



PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

30th January 2026

Last long weekend, I was heartened to see so many people out enjoying the outdoors. It reminded me how grateful I am to live in our beautiful country and of the shared responsibility we all hold to shape it with justice, compassion, and hope.

Australia Day is viewed through many different lenses, yet it always invites reflection on our evolving national identity and the values we choose to live by, as we journey together. This reflection feels especially significant as we return from the holiday season, still touched by the recent events that unfolded at Bondi.

Pope Leo has announced this year's theme: "*One in Christ, United in Mission.*" We are reminded that hope is not passive—it is active, courageous, and deeply connected to what we believe .

Scripture reminds us that "*those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength*" (Isaiah 40:31). What we believe profoundly shapes how we act and respond when life presents challenges. In Jewish tradition, wisdom teaches that from darkness comes light—a truth echoed in our Christian faith. As we read in the Gospel of John: "*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it*" (John 1:5).

This, at its heart, is what Catholic education aspires to achieve. Assisting students to understand that challenges do not define them, but rather shape them. We seek to nurture faith-filled, resilient young people—students who bring light into the world and live with hope at their core. In doing so, we form future citizens who will contribute positively not just to our community, but to our country, and ultimately, to a world that will need them.

Over the long weekend, our lovely Teacher Assistant, Donna Delaney, visited Bondi Beach and placed a small *pebble of hope* from our St. Patrick's community. In the photo below, you can see how we've joined countless others from diverse backgrounds, standing in solidarity with those who have experienced loss. May this small act add a ray of light to those facing darkness.



Click our
school crest
to go to 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

Yesterday, our Year 6 cohort certainly shone as they proudly received their Senior shirts. Earlier in the week, I asked them to reflect on what leadership might mean for them in 2026 and whether they were ready for the challenge. Leadership at St. Patrick's is an invitation, never an obligation. It's a commitment to serve and inspire others. I'm delighted to share that our Year 6 students have all accepted this challenge and are ready to continue *spreading the green* with pride.

We've had a wonderful start to the year. Our new and Prep students have settled in beautifully, and we look forward to witnessing their growth and learning in the months and years ahead. Welcome to all of the new families joining us in this very special place in space!

Finally, a practical note of support: the Queensland Government has announced a '*Back to School Boost*' beginning in 2026, providing \$100 per primary student (Prep–Year 6) to assist families with school-related costs. St. Patrick's families will see this \$100 Boost applied to Term 1, 2026 school fees, reducing the school fees payable to the School. No action or application is required by families for this Boost, and there are no means tests or other criteria.

Further information on the Back to School Boost can be found [here](#).

Kim O'Shea-Hard

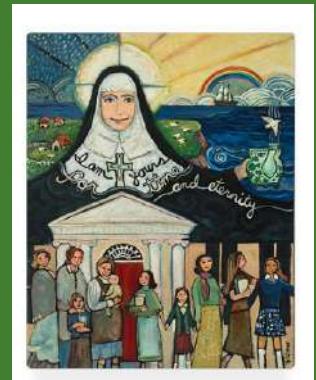
PRINCIPAL



Inspired by Mercy

As we begin this new school year, we are filled with the joy and hope that a fresh start brings. Together, we embark on another exciting chapter of learning, growth, and faith-filled experiences.

At St Patrick's, we are proud to be a school guided by the Mercy charism, inspired by the life and mission of Catherine McAuley, the founder of the Sisters of Mercy. In her words, "We should be as shining lamps, giving light to all around us." This year, we invite our school community to reflect on how we can embody the values of mercy, compassion, and service in our daily lives.



The Mercy charism encourages us to show kindness and care to those in need, to act justly, and to walk humbly with God. It reminds us that each one of us is called to be a source of light in the world, sharing God's love and hope with those around us. Together, as a community of faith and learning, let us embrace this mission and seek to make a positive difference in our school, our neighbourhood, and beyond.

Throughout the year, we will have many opportunities to live out the values of mercy through our learning, prayer, and service activities. Whether it's supporting those in need, caring for God's creation, or simply showing kindness to one another, every action reflects our commitment to living as Jesus did.

Let us look forward to a year filled with joyful learning, meaningful relationships, and a shared purpose as we continue to grow in faith, hope, and love.

Opening School Mass and Candlemas

Next week, we will celebrate our Opening School Mass on Monday February 2, at 9am in the Church. This also coincides with the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, an important event in the life of the Holy Family. The Feast of the Presentation, recalls the moment when Mary and Joseph brought the infant Jesus to the Temple, following the Jewish custom of dedicating their firstborn child to God. In this act of faith, they demonstrated their deep trust in God's plan for their family.

This feast is also known as *Candlemas*, a day when candles are traditionally blessed to symbolise Christ as the "light of the world". It is a time for us to reflect on how we too are called to bring Christ's light into our homes, classrooms, and communities. All members of our community are warmly invited to join us in this Mass, along with our students from Years 3-6.

Tracey Cook

APRE



START OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS

ST PATRICK'S 2026

START OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS

OPENING SCHOOL MASS

Years 3-6

9am in the Church

Monday, Feb 2, 2026

All families and parishioners are welcome to attend.



LEADERSHIP INDUCTION



This year our leadership liturgy and Induction will be held on our Feast Day - St Patrick's Day (Tues Mar 17). On this day all student leadership positions will be acknowledged.

PUPIL FREE DAY

Pupil Free Day

Please note the
Pupil Free Day
this term is Friday
20th February

TUCKSHOP NEWS

Click NOW
For More Info!



School tuckshop opens Monday to Thursday as of next week. Please see the menu for the full list of options available for 2026. 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.

ABSENTEEISM

Every day counts

MOST STUDENTS ATTEND SCHOOL EVERY DAY

It's important that children are at school all day, every day

It's OK reasons to stay home from school

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

=

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

Good attendance begins in Prep

ATTEND ALL DAY, EVERY DAY

What parents can do

- Promote the importance of school
- Get to know the teacher
- Be involved at home
- Subscribe to newsletters
- Get involved in your child's school
- Ask about your child's day
- Volunteer to help at 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.



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 **CALL 4994 8336**.



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.

UNIFORM POLICY—SPORTS HATS



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

Prep students do not require Formal Hats this year.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC AND CHOIR NEWS 2026

Instrumental music lessons commence next week (Week 2).

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.

Choir will start on **Wednesday in Week 2**.

Senior Choir, predominantly for Years 3-6, will be in the stage area at the multi and starts at 7:30 am-8:10am. Junior Choir, predominantly for Years 1-2, will follow on from Senior Choir at 8:10am-8:30am.

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

Junior Strings Ensemble	Mon	7.30am-8.30am
Senior Strings Ensemble	Tue	7.30am-8.30am
Senior Choir Years 3-6	Wed	7.30am-8.00am
Junior Choir Years 1-2	Wed	8.10am-8.30am

eSAFETY NEWS

Safer Internet Day on Tuesday

10 February is a great chance to pause and talk about how your family uses the internet. Whether your kids are just starting out or already deep into gaming and navigating the online world, a little check-in can go a long way.

Here are some simple ways to mark the day at home:



- [Explore our resources for parents and carers](#) including conversation starters, practical tips and activities.
- [Chat about our 5 simple tips](#) from being kind online to speaking up about anything that doesn't feel right.

We also have resources for educators and workplaces on our [Safer Internet Day hub](#) that you can share.

Click [here](#) for more information.

CHANGES TO BUS OPERATOR IN 2026

Please be advised that from Tuesday 27 January 2026, Kinetic Bundaberg will operate the below services for 12 months.

There will be no changes to timetables, routes or ticketing at the start of the school year.

The changes relate to school and Translink public transport services only. Any private or charter services Stewart & Sons Coaches operate are not affected by this change.

School services

670	Nolans Pocket to Bundaberg North SHS
671	South Kolan to Woongarra SS
672	Sharons to Bundaberg North SS
673	Tantitha to Bundaberg North SS
674	Booyan to Bundaberg North SS
675	Moore Park Beach to Shalom College
676	Moore Park Beach Bundaberg North SS
678	Coral Cove to Bundaberg CC
679	Innes Park to Elliott Heads SS
680	Calavos to Bundaberg SS
682	Innes Park to St John's Luteran Primary
677/681	Elliot Heads to St Partick's Primary

School Transport Assistance Scheme (STAS)

Applicants must submit STAS travel applications by selecting **TRANSIT AUSTRALIA PTY LTD (KINETIC BUNDABERG)**. We will review all new STAS applications and follow normal processes.

Public transport service changes

Please note that Kinetic Bundaberg will also operate the following routes:

- 621: Bundaberg to Moore Park
- 622: Bundaberg to Kepnock, Innes Park and Elliott Heads

Need more information?

Contact Kinetic Bundaberg on 1300 383 397 or bundaberg@wearekinetic.com.

SPORTS NEWS

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 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.

WIDE BAY SCHOOL SPORT—SWIMMING



Swimmers must be born 2016, 2015 & 2014. The 2026 Queensland 10-12 Years Schools Swimming Championships will be held at Chandler Aquatic Centre, Brisbane over 25 – 27 March.

Parents must ensure to submit nominations by survey link by Monday 16th February.

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

Nominate via this link

10-19 Years [Nomination](#) or QR code



10-19 Years [Multi-Class Nomination](#) or QR code



ST PATRICK'S MUSICAL 2026



Introducing...

St Patrick's 2026 Musical

Disney

FROZEN KIDS

Parents of Yr 5 & 6 students:
Watch this space and your inbox for further
important information.

OUT AND ABOUT



ALLOWAY NETBALL CLUB

Join the friendly club! >

Come and Try Day

Discover netball with Alloway and join us for an exciting day full of fun, friendship, and fitness.

All children turning 7-10 in 2026 are welcome.

Saturday 31 January

BNA Netball Courts

Regular season details:
Saturdays
11.30am – 1.00pm
10 weeks (dates tbc)

allowaynetballclub@outlook.com

BNA Courts

Lyn Newport - President

0407 408 966



FREE ENTRY

BUNDABERG FAMILY CARNIVAL 2026

6TH FEBRUARY 5PM TO 9PM

7TH FEBRUARY 5PM TO 9PM

8TH FEBRUARY 9AM TO 1PM

ALEXANDRA PARK WEST

UNLIMITED RIDE ARMBANDS

\$40 ONLINE

[HTTPS://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/DHPLE](https://www.trybooking.com/DHPLE)

\$50 AT THE TICKETBOX - PER PERSON, PER SESSION

INDIVIDUAL RIDE TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE

RIDES - FOOD - GAMES
SHOWBAGS - MORE

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK FOR UPDATES & GIVEAWAYS
[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FTAfamilycarnivals](https://www.facebook.com/FTAfamilycarnivals)





*Enjoy a Day Out at the
Bundaberg*

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Race Day 2026

21 & TIMELESS

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday 14 March

**LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE - ON SALE SOON
MORE DETAILS ON TICKET RELEASE TO COME**



OUT AND ABOUT



**FREE COME &
TRY DAYS**
**ALL AGES
WELCOME**

UNITED PARK EAGLES

📍 FARTHING PARK
25 MARKS ST BUNDABERG NORTH

**FRIDAY 6 FEB
5PM - 6.30PM**

**FRIDAY 13 FEB
5PM - 6.30PM**

WHAT'S INCLUDED
FREE BBQ
SOCCER SKILLS & GAMES
MEET THE COACHES & CLUB
COMMUNITY
ZOOPER DOOPERS



PAST PLAYERS AND NEW FRIENDS WELCOME!!!



EVOLVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Qualified coaching and skill development

For locally talented U/8 – U/12 players

Pathway to higher-level competition

Clear pathways into senior teams

Carnivals and tournaments across QLD

**REGISTER
FOR TRIALS**



For further information, email us at:
infoupefc@gmail.com

Follow us on:



FOR 8 YEARS..THE BULLS MASTERS HAVE BOUGHT THE BIGGEST NAMES IN SPORT & ENTERTAINMENT TO BUNDABERG
FOR A NIGHT FILLED FULL OF LAUGHS, EMOTION, AMAZING PERSONAL INSIGHTS & ABOVE ALL, MEMORIES FOR LIFE



PRESENTING PARTNERS

**ED DevCore
PROPERTY GROUP**

**Shaw and Partners
Financial Services**

**BUNDABERG
REGIONAL COUNCIL**

DATE :

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2026

VENUE :

**BUNDABERG MULTIPLEX CENTRE
1 CIVIC STREET, BUNDABERG**

TIME :

6.00pm FOR A 6.30pm START

PRICE :

\$1700 a table of 10

Includes 2 Course Dinner, Beer,
Wine, Spirits & Soft Drinks

BOOKINGS & PAYMENT :

Tel : Bulls Masters

on (07) 3257 4400

or email :

admin@bullsmasters.com.au

FUNDS RAISED GO TO BUNDABERG CRICKET ASSOCIATION



THE BULLS MASTERS EVENT PROGRAM IS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT

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 &	9:00 am	Whole School
Wednesday—	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