



St Patrick's
Catholic Primary School

PREP TO YEAR 6
P. 07 4152 1380

35 Mulgrave St
Bundaberg West, QLD

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

31st January 2025

Pope Francis has proclaimed this Jubilee year to be hinged on the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope'. This mantra certainly has rung true this week, as we welcomed over one hundred wonderful new students to join our St. Patrick's family. These students, including 73 Preppies and their families, have settled in well and we know they will add light and shade to our St. Patrick's story. Whilst we have no new teachers, we welcome back Mrs. Christina Brimelow, Mrs. Shaye Curd from Maternity Leave, and Mrs. Claire Baillie and Mrs. Sara Salmond from family leave. Macey Egan has also joined our community as a Techer Assistant. Macey is a past student of Shalom College and in her third year of a Bachelor of Education.

Our school motto is 'Seek Higher Things'. At assembly we broke this idea open, challenging students to not only aspire to achieve great things, but to assist others to do the same. When asking students how we could achieve this, the response was to 'spread the green'. You may have heard this saying from time to time. It is even written on our new drink taps, as a daily reminder. It is a simple phrase we use to describe the 'St. Patrick's Way'. It's the little things we aim to do to make this place a great place. This is the responsibility of us all.

This year we endeavour to explore this idea further. When we think 'green' the following come to mind; new sprouting growth, shamrocks, St. Patrick's, Ireland and the ideal 'Zone of Regulation' for optimal student learning. Catherine McAuley and her Sisters of Mercy 'spread the green' all the way from Ireland to Australia and ultimately St. Patrick's, to enable those most vulnerable to 'Seek Higher Things'. The Mercy Education Values are Compassion, Justice, Hospitality, Respect, Service and Courage. This year we will be looking to witness 'Mercy Moments' occurring around the school and in our community. These examples will be used to educate students more fully about the Mercy charism and what it means to 'spread the green' as a vehicle to 'Seek Higher Things'.

It has been heart warming to see so many smiling faces bouncing in and out of our school gates. This week our Prep's have been able to transition to school by choosing an optional early finish. Next week, Prep students may be collected at 2:45pm, 15 minutes early, while grades one to six are business as usual, with all students completing the full day. Attendance is integral to learning. Late starts/early finishes, whilst sometimes unavoidable, are disruptive to class learning. I thank you in advance for the effort I trust you will make in this space. They say it takes a village to raise exceptional human beings, and we certainly are blessed to be walking this journey, filled with hope, together.

Mercy Education Values
An education in the Mercy tradition invites us to take up a challenge – one that encourages us to develop fully our own God given talents.
At the same time, it enkindles within us a desire to assist others, so that they too 'may have life, and have it to the full.'
John 1:9

- COMPASSION**
Mercy receives and pardons again and again over the unrepentant.
Quentin Mawhood, Sister of Mercy
As God's chosen ones, clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience.
Phil Letter of Paul to the Colossians 3:12
- JUSTICE**
The poorest need help today, but more work.
Pauline Mawhood of Catholic Relief Agency
Walk in the way of righteousness, along the path of justice.
Isaiah 61:1
- HOSPITALITY**
A great engineering is of great importance. You must never come here with visitors, your clothes belong to them and they, because they are here.
Pauline Mawhood of Catholic Relief Agency
- RESPECT**
Three things the poor prize more highly than gold: the just word, the gentle conversation, and the patient hearing of their sorrows.
Pauline Mawhood of Catholic Relief Agency
But we regard to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those (who labour) among you.
Phil Letter of Paul to the Thimotheus 5:12
- SERVICE**
It is for God we serve the poor, not for money.
Pauline Mawhood of Catholic Relief Agency
Serve one another with whatever gift you have received.
1 Peter 4:10
- COURAGE**
Stand in your moral convictions and always act with courage.
Letter of James to the Brethren, 5:1-10
Very often, your faith is your faith, for courage, for strength, for love of God and for Christian life.
Mercy Education



Click our school crest to go our school website



Click the Parish logo to go to the Parish website



Click the Facebook icon to go to our Facebook page



Absentees

4994 8336

spb_absentees@rok.catholic.edu.au

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS CONTINUED

Parking in the Mulgrave Street Administration Carpark has been specifically designed for a Pickup and Drop Off Zone and parents are asked not to park in this area from 7:45am – 8:45am and 2:45pm – 3:30pm, as parking and reversing severely disrupts the pick-up and drop off process during these times. Staff are encouraged to park in this area to take pressure off Mulgrave Street, as most will be at school before and after these designated times. **The only exception is for our families who use our designated disabled carparks.** Whilst parking along Mulgrave Street please be respectful of residents, keeping their driveways free. George Street is used for bus pick-up and drop-offs only, again for safety reasons. If you have older students catching a bus from Shalom College, please collect your St. Patrick's student from the safety of Mulgrave and Powers Street first. George Street has no designated Zebra Crossing and with the growth in the number of students using this exit for public transport, we need to safeguard this area for our students. Thanks for your co-operation, co-ordination and support.



Congratulations to Mrs. Susan Krebs who received a plaque of recognition for serving 20 years of commendable service as an OSHC Assistant under the Catholic Education banner. It was wonderful to recognise Susan and the work she does for our community at Shalom College last week.



Kim O'Shea-Hard

PUPIL FREE DAY

Pupil Free Day

Please note the
Pupil Free Day
this term is Friday
21st February

ST PATRICK'S 2025 START OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS

OPENING SCHOOL MASS

Years 2-6

9am in the Church

Friday, Feb 7 2025



LEADERSHIP INDUCTION LITURGY



Whole School

9am in the Multi

Friday, Feb 14 2025

Pilgrims of Hope: The Year of Jubilee

Pope Francis said the 2025 Jubilee is a time to “rekindle our hope,” not only for our children but also for ourselves.

Welcome to this year of Jubilee. Traditionally, a Jubilee year in the Catholic Church is proclaimed after every 50 years.

It is an economic, cultural, environmental and communal reset, when the land and people rest. In biblical times, this was a year of releasing people from their debts, releasing all slaves and returning property to those who owned it. This year was fully dedicated to rest. During this year, the Israelites were not supposed to reap or harvest; it was a time for people to spend quality time with their families and loved ones.

Within the reality of our life today in a world of complex relationships, Jubilee is an expression of God’s desire for all of creation to flourish. It is a model for a community living well so that they can thrive both as individuals and as community and, in so doing, shine as a light to the rest of the world.

To begin our community celebrations, we invite you to come along to our **Opening School Mass** (9am, Feb 7 in the Church) and our **Leadership Induction & Prayer** (9am, Feb 14 in the Multi). This is always a lovely way to start the year, acknowledge our leaders and set ourselves up for a positive year ahead.

Tracey Cook

APRE



PREP 2026 ENROLMENT INFORMATION

Enrolments for Prep 2026 are already filling fast. If you are an existing family and haven't yet enrolled a child/children eligible for Prep 2026, please do so as soon as possible to ensure he/she is given priority. Should you know of others who are hopeful of beginning their St. Patrick's journey in 2026, please forward on this information.

ABSENTEES

Any student absentees should be notified to the office by 9:00am each day. Students arriving later than 8:40am should enter through the office to collect a late slip for the classroom teacher. If no notification has been received, an absentee text message will be sent out to parents each morning to advise the student absence.

Absentees can be lodged through our Parent Orbit app or emailed to spb_absentees@rok.catholic.edu.au or by phoning 4994 8336.



ABSENTEEISM

Every day counts

MOST STUDENTS ATTEND SCHOOL EVERY DAY

It's important that children are at school all day, every day 📖📚📎📅

OK reasons to stay home from school

- sick
- natural disasters

It's **NOT OK** to skip school to shop, sleep in, finish an assignment, go on holidays

EVERY DAY AT SCHOOL COUNTS

Missing even 1 day can make a difference

1 day off school each fortnight = Missing more than a year of learning over 12 years

Each day's learning builds on what has been learnt before

Good attendance begins in Prep It's where good habits begin

ATTEND ALL DAY, EVERY DAY

Each 1% increase in student attendance may relate to 2-3 NAPLAN scale score points. *Based on historical data.

What parents can do

- Promote the importance of school
- Get to know the teacher
- Go to school events
- Read the school newsletters
- Be organised at home
- Supervise homework
- Ask about your child's day
- Volunteer to help at school

Get involved in your child's school

WOULD YOU LET YOUR CHILD MISS A YEAR OF SCHOOL?

One day off each fortnight is equal to missing more than a year of schooling by the end of Year 12 for your child.

A reminder to our families to develop good habits with your child by ensuring they always attend school, unless there is a reasonable excuse. The more time your child has at school, the more likely they will achieve in their learning.

For more information Go to the Every day counts website: <https://education.qld.gov.au/initiatives-and-strategies/initiatives/every-day-counts>



OTHER UNIFORM POLICY

A kind reminder below about our grooming and jewellery:

HAIR

- All students**—Minimum cut is gauge 2 and no shorter. All hairstyles are to be natural in colour, conservative and graduated/blended in style. NO tracks, shaved patterns, mullets, 'horseys' and/or rat's tails are permitted. Part-line haircuts are acceptable with the fringe to be cut above the eyes.
- Boys** hair is to be collar in length and short on sides. Styles to be worn off the face and the fringe to be cut above the eyes.
- Girls** hair below shoulder length must be tied back with white, bottle green, white or black hair bands, ribbons, hair ties and clips. All styles must be worn off the face and the fringe to be cut above the eyes.

JEWELLERY

- Chain with cross or religious medallion under shirt/dress.
- Girls Earrings – one pair of studs or sleepers to be worn in the lobe of the ear (not permitted for boys).
- Additional body piercings are not permitted for any student. Culturally significant piercings must first be discussed with the Principal prior to procuring.
- Rings, bracelets and non-religious necklaces are not permitted.
- Make-up and nail polish are not permitted.

OTHER UNIFORM POLICY—SPORTS HATS



Please be reminded that our new Sports Bucket Hats are only to be worn when your child wears their sports uniform and not to be worn with the formal uniform.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NEWS 2025

Instrumental music lessons commence next week (Week 2). Lessons days are as follows:

Monday - Year 4

Tuesday and Wednesday Year 5 & 6

Timetables are almost finalised and once complete, further information about the Instrumental Music Program along with timetables will be emailed home for your information.

Could students please bring their instrument to school on the relevant day next week for their lesson.

Rehearsals for Junior and Senior string ensembles will commence in Week 3.

Junior & Senior Choir rehearsals commenced this week. Both Senior Choir and Junior Choir will be held before school every Wednesday morning as noted below. New students are most welcome to join a choir, no auditions are held and everyone is welcome.

If you have any questions about the music program please enquire with the front office.

Junior Strings Ensemble	Monday	7.30am-8.30am
Senior Choir Ensemble Years 4-6	Wednesday	7.30am-8.00am
Junior Choir Ensemble Years 1-4	Wednesday	8.10am-8.35am
Senior Strings Ensemble	Tuesday	7.30am-8.30am



TUCKSHOP NEWS



School tuckshop opens Monday to Thursday as of next week. Please see the menu for the full list of options available for 2025. Each Friday tuckshop will also operate our Friday Sausage Sizzle.

All orders can be placed via QKR app on mobile devices before 8.15am each day.

Follow the [St Patrick's School Tuckshop Bundaberg](#) Facebook page for up to-date information.

BUNDABERG DISTRICT U12 SCHOOL SPORTS TRIALS—2025

Trial information will be advised in the school's newsletter each week detailing trial information for upcoming individual and team events.

Gaining selection in a Bundaberg District Team is the first step on the pathway to representing Wide Bay and Queensland. To represent Bundaberg District, students must be born 2013, 2014 & 2015 (only exceptional 10 year old students will be given permission to trial in team sports). The majority of team sport trials occur in February and March.

Please be aware of the following points:

- Team sports are selected in an U12 category and it is very unlikely that a 10 year old student would be selected, with the exception of Rugby League. Rugby League selects students in U10, U11 and U12 categories due to the contact nature of the sport.
- Bundaberg District trials are not 'have a go' trials. St Patrick's has a responsibility for sending students who we feel display high ability in the chosen sport and a high level of behaviour.
- Students wishing to trial must have a consent form issued by the school with authorisation from Mr Plumb, Ms Gollshewsky or Mr Egan. Students will not be able to participate in the trials without a ***Bundaberg District Primary Schools nomination form.***
- Cross Country and Athletics nominations will be made by the school after our school carnivals. Swimming & Aquathlon are the exceptions – Wide Bay School Sport are responsible for the selection of these teams.

BUNDABERG DISTRICT SPORT TRIALS

WIDE BAY SCHOOL SPORT

SWIMMING



Swimmers must be born 2014, 2013 & 2012. The 2025 Queensland 10-12 Years Schools Swimming Championships will be held at Chandler Aquatic Centre, Brisbane over 23 – 25 March.

Parents must ensure to submit nominations by survey link by Monday 17th February.

Students selected will be notified directly on the parent email provided.

Nominate via this link

10-19 Years Nomination

<https://survey.qed.qld.gov.au/n/dBghgB1> or QR code



10-19 Years Multi-Class Nomination

<https://survey.qed.qld.gov.au/n/dLghJ4D> or QR code



OUT AND ABOUT



AusBike

AGES 5 - 12



A new national program, designed by Australia's peak cycling body, AusCycling, is running at Bundaberg Cycling Club.

AusBike gives kids the essential skills to experience the freedom, fun and adventure of life on a bike.

AusBikers are safe & active kids!
Our accredited coaches will help build your child's competence and confidence on two wheels...and who knows where their love of riding will take them?!



REGISTER NOW

The AusBike program has been developed with the support of the Australian Government through the Australian Sports Commission.



UPEFC COME & TRY DAYS



8TH & 9TH FEB
8AM - 10AM

- ✓ Skills & ball techniques
- ✓ Footwork exercises
- ✓ Strategy & teamwork exercises
- ✓ Fun games & trial matches

All new and returning players aged 5-13 years are welcome to come & try football at UPEFC.

FARTHING PARK TRAINING GROUNDS
25 Marks Street, Bundaberg North

Where football meets friendship!

More Information
email: contactupefc@gmail.com



ALL BLACKS HOCKEY COME & TRY SAT 1 FEB 9-11

FREE - FUN - FITNESS



**BUNDABERG HOCKEY
FIELDS**

TERM ONE PLANNER

WEEK 1	Week 27th January-31st January		
Monday	AUSTRALIA DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY		
Tuesday–Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	Mrs Cook & Friends
WEEK 2	Week 3rd February-7th February		
Tuesday–Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	5P
Friday	Opening School Mass	9.00am	Years 3-6
WEEK 3	Week 10th February–14th February		
Tuesday–Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	5S
Friday	Year 6 Leadership Induction	9.00am	Whole School
WEEK 4	Week 17th February–21st February		
Monday	Parish Mass	9.00am	Year 6
Tuesday–Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	6M
Friday	PUPIL FREE DAY		
WEEK 5	Week 24th February–28th February		
Monday	Parish Mass	9.00am	Year 1 & 5
Tuesday–Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	6S
Wednesday	Ash Wednesday	8:40am	Whole School
WEEK 6	Week 3rd March–7th March	Time	Year Level
Monday	Parish Mass	9.00am	Year 3
Tuesday–Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	6A
WEEK 7	Week 10th March–14th March	Time	Year Level
Monday	Parish Mass	9.00am	Year 4
Tuesday–Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	2N
WEEK 8	Week 17th March–21st March		
Monday	St Patrick's Day Liturgy	9.30am	Whole School
Tuesday–Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	2C
WEEK 9	Week 24th March–28th March		
Monday	Parish Mass	9.00am	Year 2
Tuesday–Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	2W
WEEK 10	Week 31st March–4th April		
Monday	Palm Sunday	8:40am	4M & 4K
Tuesday	Last Supper	8.40am	4F
Wednesday	Good Friday	8.40am	5S
Thursday	Easter Prayer	9:00am	Year 6 & Prep
	Easter Hat Parade	10:00am	Prep to Year 3
	Mini Fair	11:15am	Whole School

2025 SPORT DATES

	Junior Obstacle Course	Prep to Year 2	St Patrick's
	Cross Country	Years 3 to 6	Shalom College
	Senior Athletics Day	Students born 2016, 2015, 2014 & 2013	Shalom College
	Junior Athletics Day	Students born 2020, 2019, 2018 & 2017	St Patrick's
	Swimming Carnival	Years 3 to 6	Bundaberg

2025 TERM DATES

TERM 1	Monday 28 January - Friday 4 April
TERM 2	Tuesday 22 April - Friday 27 June
TERM 3	Monday 14 July - Friday 19 September
TERM 4	Tuesday 7 October - Friday 5 December