



Principal's News

21st August 2026



Kim O'Shea-Hard
Principal

This week I revisited *Thrive* by Luke McKenna, a book that explores how educators can help unlock the truth about student performance and wellbeing. Within the text, McKenna references Emmons (2007), highlighting that "few things in life are as integral to our wellbeing as gratitude" and explaining how gratitude can be directly linked to student outcomes.

McKenna suggests that when we intentionally prime our brains to focus on positive outcomes, we create pathways that allow us to experience greater joy, opportunity and optimism. While scientists have only begun to recognise and study these benefits in recent decades, gratitude has long been embedded within the Catholic tradition. Our faith encourages us to recognise life's blessings each day and express thankfulness through prayer, worship and celebration.

What I find particularly interesting is the apparent relationship between the decline in participation in formal religious practice and the increasing prevalence of mental health challenges. While many factors contribute to wellbeing, it does suggest that when gratitude is not intentionally built into our daily lives, we may need to work harder to develop a positive and hopeful outlook. This is one of the reasons I am so grateful for our Courtyard Prayer gatherings each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning. Taking time to pray together helps positively frame our day and reminds us of the many blessings we share as a community. This week, Year 5S led us beautifully in prayer.

At this stage of the year, we certainly have much to be thankful for, and there are plenty of opportunities keeping our students engaged, connected and inspired. Next week we celebrate Book Week, an event that highlights another essential ingredient for student success: reading. While gratitude helps open minds to learning, reading opens doors to imagination, knowledge and understanding.

This year's **Book Week** theme, *Symphony of Stories*, celebrates the power of stories to transport us to new worlds and experiences. One of the shortlisted books, **My Nonno Loves Me** by Adelle and Claudia Frittella, is a beautiful story that honours grandparents and the important role they play in helping us discover the wonder in ordinary, everyday moments.



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

On Friday, our community will come together for **Reading on the Deck**. We know that weekdays can be busy for families, but we encourage students to extend an invitation to parents, grandparents or other special family members to take part in this wonderful community-building event. Grandparents hold a special place in the life of St Patrick's. Many fondly remember learning to read themselves and love sharing that gift with younger generations.

Improving student reading outcomes remains one of our key priorities at St Patrick's. We know that regular exposure to books and meaningful reading experiences, both at school and at home, are among the most powerful ways to develop confident and capable readers.

If you, a grandparent, or another family member would like to support our students through volunteering, we would love to hear from you. Please complete your details via the [online form](#) or e-mail your details to spboffice@rok.catholic.edu.au so you can be added to the list. If you choose to e-mail your details, please include your **name, connection to St Patrick's (e.g. grandchild/children), grade/s, email address, and the days/times of the week you are available**. If there is sufficient interest, we will invite volunteers to an information session next term, as we explore the possibility of running an exciting reading support initiative for Term 4.

Thank you for your continued partnership in nurturing a love of learning and reading within our students.

God bless.





Religion News

Tracey Cook
APRE

Being Thankful

At St Patrick's, we give thanks for the many gifts God places in our lives each day: our families, friendships, learning, and the people who care for us. At this point in the term/year pressure starts to mount for deadlines, interviews, assessments, extra-curricular activities become more demanding, and everyone is tired. It is so important to remember that each person comes with challenges and experiences that we do not know about or understand.

Walking through the playgrounds each day is always so grounding. With the musical well and truly at the fore of my thoughts I was about to get cranky at some children playing in a garden; I am so glad that at that moment instead of being cross I asked what they were doing. It turns out they were desperate to find some flowers for their teacher who is finishing up with that class for the year. These boys were in the wrong place, at the wrong time – bending some rules. But they had good intentions and just wanted to show their teacher how much she means to them and to thank her in their own small way. It was an opportunity for me to refocus and remember that what is all consuming in my life – isn't obvious to others, and we all have something going on that, to each of us, is important and for that I am grateful.

Gratitude is more than good manners; it's a way of seeing the world with faith. When we pause to notice what is good, we learn to recognise God's presence in the ordinary moments of school life—on the playground, in the classroom, and in our prayer. In Scripture we are reminded, "give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). This doesn't mean pretending life is always easy. It means trusting that God is with us and choosing to respond with hope.

At St Patrick's, we encourage students to notice 'Mercy Moments' and show appreciation through small acts of kindness and service.

As families, you might like to continue this at home by sharing a simple thank you at mealtimes, keeping a gratitude jar, or encouraging children to write a short note to someone who has helped them. Together, let's keep forming hearts that are joyful, generous, and attentive to God's gifts.

#Thankful

Father's Day



St Patrick's **FATHER'S DAY** Prayer Celebration ★ 2026

**Thursday Sept 3rd
9AM in the Multi**

Please send your "dad and me" pics to **spoffice@rok.catholic.edu.au** by Friday 28th August to be included in the presentation.



ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL

Father's Day Stall

DAD BAGS

\$10



Includes cool socks, Bundaberg brewed drink & a tasty snack!

PREORDER BEFORE SCHOOL 8 AM TO 8:30 AM PREP EATING AREA
TUESDAY 25TH AUGUST, WEDNESDAY 26TH AUGUST, THURSDAY 27TH AUGUST

DAD BAGS DELIVERED TO CLASSROOM:
WEDNESDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER

Last minute gifts at the gate Thursday 4th September, 3 pm
Dad Cookies \$2 • Dad Sweets \$2

How to Pre-Order Dad Bags

On **Monday, 24th August** - be on the look out for the **information video** on **Facebook** explaining the Dad Bags and how families can pre-order.

To order, students can bring their money to school. The team will be set up in the **Prep eating area** from **8:00–8:30am** on **Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday** to take orders. If orders are slow, we may also be out there on Friday morning.

The **Dad Bags will be delivered** to classrooms on Wednesday afternoon, **2nd September** to take home.

Last-Minute Gifts

Last-Minute Gifts will be available to purchase on **Thursday 3rd September** at the **Mulgrave Street and Powers Street gates**, selling cookies and sweets for **\$2** each.



Reading on the Deck - Friday 28th August

SYMPHONY OF
STORIES



St Patrick's 2026
Book Week Event

Reading on the Deck

Friday Aug 28

10.30am on the Junior Oval

Bring along your picnic rugs or chairs
to join in the fun.

Students are encouraged to wear an
accessory, costume or outfit (as
much or as little as they'd like) to
school as a hint for others to guess
what their favourite book is . . . what
will yours be?



SAUSAGE SIZZLE AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

\$2 PER SAUSAGE

National Child Protection Week

This year National Child Protection Week (6 - 12 September 2026) will continue under the theme Every Conversation Matters: Shifting Conversation to Action.

Conversations can spark new ideas and encourage reflection. But real change happens when those conversations translate into practical steps that create safer environments and stronger support for children and families.

Please take a look at the upcoming 2026 Bundaberg Child Protection Week Events, feel free to extend this email to others in your organisation or contact list and we hope to see you soon.

Child Protection Week Awards

Nominations are now open for the Bundaberg Child Protection Week Awards, recognising the outstanding contributions of individuals, organisations, businesses and services working to improve outcomes for children and families across our region. Nominations close 5pm Friday, August 28.

Safer Communities Workshop

Families are invited to Alexandra Park Zoo Playground on Wednesday, September 9 (2pm–4pm) for an engaging, play-based workshop that uses storytelling, movement and creative activities to help children understand personal safety in a fun and interactive environment.

Rainbow Day

A much-loved community event returns on Friday, September 11 (9am–12pm) at Bundaberg PCYC.

Designed for children under five and their families, Rainbow Day offers free activities, games, entertainment and a special appearance from mascot Sunny, the Rainbow Lorikeet.

Annual Child Protection Week Awards Dinner

The week concludes with the Annual Awards Dinner on Friday, September 11, celebrating local champions who have made an outstanding contribution to child protection and family wellbeing throughout the Bundaberg region. Special Guest speaker Kelly Humphries, will bring an engaging presentation and participation in a panel discussion to challenge and encourage us to think differently about safety, connection, belonging, and community responsibility.

With inspiring conversations, award presentations, live acoustic music from Kara James, a delicious two-course meal, and raffles this will be an evening well worth taking part in. Leave with new connections, fresh perspectives, and a renewed commitment to making child protection everybody's business.

Dinner will be held at the Bundaberg RSL Club from 5.30pm-9pm.
Tickets are now selling - <https://www.trybooking.com/DNDKB>



National Child Protection Week

Artist Statement – Karina Jeffrey

Garawa Aboriginal Designs



Overview:

This artwork has been created for National Child Protection Week 2026, continuing the theme “Every Conversation Matters: Shifting Conversation to Action.” The design reflects the importance of moving beyond awareness and into meaningful, collective action within communities.

Concept & Symbolism:

The motifs throughout the artwork represent people from all walks of life coming together, sharing, listening, and working collectively towards positive change. Each element reflects connection, support, and the strength found in unity.

Running through the centre of the artwork is a journey line, symbolising the path we take each day to create safer, stronger communities. It represents both individual and shared responsibility in taking action.

On one side of the journey line are emu footprints, symbolising forward movement and progress. The emu was intentionally chosen as it cannot walk backwards, representing the importance of continuing to move forward, one step at a time.

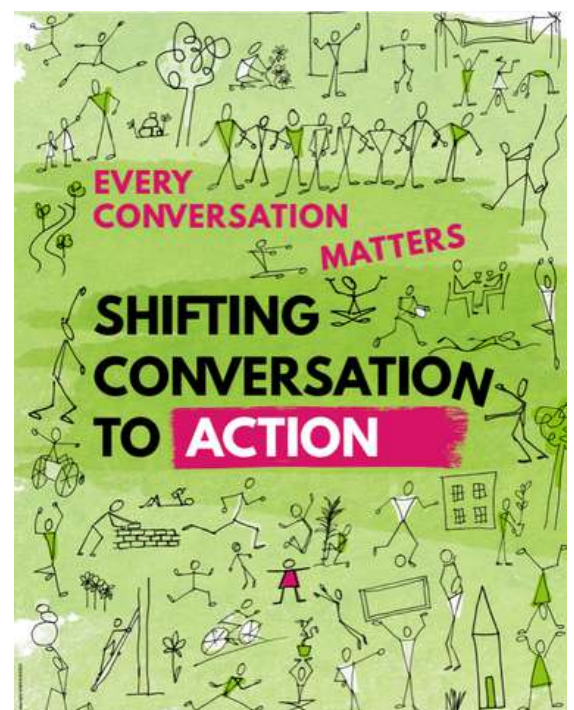
On the opposite side is the hammerhead shark, representing resilience and strength. This symbol reflects the idea that even during challenging times, we must continue to push forward, taking each day as it comes.

Dot Work:

The dots throughout the design represent people across Australia from all different backgrounds, communities who have been supported by, engaged with, or are part of NAPCAN’s work. Together, they form a visual representation of nationwide connection and shared responsibility.

Overall Message:

This artwork speaks to the power of conversation as a catalyst for action. It highlights that through connection, understanding, and collective effort, we can create meaningful change and safer environments for children and communities across Australia



A Message from eSafety Australia

Why regular online safety conversations matter



As families settle into Term 3, it's a good time to have a conversation with your child about their online experiences and digital habits.

Our [new research](#) shows parents and carers are doing an incredible job supporting their children online, with over 90% talking about online safety!

But the online world is changing so quickly and some of the biggest emerging risks aren't being discussed as often. We found:

- ➡ 1 in 4 parents talk about how algorithms influence what children see online
- 🤖 1 in 10 discuss how generative AI can be used and misused
- 💰 Fewer than 1 in 10 have talked about sextortion.

There isn't one conversation that prepares children for every online experience. What matters most is creating an environment where they know they can come to a trusted adult if something doesn't feel right and keeping those check-ins going as they grow.

Whether it's talking about social media, AI or how and why online content ends up in their feeds, even small, regular chats can make a real difference.

If you're not sure where to start, we're here to help

Having regular conversations about online experiences can feel challenging, especially when technology and online trends are constantly evolving. Our [parents hub](#) offers practical advice, support and conversation starters to help you understand your child's online world.

Dive deeper and sign up for our [free webinars](#). Covering the latest online safety issues, they're designed to help parents and carers build the knowledge, skills and confidence to support children online. Current topics include:

- [Influencers, ideology and impact: how algorithms influence and reinforce harmful beliefs](#)
- [AI-generated images and videos: navigating the deepfake threat](#)
- [The trust trap: navigating friendships, pressure and manipulation online](#)

[**LEARN MORE**](#)



Sports News

District Athletics Carnival – Bundaberg Representatives

Following outstanding performances at the District Athletics Carnival, congratulations to Sophia K, Marli Z, Jate J, Emerson D, Archie R, Lily P and Chase L on their selection in the Bundaberg Athletics team to compete at **Wide Bay Trials** this coming week.

Well done!



Mila, Lily and Immogen playing in the 10-12 years Wide Bay Touch team in Bundaberg.



Wide Bay Touch Football Representatives



Out and About



Out and About



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.

WEDNESDAY 2ND OF SEPTEMBER 2026

Connecting with student interests and prior knowledge.

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

Supporting vocabulary development.

Facilitating comprehension through conversations about the text.

RSVP HERE



Dr Frances Hoyte



Dr Kylie Bradfield



Dr Deb Brossek

For more information about GriffLinC see:



Bundaberg State High School



SUPPORTED TRANSITION MORNINGS

Bring your hat, water bottle and pencil

Meet at rotunda at front of school

We are offering two supported transitions to support **substantial, extensive and extensive plus** students requiring additional visits to Bundy High.

Visits will include school tour, classroom visit, first day meeting place, practice using canteen and timetables and question/answer time.

Tours will take **approx 60 minutes** and require a **staff member from your school to be present**. You can attend one or both days offered depending on your needs.

SCHOOL TRANSITION

**9:30 - 11am
Tuesdays**

staff member from your school to attend

**Week 8 - 24th Nov
Week 9 - 1st Dec**

CONTACT SCHOOL TO CONFIRM ATTENDANCE

PARENT INFO MORNING

**9:30 - 10:30am
Friday 4th Dec**

Main Administration Building

Includes school tour - please wear comfortable shoes

for more information

Sandra Williams
BSHS - Administration Officer

swill544@eq.edu.au
4154 5333



CORAL COAST SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

JOINT CLUB SIGN-ON/ COME AND TRY DAY



**SUNDAY
30th AUGUST 2026**



9AM-1PM



**Venue: BUNDABERG SOFTBALL GROUNDS,
22 CLAYTON ROAD, THABEBAN.**



CLUBS WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE AND ALL FEES WILL BE AVAILABLE

TEAM DIVISIONS:



**JUNIOR & SENIOR
T BALL
MIXED DIVISIONS**
* A/ U12, U14 & U16
teams are mixed.



**LADIES SOFTBALL &
MEN'S SOFTBALL**



**ALL GAMES PLAYED IN BUNDABERG
WITH THE SEASON TO COMMENCE**

SPECIAL NOTE: All games played in Bundaberg with the season to commence **10th October** through to **12th December 2026** followed by 6 week Christmas holiday break with games resuming on **30th January** through to Grand Finals on **20th March 2027**

**'PLAY ON'
VOUCHERS
ACCEPTED**

Frozen Musical – Tickets on Sale

Tickets on sale
Monday Aug 17
Via TryBooking



Disney
FROZEN
St Patrick's Catholic School
Bundaberg

KIDS

Wednesday Sept 9
Thursday Sept 10
5.30pm @
Shalom's Performing Arts Precinct



Reef Guardians Meetings Term 3

Meeting in the Technology Classroom

3:00 PM – 3:50 PM

Week 7 – 26 August

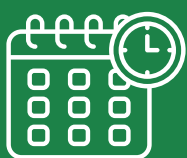


SEESAW CODE

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

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
Thursday-Friday	Wide Bay Athletics Carnival	St Luke's Anglican School	Selected Students
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



2026 Term Dates

Term 3 Monday 13th July - Friday 18th September

Term 4 Tuesday 6th October - Friday 4th December