



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

15 August 2025

This week, **Courtyard Prayer** was led for the final time by 6H. Aria W. shared a reading from John 14:27: ***"Peace I leave you; my peace I give you."*** This reading, and the message in Year Six's prayer, reminded me that when translated, Jesus' chosen words would have included *shalom*—the Hebrew word often translated as "peace," but carrying a much richer meaning.

*Shalom* encompasses:

- **Peace** – both an inner calm and harmony in relationships.
- **Wholeness** – being complete and unbroken.
- **Well-being** – physical, emotional, and spiritual flourishing.
- **Harmony** – balance within a community or the wider world.

When we connect *shalom* to student belonging and connectedness, it can symbolise:

- A safe and welcoming environment where students feel valued.
- Mutual respect and trust between students, staff, and families.
- Unity in diversity, where differences are embraced as part of the whole.

A shared sense of purpose and care, creating a community where everyone can thrive.

In this sense, *shalom* isn't just the absence of conflict—it's the presence of deep relationships that are not always perfect, but restorative in nature. These are at the heart of fostering belonging in a school community.

When I worked at Shalom College, people would often ask why a Catholic college would be given such a name. Reflecting on the deeper meaning of *shalom*, it suddenly seems perfect—capturing the very essence of what any Catholic community aspires to enhance. Creating this sense of connectedness and belonging is not always easy. It takes time, intention, and constant reflection on whether we are truly hitting the mark. But I believe this vision—the hope for each member of our community—is what gets us up in the morning.

At this week's Board meeting, Mr Ben Pollock was scheduled to share the opening reflection. Often, we share a text, research, wondering, piece of scripture or something that has inspired us. This time, Ben wrote his own heartfelt [reflection](#), which he has generously given permission to share in this newsletter.

Ben spoke of his youngest child soon graduating from St. Patrick's and how it is the end of an era for his family. He acknowledged the challenges that face society today, celebrated our collective wins, and encouraged us to look ahead with optimism in preparing our young people—not just for the next stage of school, but for life. His words resonated deep within me, as it brought to mind the familiar Catholic Education catchcry ***"Together we can make a difference"***. I would encourage you to take the time to read Ben's reflection. I have also provided a copy for staff to read. It saddens me to hear of teachers leaving the wonderful profession of education, due to not feeling respected or appreciated. Ben's acknowledgement of a ***'collective commitment as being the foundation for everything we achieve'*** recognises those in our community willing to go the extra mile to offer a 'holistic' education. How blessed we are to receive words of celebration and appreciation. The media would have us believe this doesn't occur everywhere.



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**Absentees**

4994 8336

[spb\\_absentees@rok.catholic.edu.au](mailto:spb_absentees@rok.catholic.edu.au)

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Year 6H also took the opportunity to make staff feel appreciated at the culmination of their 'final' Courtyard Prayer gifting each one with a crystal heart (see picture below) ***'a small gift with big meaning'***. I think the God given gifts mentioned might be the ones Ben speaks of from his own St. Patrick's experience, challenging us to continue 'to grow, connect and to shine in ways that go far beyond the classroom curriculum'.

I thank Ben for his many years of service to the Board, and also acknowledge Brendan Croft, Bree Watson and Yesmin Dever, who will also see their youngest child graduate this year. 2026, will see vacancies on our Board. I encourage parents to consider nominating those in our community that you believe would value-add to this significant parent body by e-mailing the School E-Mail address. The Board not only gives insight into what is important to our parent and extended local community, they also allow me to seek counsel, support and sometimes guidance on all things 'St. Patrick's'. Thanks for the part all members of our community continue to play to make this a great place to learn and be!



**Kim O'Shae-Hard**  
PRINCIPAL



### The Assumption of Mary – A Celebration of Faith and Hope

Today, **15 August**, we celebrate the Solemnity of the *Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, one of the most beautiful feasts in our Church calendar. This day reminds us of Mary's special place in God's plan, and her deep "yes" to His call.

The Assumption tells us that at the end of her life on earth, Mary was taken body and soul into heaven. This is not just a story from long ago - it is a message of hope for all of us. Mary's Assumption reminds us that God's promise of eternal life is for everyone who follows Jesus with love and faith.

Mary is a model of trust, humility, and service. She said "yes" to God without knowing all that it would mean, and she walked every step of her life with courage and compassion. The Assumption invites us to live like Mary - open to God's will, ready to help others, and always keeping our eyes on Jesus.

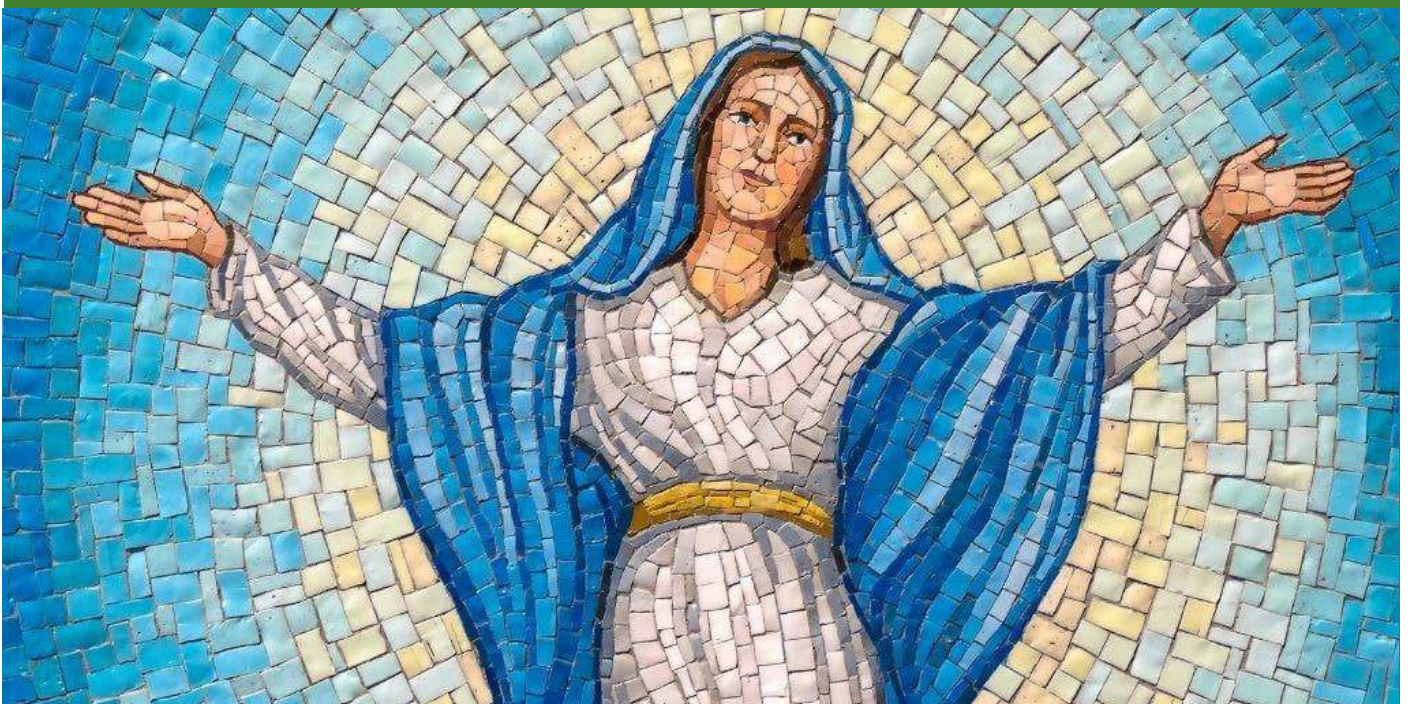
As Pope Francis reminded us:

"Mary's Assumption into heaven is the great hope of humanity."

To honour Mary on this feast day, we pray to God asking him to guide us, protect us, and help us to live with the same faith-filled heart that Mary showed throughout her life.

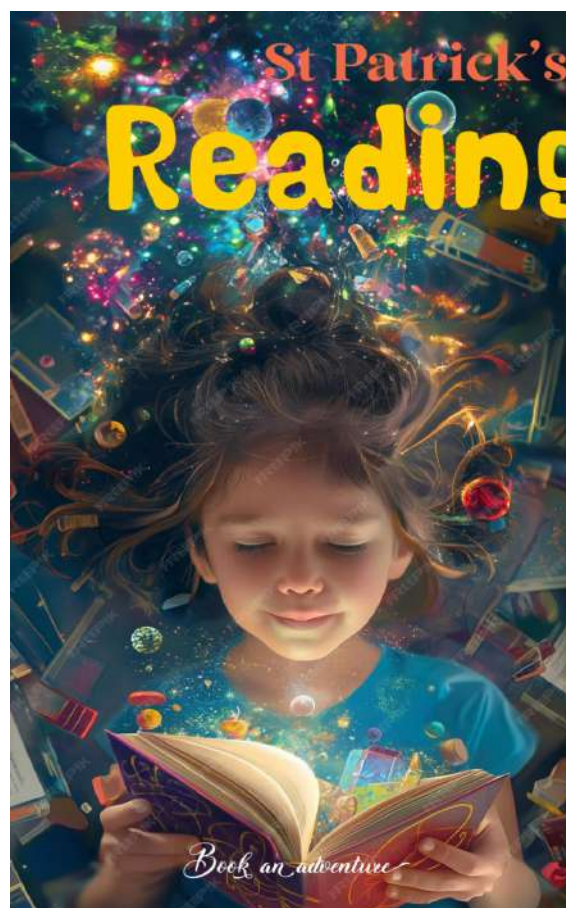
**Tracey Cook**

APRE





## BOOK WEEK—READING ON THE DECK



St Patrick's 2025 Book Week Event

# Reading on the Deck

FRIDAY AUG 22

10.30AM ON THE JUNIOR OVAL

BRING ALONG YOUR PICNIC RUGS OR CHAIRS TO  
JOIN IN THE FUN.

STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO WEAR AN ACCESSORY (OR THREE)  
TO SCHOOL AS A HINT FOR OTHERS TO GUESS WHAT THEIR  
FAVOURITE BOOK IS . . . WHAT WILL YOURS BE?

SAUSAGE SIZZLE AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS AND  
FAMILIES \$2 PER SAUSAGE



## SPELLING BEE

# ST PATRICK'S 2025



**When: Monday September 15 (Week 10, Term 3)**

**Where: Maker Space**

**Who: Years 1-6**

MRS COOK WILL VISIT CLASSES IN WEEK 9 FOR NOMINATIONS

## HELP YOUR CHILD NAVIGATE CYBERBULLYING

From mid-December, Australian children under 16 will not be allowed to hold accounts on certain social media platforms. The age restrictions are likely to apply to Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, TikTok and YouTube, among other platforms. Online gaming and standalone messaging apps are among a number of types of services that have been excluded.



This week is **Bullying No Way: National Week of Action** (11-15 August). Parents and carers have an important role to play in preventing and addressing bullying online, here are 7 ways to support them.

1. **Reassure them** that you're here for them and that you won't take away their devices.
2. **Listen without judgement** when they open up.
3. **Collect evidence** of the bullying, like screenshots and URLs.
4. **Help them report it** to the platform or social media site. Read [The eSafety Guide](#) for advice on how to do this on specific platforms.
5. **No response?** Report it to [eSafety.gov.au/report](https://www.esafety.gov.au/report).
6. **Update their privacy settings** [across devices and accounts](#).
7. **Encourage and help them** to reach out for [support](#).

## FATHER'S DAY LITURGY 2025

# St Patrick's **FATHER'S DAY** Liturgy 2025

**Thursday Sept 4  
9AM in the Multi**

Please send your "dad and me" pics to [spboffice@rok.catholic.edu.au](mailto:spboffice@rok.catholic.edu.au) by September 1st to be included in the presentation.





# SPORTS NEWS

## District Track and Field Athletics 2025

Well done to all our athletes who represented St. Patrick's at this year's District Carnival. All athletes put in 100% effort striving for personal bests.

This year St. Patrick's won the A Schools Ball Games Trophy after the girls team won both the tunnel ball and leader ball events.

Our girls shone over the two days resulting in St Patrick's winning the Nell Curren Trophy for the school achieving the highest points tally in GIRL events.

A big thank you to Ms. Gollshewsky, Mr. Plumb and Mr. Zandona for all their efforts both preparing students with training and at the carnival. Well done St Patrick's!

## Individual Highlights

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Sophia K    | 9 Years 80m - 1 <sup>st</sup> A Schools, 1 <sup>st</sup> Overall<br>Broke the 2004 District Record (11.85 seconds)                                    |
| Immogen K   | 10 Years 100m - 1 <sup>st</sup> A Schools, 1 <sup>st</sup> Overall<br>10 Years 200m - 1st A Schools, 1st Overall<br>10 Years 800m - 2nd A Schools     |
| Essie M     | Multi Class success - Long Jump, 800m, 100m   |
| Sophia L    | 11 Years 800m - 2nd A Schools, 3rd Overall  |
| Emerson D   | 9 Years 80m - 2nd A Schools, 1st Overall  |
| Chase L     | 10 Years 100m - 2nd A Schools<br>10 Years 800m - 3rd A Schools<br>10 Years Long Jump - 3rd A Schools, 3rd Overall<br>10 Years High Jump - 2nd Overall |
| Kelan E     | 11 Years 800m - 2nd A Schools, 2nd Overall  |
| Charlotte H | 12 Years Shot Put - 2nd A Schools   |
| Hyeyong J   | 12 Years Long Jump - 1st A Schools  |
| Anderson K  | 12 Years Discus - 1st Overall<br>12 Years High Jump - 3rd Overall   |
| Layla G     | 10 Years Long Jump - 3rd A Schools, 3rd Overall   |
| Annabelle H | 10 Years Shot Put - 3rd A Schools   |

## Team Highlights

|                             |                           |   |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Girls 9 Years 4x80m Relay   | 1st A Schools 1st Overall | Sophia K, Madelyn C, Mahalia M, Marli Z |
| Boys 9 Years 4x80m Relay    | 3rd A Schools 2nd Overall | Emerson D, Jate J, Alex D, Harry A      |
| Girls 10 Years 4x100m Relay | 2nd A Schools 2nd Overall | Immogen K, Georgia S, Milla P, Layla G  |
| Girls 11 Years 4x100m Relay | 2nd A Schools             | Ariana E, Maddy M, Sophia L, Laynee M   |
| Girls 12 Years 4x100m Relay | 3rd A Schools 2nd Overall | Giorgi P, Hailee A, Kanzie S, Ivy L     |
| Girls Tunnel Ball           |                           | 1st A Schools 2nd Overall               |
| Girls Leader Ball           |                           | 1st A Schools                           |



Congratulations to Chase L, Immogen K, Layla G, Kelan E, Anderson K, Essie M and Charlotte H for their selection in the Bundaberg District Track and Field Athletics Team.

Good luck at the Wide Bay Trials!

## SMART WATCH POLICY—REMINDER

### Smartwatch Policy

Smart watches are not permitted at St Patrick's. They are not only expensive but difficult to control as they present privacy issues to the school. Smart watches are considered to be watches with any of the following features.

- Wi-Fi or 3G/4G connectivity
- Inbuilt camera
- Ability to display photos
- Capable of sending or receiving text messages, calls or notifications from another device

*Parents who believe their child has a specific reason for the use of such a device (e.g. medical) are required to make appointment to meet with the Principal to discuss further.*

## OUT AND ABOUT



### West Bundaberg Little Athletics

Bundaberg Super Park Complex  
Enid Ethel Drive

# Season starts 15th August 2025

## Registrations Opening Soon

Watch our socials for more details

- Competition on Friday Nights starting at 5.30pm
- 2 Free come and try nights for new members
- All returning athletes must be financial by 15th August to be eligible to compete

### 2025/2026 Fees

Tiny Tots 3-5yrs - \$75

U6-U17 - \$250

Play On vouchers  
accepted



For further information:

Email: bundabergathleticclub@gmail.com

Instagram:

westbundaberg.lac

Facebook:

West Bundaberg Little Athletics / Bundaberg Athletic Club



## 2025/2026 JUNIOR SEASON REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN

17th October - 17th December

Christmas Break

13th February - 20th March

**Games played on a Friday Night**

Sunday for Double Header games



**Age Divisions: Tiny Touchdowns**  
U8's U10's U12's U14's Teens





**Edmund Rice**  
Community Services

EDMUND RICE CAMPS QUEENSLAND

# REACH CAMP

3 DAY, 2 NIGHT KIDS CAMP IN BUNDABERG

**DROP OFF:**  
SEPTEMBER 30TH, 9AM  
**PICK UP:**  
OCTOBER 2ND, 9AM

## ACTIVITIES:

- MESSY ACTIVITIES
- COOKING & LIFE SKILLS
- EXCURSIONS
- FUN GAMES

**REFERRALS NECESSARY**  
**NO COST**

SCAN THIS QR CODE  
TO START A  
REFERRAL NOW:



REFER HERE: [BIT.LY/ERCOLD-REFER](https://bit.ly/ERCOLD-REFER) OR CONTACT US: 0403185988 OR [ERCOLD@EDMUNDRICE.ORG](mailto:ERCOLD@EDMUNDRICE.ORG)



# TERM THREE PLANNER

|                                |   |               |                       |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------|-----------------------|
| <b>WEEK 1</b>                  | <b>Week 14th July - Friday 18th July</b>          |               |                       |
| Monday                         | Start Term 3 2025                                 |               |                       |
| Tuesday - Thursday             | Tuesday to Thursday - Courtyard Prayer            | 8.40am        | 4F                    |
| Wednesday - Friday             | Challenge Cup                                     | All Day       | Selected Students     |
| <b>WEEK 2</b>                  | <b>Week 21st July - 25th July</b>                 |               |                       |
| Tuesday - Thursday             | Tuesday to Thursday - Courtyard Prayer            | 8.40am        | 4K                    |
| <b>WEEK 3</b>                  | <b>Week 28th July - 1st August</b>                |               |                       |
| <b>CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK</b> |   |               |                       |
| Monday - Wednesday             | Bundaberg Eisteddfod                              | All Day       | Strings & Choirs/Yr 1 |
| Tuesday - Thursday             | Tuesday to Thursday - Courtyard Prayer            | 8.40am        | 4M                    |
| Thursday                       | NAIDOC Celebrations - Shalom                      | 9.00am-1.00pm | Selected Students     |
| <b>WEEK 4</b>                  | <b>Week 4th August - 8th August</b>               |               |                       |
| Monday                         | School Photo Day                                  |               | Whole School          |
| Monday                         | Parish Mass                                       | 9:00am        | Year 3                |
| Tuesday                        | Courtyard Prayer                                  | 8:40am        | Prep S                |
| Wednesday                      | Courtyard Prayer                                  | 8:40am        | Prep L                |
| Thursday                       | Courtyard Prayer                                  | 8.40am        | Prep K                |
| Thursday - Friday              | District Athletics - St Luke's                    | All Day       | Selected Students     |
| <b>WEEK 5</b>                  | <b>Week 11th August - 15th August</b>             |               |                       |
| Monday                         | Parish Mass                                       | 9:00am        | Year 4                |
| Tuesday - Thursday             | Courtyard Prayer                                  | 8.40am        | 6H                    |
| Tuesday - Wednesday            | Prep Vision Screening                             | All Day       | Prep                  |
| Wednesday                      | Year 2 Excursion - Historical Centre              | All Day       | Year 2                |
| <b>WEEK 6</b>                  | <b>Week 18th August - 22nd August</b>             |               |                       |
| Monday                         | Parish Mass                                       | 9:00am        | Years 5 & 1           |
| Tuesday - Thursday             | Courtyard Prayer                                  | 8.40am        | 6M                    |
| <b>WEEK 7</b>                  | <b>Week 25th August - 29th August</b>             |               |                       |
| Monday                         | Parish Mass                                       | 9:00am        | Year 2                |
| Tuesday                        | Patty's Parent Engagement Night                   | 5:30pm        | Parents               |
| Tuesday - Thursday             | Courtyard Prayer                                  | 8.40am        | 5P                    |
| <b>WEEK 8</b>                  | <b>Week 1st September - 5th September</b>         |               |                       |
| Monday                         | Parish Mass                                       | 9:00am        | Year 6 & Prep         |
| Monday - Wednesday             | Year 5 Camp - Chaverim Outdoor Educational Centre | All Day       | Year 5                |
| Tuesday - Wednesday            | Courtyard Prayer                                  | 8.40am        | 6S                    |
| Thursday                       | Father's Day Liturgy                              | 9:00am        | Year 3                |
| Friday                         | <b>PUPIL FREE DAY</b>                             |               |                       |
| <b>WEEK 9</b>                  | <b>Week 8th September - 12th September</b>        |               |                       |
| Tuesday - Thursday             | Courtyard Prayer                                  | 8.40am        | 5G                    |
| Wednesday - Friday             | Year 6 Camp - Hervey Bay/Campialba                | All Day       | Year 6                |
| <b>WEEK 10</b>                 | <b>Week 14th September - 19th September</b>       |               |                       |
| Tuesday - Thursday             | Courtyard Prayer                                  | 8.40am        | 5S                    |

| 2025 TERM DATES |                                       |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>TERM 3</b>   | Monday 14 July - Friday 19 September  |
| <b>TERM 4</b>   | Tuesday 7 October - Friday 5 December |