



PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

27th February 2026

As we enter the second week of Lent, our school community continues to focus on prayer, reflection, and acts of kindness. The sacred season invites us to slow down, look inward, and make space for God in our daily lives.

This week, our Year 5G students led us beautifully in Courtyard Prayer, guiding the school through meaningful Lenten practices - offering small sacrifices, participating reverently in class prayer, and intentionally seeking ways to support one another. Alex proclaimed a reading from the **Gospel of Matthew**, reminding us of Jesus' words: **"Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest"**. Together, we then sang the much-loved hymn **My Lighthouse**, reinforcing the message of hope, guidance, and trust in God's presence.

Later in the week, I had the privilege of encountering a similar message when attending the induction ceremony at **Shalom College**. One of the newly appointed College Captains, Hannah Parton, has been unable to join her peers in person following a serious car accident late last year. Although not physically present, Hannah's written message, read aloud by Mr Brown, was profoundly moving. She reflected on the light that has surrounded her and her family during one of the darkest periods of their lives, making parallels to a lighthouse. Hearing her words brought a powerful, real-world depth to the Gospel message shared earlier in the week, reminding me that Scripture is not just read, but lived.

This reflection feels particularly poignant as we hold in our hearts the many challenges currently being faced by some of our parents and staff. Often, we may not know the full story behind a smiling face, yet Lent calls us to be attentive, compassionate, and gentle with one another - recognising that there is always more beneath the surface. Looking after each other, especially in unseen ways, is one of the most important expressions of our faith.

At the same time, there is a wonderful sense of excitement building as we prepare for Dance Night, to be held on the Oval (George Street end) beginning at 5:30pm. This much-loved event is a joyful celebration of what students have been learning in their PE lessons. Miss Taryn Gollshewsky and the students have been working incredibly hard in rehearsals, and the positive energy around the school is contagious.

Dance Night is not only a celebration of learning, but also a beautiful opportunity to bring our community together at the start of the school year. Families often arrive with deck chairs, blankets, and snacks, settling in for an entertaining and relaxed evening. It reminds us that while Lent is a time of quiet reflection, it is also a time to celebrate life and the gifts God has given us - creativity, community, and joy.

Thank you for your continued support as your children balance both the solemnity of lent and the excitement of preparing for Dance Night. We look forward to sharing this meaningful season and a memorable performance with you in the week ahead.

Kim O'Shea-Hard

PRINCIPAL



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

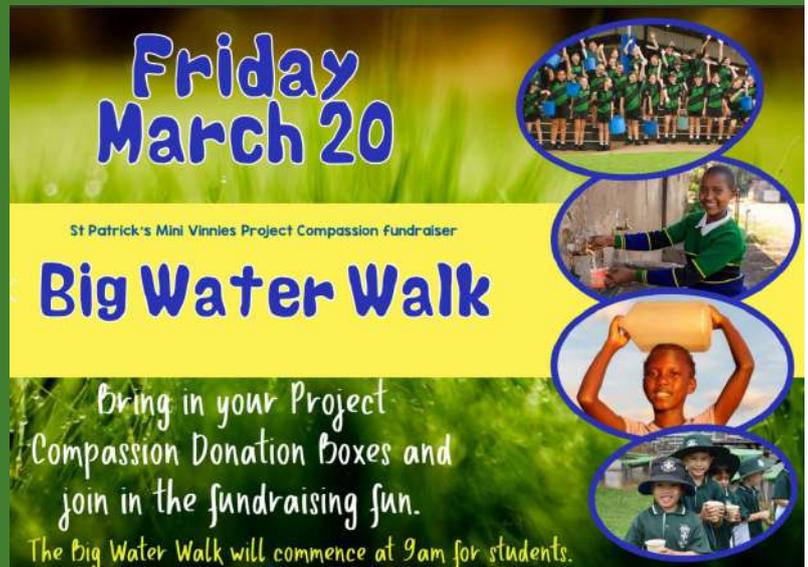
spb_absentees@rok.catholic.edu.au

Big Water Walk

Big Water Walk: Walking Together for Project Compassion

Our Mini Vinnies Team is preparing for an exciting and meaningful school wide event – the Big Water Walk, an initiative to raise awareness and funds for Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. This year's theme, "For All Future Generations", reminds us of the enduring impact of our collective actions.

The Big Water Walk (**Friday March 20**) will aim to highlight the daily struggles faced by millions of people worldwide who walk long distances to access clean water. By walking in solidarity, we will gain a powerful insight into their challenges while taking action to make a difference.



Walk for Change

Students Water Walk (**Friday March 20**) will aim to highlight the daily struggles faced by millions of people worldwide who walk long distances to access clean water. By walking in solidarity, we will gain a powerful insight into their challenges while taking action to make a difference.

Walking for Change

Students and staff will participate in the walk, carrying water to symbolise the journey that so many must undertake every day. The event will be an opportunity to reflect on our shared responsibility to care for our global family, as taught by Catholic Social Teaching.

Through this initiative, we hope to raise much-needed funds to support Caritas Australia's life-changing programs. These efforts will help provide clean water, sanitation, and resources to vulnerable communities in remote Tanzania, allowing individuals to thrive and build a brighter future.

This week your child will have come home with a small donation box to find a few coins to put in during Lent. We ask that these boxes be returned on the day of our Big Water Walk to add to our fundraising tally.

Gratitude and Hope

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude in advance to everyone who will participate, donate, or support the event in any way. Your generosity will embody the Gospel values of compassion, service, and solidarity.

Together, we can live out our faith and make a tangible difference in the lives of others. Let us walk alongside those in need and work towards a world where clean water is accessible to all.

To learn more about Project Compassion and how you can support its mission, visit Caritas Australia's website www.caritas.org.au.

Thank you for being part of this journey of hope.

Tracey Cook

APRE

ATTENDANCE—EVERY DAY COUNTS

THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL FOR YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT CANNOT BE UNDERSTATED.

At St. Patrick's we encourage families to send their children to school every day. We understand children get sick and issues occur which can affect school attendance.

If your child is unable to attend school, the Diocese requests families notify the school. **A quick call prevents your child's absence from being marked as "unexplained."** No notification means school resources are often spent contacting families seeking explanation for absence.

We appreciate your support by continuing to inform the school about your child's reason for absence via **spb_absentees@rok.catholic.edu.au** or the **Orbit app**.

If there is an absence of which you are aware that is for **10 days or more**, families can complete the Diocese "Request for Extended Leave" form. These can be accessed at the school front office.

Please note, family holidays would not be granted an exemption.

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 newsletter
- Be organised at home
- Supervise homework
- Ask about your child's day
- Volunteer to help at school

Get involved in your child's school

For more information

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

May 2021

Queensland Government

BOOK CLUB

Book club catalogues have been sent home with your child this week. All orders need to be made **ONLINE via LOOP payment** on the Scholastic website, as no cash orders can be accepted.

Please go to www.scholastic.com.au.

All orders are due by **Wednesday, 11 March**.

As soon as orders are dispatched to us, we will then send home with your child.

\$5 savings for Families and Schools!

Online orders earn a **\$5 DISCOUNT CODE** included with order confirmation to spend on our next Issue.

Conditions apply. Book Club promotion valid on LOOP Orders only. Teacher Essentials promotion valid on Book Club ordering platform orders only. Offer is redeemable once per Issue when you spend \$19.50 on Issue 2. 1% surcharge applies to card payments.

A MESSAGE FROM E-SAFETY

Keeping children safe on major gaming platforms



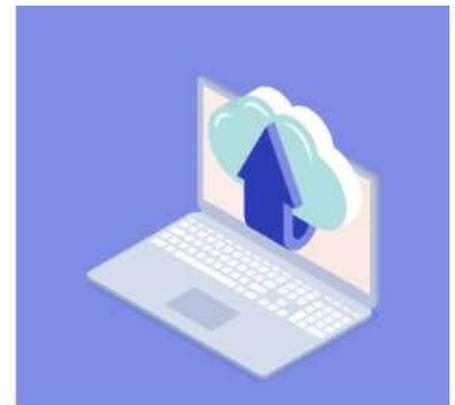
We recently notified Roblox - one of the most widely used online gaming environments for children - of our intention to directly test the platform's implementation and effectiveness of the nine safety commitments it made to us last year.

This action follows growing concerns, including from the Australian Government, about online child grooming and sexual exploitation.

Our proactive testing aims to ensure platforms are meeting their commitments and doing their part to create safer online spaces for children and young people .

While regulatory action is vital, **we also know families may need practical support** to help children enjoy online games safely and confidently in everyday life.

That's why we've developed the **gaming toolkit** - a collection of easy-to-use resources designed to help you encourage your child to have these positive experiences, while helping to protect them from risks and exposure to harmful content.



PREP ENROLMENT FOR 2027



St Patrick's
Catholic Primary School

PREP TO YEAR 6
P. 07 4152 1380

35 Mulgrave St
Bundaberg West, QLD

Enrol now for Prep 2027



Scan
QR Code
to apply.

Applications made by **27 April 2026**
will be guaranteed an interview.

Join us **Patty's Walk-Through:**
19 March @ 9:30AM

DANCE NIGHT—THURSDAY 5 MARCH

DANCE NIGHT

Thursday, 5 March

THEMES

PREP & YEAR 1



SUPERHEROES

YEAR 2, 3 & 4

**SKELETONS
(OR BLACK)**



YEAR 5 & 6



DANCERS

GATES OPEN @ 5PM FOR 5:30PM START ON THE OVAL
PLEASE BE MINDFUL OF OUR NEIGHBOURS AND REFRAIN
FROM PARKING AT THE BOWLS CLUB.



SENIOR CROSS COUNTRY



Time to get ready for the 2026 St Patrick's Senior Cross Country Carnival at Shalom College on **Monday 27 April 2026**. Year 3-6 parents would have received an email notification to nominate which event your child will compete in at the carnival.

Nominations need to be made **by Monday, 23 March** via [Parent Orbit](#) for students born in 2014, 2015 and 2016 - for either the competitive 3km/2km OR 1km Fun Run event. All students born in 2017 and 2018 will compete in a 1km event. Parents are welcome to support their child/ren during this event.

SPORTS NEWS

BUNDABERG DISTRICT U12 SCHOOL SPORTS TRIALS—2026

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 2014, 2015 & 2016 (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.

BDSS Sport	Age Group	Date	Venue	Time
Students will only be allowed to participate when completing and handing in the forms to the coach/manager at the trials. Note: Tennis is an all day trial. Supervision provided by the Tennis Convenor and Parents (no St Patrick's staff present).				
Football	Girls	Born 2014, 2015 and 2016	12 & 19 March	Shalom College 4:00pm - 5:30pm
Football	Boys	Born 2014, 2015 (exceptional 2016)	10 March (only 2015 & 2016) 12 March (only 2014) 19 March (all boys invited back)	Shalom College 4:00pm - 5:30pm
Touch	Boys & Girls	Born 2017 or 2015 (only exceptional 2016)	20 March 27 March	Shalom College Bundaberg Touch Grounds 3:30 pm - 5:00pm
Tennis	Boys & Girls	Bon 2014, 2015 and 2016	9 March	Rotary Park Tennis Centre (69 George Street) 8:45am—3:00pm

TERM 2 SPORT—YEAR 5 AND 6

During **Term 2, Year 5 and 6 students** will spend five Friday afternoons participating in Inter-School Sport. Next week students will choose which sport or activity they would like to participate in. **Please discuss these options with your child so they can make the best choice for them next week.**

- Boys Soccer
- Netball - Boys & Girls (Limits on boys numbers)
- Rugby League - Boys & Girls (Boots & mouthguard required)
- Pickleball - Boys & Girls (Girls given preference in Term 2)
- At School Activities - Boys & Girls



Bundaberg

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Race Day 2026

50/50 Raffle

MINIMUM PRIZE \$1,000!

Admission \$85: <https://www.trybooking.com/DJHIZ>

BUNDABERG CATHOLIC SCHOOLS RACE DAY

50/50

RACE DAY RAFFLE

WIN
MINIMUM

\$1000

FOR JUST
\$10

YOU COULD WIN 50% OF
THE RAFFLE EARNINGS!

*The more tickets sold,
the BIGGER the prize.*



RAFFLE DRAW DETAILS

14 March 2026

4:00 PM

Bundaberg Race Club

BUY TICKETS NOW!

<http://www.raffletix.com.au?ref+m5nsr>

OUT AND ABOUT

NOW RECRUITING!



**Australian Air League
BUNDABERG SQUADRON!**

- ◆ Aviation Education
- ◆ Drill & Marching
- ◆ Flying & Gliding

Cadets Ages 8 – 18 Years
Seeking Adult Volunteers



Expressions of Interest sought
Help Us Relaunch in 2026
Register Your Interest Today

✉ info@airleague.com.au ☎ 1800 502 175

Come and see what we are all about!

REGISTER NOW
georgecowiefootball.com.au



WELCOME TO THE
MARK NOBLE ARENA

**WEST HAM UNITED
FOUNDATION**

AUSTRALIA ID CAMPS

10.00AM - 2.00PM, THU 9TH & FRI 10TH APRIL

HERVEY BAY SPORTS CLUB
133-149 Tavistock St, Torquay, Qld 4635

Open to boys and girls aged 7-16 years old
Bring a packed lunch, water bottle and shin pads.

COST
\$230

INCLUDES GST + CAMP SHIRT
(SECOND FAMILY MEMBER \$130)

Two WHUF coaches will attend every camp. Players will be selected to attend the Australia National Camp on the Gold Coast in September. Further selection from National Camp to visit the club in London on a UK Development Tour.



**Woolworths
BRICKS**

**Help Our School Collect
Woolworths Bricks!**

Our Learning Support Team is creating fun, hands-on resources to make learning even more engaging—and you can help!

When you shop at Woolworths or Big W, please collect the Woolworths Bricks (building blocks) and drop them off at the school office.

Every contribution helps us build engaging learning activities for our students.

Thank you for your support!



**CENT
SALE**

The Catholic Women's League

Invite you to join in

St Patrick's Day Celebrations, Tuesday 17th March

at the
Brothers Sports Club

featuring

- * Musical Entertainment
- * Devonshire Morning Tea
- * 4 Lucky Door Prizes (Vouchers)
- * Cent Sale
- * Raffles

- **Doors Open: 9.00am**
- **Cost: \$10.00 - Pay at the Door on the Day**
- **Bookings by: Tuesday 10th March 2026**
- **Contact: Olga: 0414 513 395 or Carol: 0447 766 123**

Proceeds to: "Local and Australian Charities"

TERM ONE PLANNER

WEEK 1	Week 26th January-30th January		
Monday	AUSTRALIA DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY		
Tuesday	Term 1 Commences	8.40am	Whole School
WEEK 2	Week 2nd February-6th February		
Monday	Opening School Mass	9.00am	Years 3-6
Tuesday—Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	5P
WEEK 3	Week 9th February—13th February		
Tuesday—Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	5S
WEEK 4	Week 16th February—22nd February		
Monday	Parish Mass	9.00am	Year 6
Tuesday—Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	6L
Wednesday	Ash Wednesday	8:30am	Whole School
Friday	PUPIL FREE DAY		
Sunday	Children’s Mass—St Patrick’s Mass	9:00am	All welcome!
WEEK 5	Week 23rd February—27th February		
Monday	Parish Mass	9.00am	Year 3
Tuesday—Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	5G
WEEK 6	Week 2nd March—6th March	Time	Year Level
Monday	Parish Mass	9.00am	Year 5 & 1
Tuesday—Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	6B
Thursday	Dance Night on oval	5:30pm	Whole School
WEEK 7	Week 9th March—13th March	Time	Year Level
Monday	Parish Mass	9.00am	Year 4
Tuesday—Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	6F
WEEK 8	Week 16th March—20th March		
Tuesday	St Patrick’s Day Liturgy & Yr 6 Leadership Induction	9:00 am	Whole School
Wednesday—Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	2W
WEEK 9	Week 23rd March—27th March		
Monday	Parish Mass	9.00am	Year 2
Tuesday—Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	2S
WEEK 10	Week 30th March—3rd April		
Monday	Palm Sunday	8:40am	4K & 4B
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	11:00am	Whole School
	Term Concludes	3:00pm	Whole School

2026 TERM DATES	
TERM 1	Monday 27 January - Thursday 2 April
TERM 2	Monday 20 April - Friday 26 June
TERM 3	Monday 13 July - Friday 18 September
TERM 4	Tuesday 6 October - Friday 4 December