Dear Parents, Staff and Students

The disastrous fires, floods, storms and heat waves over the holiday season are the clearest testament to the diversity of our country and are so evocatively represented in the words of Dorothea McKellar's poem "My Country".

To those in the school community who were affected by the local fires, with some families very directly so, you are in our thoughts and prayers as you take stock of the impact on your lives and loved ones. Our thoughts are also with those communities experiencing flooding and its aftermath.

As with any crisis throughout our history in Australia, it is times like these that our true spirit emerges and this has been evidenced so clearly in the selfless contribution of volunteers to ensure the safety and well-being of others. From the firefighters, the control centre volunteers, the flood rescue teams through to those providing meals, comfort and moral support, it is the generosity of the human character that we must truly cherish. We see such spirit constantly in our community through organisations such as St Vincent de Paul, Rotary, Lions, the Salvation Army to name but a few, so let us never take these groups for granted and let us continue to appreciate their contribution to the fabric of Australian society.

Welcome to the commencement of the 2013 school year!

There were many more happy faces than sad ones around the school yesterday and today as classes got under way for the 2013 school year. So many students were glad to be back sharing holiday stories with their friends and there was a definite look of relief on the face of many parents as they dropped their children off to face the excitement of the 2013 learning journey.

We warmly welcome the 53 new students and their families who have joined us this year from Kindergarten right through to Year 10 and hope that their time with us is productive, enjoyable and enriching.

Welcome to our new Stage One teacher, Mrs Rebecca Nassar, who is already enthusiastically engaging her young students. Welcome to all the staff for 2013 who will be working in a variety of capacities: Katrina Joyce will be taking Kindergarten on Fridays, Noelene Diacono will be doing Executive Release in Primary, Melinda Barrett is warmly welcomed back as she takes responsibility for Learning Support from K-10 and Lou Mackay is our Religious Education Coordinator for 2013.

It was with regret that Cheryl Hennessey resigned from her position as classroom assistant in Food Tech for the past 10 years and we thank her for her valued contribution to the school over this time.

Please make yourself known to your child’s teacher/s and there will be opportunities for more formal meet and greet gatherings in the near future.

There are some exciting initiatives ahead for us in 2013 and these will be addressed in coming newsletters.

Phil Stubbs
Principal

"I love a sunburnt country,
A land of sweeping plains,
Of ragged mountain ranges,
Of droughts and flooding rains.
I love her far horizons,
I love her jewel-sea,
Her beauty and her terror -
The wide brown land for me!"
For students going into Years 3 & 7 it is imperative that a new bus form be completed ASAP. This is due to the tough crack down from Transport for NSW. If these forms are not completed we are unable to carry your child to school.

No bus passes for these years will be printed in advance. Fares will come into effect 2 weeks after the start of school, 13 February. If children do not have their fare we will not be allowing entry to bus.

If you have not received a form please ask at the school office or your bus driver.

Any questions please call Jo at Cooma Coaches 64522363 or Gerri 64524841.

Regards
Jo Heise
Cooma Coaches

From the Chaplain (Student Welfare Officer)

A warm welcome back to all students, families and staff members as we begin the school year for 2013. A big welcome is extended especially to all our new students and their families.

The school chaplaincy program is funded by the Federal Government and this year there has been a name change. The position is now called Student Welfare Officer rather than the previous title of School Chaplain.

Part of the role of the Student Welfare Officer is to be a spiritual presence in the school and community and to be able to offer pastoral assistance in whatever way needed. It may be a visit, a chat, a phone call etc depending on situations. This service is for all members of the school community – students, families and staff. I’m happy to be contacted through the school at any time.

This year, once again, the Seasons for Growth program will be offered to students in Years 1 to 10. There is attached information regarding this wonderful program in the newsletter. Parents can contact me if they require more information about this course.

May the year ahead be both exciting and satisfying and may God’s blessing be with you all.

Kevin Dunne (Student Welfare Officer)