



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

8 August

Knocking on New Doors

This week, our Prep students led beautiful and heartwarming Courtyard Prayers for their very first time. The song that wove together their three reflections was centred on the message from Matthew 7:7: *"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."*

It was a powerful reminder of the importance of curiosity, courage, and persistence - qualities we see every day in our youngest learners as they take their first steps into school life. It seems like yesterday my own children were starting their journeys in much the same way. Seeing so many supportive parents there to share this 'first' with our Prep students was very special.



Fittingly, this week my own daughter was given the keys to the door of her very first home. Real estate is competitive - especially in capital cities - and hearing the message shared by our youngest students really resonated with me. I reflected on all the months of rejection involved in 'seeking' a property. Ironically, the door that finally opened was, in hindsight, much better than all the ones that had closed. Those disappointments were difficult at the time, but looking back, it's clear they all led to the right outcome.



Life is like that. Many doors will close - sometimes abruptly - feeding discouragement and disappointment. But this week we were reminded that a strong sense of faith will help us maintain hope that the best door is still ahead. But first, we must remember to *ask, seek, and knock*.

Prep's reflections on "knocking on new doors" tied in beautifully with the spirit of Book Week, which is fast approaching. This year's theme is *Book an Adventure* a perfect invitation for all of us to explore new worlds, ideas, and experiences through reading. Just as faith invites us to seek and knock, books offer endless doors to open each one unlocking new learning and imagination.



This week, one of our upper school students popped in to celebrate a personal milestone - he had doubled his reading level in just a few months. When asked for his secret, he said he had to *find a genre he enjoyed*. That gave him the motivation to practise, engage, and improve. With support from his teachers, his grandmother, and a healthy dose of persistence, he discovered a love of reading instructions. It makes me wonder what doors might now open for him, now that he's found this new interest and superpower.



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Absentees

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PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

Book Week isn't until Week 6, but we're already getting excited for our annual *Reading on the Deck* celebration on **Friday, 22nd August at 10:30am**. Families are invited to bring a blanket, a fold-up chair, a good book, and a great attitude to reading. There will be a sausage sizzle to share, so look out for more details in next week's newsletter.

At St Patrick's, nurturing a love of books and reading is at the heart of what we do - it's so often the key to opening doors into a child's future. Students are also invited to wear an accessory (or three!) to help us guess what character they might be. Our Reef Guardians and Mini Vinnies teams would remind us to re-use, recycle and repurpose - so why not see what you can find at home or at your local St Vincent de Paul before buying something new?

Please note: Year 5 and 6 students will be playing interschool sport this afternoon, so they may need to limit their accessories for easier transitions into their games.

There will be plenty of activities throughout the week to make Book Week truly memorable - so stay tuned!

Once again, we are proud of our Prep students for their confident presentation and for sharing such a meaningful message with our school community. As we look ahead - not only to Book Week but also to planning for school camps - let's continue to encourage our children to be brave, to ask questions, to seek truth, and to knock on doors - both real and imagined - knowing they are supported and loved.

Warm regards,

Kim O'Shae-Hard

PRINCIPAL



Celebrating Our Patron Saint Through Art: Welcoming Jen Norton's "St Patrick"

This term, we are excited to unveil a beautiful new addition to our school - a stunning artwork titled *St Patrick* by renowned Catholic artist **Jen Norton**. You will notice this is one of two new artworks by Jen Norton featured in our school office.

This vibrant and contemporary piece captures the spirit of our patron saint in a way that speaks deeply to both heart and soul. With rich symbolism and bold colours, Norton's *St Patrick* invites us to reflect on the life and mission of the saint who inspires our school's identity and values.

In the artwork, we see Saint Patrick not just as a historical figure, but as a living symbol of **faith, courage, and compassion**. The use of the Celtic patterns and natural elements reminds us of Patrick's connection to creation and his role in spreading the message of Christ with gentleness and strength using the imagery of the shamrock to convey the Holy Trinity (the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit).



Central to the painting's message is the powerful prayer known as **St Patrick's Breastplate**, which begins:

*"Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me..."*

These words are a declaration of faith and protection, reminding us that Christ is our constant companion - in every moment and every place. This prayer, echoing through centuries, is now visually echoed in our school through Norton's stunning interpretation of St Patrick's life and legacy.

Over the coming weeks our students will be engaging with the painting, exploring its themes and the story of Saint Patrick in new and meaningful ways. It is our hope that the artwork will become not just a visual centrepiece, but a spiritual touchstone - reminding us of who we are and who we are called to be.

As a community of **faith, hope, and love**, we are grateful to have this artwork in our school. May it continue to inspire us to live with the same courage and conviction as St Patrick, walking in faith together.

Tracey Cook

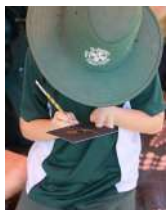
APRE

NAIDOC CELEBRATIONS

NAIDOC on the Grass

As part of the 2025 NAIDOC Week Celebrations, Shalom College invited First Nations students from St. Patrick's to attend their NAIDOC on the Grass celebrations. Students participated in craft activities, cultural dancing and a barbecue lunch which included kangaroo and crocodile. There were also First Nations representatives from the community, including Police Liaison Officers, the Wide Bay Health Service and Stepping Black.

Our students had an enjoyable and engaging time working on activities and learning about First Nations culture. A huge thank you to Shalom College staff and students for organising and delivering this event, in particular Valli Mitchelson. It was a fantastic experience!



SCHOOL PHOTOS—THERE'S STILL TIME TO ORDER!

School Photo Day was a great success - thank you to everyone for helping the children look their best! If you haven't yet ordered your child's group or portrait photos, there's still time. Simply visit www.advancedlife.com.au and enter the order code **K5C1GBPD7** to place your order before **Sunday, 10 August**. Please note, late fees will apply after this date. Photos will be delivered to the school about six weeks after the photography day.



REMINDER: PICK UP AND DROP OFF ZONES



Parents are busy, especially of a morning and we have received some feedback that the Mulgrave Street Drop-Off Zone is becoming quite congested. This area has been specifically designed as a Pick-Up and Drop-Off Zone between 7:45am - 8:45am and 2:45pm - 3:30pm. Parents are not permitted to park or reverse in this zone during these times, as it significantly disrupts the safe and efficient flow of traffic. The only exception is for families who use the designated Disabled Parking bays.

The Mulgrave Street Carpark is reserved for staff parking only to reduce traffic coming and going from this space. Please note that the Drop-Off Zone is intended for quick "drop, kiss and go" moments only. If you need to assist your child to complete breakfast, do their hair, etc. please use the designated parent/visitor car park on both Mulgrave and Powers Streets.

Your cooperation is appreciated to keep drop-off and pick-up times safe, smooth, and stress-free for everyone. Thank you for your understanding.

YEARS 5 & 6 CAMPS

Reminder: Year 5 and Year 6 Camps - Parent Action Required

A friendly reminder to all Year 5 and Year 6 families to please check your email (sent earlier last week) for important information regarding the upcoming school camps. An information pack has also been sent home with your child last week.

Camp Dates:

Year 5 Camp: Monday 1 September - Wednesday 3 September

Year 6 Camp: Wednesday 10 September - Friday 12 September

What parents need to do:

1. **Parental Consent:** Please log in to the [Parent Orbit App](#) to provide consent for your child to attend and indicate if your child is a non-swimmer by **Monday, 11 August**.
2. **Permission/Medical Form:** Return the completed form to the front office by **Monday, 11 August**.
3. **Medication:** All medication (labelled and accompanied with the medication form available from reception) must be signed in at the school office **as soon as possible**. If your child is prone to **motion sickness**, please ensure you include motion sickness medication, clearly labelled by the pharmacy, with their medication.

If you have not received the email, please check your spam or junk folder.
For any questions, or further information, don't hesitate to contact the school office.





Important notice:

The Tuckshop is only open for **Lunch on Monday 11th August**.
No Afternoon Tea will be available on Monday.

OUT AND ABOUT

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



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





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

TERM THREE PLANNER

WEEK 1	Week 14th July - Friday 18th July		
Monday	Start Term 3 2025		
Tuesday - Thursday	Tuesday to Thursday - Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	4F
Wednesday - Friday	Challenge Cup	All Day	Selected Students
WEEK 2	Week 21st July - 25th July		
Tuesday - Thursday	Tuesday to Thursday - Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	4K
WEEK 3	Week 28th July - 1st August		
CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK			
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
WEEK 4	Week 4th August - 8th August		
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
WEEK 5	Week 11th August - 15th August		
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
WEEK 6	Week 18th August - 22nd August		
Monday	Parish Mass	9:00am	Years 5 & 1
Tuesday - Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	6M
WEEK 7	Week 25th August - 29th August		
Monday	Parish Mass	9:00am	Year 2
Tuesday	Patty's Parent Engagement Night	5:30pm	Parents
Tuesday - Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	5P
WEEK 8	Week 1st September - 5th September		
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	PUPIL FREE DAY		
WEEK 9	Week 8th September - 12th September		
Tuesday - Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	5G
Wednesday - Friday	Year 6 Camp - Hervey Bay/Campialba	All Day	Year 6
WEEK 10	Week 14th September - 19th September		
Tuesday - Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	5S

2025 TERM DATES	
TERM 3	Monday 14 July - Friday 19 September
TERM 4	Tuesday 7 October - Friday 5 December