



St Patrick's
Catholic Primary School

PREP TO YEAR 6
P. 07 4152 1380

35 Mulgrave St
Bundaberg West, QLD

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

10th October 2025

This week our Year 6 Mini Vinnies group lead us in Courtyard Prayer, hinged on the idea that we are all anchored to live collectively under 'God's Beautiful Rainbow'. (Genesis 9:13-17) reminds us that just like the colours of the rainbow, each person brings their unique gifts, and together, we can reflect the beauty of God's creation. God's covenant with Noah reminds us that we are all part of His promise of love, hope, and unity when working at our best.



Last term we received an e-mail congratulating us on the wonderful achievements of our Year 5 students in exceeding expectations in their NAPLAN earlier this year. Since Year 3, this group of students improved 2.1 points above the expected growth in Writing, 4.3 points in Spelling and 9.1 points in Grammar and Punctuation. The data also showed how we had not only exceeded Diocesan and State Means, but the National Average in 4 of the 5 areas assessed as illustrated here.



We were asked to consider what 'hunches' we had around why the growth of this co-hort from Year 3 to 5 was so significant, to assist not only us, but other schools in their quest for student improvement. The Teachers and the Board engaged in the data and observations were explored. However, after listening to the Year 6's Rainbow Prayer, I can't help but think that this significant NAPLAN growth of our Year 5 cohort is a testament to the dedication and commitment of every stakeholder—teachers, support staff, parents, leadership, DCEO and of course the students themselves. It reflects the collaborative partnership that our community aspires to foster, where everyone is united in their mission to nurture each child's potential. Data is just one piece of information, but important when setting future goals and to help guide the decision making process.



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Absentees

4994 8336

spb_absentees@rok.catholic.edu.au

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE (CONTINUE)



Then, on the last day of Term 4, I had the privilege of accompanying the St. Patrick's Mixed and Girls Wide Bay All Schools Touch Teams to compete for the first time. The Girls Team went through undefeated, playing some very well drilled teams to eventually take out the Division 1 Championship Shield. The Mixed Team was also competitive, winning more games than they lost on the day. This was a wonderful effort for both teams, as many of our players were relatively young compared to the opposition. On the day, we had many comments on the positive spirit that our players oozed on and off the field. They were exceptionally well-behaved and exuded a winning attitude, which means so much more than any leader board. Their positive attitude, sportsmanship, and humility reflected the teachings of St. Paul: *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart"* (Colossians 3:23).

Yesterday the All School's Touch Teams made a special presentation to parent coaches including Nick and Britt Duncan, Kelly and Rian Dwyer for their dedication and support of our students. Captain, Giorgi P. also made mention of the generous sponsorship afforded by Anastasi Blooms and Charltons Lawyers which meant our teams looked as sharp as they played on the day. Schools educating students in the Mercy Tradition are called to not only encourage development of one's own gifts and talents, but to in turn, use these to enkindle growth in others so they *'may have life and have it to the full'* (John 10:10). This was highlighted this week as an excellent example of a Mercy Moment.

I couldn't be prouder of our students and what they are achieving with the support of this community, in and out of the classroom. Growth is not as easy to measure, some times even stunted and not always in a straight row. However, seeing students try their best is what we envisage for our students. Turning up every-day is important and we worked hard on reducing absenteeism this year, which I know has also been a group effort! Thanks for being instrumental to what we've been able to achieve this year. I am hoping the next eight weeks prove to be as successful and provide an opportunity for us to continue to work with a shared purpose to continue to 'seek higher things' like shown best this week by the Year Six prayer and 'God's Beautiful Rainbow'.

Kim O'Shea-Hard

PRINCIPAL



APRE NEWS—MISSION MONTH

Mission Month: A Call to Act with Compassion and Solidarity

October is Mission Month in our Church—a time when we are called to reflect on what it means to "mission" and how we can live out this vital aspect of our faith. To mission is to go out into the world and spread the Good News, not only through words but through action. It means reaching out to others, helping to improve their lives, and recognising the inherent dignity of every person. It is a call to include others in decisions that affect them and to stand in solidarity with those who are struggling, becoming their voice, their hands, and their feet.



To mission is to fight for the common good—to work towards a world where equality and justice are not just ideals but realities. It is about using the power we have, no matter how small it may seem, to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

At our school, Mission Month is an integral part of our ethos and serves as a beautiful reminder of our shared responsibility to care for one another. This month, we have embraced mission as a central theme in various activities and events.

- **Courtyard Prayer** led by 3L, will focus on the theme of mission, inspiring students to reflect on their role in spreading compassion and justice.
- We will come together as a school community to celebrate a special **Mission Month Mass** on **Friday, October 17th**, at 9:00 am at St Patrick's Church (Years 2-6).

To culminate our Mission Month efforts, our Mini Vinnies Team will host **Odd Sock Day (Friday 24th October)**, raising funds to support Catholic Mission Australia and shining a light on the importance of standing with others, no matter how different they may seem.

Mission is not just an event or a theme; it is a way of life that our school community embraces wholeheartedly. We are continually inspired by the generosity and dedication of our students, staff, and families who give so freely of their time, support, and talents to help others.

We warmly invite all parents and carers to join us at our Mission Month Mass. This will be a beautiful opportunity to celebrate the mission work we have undertaken and to renew our shared commitment to living out the Gospel values of love, service, and justice.

Let us remember that we are all called to mission—not only during October but every day of our lives. This month, let us support Catholic Mission in their important work and reflect on how we can share our time, energy, and resources with others, both in our local community and overseas.

Now is the time to mission. Now is the time to act. Together, let us go out into the world and be the face of God to those who need it most.

"Let us not grow tired of doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." – Galatians 6:9. May Mission Month inspire us all to live with greater compassion, generosity and care.

Tracey Cook

APRE

SPELLING BEE

St Patrick's 11th Annual Spelling Bee: A Buzzing Success!

In week 10 of last term, our school community came together to celebrate one of the most anticipated events of the year—the **Spelling Bee**. The competition was a true showcase of talent, determination, and the love of learning that thrives in our classrooms.

This year's Spelling Bee saw an incredible **261 students** from Years 1–6 take on the challenge of spelling their way through a staggering **603 words**. Each contestant demonstrated courage and hard work as they stood before their peers to give their best effort. The atmosphere was electric, with students giving it their all.

After several nail-biting rounds, we are thrilled to announce that **19 finalists** emerged from the competition. These students displayed exceptional skill, focus, and perseverance, earning their places as the top spellers of the event:

Year 1: Bonnie B, Isla B, Tahi L

Year 2: Alex A, Aarav C, Koa M

Year 3: Joan C, Delaney C, Tahli D, Cohen T,

Year 4: Theo I, Bridget W, Hera W

Year 5: Ian C, Ollie M, Aiden T

Year 6: Oliver B, Caelan D, Ariana E

To our finalists: congratulations on this outstanding achievement! You have made your school community incredibly proud.



Our 2025 Spelling Bee results:

Junior Spelling Bee

Champion: Alex A

2nd Place: Tahli D

3rd Place: Aarav C

Senior Spelling Bee

Champion: Aiden T

2nd Place: Caelan D

3rd Place: Oliver B



We would also like to commend every single participant for their effort and resilience. No matter the outcome, each of you has demonstrated the courage to take on a challenge, and that is something to celebrate!

Events like the Spelling Bee remind us of the power of words—not only to challenge and inspire but also to bring us together as a community.

SENIOR SWIMMING CARNIVAL— FRIDAY 21 NOVEMBER

The Senior Swimming Carnival will be held on **Friday 21 November** at the Bundaberg Swimming Academy for Year 3 to Year 6.

Please refer to the email sent earlier this week for further information regarding how to nominate your child's race preference on the **Parent Portal** by **Monday, 27 October**.

All students are expected to participate in at least one event (maximum three events per child), unless there is a health matter that prevents their involvement in this carnival.

We look forward to an enjoyable and supportive event for all competitors.



SOCIAL MEDIA MINIMUM AGE

As we approach **10 December**, when the new [Social Media Minimum Age](#) law comes into effect, it's important for families to start preparing for the changes.

If you have children under 16 who currently use age-restricted social media platforms, they will be directly impacted by the new law.

To support your children through this transition, it's helpful to:

- Talk openly about the new age restrictions and why they're being introduced.
- Understand how your child currently uses social media and explore how these changes might affect them.
- Reassure them that these changes are about safety and wellbeing, not punishment.

To help guide these conversations, [eSafety](#) has developed practical tips for parents and carers to start these conversations to support you in starting and managing discussions in a calm and constructive way.



SOCKTOBER 2025

St Patrick's Mini Vinnies fundraiser



S O C K T O B E R 2 0 2 5



→ FRIDAY OCTOBER 24
→ ODD SOCK DAY
→ GOLD COIN DONATION

T O H E L P S U P P O R T T H E W O R K O F C A T H O L I C M I S S I O N

OUT AND ABOUT

Where carers can find support



If you support a family member or friend who has a disability, mental health condition, chronic health condition, terminal illness, or is frail aged you can access free supports via **Carer Gateway**.

1800 422 737 | carergateway.gov.au

Carer Gateway gives you access to a range of free services and supports to help you when you are caring for someone else, these include:

Carer Support Planning

To help you identify what areas of support will best help you in your caring role and to develop a simple plan for ongoing support.

Counselling

If you're feeling stressed or overwhelmed, you can talk it through in a series of one-on-one sessions with a professional counsellor.

In-Person Peer Support

Get together with other carers to catch up, make connections and share stories, knowledge and experience.

Facilitated Coaching

One-on-one support with a coach to help you to make positive changes to your own life by setting goals and working on a plan to achieve these goals.

Tailored Support Packages

Practical assistance to ensure you have access to the resources you need when caring for someone, such as items to assist in your caring role and short-term respite.

Emergency Respite Care

If something urgent or unforeseen happens that prevents you from being able to be there for the person you support, we can make sure they are looked after. Emergency respite is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

To register for Carer Gateway:

Call 1800 422 737 or visit carergateway.gov.au

SHALOM COLLEGE MAN TO MAN

with Leigh Matthews

THURSDAY 16 OCT 2025

Leigh Matthews is a highly decorated figure in the AFL, renowned both as a player and coach. Matthews earned the iconic nickname "Lethal Leigh" due to his physical as well as skilful style of play. He is officially recognised as the "best player of the 20th century" according to the AFL, is a 'Legend' in the Australian Football Hall of Fame, named in the Hawthorn and AFL teams of the century, and is one of the most successful AFL coaches of all time, winning three consecutive premierships with the Lions in 2001, 2002 and 2003.

TICKETS
\$20-40pp

+ booking fee

The evening will include drinks and canapés in the Foyer from 5:30pm, then from 6:45pm guests will move into the Theatre to see an in-depth Q&A with **Leigh Matthews**.

Tickets include canapés. Drinks will be available for purchase.

Thursday 16 October | 5:30pm-8:30pm | Shalom College Performing Arts Precinct

SIGNED BRISBANE LIONS JERSEY RAFFLE, WITH TICKETS AVAILABLE ON THE NIGHT

Proceeds from the raffle will be donated to Brave Brothers | bravebrothers.org



All Welcome!

Thanks to our Sponsors
FOOTMOTION



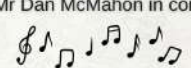
OUT AND ABOUT



A Note of Gratitude

A FAREWELL CONCERT FOR DAN MCMAHON

you are invited to join the shalom college performing arts department as we bid farewell to Mr Dan McMahon in concert



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

6.30 WINE & CHEESE
7.00 CONCERT

SHALOM COLLEGE PERFORMING ARTS PRECINCT

ENTRY BY DONATION

Spots are limited - please book via the link
www.trybooking.com/DFAWD
or SCAN HERE →



Parent Workshop: Supporting your student with reading



This **free** online session will focus on supporting **middle years students** with their **reading**.

If you have ever felt puzzled over how to **support your child's reading**, then **this workshop will offer you a variety of helpful strategies**.

The session will include ideas that align with the Griff LinC approach:



Wednesday 15 October 2025

5pm-6pm

RSVP [here](#)



Dr Frances Hoyte



Dr Kylie Bradfield



Dr Deb Brossek

For more information about Griff LinC see: 



Learn to swim

at Bundaberg Aquatic Centre!

Powered by Swimming Australia, GOSwim engages students in fun, activity-based lessons covering five essential learning areas:

- Water safety
- Safe entries and exits
- Balance, movement and recovery
- Swimming stroke development
- Breath control, submersion and readiness

Plus, when you enrol in GOSwim at Bundaberg Aquatic Centre, you'll access amazing member benefits, including:

- 52-week annual membership
- 48 swimming lessons
- GOSwim Welcome Bag
- Unlimited student aquatic access outside of lessons
- 4 weeks of unlimited family swim access over summer
- 1-week Summer Holiday Swimming Program (over 5 consecutive days)
- Active World App access

LIMITED TIME ENROLMENT OFFER

We're making enrolments easy with \$0 admin fees for all new student enrolments*. But hurry, offer ends before opening. *T&Cs apply. Scan the QR code to enrol today or call us on 5294 7836!



Learning to swim is a skill for life.

*Membership conditions: Direct debit memberships only. One-week holiday swim program consists of 5 x 30 minute lessons. One week duration of the holiday swim program per new enrolment. Holiday swim program must be booked in advance and redeemed in the summer.

(07) 5294 7836
bundaberg.aquaticcentre.com.au
1 Pyefinch Boulevard, Bundaberg West QLD 4670



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TERM FOUR PLANNER

WEEK 1	Week 6th October - 10th October		
Monday	KING'S BIRTHDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY		
Tuesday	First Day Term 4		
Tuesday - Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40am	Mini Vinnies
WEEK 2	Week 13th October - 17th October		
Tuesday—Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40am	Reef Guardians
WEEK 3	Week 20th October - 24th October		
Monday	Parish Mass	9:00am	Year 5 & 1
Tuesday - Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40am	3L
Friday	Odd Sock Day (Socktober)	All day	All students
WEEK 4	Week 27th October - 31st October		
Monday	Parish Mass	9:00am	Year 2
Monday	Prep Orientation Morning	9:00am-10:30am	Prep 2026
Tuesday - Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40am	3T
Friday	Day for Daniel	All day	All students
Friday	World Teacher's Day	All day	All teachers
WEEK 5	Week 3rd November - 7th November		
Monday	Parish Mass	9:00am	Year 4
Tuesday - Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40am	3C
WEEK 6	Week 10th November - 14th November		
Monday	Parish Mass	9:00am	Year 6 & Prep
Tuesday - Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40am	2W
Tuesday	Remembrance Day Memorial	9:00am	5P
WEEK 7	Week 17th November - 21st November		
Monday	Parish Mass	9:00am	Year 3
Tuesday - Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40am	2N
Friday	Senior Swimming Carnival	9:00am	Years 3-6
WEEK 8	Week 24th November - 28th November		
Tuesday - Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40am	2C
Thursday	Cultural Night - Year 3, String and Choir Ensembles	5:00pm-6:30pm	Music
WEEK 9	Week 1st December - 5th December		
Monday	Year 1 Nativity Assembly	9:00am	Whole School
Tuesday	Year 6 Graduation	9:00am	Yr 6 Families
Wednesday	Prep Excursion—Inflatable World	10:00-12:00pm	Prep
Wednesday	Celebration Night	5:00-7:00pm	Whole School
Friday	End of Year Liturgy	9:00am	Whole School
	Year 6 Farewell Assembly	11:00am	Whole School
	School Dismissed	12:00pm	Whole School

2026 TERM DATES	
TERM 1	Tuesday 27 January - Friday 2 April (10 weeks)
TERM 2	Monday 20 April - Friday 26 June (10 weeks)
TERM 3	Monday 13 July - Friday 18 September (10 weeks)
TERM 4	Tuesday 6 October - Friday 4 December (9 weeks)

Note:

Information on end of year excursions will be confirmed once the final details are available.