Dear Parents, Staff and Students

Year 10 Final Week
Last night we celebrated the Graduation Dinner of our 2011 Year 10 class as we wished them well in whatever direction their life takes them. It would not be possible to have a finer group of young people in whose hands to place our future. Their spirit of joy and friendship was so evident and the support of their parents, family and friends has played a pivotal role in getting them to where they now are.

The celebration was very efficiently coordinated by Alyson Hulley, with catering help from Pam Fletcher and a very talented group of Year 9 students who worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth operation of proceedings. The natural talents of our 2012 school captains Meg Bracher and James Minards were very evident as they hosted the whole evening.

The Year 10 students were encouraged to not just live a life but to make a life where FRIENDS, FAMILY and FAITH have a central place. Tomorrow evening we celebrate their Graduation Mass which is a very fitting way to conclude an education that we hope will provide guidance throughout their life.

School Certificate success
Once again our 2011 School Certificate results were outstanding and Year 10 students will be given their individual results tomorrow evening. We were well above the state average in all subject areas and this is testament to the commitment of staff and the efforts of the students in their final external exams. Some features of the results are:

- In Computing Skills, 72% of our students achieved the highest grade (Highly Competent) compared to the state average of 52%.
- In English literacy, 100% of our students scored an exam result over 70% compared to the state average of 84% achieving this result.
- In Mathematics, 67% of our students achieved a score over 70%. The state average was 47% of candidates.
- In Science, 92% of St Patrick’s students gained a score of 70% or better compared to the state average of 69%.

- In History, 75% of our students achieved a score over 70% compared to the state average of 57% of candidates.
- In Geography, 80% of our students achieved a score over 70% compared to the state average of 57% of candidates.

Primary Awards Day
Congratulations to all the students in Kindergarten to Year 6 for your outstanding efforts at the Awards Day last Friday. Success in many areas of school life was acknowledged and those students who received awards are to be commended for their efforts. The excitement at the announcement of the Primary Student Executive was palpable and the whole school community congratulates our 2012 Primary Executive – Captains Molly Caldwell and Thomas Hain and Vice-Captains Maddisen Ward and Bas de Ruijter. Well done!

A sincere thank you to all the staff involved in the Awards Day and for the many parents, relatives and friends who came along to show their support. Our thanks also go to the Cooma Ex-Services Club for the use of the Functions Room for this important school event.

Well done to the P&F Committee and all the helpers for their assistance with the catering at the Cooma Races last Saturday. The quality of the food and the cheeriness of the helpers would make any restaurant proud!

Congratulations to our Year 8 and Year 10 Martin Schoo basketball competitors who showed real spirit and sportsmanship in this annual event. Congratulations to Monaro High who were the winners this year.

Phil Stubbs
Principal
Please drop NON PERISHABLE food items and NEW toys to the School Office. Items are being collected tomorrow, so please drop your donation in by 11.00 am.

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### Australian Mathematics Competition 2011 Student Results

This year over 76 students participated in the Australian Mathematics Competition for students in Years 3-10. There were 2 Distinctions and 23 Credits awarded. Congratulations are extended to all students who participated in the competition and to students who were successful in gaining certificates. This competition provides excellent opportunities for students to learn new problem solving strategies and apply them to classroom situations.

**Distinction Certificates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Names of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Gabrielle Steiner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Kevin Fraser</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Credit Certificates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Names of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Hugo Steiner, Hamish Bottom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Emma Hopkin, Broc Allen, Fergus Barrett, Damian Fletcher, Miranda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Chisomo Banzi, Thomas Hain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>India Taylor, Meg Pearce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Zali Steiner, Liam Allen, Caitlin Galwey, Clair Schofield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Madalene Shatrov, William Fitzgerald, Oscar Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Vaclav Wichta, Claudia Sullivan, Meg Bracher, Harry Fletcher</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Spelladrome**

Spelladrome is a web-based learning program which integrates home and school learning via the Internet. It develops critical spelling awareness and enriches vocabulary, improves spelling and promotes progress in spelling and writing. It is simple to use and fun! All Year 7 students will be given their password and log in details today and will trial it for the rest of the year. They can also access it at home. From the start of 2012 all Year 7 and 8 students will be using Spelladrome every day.

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**Stages 2 students are pictured receiving their EngQuest certificates last week.**
Many thanks to parents and students for your wonderful support of our St Vincent de Paul Christmas appeal. It was heartwarming to see students offer gifts at our liturgy and they are obviously able to do that because of the support of you, the parents. Thank you for your very generous support. A total of $1,104.75 was raised for St Vincent de Paul.

**SRC Quote**

Everybody can be great ….. because everybody can give!

**PARSA Awards**

SRC theme is ‘Giving’

When we give, we look for ways to help others instead of waiting to be asked. You realise the needs of others are as important as your own. When we give, people feel our compassion. To be a better giver, watch to see what people need.

- KG Jack Buckley – for his generosity and giving nature towards others!
- K1P Ethan Hart – for his giving attitude towards others!
- K1P William Dodd – for always giving his time for others!
- K1P Joshua W Hely – for his giving attitude towards others!
- 1O James Dyball – for the considerate and giving nature he displays in class!
- 2O Adelaide Chong – for giving 100% in all aspects of school life!
- 2G Miranda McGuffieke – for always giving her time freely to care for her peers and assist them when needed!
- 2P Chloe Ellis – for her generous giving of time to listen to others!
- 3O Dylan van Gemert – for his giving to all in 3 Orange!
- 3G Lachlan Jones – for the giving and generous nature he showed towards his Kindergarten buddy for next year!
- 3P Carson Barrett – for showing tolerance towards others!
- 3P Tim Sixt – for showing consideration towards others!
- Music/French Clara Thornton – for her giving spirit and preparedness to help and share during French and Music!

Well done children!

**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 10.00am

- St Andrew’s Nimmitabel
  - Christmas Vigil Mass—24 December at 9.00 pm

- St Mary’s Adaminaby
  - Christmas Vigil Mass—24 December at 6.00 pm
  - Christmas Day Mass—25 December at 8.00 am

- 2nd Rite of Reconciliation for Christmas
  - Tuesday 20 December 7:30pm St Patrick’s Church

**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. 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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**UNIFORM STALL**

The uniform stall will be open on Friday the 9 December 2011 from 2.00 pm.

**P&F News**

- **COOMA RACES:** We had perfect sunny weather as our local community celebrated one of the social highlights on the calendar the Sundowner Cup last Saturday. The P&F extends its appreciation to the Cooma Race Club Committee and Mick Schofield for allowing us to cater at this event. We are fortunate to have in our school community parents who so generously give up their time to volunteer at these events. I would like to thank everyone who helped out in any way! This event boosts our financial bottom line which will pave the way for these monetary funds to be used for recurrent and educational resources in 2012 for both our Primary and Secondary Campuses.

- **2012 AGM:** The P&F will hold its AGM in February. The exact date will be known at the commencement of Term 1. We are looking forward to seeing some fresh and enthusiastic parents to enhance our P&F Executive in a number of key areas, so please join us next year.

- The P&F Executive extends its warmest wishes to all our families during this festive season. We say farewell to the twenty three families who are leaving us this week after their children complete their educational journey at St Patrick’s. Thank you for your contributions, not only to our P&F, but to our local community. Welcome to our new families entering our school for 2012.

- Merry Christmas and have a safe, happy and healthy 2012.

**Erika Statham – P&F President**
WHAT'S ON

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

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

Canteen News

Volunteers
Thursday
Kathy Venables
Friday
Catherine Commons and Rebecca Hain

Thank you to all my amazing volunteers for the support you have given me throughout this year. I look forward to your help in 2012 and would welcome any new volunteers! Please note: due to the picnic day on Thursday 15 December, the last day for canteen this year will be Wednesday 14 December. Thanks again.

Carolyn Hely
Canteen Manager

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: For bookings and enquiries please phone Michelle on 6452 4289 or 0414 880 783.

• Do you want to have fun and learn to Cross Country Ski? Then why not bring your parent to the ‘Come and Try it’ Cross Country day in Jindabyne planned for early next year. More details next term or contact Tina Jones at brumbyjack1@bigpond.com.

• Illawarra Institute of TAFE is moving to a paperless enrolment process in 2012. Information sessions commence at 4.00 pm this afternoon, Wednesday 7 December at the Cooma Campus and Bombala and Jindabyne Learning centres. Visit the website http://www.illawarra.tafensw.edu.au/ or contact Cooma Campus on 6452 0799.

• Worldwide Marriage Encounter: 23 – 25 March at St Mary’s Towers Retreat Centre, Douglas Park; 20 – 22 July at St Mary’s Towers Retreat Centre, Douglas Park, 21 – 23 October at Winbourne, Edmond Rice Centre, Mulgoa. For bookings/details contact: Ardell & Bill Sharpe phone 4283 3435 or wsharpe@bigpond.net.au or visit www.wwme.org.au

• OOSH - Cooma North Children’s Centre (Accredited Service: Child Care Benefit applies - CCB) Now offering before and after school care Monday to Friday 7.30 to 9.15 am and 3.00 to 6.00 pm and vacation care from Monday to Friday 8.30 am - 5.30 pm. Holiday programs available from school office or from OOSH. Phone 0450 127 090 or email ooshcooma@dodo.com.au.