Principal's News

20th November 2026



Kim O'Shea-Hard
Principal

This year, we have been on a significant reading enhancement journey as part of our school strategic plan. Reading is one of those skills that some children appear to grasp quickly, while for others the journey takes much longer. The time it takes a child to master the complexities of reading is not necessarily an indicator of their long-term academic success. However, when reading does not develop as naturally as expected, it can certainly complicate the early stages of a child's learning journey.

Throughout 2026, we have worked intentionally to build the literacy capacity of our students with a focus on reading and spelling. We began the year by collecting a significant amount of data to help us better understand how each student reads and spells. This information provided a valuable baseline from which to build and has informed a more consistent, evidence-based approach to teaching and learning across the school.

On Monday, our staff came together for our final "Data Deep Dive" of the year. It was wonderful to celebrate the individual growth of our students, but perhaps even more rewarding was listening to the professional conversations among staff, as they reflected on best practice. What worked? What might they do differently? What questions remain? What pedagogical breakthroughs have emerged? These discussions demonstrated a professional commitment to continual improvement and a shared belief that every student can make progress with patience, dedication and an informed approach to teaching and learning.



We were fortunate to welcome CEDR Teaching and Learning Consultant Kathleen Roby, who helped guide our discussions and interpretation of the data. Kathleen congratulated our staff on the progress we have made collectively and acknowledged the dedication shown by both our teachers and students throughout the year.

One of the most exciting outcomes of this work is that we already know so much about our students as they move into next year. This knowledge positions us well to ensure classes are ready to "hit the ground running" in 2027.

It was no surprise then, that so many of our students nominated themselves for the Spelling Bee. Mrs. Cook spoke of the confidence even the youngest of our students exuded, whilst attempting the most challenging of words. This was heartwarming to see and another example of how our students look for different ways to learn, grow and develop as great humans. Today we also saw our students exude a wonderful dose of team spirit, as they competed in the swimming carnival at the new pool. Next Tuesday evening we look forward to Cultural Night at Shalom College, where our musically inclined get to showcase their talents on the big stage.

As we move towards the final weeks of the school year, I thank our students, staff, and families for the commitment, partnership, and support you have shown throughout 2026. Together, we have celebrated growth, embraced challenges, and continued to build a vibrant learning community grounded in faith, excellence, and service.

May we all take time in the coming weeks to pause, reflect on God's blessings, and celebrate the progress we have made together.

God Bless.





Religion News

Tracey Cook
APRE

Advent: A Time of Hope



As we move through Advent, we remember why this season is so special. Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas (this year it is Sunday November 29). It is a time of waiting, getting ready, and looking forward with joy to celebrating the birth of Jesus at Christmas. It also invites us to think about the hope, peace, joy, and love that Jesus brings to our lives and our world.

What is Advent?
The word Advent comes from a Latin word meaning “coming”. During Advent, we prepare our hearts and minds for Jesus. Each week has a theme, shown by lighting a candle on the Advent wreath:

- **Week 1: Hope** – We remember the hope Jesus brings.
- **Week 2: Peace** – We pray for peace in our hearts, families, and world.
- **Week 3: Joy** – On Gaudete (Latin word for ‘rejoice’) Sunday, we rejoice as Christmas draws near.
- **Week 4: Love** – We focus on God’s love, given to us through Jesus.

Celebrating Advent at home:
Advent is a wonderful time for families to pray and reflect together. Here are a few simple ideas:

- **Make an Advent wreath** and light a candle each Sunday as you talk about the weekly theme in preparation for Christmas.
- **Do acts of kindness** as a family, at home and in the community.
- **Read Scripture together**, especially the stories that lead to Jesus’ birth.
- **Serve others**, such as donating, helping a neighbour, or supporting those in need (our Mini Vinnies Christmas appeal has given our students a perfect opportunity to serve others).
- **Pray together**, thanking God and asking for guidance as you prepare for Christmas.

A message of hope
Advent reminds us that even when life feels dark or difficult, there is always hope. Jesus came as the light of the world, and we are called to share that light through our words and actions.

May this Advent season bring peace, joy, and hope to your family. We look forward to celebrating the birth of Christ with our school community as we journey towards Christmas together.



Spelling Bee



St Patrick's 12th Annual Spelling Bee: We are Buzzing with Pride!

Our 12th Annual Spelling Bee was a wonderful celebration of language, learning, and courage. Across the Junior Bee and Senior Bee, 320 competitors stepped forward to have a go, think carefully under pressure, and show real perseverance.

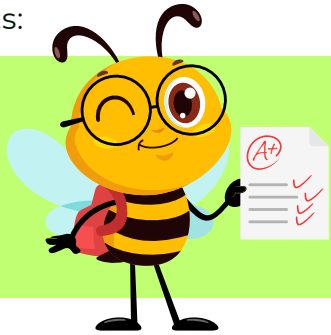
The Junior Bee showcased impressive preparation and calm focus, with students drawing on strong phonics knowledge, word origins, and careful listening. Congratulations to our Champions and heartfelt thanks to every junior competitor for the way they supported one another and represented their classes so well.

The Senior Bee was a standout for its depth of vocabulary and thoughtful strategies, as students tackled challenging, unfamiliar words with confidence and humility. Congratulations to our Senior Spelling Bee Champions, your effort and sportsmanship were a credit to you.

After several nail-biting rounds, **20 finalists** emerged from the competition. These students earning their places as the top spellers of the event:

Year 1: Logan M, Lukas C, Ashton S, Jane C
Year 2: Alastair B, Isla B, Harvey J
Year 3: Demi B, Koa M, Alex A, Aarav C
Year 4: Joan C, Tahli D, Charlee J
Year 5: Mila E, Hera W, Leo B
Year 6: Abby M, Ameera R, Aiden T

To our finalists: **congratulations** on this outstanding achievement! You have made your school community incredibly proud. Our 2026 Spelling Bee results:



Junior Spelling Bee

Champion: Alastair B
2nd Place: Lukas C
3rd Place: Aarav C and Demi B

Senior Spelling Bee

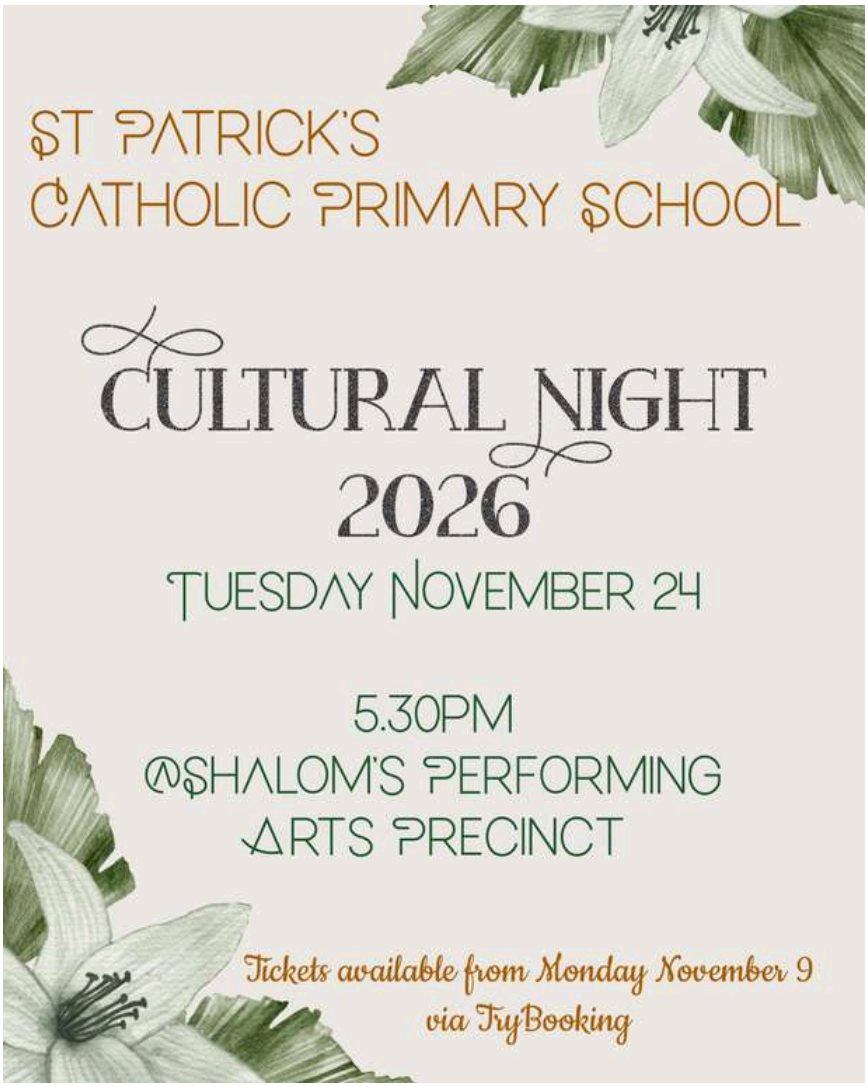
Champion: Aiden T
2nd Place: Hera W
3rd Place: Ameera R

It was uplifting to see students using their gifts to build one another up — true “weavers of hope” in our community.





Save the Dates





Limited tickets available

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



Due to Cultural Night there will be no Choir rehearsals in the morning in weeks 8 & 9

Important Notification

St Patrick's
Catholic Primary School

07 4152 1380
35 Mulgrave Street
Bundaberg West, QLD

Thank YOU!

Good afternoon Parents and Caregivers,

Please note that we are experiencing some tension from neighbours due to the interactions they are presently having with our families at pick up time.

We have also been alerted by the Queensland Police Service that recent complaints have resulted in an increase in their presence, especially along Mulgrave Street.

This is a friendly request to parents and carers to please co-operate with neighbours and authorities, by refraining from parking in driveways, ensuring students are well away from those who live around our school, for everyone's wellbeing and safety.

The drive through option on Powers and Mulgrave Streets certainly reduces the need to do so, whilst the first 10 minutes is busy, the traffic dissipates quickly.

We appreciate your support in helping us to keep a safe and happy neighbourhood.

Sports News - Swimming Carnival 2026

St Patrick's held its annual Senior Swimming Carnival today at the Bundaberg Aquatic Centre, with this year marking our first time hosting the event at this fantastic venue. It was wonderful to enjoy the carnival in a covered area, providing a comfortable setting for students, staff and spectators to come together and enjoy the day. The fun swim event was also a great highlight, with plenty of enthusiastic participation from our spectators!

Congratulations to **Xavier**, who took out first place with an impressive 304 points!
The overall results were:

- **1st Place:** Xavier – 304 points
- **2nd Place:** McAuley – 270 points
- **3rd Place:** Coolock – 260 points
- **4th Place:** MacKillop – 248 points

The much-anticipated **Salmon Run** was once again a highlight of the carnival. Congratulations to **MacKillop** on taking home the **House Spirit Trophy**!

Well done to all students who participated, showed great sportsmanship and gave their best throughout the day. Congratulations to all our winners and a huge thank you to our dedicated staff whose hard work and support helped make the carnival such a fantastic success.

It was a wonderful day of school spirit, house pride and friendly competition!

Overall Points

1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place
Xavier	McAuley	Coolock	Mackillop

Age Champions

Age Group	Name	House
10yrs Boys 2016	William W.	Coolock
10yrs Girls 2016	Madelyn C. & Freya L.	Mackillop & Xavier
11yrs Boys 2015	Oliver L. & Chase L.	Mackillop & Xavier
11yrs Girls 2015	Immogen K.	McAuley
12yrs Boys 2014	Harrison L.	Xavier
12yrs Girls 2014	Kensi F.	McAuley

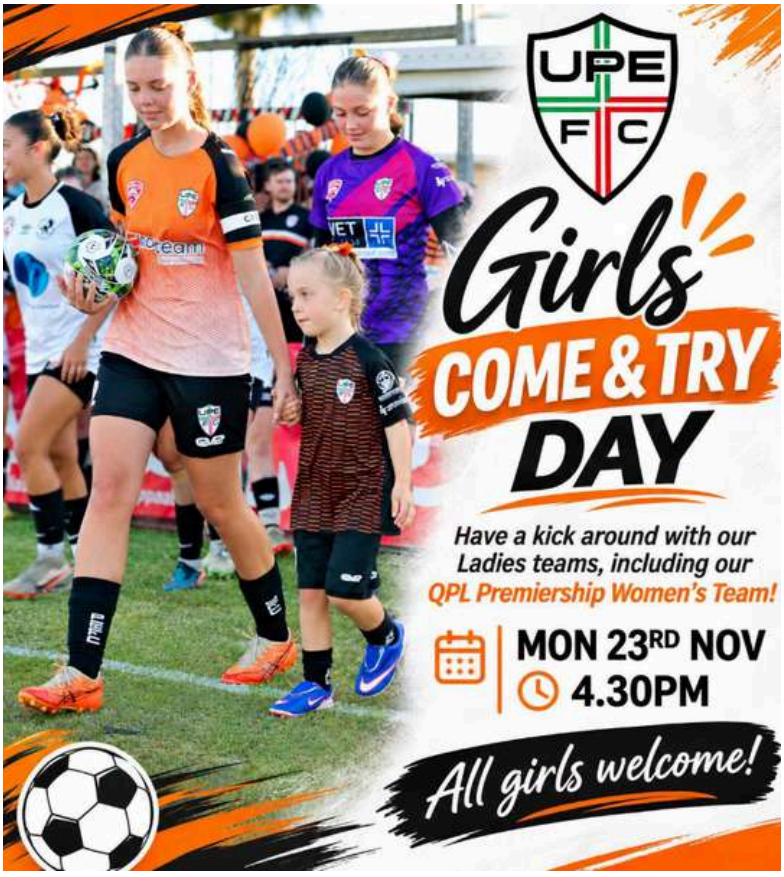






Out and About

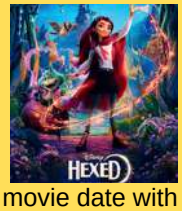






Vacation Care - Dec/Jan Program

$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
Wednesday	Year 5 End of Year Excursion	8:45 am - 12:15 pm	Year 5 - Bundy Bowl
Wednesday	Year 3 End of Year Excursion	11:45 am - 2:45 pm	Year 3 - Reading Cinemas
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)*