



PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

23rd May 2025

Since the election of Pope Leo XIV, we have seen a renewed energy and interest in the symbols and rituals which have been long woven into our Catholic tradition. At the inaugural mass, Pope Leo had a Pallium draped across his shoulders. This signified the weight of carrying his flock, which includes 1.4 billion faithful followers, worldwide. This comes with enormous responsibility. During Pope Leo's homily, he expressed *"I would like that our first great desire be for a united church, a sign of unity and communion, which becomes a haven for a reconciled world"*. It was a message received by so many world leaders, sitting shoulder to shoulder in solidarity, for this historical event. Even if for a short time, Pope Leo had the ear of those presently finding their people in the grips of war or craving an opportunity to 'reconcile' for a better tomorrow. During Courtyard Prayer, Year 3T reminded us of a time when Jesus had a similar message, *'He has called me to bring good news to poor people who are suffering'*. They, like Jesus, urged us to look for ways to fill the cup of those in our own communities.

I heard our own Prime Minister announce how his devout Catholic mother in heaven, would be be-sotted to see him attending this very special celebration. It helped me draw parallels. In my own family we attended Catholic Schools and were Baptised to retain family tradition but largely for the sake our Grandmother. When faith is 'caught' not 'taught' sometimes we miss the rich messages and iconic symbols that give meaning to our own life experience until much later in life. It can be taken for granted until we need it most. Pope Francis highlighted the role of Catholic educators, calling them *artisans of humanity and builders of peace*. For me, it is often the students in our school that contextualise simple life lessons born from the Jesus story. They achieve this through the words, songs and actions shared throughout the liturgical and prayer life of our school. This week we can thank Year 3T for reminding us to 'shine' from the 'inside out' for the 'world to see'. What a wonderful message for a 'world' thirsting to be 'reconciled' as suggested by our own Pope Leo.

Some weeks ago I mentioned the work of Br. Lionel Magee in our schools and parish, over his stellar career in Catholic Education. He believed each of us were 'diamonds in the rough' and that we are called to a vocation to help shape and polish individuals to reflect their true lustre. This sometimes includes looking within and working from the 'inside out' as suggested by Year 3T. This weekend we have a combined Children's Mass at St. Patrick's Sunday, from 9am. Br. Ted Magee was passionate about these monthly celebrations. If you are able to attend over the weekend, it would be great if you (or at least your children) could sit toward the front with staff and other students. Brother Magee was always keen for a cuppa and treat after Mass, so please bring a plate to share after mass if you are able. Hope to see some familiar faces there this weekend.

Kim O'Shea-Hard

Principal

Have a great weekend!



PRIMARY SCHOOLING ABSENTEEISM

Absenteeism and Primary Student: Application from Compulsory Schooling

Travelling away during the term? Planning extended holiday? Medical operation booked?

Please read...

At St. Patrick's we value education and enabling students to reach their potential. Research and experience highlight how absenteeism has an enormous impact on student outcomes, including their well-being. When students miss as much as one day, it can impact their social connectivity to peers and class learning, which is why we keep a close eye on absenteeism across our school.

The Queensland Government has legislation around absenteeism, which we are compelled to follow closely. If your child/ren is/are unable to attend school for more than 10 consecutive days, but fewer than 110 school days, the class teacher needs to be alerted and an [Exemption from Compulsory Schooling form](#) completed at least 14 days prior to leaving. Once the paperwork is submitted via front reception, the principal will make contact, if an appointment is necessary.

As has been communicated at times around our school funding, Commonwealth and State Governments provide financial support for your child's education. Taking leave during census eligibility periods (January/February & July/August) can significantly impact the funding received by the school to support your child's education. Any leave booked during these times will require an interview in a way of planning ways of retaining contact during this period, via See Saw and/or other initiatives to provide evidence to show the student's connectivity to the school and learning. For longer periods (a term or longer) enrolment options will need to be considered, and alternative educational options explored by the family e.g. Distance Education. This can also be discussed. **Life happens** and we respect individual family's decision. As a school, we want to ensure we are following protocols, but also supporting families to navigate their individual needs and circumstances. Please click on the link provided to start the process, especially if you are planning to be absent for more than 10 days falling between **14th July and Friday 8th August, 2025** (Term Three, Weeks 1-4).

Thanks so much to the families who have already worked their way through this new process. Your communication and co-operation has been very much appreciated!

Every day counts

MOST STUDENTS ATTEND SCHOOL EVERY DAY

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

OK reasons to stay home from school

- sick
- natural disasters

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

1 day off school each fortnight = Missing more than a year of learning over 12 years

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

Good attendance begins in Prep It's where good habits begin

ATTEND ALL DAY, EVERY DAY

Each 1% increase in attendance can make a difference

Missing 2-3 days more can make a difference

What parents can do

- Promote the importance of school
- Get to know the teacher
- Go to school events
- Read the school newsletter
- Be organised at home
- Discuss school at home
- Ask about your child's day
- Volunteer to help at school

Get involved in your child's school

For more information Go to the **Every day counts** website: <https://education.qld.gov.au/initiatives-and-strategies/initiatives/every-day-counts>

This month, once again our school and Parish community are invited to gather together for a special celebration — our monthly Mass with Children. It is a joyful occasion that brings our students, families and parish together to deepen our faith and reflect on the teachings of the Gospel. Mass will be held on Sunday, May 25 at 9.00am here at St Patrick's Church.

Mass is a beautiful reminder of the importance of prayer, community, and the sacraments in our Catholic tradition. Students actively participate, with some taking on roles such as readers, altar servers, and members of the choir, creating a sense of belonging and connection within the Mass.

Our students involved in the Sacramental Program have been learning about the significance of the Eucharist and the meaning of the different parts of the Mass. Fr Don led a beautiful teaching Mass last week. If your child would like to be involved in future Masses with Children please make contact with me. As is the custom there will be a light morning tea after the Mass, so feel free to bring a plate to share. This is something that was very special to Br Ted and is the first Mass with Children since his passing a few weeks ago.

We are always so grateful for the support of our school community, including our wonderful staff and families, who encourage our children in their spiritual journey. It is through these shared moments of faith that we grow stronger as a school family, and we look forward to more opportunities to come together in prayer and worship.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you at Mass on Sunday.

CATHOLIC PARISH OF BUNDABERG



Mass with Children

Sunday May 25, 2025

9AM AT ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Families are most welcome to attend

Tracey Cook

APRE

School Fees Explained

How is Education funded in Australia?



The Federal Government "School Resource Standard (SRS)" funding model determines State and Federal Government funding to all schools in Australia.

- For Non-Government schools, the SRS model also identifies each School community's means-tested "Capacity to Contribute (CTC)" through School Fees.
- Unlike many Non-Government schools, Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton (CEDR) schools minimise School fees by delivering education to students within the SRS.

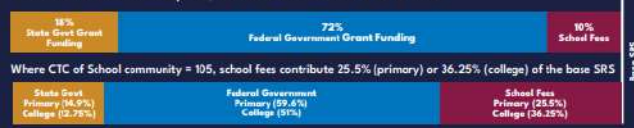
School funding formula for all schools in Australia *"School Fees"*



Source: National Catholic Education Commission 2023

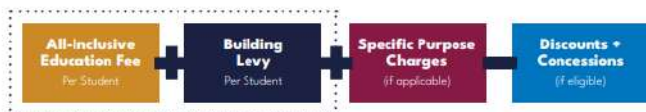
Examples of how CTC impacts School Fees

Where CTC of School community = 90, school fees contribute 10% of the base SRS



How are School fees presented in CEDR schools?

School fees are presented as one All-Inclusive Education fee, that delivers the curriculum offering of the School, rather than a tuition fee PLUS several School-based levies and charges.



Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton | www.rsk.catholic.edu.au

Please refer to the "School Fees Explained" flyer, developed to inform our Catholic Education families of the Federal Government SRS Funding model (Gonski model) and the impact on School Fees for Catholic Schools. The flyer outlines the direct nexus between the Federal Government means-tested Capacity to Contribute of each School community, and School Fees.

MATHS CHALLENGE

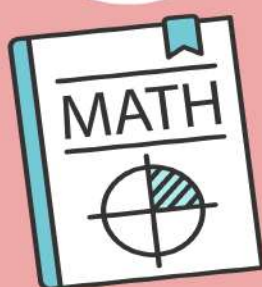


Year 5 and 6 MATH CHALLENGERS



Do you love a maths challenge?

Join our Maths Challengers Club to participate in fortnightly meet-ups in Mrs Salmon's Year 6 classroom! The group will meet from 8-8:30am on the Wednesday mornings of even weeks of term (weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 10) to partake in team Maths activities and games!



HEALTH ALERT

We have recently had some cases of Hand Foot and Mouth disease at our school. The Queensland Government have provided this ink for information.

[Hand foot and mouth disease](#) | [Health and wellbeing](#) | [Queensland Government](#)

Please note, blisters in the mouth usually take a further 24 hours to dry compared with those on the hands and feet. With younger children, particularly Prep and Year 1, it would be ideal if they could stay home for a further 24 hours after their hands and feet blisters have dried.



E SAFETY

Looking for practical ways to support your child's online safety? Join ESafety's **free webinars** designed specifically for parents and carers.

Understanding and using parental controls to help protect your child online

Learn how to effectively use parental controls to protect your child from harmful content, manage their online time, and monitor their communications. This 45-minute webinar will be held on the 3rd June at 3:30pm AEST, and will cover the following:

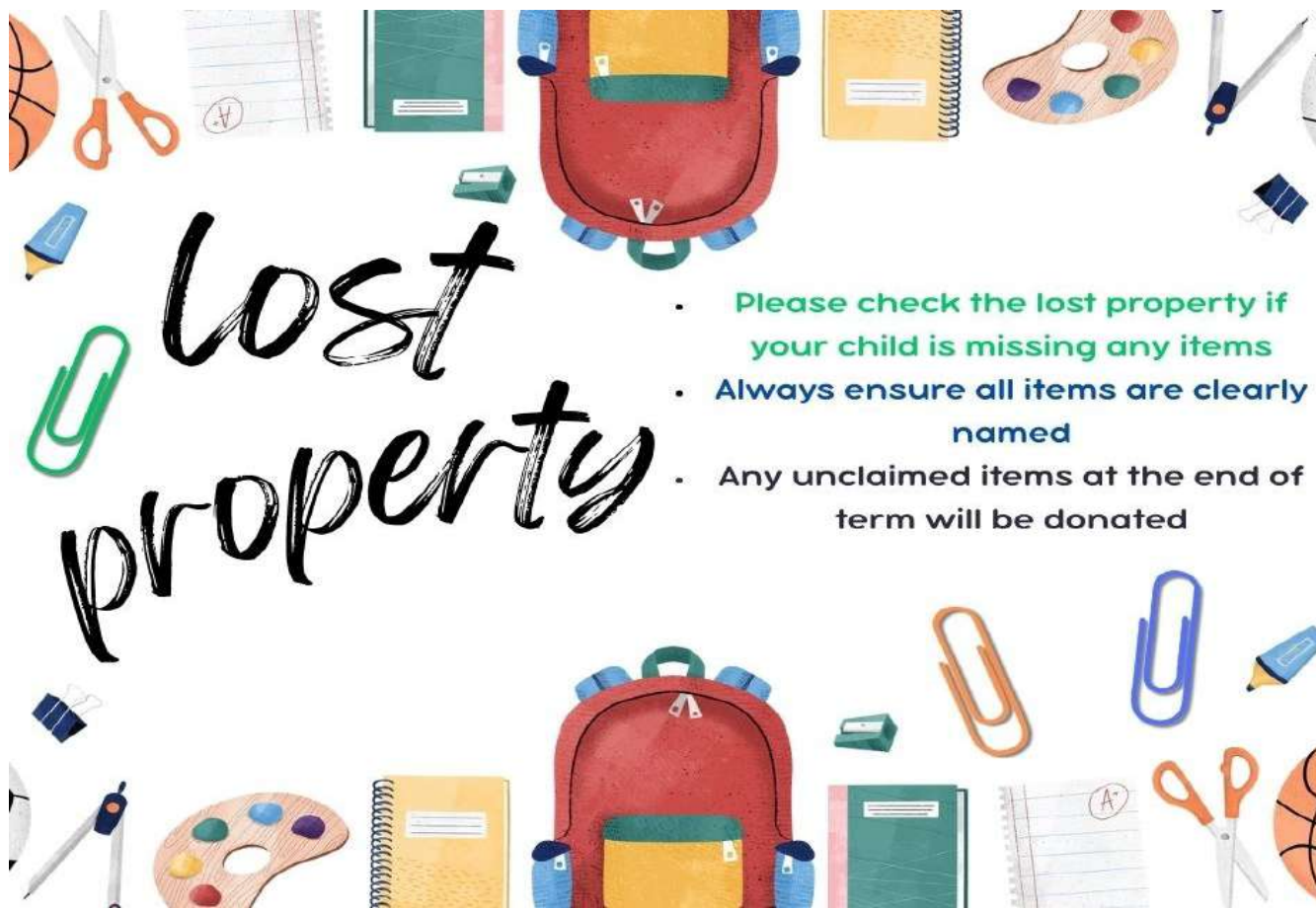
- Types of parental controls for smart devices, apps, gaming platforms, and computers.
- Integrating parental controls with other online safety strategies to build your child's digital and critical skills.

The webinar is suitable for parents and carers of children and young people in primary school and lower high school. Please click on the link below to register.

E-Safety Webinar Registration



LOST PROPERTY



- Please check the lost property if your child is missing any items
- Always ensure all items are clearly named
- Any unclaimed items at the end of term will be donated

OUT AND ABOUT

 Winter School Holiday Program June & July 2025				
Monday 30/6/25	Tuesday 1/7/25	Wednesday 2/7/25	Thursday 3/7/25	Friday 4/7/25
ZAMZOOK PARK ALPACAS (10-12 actual booking) BQ Picnic Lunch @ MOORE PARK BEACH & playground Beachcombing and games Cost: \$20	X	NEILSENS BEACH Sand Castle Camp & Collect rocks for painting BQ Picnic Lunch @ HQ2 CRAFT Paint rocks / movie / games Hide rocks around town Cost: \$5	INFLATABLE WORLD 2 hours of fun BQ Picnic Lunch @ ELLIOTT HEADS BEACH Tina Berries Ice Cream & Games Cost: \$28.00	X
Monday 7/7/25	Tuesday 8/7/25	Wednesday 9/7/25	Thursday 10/7/25	Friday 11/7/25
MEADOWVALE NATURE WALK To Spitters Creek Nature Bingo & Games BQ Picnic Lunch @ BOTANIC GARDENS Train Ride Scavenger Hunt / Games Cost: \$3	X	GIN GIN ADVENTURE Mystery Clatters Besombo Lads BQ Picnic Lunch @ Gin Gin Park HISTORICAL VILLAGE Railway Station Cost: \$15	SNAKES DOWNUNDER 5 Daily Shows - last 2 after lunch See all the animals BQ picnic lunch @ Snakes Downunder Cost: \$18	X

Our program runs 9am-3pm with pick-ups between 8am-9am and drop-offs between 3pm-4pm.
 Please contact IDSS on 1300 4377 688 by close of business Friday 13/6/25 with your requested days. An invoice will be sent with the total cost to be paid by 23/6/25.

All activities are subject to weather and availability and may change if needed. Please bring: hat, water bottle, towel and change of clothes each day.



SECOND HAND SALE

TUESDAY 27 MAY | 2.30PM - 6.30 PM

HELD AT THE OLD UNIFORM SHOP

BOYS FORMAL SHIRTS: \$15
BOYS FORMAL TROUSERS: \$10-20
GIRLS DRESSES: \$20
GIRLS BLOUSES: \$5-10
GIRLS SKIRTS: \$15
RED JUMPERS, BLUE JACKETS, HATS AND OTHER UNIFORMS IN VARIES SIZES AVAILABLE!!

EFTPOS ONLY





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



Absentees

4994 8336

spb_absentees@rok.catholic.edu.au

ACF
donations close
31 May!



BUTTS



BUNDABERG UPGRADES TIRED THEATRE SEATS

If you are a Playhouse regular, you'll know how much
we need new, comfortable seats.

By making a donation you'll set us up for new seats,
as part of our major theatre refurbishment.

TO MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION
PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT THE
AUSTRALIAN CULTURAL FUND WEBSITE.



AUSTRALIAN
CULTURAL
FUND.ORG.AU



SCAN ME

TERM TWO PLANNER

WEEK 1	Week 22nd April - Friday 25th April		
Monday	PUBLIC HOLIDAY - EASTER MONDAY		
Tuesday-Wednesday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40am	5G
Thursday	ANZAC DAY Liturgy	8:40am	5G
Friday	PUBLIC HOLIDAY - ANZAC DAY		
WEEK 2	Week 28th April - 2nd May		
Monday	Parish Mass	9:00am	Year 5 & 1
Monday	Senior Cross Country - Years 3 to 6	9:00am	Shalom
Tuesday-Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40am	4M
Friday	Junior Obstacle Course - Prep to Year 2	9:00am	St Patrick's
	Interschool Sport	12:30pm	Years 5-6
WEEK 3	Week 5th May - 9th May		
Monday	PUBLIC HOLIDAY - LABOUR DAY		
Tuesday-Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40am	4F
Friday	Mother's Day Liturgy	9:00am	Year 2
	Interschool Sport	12:30pm	Years 5-6
WEEK 4	Week 12th May - 16th May		
Monday	Parish Mass	9:00am	Year 6 & Prep
Tuesday-Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40am	4K
Friday	District Cross Country - no interschool sport	All Day	Avoca SS
WEEK 5	Week 19th May - 23rd May		
Monday	Parish Mass	8:40am	Year 3
Tuesday-Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40am	3T
Friday	Interschool Sport	12:30pm	Years 5-6
WEEK 6	Week 26th May - 30th May		
Monday	Parish Mass	8:40am	Year 2
Tuesday-Wednesday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40am	3L
Thursday	BUNDABERG SHOW HOLIDAY		
Friday	Interschool Sport	12:30pm	Years 5-6
WEEK 7	Week 2nd June - 6th June		
Monday	Parish Mass	8:40am	Year 4
Tuesday-Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40am	3C
Wednesday	Questacon Science Circus	All Day	Prep - 6
Friday	Interschool Sport	12:30pm	Years 5-6
WEEK 8	Week 9th June -13th June		
Tuesday-Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40am	1H
WEEK 9	Week 16th June - 20th June		
Monday	Field Events Day - students born 2015, 2014 & 2013	All Day	St Patrick's
Tuesday-Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40am	1B
Tuesday	Music Retreat Day - Junior & Senior Strings students	All Day	Chaverim
WEEK 10	Week 23rd June - 27th June		
Monday	Senior Athletics Carnival - students born 2016, 2015, 2014 & 2013	All Day	Shalom
Tuesday-Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40am	1C
Friday	Junior Athletics Carnival - students born 2020,2019, 2018 & 2017	All Day	St Patrick's

2025 SPORT DATES			
2nd May	Junior Obstacle Course	Prep to Year 2	St Patrick's
16 June	Senior Field Events	Students born 2016, 2015, 2014 & 2013	St Patrick's
23rd June	Senior Athletics Day	Students born 2016, 2015, 2014 & 2013	Shalom College
27th June	Junior Athletics Day	Students born 2020, 2019, 2018 & 2017	St Patrick's
21st November	Swimming Carnival	Years 3 to 6	Bundaberg

2025 TERM DATES	
TERM 1	Monday 28 January - Friday 4 April
TERM 2	Tuesday 22 April - Friday 27 June
TERM 3	Monday 14 July - Friday 19 September
TERM 4	Tuesday 7 October - Friday 5 December