



Principal's News

7th August 2026



Kim O'Shea-Hard
Principal

As we celebrate National Anti-Bullying Week, we are reminded that one of the most important lessons our children learn at school is how to live alongside one another with kindness, respect and compassion. While academic success is important, our mission as a Catholic school is equally focused on helping students become people who build positive relationships, resolve differences respectfully and ensure that everyone feels they belong.

Learning to "get along" doesn't happen overnight. In *The Anxious Generation*, Jonathan Haidt (2024) suggests that society has developed a tendency to "overprotect in the real world and underprotect in the virtual world," making this process even more complicated for our young people. Research suggests that resilience grows when children are given opportunities to learn from mistakes and receive feedback through everyday social interactions. Yet, as Haidt observes, "adults usually can't stop themselves from directing and protecting." I know I am certainly guilty of this.



This presents a constant tension for both parents and educators. We naturally want our children to be happy and safe, while also helping them become resilient, capable young people. There is a delicate balance. Children begin school from the age of four and need explicit teaching, guidance and opportunities to practise what it means to "get along" with others. Even as adults, we continually regulate our emotions, navigate disagreements and work to build healthy relationships. For children, these skills develop through daily conversations, positive role modelling, encouragement and opportunities to practise empathy, forgiveness and inclusion.



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

Every greeting in the playground, every invitation to join a game, every kind word spoken and every disagreement resolved peacefully helps shape the character of our students. These behaviours do not always come naturally, but each successful interaction strengthens our school community. Then, just as we think we have found the perfect balance, a setback occurs, a challenge emerges or a new problem needs solving. It takes patience.

This message of patient growth is beautifully reflected later in this newsletter through the work of our Year 2 stewards in Paddy's Patch. As they observe the passionfruit vines growing, students are discovering that healthy plants do not produce fruit immediately. Each day the vines require sunshine, water, care and patience before they flower and eventually bear fruit. Growth is often slow, but every day something important is happening beneath the surface.

The same is true of learning.

This year we introduced DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) as part of our commitment to strengthening every child's reading accuracy and fluency. Just as the passionfruit vines need consistent care, strong readers develop through regular practice, explicit teaching and timely feedback.

DIBELS allows teachers to identify each student's next step in reading development so that support is targeted, timely and effective. This week we welcomed back CEDR Literacy Consultant, Mrs Kathleen Roby, who first worked with us in Week 1 of Term 2 to help staff unpack the rich data generated through DIBELS. Teachers were released to undertake a deep dive into their classes' most recent results, tracking student growth and using this information to plan the next steps in teaching and learning.

Small improvements each day build confident, accurate readers over time. Like the passionfruit vines, some days the growth is obvious; on others, despite careful watering, fertilising and pruning, the changes seem almost invisible. Yet the growth is still taking place.

Whether we are nurturing friendships or developing literacy skills, the message is the same: meaningful growth requires patience, consistency and encouragement. As Saint Paul reminds us in his Letter to the Galatians:



Together, as a school community, we continue to cultivate both capable learners and compassionate young people, trusting that, with care, perseverance and God's guidance, every child will continue to grow and bear fruit.

There are several staffing changes taking place during the second half of this year. Individual classes have already been notified of changes affecting them, but I would like to provide the following summary for our wider school community.

Year 2S

At the beginning of Term 4, Mrs Jessie Salmon will commence maternity leave. We are delighted to welcome Alice Buchanan, who will soon become Mrs Maki, to join our teaching team and take over Year 2S. Alice and her family are planning to relocate to Elliott Heads and she brings valuable experience from both Education Queensland and Brisbane Catholic Education. I believe she will be a wonderful addition to our school community. Students in 2S recently had the opportunity to meet Alice during a visit to the school, and she is looking forward to getting to know them even better next term. I am sure you join us in being excited for Jessie and Daniel, as they prepare for a smooth, safe delivery of their first born in September.

Year 4K

Ms Cathy Keegan will commence medical leave in Week 7 as she undergoes surgery on her foot. This procedure will significantly affect Cathy's mobility, and it is important that she has the remainder of the year to recover fully. We wish Cathy every blessing for a successful operation and a smooth recovery, and we look forward to welcoming her back in 2027.

We are very grateful that Mrs Hannah Nasio has accepted the opportunity to teach Year 4K for the remainder of the year. To enable Hannah to move into this full-time role, we also thank Mrs Christina Brimelow, who will teach Year 1B each Friday, allowing Hannah to work full time for the balance of the school year.



Paddy's Patch News

Our Paddy's Patch passion fruit vines have had a wonderful season! With one purple and one yellow passion fruit vine flourishing in the garden, our Year 1 and Year 2 students have proudly cared for them throughout the year. From watering and nurturing the vines to watching the fruit develop, students have discovered that growing food takes time, care and, most importantly, patience.

One of the biggest lessons we've learned is knowing when to pick the fruit. Students now know that passion fruit should be a rich purple or yellow colour before harvesting. There is always great excitement when someone spots a perfectly coloured fruit ready for picking—it truly is the reward for weeks of patient waiting!

The harvest has been put to delicious use in the kitchen, where students enjoyed creating and tasting passion fruit ice cream, passionfruit slice, and passion fruit and orange ice blocks. These hands-on experiences have helped students appreciate where food comes from while developing their cooking skills and celebrating the fruits of their labour.

Principal's News

Continued...



The learning hasn't stopped there! Each student has planted their own passion fruit seed. As their seedlings grow stronger, students will be able to take them home and continue their gardening journey by growing their very own passion fruit vine.



We have also explored the many health benefits of passion fruit and discovered why this tasty fruit is such a healthy addition to our diets.

Scan the QR code to learn more about the amazing health benefits of passion fruit!



Why was the passion fruit so good at its job?

Because it put a lot of **passion into it!**

FUN FACT

A passion fruit vine grows very fast. It can grow 3 to 8 meters of length every year when it has rich soil, plenty of water, and full sun.





Religion News

Tracey Cook
APRE

Sharing our Gifts

Each of us has been blessed with gifts and talents, not to keep to ourselves, but to build up our community. These gifts can look different for everyone: a talent for sport or music, a creative eye for art and design, a gift for welcoming new people, a calm presence when others are stressed, or the patience to explain learning to a classmate. Sometimes the most powerful gifts aren't "big" or public — they're quiet acts of kindness, honesty, encouragement, and service.

We saw a beautiful example of this just this week, when our youngest students — our Preppies — led the school in prayer for the first time. With courage and reverence, they stood in front of older students and adults and shared words of faith. Their gift wasn't about having the "perfect" voice or remembering every word. It was about being willing to lead, to trust, and to remind all of us that God is close. Their example encouraged our whole community and showed that every student, no matter their age, has something important to offer.

In Scripture we are reminded, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others" (1 Peter 4:10). At our school, this is part of how we live the Gospel each day. When we share what we're good at, we help others grow, and we strengthen the sense that everyone belongs. We also learn something important: our talents are not a competition. They are blessings meant to be offered for the common good.

This week, take a moment to notice your own gifts and thank God for them. Then choose one practical way to share them: include someone who is on their own, help a peer with a learning task, volunteer for a small responsibility, encourage a teammate, or use your creativity to bring joy to others. When we offer our gifts with humility and joy, we reflect God's love — and our whole community flourishes.



Reef Guardians Meetings Term 3

Meeting in the Technology Classroom

3:00 PM – 3:50 PM

Week 5 – 12 August

Week 7 – 26 August



SEESAW CODE

Parents, please collect students from the Technology Classroom so they are accounted for when leaving the meeting.

NAIDOC WEEK



Canva AI Tools in the Classroom

Learning Today, **LEADING** **TOMORROW**



St Patrick's
Catholic Primary School

EMPOWERING STUDENTS WITH
AI & DIGITAL LITERACY

At **St Patrick's Catholic Primary School**, we are committed to helping students develop the digital literacy skills needed for the future.



Canva
AI

As part of our teaching and learning programs, students will soon have access to **selected Canva AI tools** that have been reviewed and approved for educational use, including for use with students under 13 years of age.



These tools will be used within teacher-guided, curriculum-aligned learning activities to support **creativity, critical thinking**, and **responsible technology use**.



Students will also learn about how artificial intelligence works, its benefits and limitations, and how to use the technology **safely** and **ethically**.



All Canva AI use will occur under teacher supervision and in accordance with school and diocese expectations for **privacy, safety**, and **responsible digital citizenship**.



Working together
for a smarter,
safer future!



QUESTIONS?

We're here to help!

If you have any questions, please contact the school.



A Message from eSafety Australia



There's support available for when things go wrong .

If something goes wrong online, it can feel overwhelming but knowing what to do ahead of time can make all the difference.

The good news is **there's support available, and you don't have to figure it out alone.** Whether you're helping your child or acting on their behalf, being prepared with simple steps can help you respond quickly and confidently.

If something happens, start by collecting evidence like screenshots, usernames and links – but only what you need. Importantly, don't save or share sexual images of a child, as this can be illegal. In these cases, report directly to the [Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation](#).

From there, report the issue to the platform first. Most apps, games and websites have tools to report harmful content or behaviour – see the [eSafety Guide](#) for platform reporting options.

Some issues should be [reported to eSafety](#) straight away, including image-based abuse, illegal or highly harmful content, or ongoing serious abuse that platforms haven't addressed. You can also take steps to protect your child in the moment – like blocking or muting accounts and tightening privacy settings to prevent further contact.

Acting early not only helps keep your child safe but can also protect others from harm.



Save the Date- Frozen Kids Musical

September
9 & 10 2026

St Patrick's presents

Disney
FROZEN
KIDS



Watch this space for ticket details coming soon...

COMING
THIS
WEEK

What's happening in Week 5?

Mon	Parish Mass - Year 4 PSDE Parent Session (4:30 PM - 5:30 PM)
Mon -Tue	District Athletics Carnival - St Luke's
Tue	NAB AFL Auskick & Superkick Centre (3:15 PM - 4:15 PM)
Tue - Thur	Courtyard Prayer - 6L
Wed	Reef Guardian Meeting (3:00 PM - 3:50 PM)
Thur	Year 2 Excursion - Botanical Gardens Musical Rehearsal (3:15 PM - 5:00 PM)
Fri	District Athletics 1500m - St Luke's (9:30 AM - 10:30 AM) Friday Sports (12:00 PM - 2:00 PM)





Online Workshop: Supporting your student with reading

This **FREE** online session will focus on supporting **adolescent and pre-adolescent 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 **GriffLinC approach:**

Providing a good reading model.

Facilitating comprehension through conversations about the text.

WEDNESDAY 2ND OF SEPTEMBER 2026

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: 3-4PM
NORTHERN TERRITORY: 4.30-5.30PM
QUEENSLAND: 5-6PM
SOUTH AUSTRALIA: 4.30-5.30PM
NEW SOUTH WALES, VICTORIA, CANBERRA, HOBART: 5-6PM

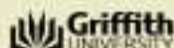
RSVP HERE

Connecting with student interests and prior knowledge.

Supporting vocabulary development.



Dr Frances Hoyte



Dr Kylie Bradfield



Dr Deb Brosseuk



For more information about  GriffLinC see:



2026/27 JUNIOR SEASON REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN

16th October - 11th December

Christmas Break

12th February - 19th March

Games played on a Friday Night
Sunday for Double Header games



Age Divisions: Tiny Touchdowns

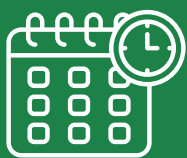
U8's U10's U12's U14's Teens

Term 3 Planner: Weeks 1-5

WEEK 1	Week 13th July - 17th July		
Tuesday-Wednesday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40 am	1H
Tuesday - Friday	Challenge Cup	11:30 am	Selected students
WEEK 2	Week 20th July - 24th July		
Tuesday-Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40 am	6B
Tuesday	NAB AFL Auskick & Superkick Centre	3:15 pm - 4:15 pm	St Patrick's Senior Oval
Thursday	All Schools Futsal	All Day	Selected Students
Friday	Interschool Sport	12:30 pm	Years 5-6
WEEK 3	Week 27th July - 31st July - Catholic Education Week		
Sunday	All Schools Mass	5:30 pm	Holy Rosary Church
Monday - Wednesday	Bundaberg Eisteddfod	All Day	Strings Ensembles, Choirs & Year 1 Verse Speaking
Tuesday	NAB AFL Auskick & Superkick Centre	3:15 pm - 4:15 pm	St Patrick's Senior Oval
Tuesday—Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40 am	6F
Friday	Interschool Sport	12:30 pm	Years 5-6
WEEK 4	Week 3rd August - 7th August		
Monday	School Photo Day	All Day	St Patrick's - MPS
Tuesday	NAB AFL Auskick & Superkick Centre	3:15 pm - 4:15 pm	St Patrick's Senior Oval
Tuesday-Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40 am	Tue (PK), Wed (PL), Thur (PS)
Friday	Interschool Sport	12:30 pm	Years 5-6
WEEK 5	Week 10th August - 14th August		
Monday	Parish Mass	9:00 am	Year 4
Monday - Tuesday	District Athletics	All Day	Selected students
Tuesday	NAB AFL Auskick & Superkick Centre	3:15 pm - 4:15 pm	St Patrick's Senior Oval
Tuesday-Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40 am	6L
Friday	Interschool Sport	12:30 pm	Years 5-6

Term 3 Planner: Weeks 6-10

WEEK 6	Week 17th August - 21st August		
Monday	Parish Mass	9:00 am	Year 5 and Year 1
Tuesday-Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40 am	5S
Tuesday	NAB AFL Auskick & Superkick Centre	3:15 pm - 4:15 pm	St Patrick's
Friday	Interschool Sport	12:30 pm	Years 5-6
WEEK 7	Week 24th August - 28th August		
Monday	Parish Mass	9:00 am	Year 2
Tuesday-Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40 am	5P
Tuesday	NAB AFL Auskick & Superkick Centre	3:15 pm - 4:15 pm	St Patrick's
WEEK 8	Week 31st August - 4 September		
Monday	Parish Mass	9:00 am	Year 6 and Prep
Tuesday—Wednesday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40 am	4K
Thursday	Whole School Liturgy	8:40 am	Father's Day Liturgy - Year 3
Wednesday - Thursday	Year 5 Camp	All Day	Year 5
Friday	Pupil Free Day		
WEEK 9	Week 7th September - 11th September		
Monday	Parish Mass	9:00 am - 10:00 am	Year 3
Tuesday-Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40 am	5G
Wednesday - Thursday	Musical Performance	5:30 pm	Shalom College PAP
WEEK 10	Week 14th September - 18th September		
Tuesday-Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40am	4B
Wednesday - Friday	Year 6 Camp	All Day	Year 6
Friday	All Schools Touch	All Day	Selected Students



2026 Term Dates

Term 3 Monday 13th July - Friday 18th September

Term 4 Tuesday 6th October - Friday 4th December