Principal's News

13th November 2026



Kim O'Shea-Hard
Principal

Friday found us unable to send the newsletter due to the global e-mail network breakdown, so we apologise for any inconvenience. Last week, our Year Two students led us in Courtyard Prayer, reminding us of the wonder of creation. This was fitting, as Mrs. Jessie Salmon and husband Daniel announced the safe arrival of our most recent shamrock, Miss Eadie Salmon. As we draw near to the culmination of another year together, I find myself reflecting on the many ways our community has embraced opportunity and 'created' so much from this school year. In the spirit of Catherine McAuley, whose courage and compassion shaped a legacy of Mercy, our students, staff, and families have continued to live out her vision of faith in action. Catherine reminded us that "we must strive to do ordinary things extraordinarily well". This year, our students have wholeheartedly embraced this call, shining in the classroom, on the playground, in the garden, within our parish, and across the wider community. The acknowledgement of Year 5's Borobi, Art 4 Athletes, initiative shared by Mrs. Lindeman on assembly last week, was another example of our students embracing new opportunities.

This week, we also gathered as a school community for our **Remembrance Day Liturgy**, where we paused to remember and honour the men and women who served and sacrificed for the peace and freedoms we enjoy today. Through prayer and reflection, Year 5 reminded us that remembrance is not only about looking back with gratitude but also about carrying forward the values of compassion, justice, and selfless service in our daily lives. Our students left the sacred space in absolute silence to pay tribute to those who went before us. Mr. Plumb was in early to set symbols in place and brought to my attention an old wooden cross which was saved from the original school building, which burnt down many years ago.

This week I also had a past St. Patrick's Teacher, Mrs. Heathwood, drop in to look at our Mercy Place Mosaic. She was visibly touched to see the old Parish Office Cross repurposed and prominently featured. I remember Mrs. Heathwood vividly from my own St. Patrick's School days and it reminded me of how we are forever building on the sacrifices and hard work of those who went before us, for the good of those who journey with us and behind us. I could see how much our community still means to Colleen and it soothed my soul to see that she approved of our most recent venture.

Principal's News
Continued...

This Friday we will see our upper school compete in the annual swimming carnival. Some students will excel through their athletic ability; others through the way they encourage, support, and participate. It is through the learning, friendships, outreach, and generous hearts of our students that we come to understand what it truly means to let the Mercy Spirit radiate through our gifts. The spirit of Remembrance Day reminds us that even the smallest acts of service can leave a lasting legacy, just as the lives we remembered this week continue to inspire us today.

We look forward to celebrating the following at the culmination of what has been a successful school year:

- Cultural Night – Tuesday, 24th November at the Shalom Performing Arts Precinct
- Year 1 Nativity – Monday, 30th November
- Year 6 Graduation – Tuesday, 1st December
- Celebration Night – Wednesday, 2nd December
- End of Year Liturgy and Farewell Assembly – Friday, 4th December

I very much look forward to watching our students continue to 'create' and 'celebrate' right up to the final day of term.

Highlights from this week:

















Religion News

Tracey Cook
APRE

The Saraments



The Sacraments: God's grace for all people, not just individuals

In a busy world, it's easy to treat faith as something private. The sacraments remind us that God's grace is given to the whole Church. Through simple, ordinary signs — water, oil, bread and wine — God draws us into friendship with Christ and communion with one another. The sacraments don't just strengthen individuals; they shape us into a community of faith, hope and love.

In Baptism, we are welcomed into new life in Christ and into the life of the Church. In Confirmation, we are strengthened by the Holy Spirit so we can live with courage and give witness. Together, these sacraments unite us as one Body and one Spirit — called to be "one heart and one soul" in a world that often pulls people apart.

The Eucharist becomes the centre of our life together each week (and for many, each day). It is the sacrament of unity: Christ gives himself to us, and as we receive him, we learn what true belonging looks like. The Eucharist also teaches us how to share—our attention, our time, our forgiveness and our resources—so that our faith is not only spoken, but lived.

Students often ask a very practical and heartfelt question: "Can I participate in the Eucharist at Mass?" We always want students to feel welcome and included in the prayer of the Church, while also helping them understand that some parts of the liturgy (especially receiving Holy Communion) are closely connected to sacramental preparation and being ready to receive. Father Don will be sending a letter to the school community inviting families to join our next Sacramental Program in 2027—all are welcome—so that those who are seeking to begin or continue their sacramental journey are supported, prepared, and able to participate more fully.

As a school community, we can allow the sacraments to form us week by week. They hold our diversity within unity, strengthen our responsibility for one another, and send us out to serve—especially those most in need. In receiving God's gifts, we learn to become God's gift for others.





Paddy's Patch News

Wonderful New Additions to Paddy's Patch!

We have some exciting new additions to share at St Patrick's!

Back in May, St Patrick's applied for a grant through our local Bundaberg Sunrise Rotary Club to help us expand Paddy's Patch with a mobile chicken trailer and a native stingless beehive. In August, we received the wonderful news that our application had been successful!

We are incredibly grateful to the Bundaberg Sunrise Rotary Club for their generous support and for helping us continue to develop Paddy's Patch into a vibrant outdoor learning space for our students.

Meet our five new feathered friends!

We are now home to five lovely chooks named Mary, Catherine, Theresa, Elizabeth and Martha! They have quickly become much-loved members of our school community. The children have thoroughly enjoyed watching their new feathered friends, getting to know their personalities and helping to feed them fruit and vegetable scraps.

Having chickens at Paddy's Patch provides wonderful opportunities for hands-on learning. Students will develop an understanding of natural nutrient cycles through composting and the use of natural fertiliser, while also building responsibility, empathy and routine through caring for animals. The chickens will also help reduce waste by eating appropriate garden weeds, damaged produce and selected food scraps. We look forward to collecting their eggs and incorporating them into cooking experiences, helping students make connections from paddock to plate!







Welcome to our native stingless bees!

On Wednesday afternoon, we were also excited to welcome a native stingless beehive to Paddy's Patch. These little visitors will play an important role in pollinating the plants throughout our garden and supporting local biodiversity.

The beehive will provide another valuable learning opportunity, allowing students to discover the important role native pollinators play in food production and maintaining healthy ecosystems. It will also encourage conversations about caring for our environment and being responsible stewards of the natural world







Learning, growing and caring together

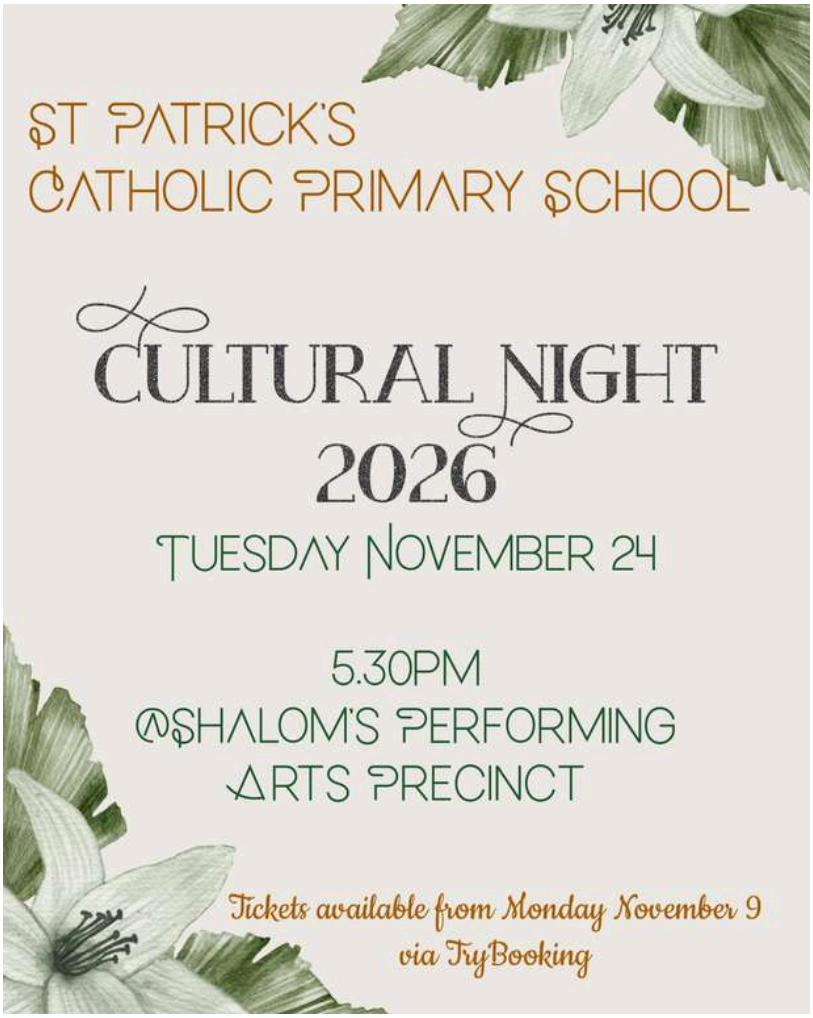
Together, our chickens and native bees will help make Paddy's Patch an even richer learning environment. Through these experiences, students can explore the connections between plants, animals and people, while developing an appreciation for sustainability and learning how small actions can make a positive difference to the world around us.

To ensure Paddy's Patch remains a safe and respectful space for everyone, students have been reminded that they may only enter the garden when accompanied by an adult. This will help guide their interactions and ensure our animals, plants and garden are treated with care.

A huge thank you once again to our local Bundaberg Sunrise Rotary Club for making these additions possible. Your generosity is helping us create a wonderful outdoor classroom where our students can learn, explore, grow and develop a deeper connection with the natural environment.

We are so excited to see Paddy's Patch continue to flourish!

Save the Dates





https://www.trybooking.com/au/event/1674977



Sports News



Senior Swimming Carnival

The Senior School Swimming Carnival will be held on **Friday 20 November** at the Bundaberg Aquatic Centre on Walker Street at the indoor 25m pool.

Spectators are welcome to attend and reminded there is a $1.50 entry fee and limited seating.

The format for the carnival will be as follows:

8:40am - 9:00am: Travel to BAC
9:00am - 12:30pm: Years 4, 5 & 6 events
12:30pm - 12:50pm: Return to school
12:50pm - 1:20pm: Lunch at school
1:20pm: Presentations at school
(Overall Points and Age Championships for students born 2014-2016)
1:30pm: Afternoon Tea PLAY
1:50pm: Return to class

'A' DIVISION RACES (Age Champion Event) – 50m event in Freestyle, Backstroke & Breaststroke.
'B' DIVISION RACES – 25m event in Freestyle, Backstroke and Breaststroke.
'C' DIVISION RACES – 12m event in Freestyle, Backstroke and Breaststroke.
Students who nominated for 12m events will be starting in the pool and swim with or without the assistance of a kickboard to a half-way rope.



What to bring to the pool:

- rashy
- goggles
- towel
- water bottle
- snacks
- bag to carry their belongings.

NO TUCKSHOP will be available for Year 4, 5 and 6.

Students may wear their sports uniform and House coloured shirt to school on this day. Students are advised to wear their swimming togs under their uniforms upon arrival at school. **Please ensure all items of clothing are clearly named.**

We look forward to an enjoyable and supportive event for all competitors.



Out and About



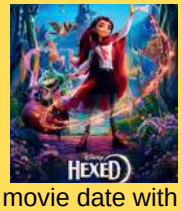






Vacation Care - Dec/Jan Program

$70 p/d

Mon, 7th Dec	Tue, 8th Dec	Wed, 9th Dec	Thur, 10th Dec	Fri, 11th Dec
Reverse Garbage Day (as requested)  A fun day of transforming recycled items into amazing creations.	**Wet Play Day** (as requested)  Bring your togs, towel & water pistol. We'll provide Zooper Doopers, water & FUN!	**Tie Dye Pillow Case** (as requested)  Let's tie dye our very own pillow case to take home. $5 surcharge	**Cube Sports - Soccer-**  Show off your soccer skills and learn some new ones. $10 surcharge	**Reading Cinemas** "*Hexed*" (excursion)  A movie date with St Mary's OSHC kids. Rated PG. $25 surcharge
Mon, 14th Dec	**Tue, 15th Dec**	**Wed, 16th Dec**	**Thur, 17th Dec**	**Fri, 18th Dec**
"LEGO" - Xmas Challange (as requested)  Work together or by yourself to WIN the Christmas-themed Lego Challenge	**Xmas Craft Day** (as requested)  As much Christmas craft as you can squeeze into your day! $15 surcharge	**Summer Pyjamas & Christmas Movies** (as requested)  Wear your **summer** pj's and watch some Christmas movies together!	**Christmas Cooking**  Help make some yummy Christmas food for us to eat tomorrow at our Christmas party!	**XMas Party**  Choose a Secret Santa gift from under the OSHC tree & enjoy Christmas lunch toghether. *(You will still need morning & afternoon tea).*

Service closed for Christmas and New Year

Mon, 11th Jan	Tue, 12th Jan	Wed, 13th Jan	Thur, 14th Jan	Fri, 15th Jan
Do Nothing Day (as requested)  Let's just chill-ax today and do nothing "special" at all.	**Wet Play Day** (as requested)  Bring your togs & towel and we'll provide the WET FUN!	**Hive Inflatables** (excursion)  An air-filled and fun-filled session at the Multiplex. $25 surcharge	**Make your own Night Light**  Choose & decorate your own nightlight for your bedroom. $15 surcharge	**Jurassic Pork**  Wear your favourite dinosaur t-shirt and enjoy a (pork) sausage sizzle lunch & a Zooper Dooper! *(You will still need morning & afternoon tea).*
Mon, 18th Jan	**Tue, 19th Jan**	**Wed, 20th Jan**	**Thur, 21st Jan**	**Fri, 22nd Jan**
Wheels Day (as requested)  Bring your own scooter or scates AND HELMET. (please NO bikes)	**Spa Day** (as requested)  Relax & feel pampered OR try a (yoga) pose!	**Cube Sports - Basketball**  An action-packed basketball session to improve our skills and our 'game'. $10 surcharge	**NERF Gun Battle** (as requested)  Let's grab our goggles and our team mates again. LET THE BATTLE BEGIN!!!	**Reading Cinemas** ***"Cat in the Hat"*** **(excursion)**  A movie date with St Mary's OSHC kids. Rated PG. $25 surcharge

Service closed 25th & 26th January 2027

Term 4 Planner: Weeks 6-9

WEEK 6	Week 9th November- 13th November		
Monday	Parish Mass	9:00 am	Year 5 and Year 1
Tuesday & Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:40 am	2C
Wednesday	Remembrance Day Memorial	9:00 am	5P
WEEK 7	**Week 16th November - 20th November**		
Monday	Parish Mass	9:00 am	Year 3
Tuesday-Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:30am	2S
Friday	Senior Swimming Carnival	All Day	Years 4-6
WEEK 8	**Week 23rd November - 27th November**		
Tuesday—Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8:30 am	2W
Tuesday	Cultural Night 2026	5:30 pm	Shalom PAP
Friday	String Ensemble Performance	8:45 am - 10:45 am	Palm Lakes
WEEK 9	**Week 30th November - 4th December**		
Monday	Year 1 Nativity Play	9:00 am	Year 1
Monday	Prep End of Year Excursion	10:00 am - 12:30 am	Prep - Moncrieff Theatre
Tuesday	Year 1 End of Year Incursion	9:00 am - 11:00 am	Year 1
Tuesday	Year 6 Graduation End of year excursion	9:00 am - 10:30 am 10:45 am - 1:30 pm	Year 6 Norville Pool
Tuesday	Year 4 End of Year Excursion	9:15 am - 12:15 pm	Year 4 - Bundy Bowl
Tuesday	Year 3 End of Year Excursion	11:45 am - 2:45 pm	Year 3 - Reading Cinemas
Wednesday	Year 5 End of Year Excursion	8:45 am - 12:15 pm	Year 5 - Bundy Bowl
Wednesday	Celebration Night 2026	5:00 pm - 6:45 pm	St Patrick's School
Thursday	Year 2 End of Year Excursion	5:45 am - 11:45 pm	Year 2 - BSA
Friday	End of Year Liturgy	9:00 am	St Patrick's School
Friday	Year 6 Assembly - Final Farewell	11:15am	Year 6
Friday	School dismissed	12:00 pm	St Patick's School



Term Dates

Term 1 Wednesday, 27th January - Thursday, 25th March *(9 weeks)*
Term 2 Monday, 12th April - Friday, 25 June *(11 weeks)*
Term 3 Monday 12th July - Friday 17th September *(10 weeks)*
Term 4 Tuesday 5th October - Friday 3rd December *(9 weeks)*