



PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

30th May 2025

Last week I attended meetings and a conference in Rockhampton around student wellbeing. In recent times there has been an enormous focus on the brain and how it is wired. Childhood has evolved and changed over many generations. As human beings, we are constantly evolving and changing to suit the environment in which we live. The generation coming through our school today has been born into a world that is changing faster than ever before. Jonathon Haidt (2024) in his book 'The Anxious Generation' highlights how the lengthened time dedicated to the childhood stage of life through humanity, aligns with the sophistication and evolution of the human brain. His concern is that there is a threat that the childhood stage of life is being shortened due to exposure to themes via technology when used poorly. Last week I met Daniel Sih. He is the author of 'Raising Tech-Healthy Humans'. He admitted to the struggles of parenting in a world that is exposing our children to adult themes much earlier than desirable. He shares his own parenting struggles but suggests that the key is to 'slow it down'. He recommends that when our children say 'everyone else is allowed snap chat' for example, we extend that by a larger number. He believes that we are starting to 'know better' as the research is starting to unfold around the use of technology and its impact on the brain and that finding a balance in life is important. Whilst highlighting a myriad of positives emerging from the use of technology in this world, it is almost like it is unfolding too fast and we are constantly playing catch up. Daniel encourages us to consider how phones are powerful tools and must be handed over with safety regulations attached. He suggests limiting children's exposure to social media until at least high school to lessen the negative impacts such platforms are having, especially on young girls, before they have had the opportunity to develop their own sense of oneself.

The last two holiday periods have resulted in two issues unfolding via 'Kids Messenger'. Happily, our diligent parents were supervising such conversations and limiting access. This app sounds harmless, but we must remember that our children are only just starting to learn how to communicate online and need assistance to do so in a healthy way. They still need to be monitored closely, and it is important for us all to remember how important it is for the human brain to have time offline, out exploring nature and escaping the 'white noise' often created in our modern world. This is the one constant each generation has required for growth and is expressed best by Jeremiah 2:25 when he suggests "Slow down. Take a deep breath. What's the hurry?". This is often easier said than done, especially for me, but I hope the day yesterday or this weekend provides some space for you and your family to catch your breath.

Daniel Sih also spoke of how despite all the wonderful advancements in toys and pastimes, when surveyed, humans recalled the simpler experiences in life as their most memorable including melting marshmallows around a camp fire and it is certainly almost that time of the year. After listening and reading about the impact of the 'simple things in life' I noticed more than usual the encounters around our playground that bring joy to our children. These included activities organised by our senior students for their younger buddies...beanbag throwing competitions, Hopscotch, arts and crafts!



A reminder to all parents of the new date, **Tuesday, 10th June at 5:30pm for Patty's PEN (Parent Engagement Night)** with Diocesan Consultant **Bianca McLeish**.

I am looking forward to seeing some of you there to share more about how we can work collectively to engage your children in a strength-based education model of learning and to provide an opportunity for our parents and caregivers to connect in a relaxed and welcoming gathering.

For catering purposes and seating arrangements, please register by using this [online form](#).



Kim O'Shea-Hard
Principal

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 student attendance may relate to 2-3 NAPLAN scale score points*

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
- Supervise homework
- 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>

Celebrating the Holy Spirit: Pentecost School Mass

On Friday, June 6, our school community will come together in joyful celebration for our Pentecost School Mass, marking one of the most significant feasts in the Catholic liturgical calendar. Pentecost, celebrated fifty days after Easter, commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and the birth of the Church.

The Mass, held in St Patrick's Church will be a vibrant expression of faith, unity, and the presence of the Holy Spirit among us. Students and staff will gather in prayer, song, and reflection and will be led by Fr Don.

We are reminded of the power of the Holy Spirit who inspires courage, wisdom, and love in our daily lives. Each of us is called to be a light in the world, just as the Apostles were transformed and encouraged to share the Good News.

Students will play a central role throughout the Mass, with readings and the offertory procession to be led by them.

As a school grounded in the Catholic faith, this Pentecost celebration will remind us of the importance of community, prayer, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our journey of learning and growth. We pray that the gifts of the Spirit—wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, wonder & awe of the Lord—continue to guide and inspire us throughout the year.

We invite parents to attend our Pentecost Mass and look forward to seeing you there on Friday, June 6.

St Patrick's 2025 School Pentecost Mass



Friday June 6
YEARS 2-6
9AM IN THE CHURCH



Parents are most welcome to attend

Tracey Cook

APRE

HEALTH ALERT

We have recently had some cases of Hand Foot and Mouth disease at our school. The Queensland Government have provided this link 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](#)



SPORT NEWS

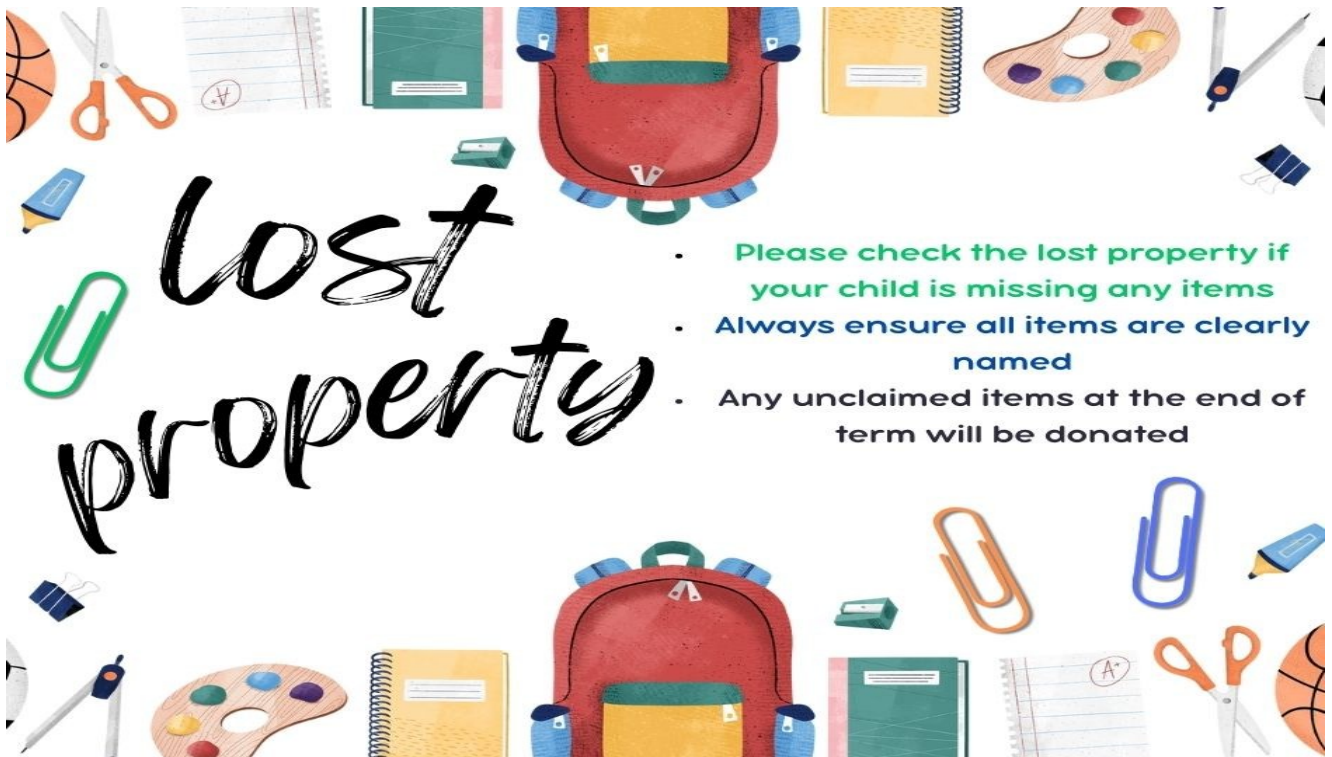
We would like to acknowledge the students who competed at the Bundaberg District Cross Country Trials at Avoca State School last Friday.

Congratulations to Kelan E, Immogen K, Essie Mc, Sophia L and Chase L who have now been selected to represent the Bundaberg District at the Wide Bay Cross Country trials to be held in Gayndah next week.

We wish all students all the very best as they prepare for this next stage of selection.



LOST PROPERTY



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



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

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