



PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

24th October 2025

This week, Year 3L led us in prayer with the inspiring lyrics: *"If not me, then who...if not me and you, then who?"* These words challenge us to take action as we journey through Mission Month, which began with a beautiful Mass last Friday and will conclude with the Children's Mass this Sunday at 9am at St. Patrick's Church.

Our Mini Vinnies Team launched Socktober this week, a creative initiative to raise awareness and funds for the vital work of Catholic Mission. Inspired by Pope Leo XIII's call to *"share the hope of Christ through acts of love"*, Year 3 captured this spirit perfectly. Their leadership reminds us of the power of small acts to create meaningful change.

This has also been an exciting week for our feeder school, Shalom College, as they celebrated the achievements of their students. It was heartening to see so many of our past students recognised for their academic excellence and strong work ethic. Special congratulations to past students, Joon M. and Thomas E., announced as Shalom's College Captain and Vice Captain (respectively) for 2026.

Reflecting on these achievements reminds us that a Catholic education is a *marathon, not a sprint*. Each child's journey is unique: some may achieve success during their school years, while others will find their stride later in life. Success, however, is not an isolated goal—our mission is to nurture **good humans**, grounded in faith, compassion, and integrity. The rest will follow in time.

As we celebrate milestones, we also prepare to say farewell to Mr. Dan McMahon, Principal of Shalom College, who will soon begin the next chapter of his journey at St. Leo's Residential College in Brisbane. Dan's leadership has been an incredible blessing to the Shalom and Bundaberg communities. His passion for Catholic Education and commitment to the Catholic Social Teachings have shaped countless students and inspired adults alike. Under his guidance, Shalom has flourished as a community firmly rooted in the traditions of Edmund Rice and Catherine McAuley. I know Dan will continue to *'harness the enthusiasm of youth'* for the common good, which I know is his passion and super power.

On behalf of the **St. Patrick's community**, I extend our heartfelt gratitude to Dan for his years of service, wisdom, and friendship. We wish him and his family every blessing as they embark on this new journey. I, like so many, feel blessed to have had our professional paths cross.

Today we farewelled Mrs. Kelsie Newby who will begin Maternity Leave on Monday. We are very excited for the Newby Family who are preparing to welcome a little brother or sister for their first born, Miss Riley. We look forward to meeting the newest Newby and wish the family all the best for the coming weeks. In Kelsie's absence Mrs. Claire Baillee will return in a Full Time capacity, leaving Mrs. Christina Brimelow in Year 1B. Mrs. Hannah Nasio will then take Mrs. Brimelow's one day in Year 5G. We are very grateful to all involved to ensure a smooth end to the school year.



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Absentees

4994 8336

spb_absentees@rok.catholic.edu.au

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS (continues)

This week's events have reminded me of the importance of being present in the moment. My number plates read, "*Savour the Journey*", and they serve as a daily reminder to focus on the path we travel, not just the destination.

In Catholic education, we are called to embrace the journey of faith, learning, and growth. On Monday we look forward to welcoming our 2026 Prep Students and their parents, as many begin their own Catholic Education journey. Let us continue to walk this path together, nurturing the gifts of each child and sharing the hope of Christ through acts of love.

Kim O'Shea-Hard
PRINCIPAL



As we journey through the liturgical calendar, November offers us two significant days that invite us to reflect on our faith, the communion of saints, and the hope we have in eternal life. These special days, All Saints' Day (1st November) and All Souls' Day (2nd November), call us to celebrate and pray for all those who have gone before us, united in Christ.

All Saints' Day: Honouring the Holy Men and Women

All Saints' Day is a joyful celebration of all the saints—those officially recognised by the Church, as well as the countless unnamed holy men and women who have lived lives of faith, love, and service. These saints inspire us to live according to Jesus' teachings and remind us that we, too, are called to holiness.

In our Catholic tradition, the saints are not distant or unreachable. They are our companions, guiding us toward God. During this day, we celebrate their example and ask for their prayers as we strive to reflect Christ's love in our own lives.

All Souls' Day: Praying for Our Loved Ones

On All Souls' Day, we remember and pray for all the faithful departed—our loved ones, friends, and members of our community who have returned to God. This day reminds us of the importance of prayer and the hope we have in Christ's resurrection.

As Catholics, we believe in the communion of saints, which means that we are spiritually connected to those in heaven and those still journeying on earth. By praying for the souls of the departed, we show our love and trust in God's mercy and promise of eternal life.

Living Out Our Faith

These two days are a beautiful reminder that our faith is deeply communal. As we celebrate All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, let us take time as families to:

- Share stories of saints and discuss how we can imitate their virtues.
- Light a candle and pray together for departed loved ones.
- Visit a cemetery or sacred space to reflect on the gift of eternal life.

Through these acts, we not only deepen our faith but also strengthen the bonds of love and hope within our families and community.

May we, inspired by the saints and supported by our prayers for one another, continue to grow in faith, hope, and love.



Tracey Cook

APRE

BEFORE SCHOOL CARE 2026.....

We need your input — Before School Care Survey

We understand how hard our parents work, and we are always looking for ways to better support our families. This year, we were successful in expanding our Out of Hours School Care (OSHC) to include Vacation Care, which has been incredibly well-received for working families.



Recently, we've had growing interest from families in establishing **Before School Care**. In response, we have applied to extend our OSHC services to include this option.

To strengthen our application, we need your input. If your family would benefit from Before School Care, please complete this short survey to show there is demand for the service. Your responses will be reviewed by the relevant governing bodies to assess community need - and we're confident the need is there.

Please **complete this survey by 8:00pm today** via this [link](#). Your responses will help us work towards launching this service at the beginning of the new school year.

We are proud of our wonderful OSHC Team, and their commitment to high-quality care gives us confidence as we look to grow our offering, with your support.

Thanks for your consideration and support.

CEDR CONCUSSION PROTOCOLS

Schools have recently been reminded of the required procedures when dealing with students who are experiencing concussion symptoms from incidents that have occurred both at school and non-school events .

A student who has sustained a concussion (including during sporting or non-sporting activities) is NOT allowed to return to any sport, training or games before getting a medical clearance.

- This should be at least 14 days symptom free before return to contact/collision training
- A minimum period of 21 days until the resumption of competitive contact/collision sport

Rehabilitation after a concussion should be supervised by a medical practitioner and should follow the Graded Return to Sport Framework for Community and Youth. Mr. Egan is the St. Patrick's Concussion Officer. He will contact families during this period to help support your child during their recovery.

SENIOR SWIMMING CARNIVAL— 21 NOVEMBER 2025

Nominations close Monday 27 October!



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 to all parents for more information regarding how to nominate your child's race preference on the [Parent Portal](#). **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.

SPORTS NEWS



Congratulations to Essie M for making the Queensland Representative Athletics team. Essie will compete at Nationals in November 2025 and we wish her all the best of luck.

Also, congratulations to Byron J who competed in the 10-12 years Aquathlon (1km run/200m swim/ 1km run) and finished 5th overall, earning selection to represent Wide Bay at the State championships in February 2026. At just 9 years old and the youngest racing, Byron is absolutely thrilled to have made a Wide Bay team!



Basketball

Congratulations to our St. Patrick's Basketballers that formed a team to represent us at the weekend carnival. Both Boys and Girls Teams made it through to the finals. The Girls made it through undefeated, but were then knocked out in the dying moments of their Semi Final which was against a team they defeated earlier in the day. I enjoyed watching both teams display great sportsmanship. At assembly on Thursday these students shared their appreciation of Mr. Matt Plumb who made this opportunity possible, along with parent volunteers in Mr. Ryan Hood (Coach), Mrs. Ali Botha (Scorer) and Mrs. Changsook Jung (scorer).

Thanks to all involved for their generosity of time and spirit!





Join us for the Bundaberg Regional SES Unit 50th Anniversary Open Day



10:00am to 02:00pm
2nd November 2025



7 Kendalls Road, Branyan
Bundaberg SES Facility

Our 50th Anniversary Open Day is a free family-friendly event showcasing the vital role SES volunteers play in keeping our community safe. Enjoy live demonstrations, disaster preparedness information, and historical displays that highlight our proud journey.

Bring the kids along for a fun day out with a free sausage sizzle and jumping castle, while meeting the dedicated volunteers who serve our community.



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 2
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 5 & 1
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
	Year 6 Excursion—Norville Pool	10:45am—1:00pm	Year 6
	Year 3 Excursion—Reading Cinema	11:30am—2:15pm	Year 3
Wednesday	Year 1 & 4 Excursion—Shalom PAP—Movie	9:00am—11:00am	Year 1 & 4
	Prep Excursion—Inflatable World	10:00-12:00pm	Prep
	Celebration Night	5:00-7:00pm	Whole School
Thursday	Year 2 Excursion—Norville Pool	9:00am	Year 2
	Year 5 Excursion—Bundy Bowl & Leisure	9:00am	Year 5
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)