thursday 13 June
3G Parish Mass
Friday 14 June
CCC Cross Country

Canteen News

Volunteers
Thursday 30 May
Kathy Venables
Friday 31 May
Natalee Reid
Wednesday 5 June
Volunteer required please!
FRIDAY MEAL DEAL IS NACHOS & CHOICE OF DRINK. THE COST IS $5.00. THIS WILL BE THE ONLY CHOICE AVAILABLE TO BOTH PRIMARY AND INFANTS.
Thank you for your continued support.
Carolyn Hely
Canteen Manager

Around Town

* BRINGING UP GREAT KIDS is a parenting program for those wishing to enhance their parenting skills.

This program will help you:
· discover ways to take care of yourself and to find support when you need it
· learn more about the origin of your parenting style and how it can be more effective
· explore messages you have received that impact on your parenting
· convey the messages you want to your child; and what messages your children might be giving you
· discover how to overcome some of the barriers that are stopping you from being the kind of parent you would like to be.

Cost: Free
When: Every Tuesday morning for 4 weeks from
11am—2pm starting 4 June 2013
Where: CWA Hall, Myack Street, Berridale
Further information: Sue-Anne: 6452 3450 (Monaro Family Support Service)

* Relay For Life Cooma 26 & 27 October at the Show grounds. Relay For Life is an overnight team walk that raises money to defeat cancer. It celebrates the fact that more people are surviving cancer today – thanks to the efforts of the Cancer Council and other similar bodies. This year the aim is to raise $50,000.00 towards cancer research and development of services in the Cooma-Monaro area. More information available at the Cooma Rotary Markets at Centennial Park on Sunday 16 June or call Beck on 0403 495 855. Registrations will be open online on Wednesday 29 May, so don’t forget to start getting your teams and supporters ready!

K - 6 Disco

DISCO for 14 June has been postponed-date to be advised.

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