



PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

25th January 2024

Last week, we had a productive week in preparation for the year ahead. Our week involved a myriad of compliance training, as the safety of our staff and students is paramount. We were also afforded an opportunity to unearth and engage in the new Australian Curriculum (Version 9) whilst also exploring practical ways to connect students, families and staff to our Catholic Identity. My favourite part of the week was the short window offered for students to do their 'Book Drop' and to meet their new teachers. The enthusiasm of students, who danced through the school gates, reminded me of how drab and lifeless schools are without the presence of our young people. It was lovely to see so many happy faces and hearts bursting with excitement, anticipation, and big hopes for the new school year.



At the culmination of our Professional Development Week, we celebrated a combined opening Staff Mass at Shalom, led by St. Patrick's. This was also an opportunity for long serving staff members to receive awards. Annette Hammermeister, Donna Delaney and I received Commendable Service Awards for 73 Years, collectively. When you read this, I would have been on Long Service Leave for a week, which comes from the privilege of working long term for one employer and I am very grateful that we are afforded this in Australia. How fortunate to have someone as experienced as Annette to deputise and a Leadership Team that I know will have ensured a strong start to the year. We also welcome back an extra set of experienced hands, in the shape of past Principal, Mr Mark Fox and I hope everyone has had a wonderful start to term.

You will receive this newsletter whilst preparing for a Public Holiday to celebrate Australia Day. Unlike Hot Cross Buns, Australia Day paraphernalia has been visibly lacking on our supermarket shelves this year. Despite how one might feel about the date of celebration, I hope all have the opportunity to take time to be grateful for one thing we appreciate about living in what many describe as the 'lucky country' we call home. It is not only public holidays and Long Service Leave that we can often take for granted in this country. You only need to travel to appreciate how we really do have so much to celebrate in Australia, but each new generation needs to work to keep it the great country we enjoy. Ironically, the 'Lucky Country' was initially used by Donald Horne in his 1964 text. Donald initially coined the term in a negative light, suggesting that Australia had been afforded success due to 'luck' derived from natural resources, fabulous weather and the distance it remained from problems encountered in other areas of the world. In summary, Horne's work made one ponder whether Australia was successful purely due to naturally derived good fortune, as opposed to strong political and economic strategy. Six decades later, I feel globalisation and other challenges thrown our way have forced us to mature as a country and we have developed our own appreciation for the term 'Lucky Country' which will continue to ebb and flow between future generations.

One of my favourite, yet challenging, quotes from Pope Francis (2013) is 'the world tells us to seek success, power and money; God tells us to seek humility, service and love'. I think in a world that often measures success in this way, it is important for our students to leave our Catholic schools with the knowledge and skills necessary to encounter worldly success, whilst holistically nurtured to graduate with the latter, as these characteristics will often make all the difference. In my opinion the skills required for young people to develop humility, service and love are the skills that will continue to make Australia the 'Lucky Country' for all of the right reasons.



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

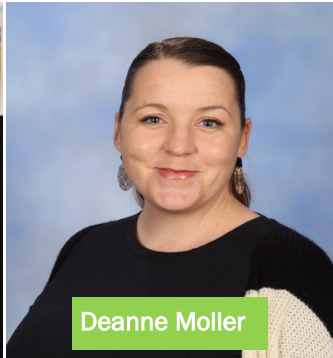
spb_absentees@rok.catholic.edu.au

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS CONTINUED

I was impressed at how well our year has started with teachers working together to enhance the teaching and learning process for the betterment of their students. This year we have a strong team with few staff changes. We welcome back Zana Hook and Claire Baillie who have returned from maternity leave and Deanne Moller who has transferred from St John's Gladstone. Deanne brings a wealth of knowledge to St Patrick's as an experienced classroom teacher, with a background in Learning support. This year we have also been successful in attracting two CAP (Career Assistant Program) Teacher Assistants in the shape of Bianca Maultby and Jessie Richards. Bianca and Jessie are both in their third year of teacher training and we will be part of their professional journey for the remainder of their teaching degree. Jessie and Bianca both come to us with a breadth of experience in working with young people and are recognised as the 'cream of their crop' in being awarded a place on this program, so we feel blessed to have assigned them to Prep S and 3L this year. These young educators will learn so much from this experience, but they will also add light and shade to the co-horts they will encounter.



Jessie Richards



Deanne Moller



Bianca Maultby

Next week we will welcome Bishop Michael and the Director of Catholic Education, Leesa Jeffcoat. They will ascend on St Patrick's at 11:30am and they both look forward to engaging with our wonderful community.

I hope this first week has been a great one for you and your children. I look forward to seeing where 2024 will take us and especially welcome any new families who have joined our St. Patrick's family for the first time.

PS: We have changed one of our school bell chimes to a tune closely related to this years' school musical 'Madagascar'.

Kim O'Shea-Hard

PUPIL FREE DAY



Please note the
Pupil Free Day
this term is Friday
16th February

START OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS

ST Patrick's 2024

Start of year celebrations

Opening School Mass

YEARS 3-6

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2 2024

9AM IN THE CHURCH



Leadership Induction Liturgy



WHOLE SCHOOL
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9 2024
9AM IN THE MULTI

ADMINISTRATION NEWS



ADMINISTRATION CARPARK

Parking in the Mulgrave Street Administration Carpark is for staff only. This carpark has been specifically designed for a Pick Up and Drop Off Zone and Parents are 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. The only exception to this is for our families who use our designated Disabled Parks in the staff carpark.

ADULT TOILETS

Visiting adults and toddlers **ARE NOT TO USE** student toilets within St Patrick's during school hours or while attending school functions after school hours (e.g. Welcome Dance Night). If you require toilet facilities while on campus during school hours, then please seek direction from Administration staff to use the staff toilets in A Block. If attending a school function after school hours, then the Church Hall toilet facilities will be made available for adult and toddler use. Your cooperation and attention to this matter is greatly appreciated to ensure and enhance the safety of our students.



PICK UP PROCEDURES

Please be aware of the following points when collecting students from the three exit points of our school – Mulgrave, Powers & George Streets.

Staff supervision duties end at all three exits at 3:20 pm. Gates will be locked at this time. The Mulgrave Street gate remains open for families accessing Outside Hours School Care (OHSC).

If you arrive after 3:20 pm and find gates locked, then proceed to the School Office on Mulgrave St as students who have not been collected before this time will be directed by the teacher on duty to proceed to the Administration building.

We fully understand that parents may be delayed on occasion, although this should not be a regular occurrence. Outside Hours School Care is provided by our school for parents who regularly cannot collect students before 3:20 pm. The contact information for OHSC is Claire O'Connell (0417 199 586). It should not be the expectation that our office administration staff supervise your child regularly.

George St (Bus Gate): This is predominately an exit gate for bus students. It is an extremely busy duty and your help to make this area as safe as possible for our students is greatly appreciated by considering the following:

If you choose to park and collect your child from George St, then it is expected that you meet your child at the gate and walk them to the car. Staff will not permit your child to cross George St unaccompanied.

If you park and wait for older siblings to arrive by bus from Shalom, then we ask that your child/children who attend our school and waiting in the pick-up area, are collected and supervised by you in your vehicle at 3:00 pm.

Only students catching buses at 2:45 pm are permitted to leave their classrooms on the bus bell. It has been noted that some children are being collected by parents before 3:00 pm at the George St exit. If you wish to collect your child before 3:00 pm, then you are expected to sign out your child from the front office. Please do not instruct your child to meet you at the gate before 3:00 pm.

SPORTS DAY DATE CLAIMERS

Junior Obstacle Course	Friday 26th April	Prep to Year 2	St Patrick's
Cross Country	Monday 29th April	Years 3 to 6	Shalom College
Senior Athletics Day	Friday 14th June	Students born 2015, 2014, 2013 & 2012	Shalom College
Junior Athletics Day	Friday 21st June	Students born 2019, 2018, 2017 & 2016	St Patrick's
Swimming Carnival	Friday 29th November	Years 3 to 6	Bundaberg

BELL SCHEDULE 2024

This year we have introduced an additional specialist lesson for all classes which will focus on Health in Term 1 with Mrs Baillie, and Technology in Terms 2-4 with Mrs Lindeman.

To cater for this change, we have adjusted our bell and lesson times accordingly. An outline of the schedule has been attached for your reference.

First Bell	8:35am
Session 1	8:40am – 10:50am
Lunch Play	10:50am – 11:10am
Lunch Eating	11:10am – 11:30am
Session 2	11:30pm – 1:30pm
Afternoon Tea	1:30pm – 1:50pm
Session 3	1:50pm – 3:00pm
Bus Bell	2:45pm
Finish	3:00pm

ABSENTEES

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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 emailed to spb_absentees@rok.catholic.edu.au or by phoning 4994 8336.



SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY—HATS

A reminder to all families that the formal hat is to be worn with either the formal uniform and/or sports uniform.

The optional sports cap is only to be worn with the sports uniform. Thank you for your ongoing support with our school uniform expectations.



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NEWS 2024

Instrumental music lessons commence next week (Week 2). Please check your inbox as information has been sent out outlining individual/group lesson times and your allocation of music tutor.

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-8.10am
Junior Choir Ensemble Years 1-4	Wednesday	8.15am-8.35am
Senior Strings Ensemble	Thursday	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 2024. 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.

E-SAFETY PARENT WEBINAR

As we welcome 2024, we also open the door to new online risks and opportunities which may raise some parenting challenges:

When is the right time for them to use social media?

How do I have better conversations with them about gaming?

How can I support them if they experience online abuse?

Our [free parent webinars](#) can help. Each webinar is designed to improve your understanding and response to online challenges your child may face.

The webinar topics include:

eSafety 101: How eSafety can help

Understanding how to support your child with online gaming

Understanding parental controls to safeguard your child

Online safety and social media: TikTok, YouTube and Instagram

Join us for our first webinar on 7 February, and continue to support your child in having a safe online experience in 2024.



BUNDABERG DISTRICT U12 SCHOOL SPORTS TRIALS—2024

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 2012, 2013 & 2014 (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 Annette Hammermeister. 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

GOLF

Boys & Girls Trials: Nominations close on Friday 1 March. A golf handicap will be required for nomination purposes. Please see Annette Hammermeister if interested or for more information.



WIDE BAY SCHOOL SPORT

SWIMMING

Swimmers must be born 2014, 2013 & 2012. The 2024 Queensland 10-12 Years Schools Swimming Championships will be held at Chandler Aquatic Centre, Brisbane over 26 – 28 March.

Parents must ensure to submit nominations by survey link by Monday 19th 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/bDRh03w> or QR code



10-19 Years Multi-Class Nomination

<https://survey.qed.qld.gov.au/n/dLgh4QE> or QR code



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS RACE DAY

ENJOY A DAY OUT AT THE
BUNDABERG

Catholic Schools

RACE DAY 2024
CELESTIAL CELEBRATION



OVER
18
EVENT

SATURDAY 16 MARCH 2024
THABEBAN PARK RACECOURSE
MARQUEE GATES OPEN AT 11:30AM

Limited tickets available!
on sale 5 February

Admission \$80

INCLUDES ENTRANCE TO THE MARQUEE
PARTY, 2 FREE DRINK TICKETS,
FINGER FOOD & A BUS TO THE CBD



*Tickets go on sale
Monday 5 February via the link*

[https://www.trybooking.com/
COQMY](https://www.trybooking.com/COQMY)

★ FASHION PARADE
★ HUGE RAFFLE

TERM ONE PLANNER

WEEK 2	Week 29th January-2nd February		
Tuesday–Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	5G
Friday	Opening School Mass	9.00am	Years 3-6
WEEK 3	Week 5th February–9th February		
Tuesday–Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	5M
Friday	Year 6 Leadership Induction	9.00am	Whole School
WEEK 4	Week 12th February–16th February		
Monday	Parish Mass	9.00am	Year 3
Tuesday–Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	6S
Wednesday	Ash Wednesday	8:40am	Whole School
Friday	PUPIL FREE DAY		
WEEK 5	Week 19th February–23rd February		
Monday	Parish Mass	9.00am	Year 1 & 5
Tuesday–Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	6M
WEEK 6	Week 26th February–1st March	Time	Year Level
Monday	Parish Mass	9.00am	Year 3
Tuesday–Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	6K
WEEK 7	Week 4th March–8th March	Time	Year Level
Monday	Parish Mass	9.00am	Year 6
Tuesday–Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	2N
Thursday	Dance Night	5:00pm	Whole School
WEEK 8	Week 11th March–15th March		
Monday	Parish Mass	9.00am	Year 4
Tuesday–Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	2L
Thursday	St Patrick's Day Liturgy	9.00am	Whole School
WEEK 9	Week 18th March–22nd March		
Monday	Parish Mass	9.00am	Year 2
Tuesday–Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	2C
WEEK 10	Week 25th March - 29th March		
Monday	Palm Sunday	8:40am	4M & 4K
Tuesday	Last Supper	8.40am	4F
Wednesday	Good Friday	8.40am	5G
Thursday	Easter Prayer	9:00am	Year 6 & Prep
	Easter Hat Parade	10:00am	Prep to Year 3
	Mini Fair	11:15am	Whole School

2024 TERM DATES	
TERM 1	Monday 22 January - Thursday 28 March
TERM 2	Monday 15 April - Friday 21 June
TERM 3	Monday 8 July - Friday 13 September
TERM 4	Monday 30 September - Friday 6 December