Dear Parents, Staff and Students

It was certainly the time to think of others today as we celebrated our Christmas Thanksgiving liturgy when students brought in gifts and donations that will be distributed to those less fortunate members of our community through the St Vincent de Paul Society. The looks on the faces of many students said it all; there was as much joy in giving as there might be in receiving later in the festive season. The celebration was part of our meaningful liturgy and the uplifting music was provided by the Performance Group. Thank you to everybody for your generosity today and particularly to Paul Mackay for his coordination of the event.

The Thanksgiving Liturgy complemented the beautifully celebrated Parish Mass last Thursday when 2 Orange really set the standard for involvement in prayer responses, singing, readings and the Prayer of the Faithful. Well done 2 Orange! Congratulations again to our First Eucharist candidates who celebrated this faith milestone in style after last Sunday's Mass.

End of Year Organisation

With the Primary Awards Day taking place this Friday we acknowledge the efforts and achievements of many of our students throughout the year. While not everyone can receive an award, all students who have tried their best during the year should feel proud of their efforts. Next week we have the Secondary Awards Day on Thursday at 1.30 pm, prior to the Year 10 Graduation Mass at 6.30 pm on Thursday evening. The Graduation Dinner for Year 10 takes place on Tuesday evening and we wish them the best of luck for this significant celebration and our thanks to Alyson Hulley for her coordination of the dinner.

We are excitedly awaiting the announcement of the Primary Executive on Friday at their Awards Day. The incoming Secondary Executive are already engaged in their role with attendance at Jim Arrold's funeral and their assistance with the canteen and Primary mini-canteen this week and next.

Further to our staffing information last week, we bid farewell at term’s end to Alicia Clarke who has been employed in a temporary part-time position this year. Her enthusiasm and professionalism have been much appreciated by staff and students alike. We welcome Lillian Everitt as the Secondary Technological and Applied Studies teacher, replacing Chris Millington who is set to enjoy his well-earned retirement. Despite Margaret Hassall attempting to retire several years ago she has been a regular face at school since then by doing relief teaching; we can now formally welcome her back in the capacity as School Archivist as she delves into and catalogues the treasures stored in our basement area such as, for example, enrolment lists from the 1920s and school magazines from the 1950s and 60s.

Please keep those members of the school community who are unwell in your prayers.

Phil Stubbs
Principal

As part of the end of year administration it would be appreciated if you could inform the office if your child is leaving St Patrick’s as this will allow us to optimise the class allocations for 2012, given the steady stream of enrolments in all years for 2012 over recent weeks. Likewise if you have any library books or textbooks at home please send them in with your child as soon as possible.

**Martin Schoo Basketball Competition**

Sportsmanship and fair play were the winners at this annual competition against Monaro High last week as Year 7 and 9 teams got into the spirit of the game. The Year 9 boys were successful and the other matches went down to the wire in a great display of school and sporting spirit. The deciding round will be held next Monday involving our Year 8 and 10 teams. Good luck to all!
Council workers are pictured below giving the crossing in Murray Street a much needed ‘facelift’. The strips used on the raised crossing are being trialled for their durability.

Mr Paul Everett, representing the St Vincent de Paul Society, accepting gifts from Thomas and Elle at our Thanksgiving Liturgy today.

Teachers participated in professional development on ‘Spelling Strategies’ for 3 hours after school yesterday while the office ladies were kept busy organising our school records following a busy day in the office.

Our Year 10s continue to experience a taste of working life this week in a variety of careers!
**FEAST OF POETRY**

The Feast of Poetry presentation is on this Saturday from 10.30-11.30 at the Raglan Gallery. Great prizes to be won.

**POEM ON THE SPOT**

When you arrive, pick up an instruction sheet giving you a topic. Write a poem and present it at 11.30 am for great cash prizes:

- Adults 1st $60 2nd $40
- Secondary 1st $50 2nd $30
- Primary 1st $40 2nd $20
- Infants 1st $20 2nd $10

**OPEN MICROPHONE**

- Adults 1st $50 2nd $30
- Under 18 1st $40 2nd $20
- Under 12 1st $20 2nd $10

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**CHOOK LOTTO**

- KG—India Dyball for participation during the ‘Vowel Game’
- KIP—Josh Mackenzie for lining up quietly
- 1O—Jesse Eljuga for being a good sport

Good work!

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**PARSA AWARDS**

Parra Award this week is ‘Joy’

Joyfulness is a peaceful sense of well being. Joy is inside all of us. It comes from an appreciation of the gifts each day brings. Find ways to have fun in your work and in your play.

- KG Thomas Mackenzie—for the joyfulness he brings into the classroom each day!
- K1P Joshua L Hely—for the joyful and happy way he shares his time with others!
- 1O Cheyenne Connell—for always bringing such a joyful and happy attitude to class. Well done!
- 2O Zac Van der Plaat—for the joy and enthusiasm he displays when he is designing and creating!
- 2G James McGufficke—for the joy he displays making sure his friends are happy!
- 2P Sara Knott—for the joyfulness she displays to others in the class!
- 3O Sophie Nicholl—for the joyfulness she displays to everyone in 3Orange!
- 3G Tim Bottom—for having a great smile and for the joy he has when doing something for others!
- 3P James Hayden—for giving many joyful moments throughout the year!
- Library Joel Case—for the joyful manner he displays in reading and willingly helping others with computers during Library time.
- Music/French—for displaying a spirit of joyfulness during French and Music!

Well done everyone!

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**ST PATRICK’S PARISH CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES**

**St Patrick’s Cooma**

- Children’s Vigil Mass—24 December 6.00 pm
- Christmas Vigil Mass—24 December at 9.00 pm
- Christmas Day Mass—25 December at 10.00 am

**St Andrew’s Nimmitabel**

- Christmas Vigil Mass—24 December at 9.00 pm

**St Mary’s Adaminaby**

- Christmas Day Mass—25 December at 8.00 am

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**2nd Rite of Reconciliation for Christmas**

- Tuesday 20 December 7:30pm St Patrick’s Church Cooma

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**Children’s Christmas Vigil Mass**

Come and be part of the Children’s Christmas Mass at St Patrick’s on Christmas Eve at 6.00 pm. Children are invited to dress up as a Christmas character (Shepherd, angel, barn animal, etc). If you would like to join in, practice will be held on Friday 9 and 16 December from 3.30 to 4.00 pm in the Church. Maybe you would like to do a reading, be a main character, play a musical instrument or just be a character. For more information please contact Carol on 6452 2783 or Sue on 6452 6468.

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**ESSENTIAL energy & 2XL / Snow FM 2011 Charity Food & Toy Drive**

Please drop NON PERISHABLE food items and NEW toys to the School Office before Thursday 8 December.

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**P&F NEWS**

- **COOMA RACES**: Thank you to all who have volunteered to help out at our final fundraiser for 2011. Race passes will be sent home with your child. Ruby is running a team of helpers to clean on Friday, 2 December 2011 from 9.30 am to 10.30 am—phone 0402 038 676 if you can help. Karen is transporting items out to the Racecourse on Friday. Karen’s mobile: 0417 496 708.

Thank you.

P&F Executive
**WHAT'S ON**

**Friday 2 December**
K-6 Awards Day 12.00 pm Cooma Ex-Services Club

**Saturday 3 December**
Cooma Races (P&F Fundraiser)

**Monday 5 December**
Year 10 students return
Year 8 and 10 Basketball MHS

**Tuesday 6 December**
Year 10 Graduation Dinner

**Wednesday 7 December**
Year 10 Picnic Day

**Thursday 8 December**
Last day for Year 10 students
Primary Swimming (catch-up day)
7-10 Awards Day 1.30 pm in the church
Year 10 Graduation Mass

**Friday 9 December**
Nursing Home visit
Primary Swimming

**Tuesday 13 December**
School Board 6.30 pm

**Wednesday 14 December**
K-2 Christmas Concert 12.00 pm

**Thursday 15 December**
K-9 Picnic Day
Parish Pastoral Council 6.30 pm

**Friday 16 December**
Last day of Term 4

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**Canteen News**

Volunteers

**Thursday**
Catherine Pearce

**Friday**
Natalee Reid and Cassy Mackenzie

* Items unavailable for the remainder of term: Lasagne, spaghetti bolognaise, potato pies and chocolate chip cookies.

* This Friday’s lunch orders: the only items available for this Friday are chicken burgers and chicken nuggets. No other food is available.

* Please note: the last day of canteen will be Thursday 15 December. THE CANTEEN WILL NOT BE OPEN ON FRIDAY 16 DECEMBER.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support.

Carolyn Hely
Canteen Manager

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**Around Town**

* 8-14 year olds are invited to come and learn to fish safely and responsibly on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 January 2012. Instructors are experienced volunteers and staff from the Department of Primary Industries. The day runs from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm and involves fishing techniques, bag and size limits, fish handling for catch and release. Bookings are essential—Contact Stephen Thurstan by email Stephen.thurstan@industry.nsw.gov.au or phone 4295 1809 or 0438 245 190.

* Michelle’s Swim School Holiday Swimming Program: 10 day intensive ‘Learn to Swim’ and ‘Stroke Correction’ lessons commencing 9 January at 10.00 am. Squad Development Camp for current and past Squaddies. This camp runs for 3 days from Monday 9 to Wednesday 11 January from 10.00 am to 2.00pm. The Carnival Capers program, aimed at preparing swimmers for school carnivals, consists of three 1 hour sessions from Monday 23 to Wednesday 25 January from 2.00 to 3.00 pm. For bookings and enquiries please phone Michelle on 6452 4289 or 0414 880 783.

* **CELEBRATE ABILITY DAY** (for the International Day of People with a Disability): Friday 2 December Centennial Park – 11am to 2pm. Everyone is welcome. Enquiries to Hilary, Sharon, or Cathy at Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) on 6452 0400.

* **CRACKENBACK CARNIVAL** at Lake Crackenback on 14 January 2012. Money raised will go to Snowy Hydro SouthCare.

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**TERM 1 2012 COMMENCEMENT DATES**

Monday 30 January
Students in Years 1-7 return

Tuesday 31 January
Students in Years 8-10 return

Wednesday 1 February
Kindergarten commences today