



St Patrick's Parish School

Upcoming events

Thursday 5 Dec

Playgroup 9am

Primary Leadership

Speeches 2.30pm

Saturday 7 Dec

Cooma Races Catering

Monday 9 Dec

K-6 Swimming

Tuesday 10 Dec

K-6 Swimming

Yr 10 Picnic Day

Colour Connect Day

Wednesday 11 Dec

K-6 Swimming

Yr 10 Graduation Dinner

Parent Help morning tea

11am

Address:

Murray St

Cooma NSW 2630

Phone:

02 6452 1721

Website:

[https://](https://stpatascooma.nsw.edu.au)

stpatascooma.nsw.edu.au

Facebook:

[https://](https://www.facebook.com/StPatsCooma/)

[www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/StPatsCooma/)

[StPatsCooma/](https://www.facebook.com/StPatsCooma/)

Office hours:

8.30am-3.30pm

Dear St Patrick's Community

There is rarely a day goes by without something wonderful happening at St Patrick's. **This newsletter particularly highlights some of most recent happenings:** for an ex-student, Emma Locker (see letter inside), for our Year 8 students, as they found 'altitude' in the mountains, for the German classes, for the swimming program, for our Thanksgiving Liturgy, for the work of the Community Council... **it is a long list!**

But first! This week marks the beginning. **It is officially the beginning of the Church year and the beginning of Advent, our preparation time for Christmas.** Fr Mick has eloquently written on this topic and his words are included inside this newsletter. Please give yourself some time to read and digest. He speaks from the heart and encourages us all to 'be alert' for the special time ahead.

As I write this, I can hear children's joyful noises in the Parish Centre, as they make their **Advent Wreaths** for their families. Our Parish is very grateful to our teachers (especially Mrs Summerville and Mrs Wilkins) who join with parishioners to help make **Children's Liturgy during Sunday Mass** a warm, welcoming and gentle way to learn more about the Scriptures. Next Sunday, they will be making a Nativity diorama. Everyone is welcome to join in at the 10am Mass. It is truly joyful!

Yours in Advent

Frances Robertson

Principal





From the AP's desk

Jesus, you came to this world with dreams and hopes that God has for all of us. Your message to love God and to love one another went unheeded by many people during your time on earth. Our world shows us many examples of a lack of love. Help us to hear your message of love and forgiveness. You forgave because you understood. Help us to turn to you when we find it hard to forgive. Amen.

Please continue to keep all our Reconciliation candidates and their families in your prayers as they celebrate this Sacrament.

Steve Joyce
Assistant Principal

A letter from an Ex-student

Dear St Patricks Parish School Cooma,

It is with great honour that I am emailing to inform my old school that **I was recently awarded a New Colombo Plan Scholarship**. The New Colombo Plan is an initiative of the Australian Government funded by DFAT and the scholarship is amongst the most prestigious that university students in Australia can receive.

During my time at St Patrick's (2004-2014), there were a number of teachers that saw my potential and encouraged me to use my unique set of skills to put my best foot forward in facing the challenges of my education and career path. When I proceeded in my education at St Mary Mackillop College in Canberra, I took many of the values and skills that I learnt at St Pat's and used them to propel myself to where I am today. I would like to thank the teachers that contributed to my education and I hope you continue to foster encouragement and ambition in each one of your students today. I was never an outstanding student; however, I was taught to find my passion and fight for it. **I have done this through strength in gentleness and I am pleased to say that it has led me to this achievement.**

I hope to be undertaking an internship with the Pacific Islands Secretariat Forum within the Security sector in Fiji and studying Policy Studies at the University of the South Pacific. I will be in Fiji for 1 year and 3 months.

Sincerely,
Emma Locker.



Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

These were the themes given to the students to create a visual representation that could be used on the Snowy Monaro Regional Council rubbish trucks. Students from St Patrick's were the winners and they received recognition this week from the Mayor, Mr Peter Beer. The school was also the winner of the brand new Buddy Bench, which was made from recycled soft plastics.



First Sunday of Advent Yr A Fr Mick's Homily



Be alert, not alarmed. That is the message in today's Bible readings. Being alert is when we stay awake so challenges don't take us by surprise. Being alarmed is when we allow challenges to surprise us, taking away our hope.

Advent is our time to both, desire the return of Christ as he promised and to prepare for the Feast of Christmas when Christ was born as a humble baby in Bethlehem.

Both meanings of Advent need our full and undivided attention. In desiring Christ's return we prepare his way, just as Mary and Joseph prepared for his birth. They gave their hope and trust to God as he led them on the remarkable journey of Mary's pregnancy through the power of the Holy Spirit. God made their faith blaze, allowing them to work through any doubts and questions. God wants to make our faith blaze so that we can clearly see how to prepare our hearts during Advent. Work through any questions and doubts you may have and experience the same courage and strength that Mary and Joseph found.

Jesus needs us to be Apostles of courage and hope in our daily world.

There are so many adults and children who need to know that Christ has come already, to bring God's gifts of mercy and peace for all. They also need to know that one day he will return. When he does return he will look for people of faith and trust. Let us be, for our generation, those people of faith and trust. Let us share, particularly with people searching for faith, the love, mercy and peace of God.

How do we do that?

To be true apostles of Jesus today, we live lives as St Paul tells us in the Second Reading. We remain ready for God to prompt us in reaching out to others with the Good News. For the poor, we share with them the joy of Christmas by making sure they have the necessities of life and then some, for the ignorant we share the meaning of Christmas. For the children, we make sure they know that Christmas is about Jesus coming as a baby to grow and show us how to love God.

Our world needs us and the message of our faith this Christmas. Make sure your Christmas cards include your prayer for your friends, make sure your home has a Christmas Crib on display, make sure you tell your children and grandchildren the reason for the star atop the Christmas tree.

Be alert to the simple things you can do to share the two messages of Advent and then you won't be alarmed when Christmas comes, you will be full of hope that you have done the best to live the truth about Christmas.



It's Advent time, so it's a perfect time for the students to make Pfefferkuchenhaus in their German classes.



Christmas Market

An opportunity for any parishioner to make and sell Christmas goodies. The markets will be held over two weekends, 7, 8, 14 & 15 December. A book table with books from the Catholic Bookshop in Canberra will be one of the tables. No need to book a table, just turn up with your Christmas offerings and display them on a table outside church. THIS IS NOT A SECOND-HAND SALE, NEW/HANDMADE GOODS ONLY.

Cooma Carols in the Park
Friday 13 December at 7pm.
Singers needed at 6.30pm

Road to Bethlehem—Step back in time

Participate in the story of the first Christmas. Canberra Christian School, 64A Ainsworth ST Mawson ACT. 15-17 December 6pm-9pm. More info and **free** tickets: <https://www.trybooking.com/BFFPV>

Christmas Cribs Display 11-15 December

See a fascinating display of cribs from around the world. 200 cribs on display. 11-13 December. - 2.30pm-4pm, 14-15 December 9am-7pm. St Margaret's Hall, Cnr Antill Street & Phillip Avenue, Hackett ACT. Contact Keith by email; linard.keith@gmail.com for more details.



**Year 8 have
thoroughly enjoyed
their Altitude camp!**





Year 8 Altitude Camp





Year 8 Altitude camp at Thredbo



Year 8 Camp

Wednesday and Thursday saw Year 8 students enjoy their camp experience, a trip to the top of Australia.

On the way to the top of 'The Bluff' to the start of the walk, the teachers and students caught the 'Kosciusko Express' chairlift to the top where we stood at the 'Eagles Nest.' 'Eagles Nest' is a centre where ski patrols can treat patients before taking them down to the medical centre. Tourists can dine in the two restaurants there named 'Eagles Nest Restaurant', and 'Bull Wheel Bar and Bistro'. There are restrooms in this location as well. On the chairlift, we saw many different flora and fauna, including echidnas.

The walk to Mt. Kosciusko was a real roller coaster. When we first arrived at the start of the walk, it was extremely cold and windy. We had to put on our jackets right away. As we began the trip and ventured deep into the mountains, we could see all the snow covering mountains, rocks and grass like a blanket. It was beautiful. It was so snowy that at some points of the journey, the path was covered in cold, slippery snow

and we had to walk and slide across it. Almost everyone was slipping and falling. Usually, when we got up to a certain point, we took breaks to wait for the others behind and regain our strength so we could power through. When we came to a stop called Rawson's Pass, Mr Lawley whispered to half of the group, giving us the idea to throw snowballs at the other half of the group. We pelted them with snowballs, which obviously spurred them into action. A snowball fight was born! After that, we continued our journey. From then on, some of us became tired, with our legs aching, wanting to give up. But we didn't. We made it to the top of Mt. Kosciusko and looked down at the scenic view from up above. We were astounded. How could this beautiful landscape filled with snow-covered, towering mountains and flowing rivers possibly be Australia? It felt unreal.

During the night, we enjoyed many fun and relaxing activities. There were some fun ones like 'Electricity' where you had to stand in a line, send a shock by squeezing someone's hand to get to the end of the line, 'grab a cup' and do the 'lip sync battle'. That was the highlight of the night. We all had fun and everyone got into it. The best groups by far were the teachers and Jack B, Mitchell B and Mitchell R. All in all, it was a great night and we had lots of fun.

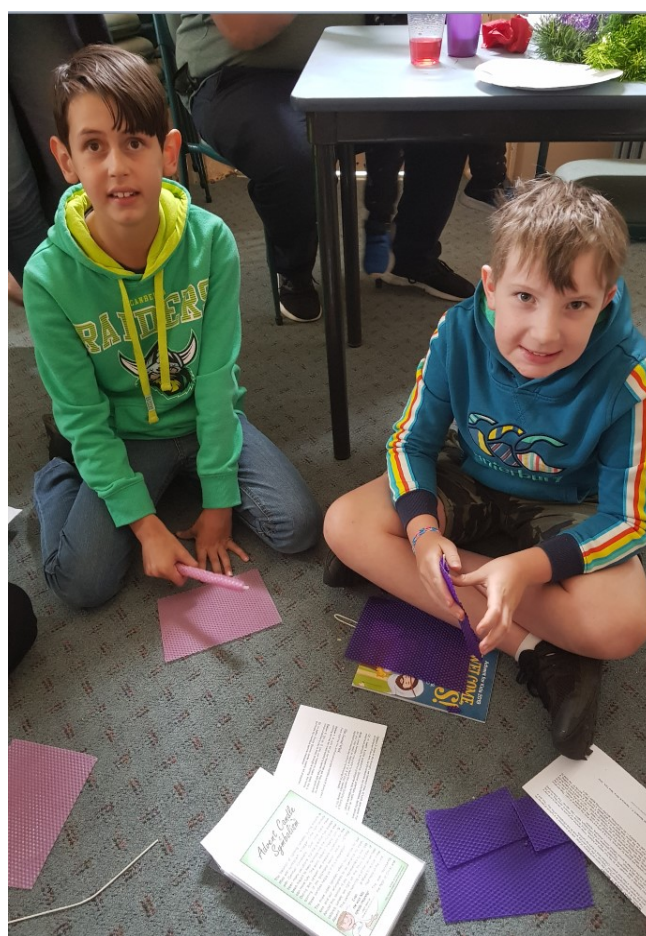
The cabins at Thredbo had a reasonable amount of space. There were single bedded bunks within the rooms, which had a hardwood floor. One room had a double bed with a single bed bunk. It was a nice relaxing place to lie down to sleep or talk to friends. It was a good environment and had window access for fresh air.

On the second day of Year 8 camp, we went to the Leisure Centre. The Leisure Centre is a facility that has a pool and a gym. In the pool area they have a waterslide that runs into a small heated pool, then on the other side there is a bigger pool that isn't heated but which has a 'Mission Inflatable'. The 'Mission Inflatable' device is a floating obstacle course and the record on it was 5.9 seconds. Everybody really enjoyed the Leisure Centre.

It was a very relaxing camp and I think that all years should be able to experience this camp. Our thanks go to Mr Lawley, Mrs Daley and Mrs Harris for giving us such a great opportunity.

Year 8 Students





On Sunday morning, all the children who joined in the Children's Liturgy at the 10 am Mass then went over to the Parish Centre to make an Advent wreath for our families. We used beeswax to roll and create the candles and then placed them on the green wreath. We created three purple and one pink candle to represent the four weeks of Advent. Each week we will light one candle at home. **Willow Joyce Year 5**

Invitation

Christmas is a very exciting and hope-filled time for most children, with many excited about school holidays and presents.

Advent helps us to focus on the true meaning of Christmas and to see the signs of God's light and hope as we move toward the joy of the birth of Jesus .

St Patrick's Parish invites all families to take this Advent journey with us in December through **Children's Liturgy at 10am Sunday Mass**, followed by morning tea and some fun family activities.

Sunday 1st December: Wreath Making!

Join us for Children's Liturgy, morning tea and create a family Advent wreath together!

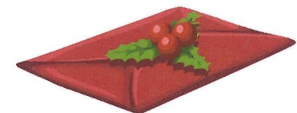


Sunday 8 December: Follow the Stars!

Join us for Children's Liturgy, morning tea and creation of a nativity diorama.

Sunday 15 December: Sharing and Caring!

Join us for Children's Liturgy and bring a plate sharing your Christmas favourites for morning tea and create Christmas cards to share our thoughts and joy with housebound parishioners.



Any parents or children who enjoy craft or cooking are enthusiastically invited (and very welcome) to assist with the activities or to contribute a plate to morning tea.

If you are able to help please contact:

Tarian Dixon on (mobile) 0420 574696 or speak to Mrs Wilkins or Mrs Summerville at St Patrick's School.

On Friday, we helped Mr Southwell place the telescope and steering wheels in the boat. Mr Southwell still needs to put up the flagpole and the plank.

We were very excited to play in it when he finished. All the classes are very happy to have a boat to play in.

We would also like to say a big 'Thank You' to Mr Southwell for getting our boat ready, and to Boris's dad for painting it, and to Charlotte's dad for making our boat stable. Thank you to the working bee parents who prepared the boat. We love it!

Sebastian, Bailey and Sam Year 1



The Boat is coming!



Maths Learning

Classrooms are for active learning and that is what we are doing.

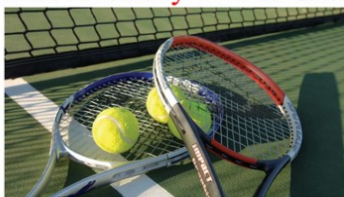
This Year, the Year 2 class is responding to the 'turn and talk' instruction during a Maths lesson with our specialist Maths consultant, Matt the Mathematician (Matt Sexton, a lecturer from the Australian Catholic University in Melbourne).



COOMA CHAMPS TENNIS



School Holiday Tennis Camp



Come along and have loads of fun
Win great prizes,
while learning lots about tennis

ROYAL TENNIS CLUB COST:\$120

BBQ LUNCH

Bring along swimmers for some water fun

CAMP 1 : Mon 23-Tues 24 Dec, 2019. 9AM-3PM

CAMP 2 : Wed 8 – Thurs 9 Jan, 2020. 9AM-3PM

CAMP 3 : Wed 15 -Thurs 16 Jan, 2020. 9AM-3PM

CAMP 4 : Wed 22- Thurs 23 Jan, 2020. 9AM-3PM

ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHER AVAILABLE

We are now taking bookings for Term 1, 2020

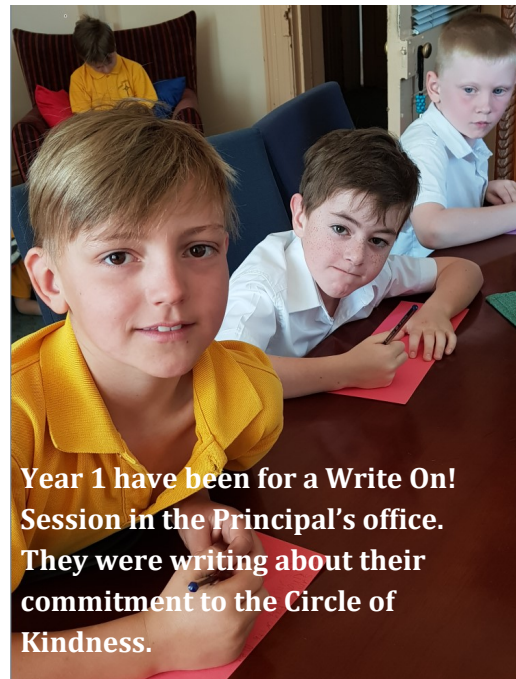
Please contact Tom Perea : 0404838049

Qualified Tennis Australia Coach, ATPCA Accredited, Active Kids
and Sporting Schools certified.



The School Holiday Learn to Swim Program will be held from Monday 6 January till Friday 17 January.

Bookings are now being taken. All levels will be catered for. Squad Camp will run from Monday 6 January to Wednesday 8. From 10.00 am to 2.00 pm. Lunch and Morning tea will be provided. Places will be limited to the squad camp so book early. Please call Michelle 0414 880 783 or email michellethomas7@bigpond.com for bookings.



Year 1 have been for a Write On!
Session in the Principal's office.
They were writing about their
commitment to the Circle of
Kindness.

It is important for students to be aware that aerosol cans are not allowed at school.

Spraying aerosols can have a dangerous effect on those suffering from asthma and other respiratory issues.

Please ensure that your children do not bring these to school, so we can avoid any unfortunate situations.



Semester 2 Reports will be distributed on Friday 13th of December for K-9 students. If students are not at school that day, parents may make arrangements with the office to collect at a later date.

Reports would not normally be available prior to that date.

Year 10 students will receive their reports at their Graduation Mass.

eSafety Tech Gift Guide

Recently the Office of the eSafety Commissioner launched their new website. It is still full of great information, support and resources, plus even more!

Just in time for the joyful season of giving that is Christmas, they have released a Gift Guide, providing valuable insight into the latest tech and gadgets, answering questions you might have on privacy related issues with various tech and what to watch out for when buying gifts for tech savvy youngsters.

Visit <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/gift-guide> for more information.

Gift Guide

Be smart and secure when choosing tech gifts for children and young people.



Drones



Smart Toys



Virtual Reality



Smartphones



Tablets



Wireless headphones and gaming headsets

