



PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

13 March 2026

Last week I mentioned Pope Leo's Lenten invitation for us to listen, celebrate, **fast and feast** together as we journey toward Easter. 6F, at Courtyard Prayer reminded us to be Light Houses for one another, which was relevant to the week that transpired. I asked our Year 6 leaders to develop a list of 'Fasts' and 'Feasts' based on the Mercy Education Values which can be adopted to help us as we navigate our way through our own Lenten journeys;

Hospitality;

Fast on being people who are unwelcoming
Feast on being people who show love and **compassion**

Service

Fast on being people who don't give of their time to others
Feast on those who give of themselves for the common good

Justice

Fast on being those who don't show **respect**
Feast on being those who do

Courage

Fast on those who show disrespect or negativity to those around them
Feast on being people who stand for positivity and joy

Justice

Fast on things that don't encourage others
Feast on showing **respect** and valuing diversity and showing fairness
Fast on being people who shut you out for greed
Feast on being honest, truthful and **respectful** of people and the planet



This week we have been tested not only as a school community, but as a wider region. I could not be prouder of the way our community has responded. So many have taken up the opportunity to “*feast*” on actions that help bring our mission to life. Even in the midst of a natural disaster, we have continued to **Learn, Love God, Live the Gospel, Witness the Faith and Celebrate Life.**



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

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS cont'd

Congratulations to our **Year 3 and Year 5 students and teachers** who remained committed to the NAPLAN timetable during a challenging week. We are hopeful that the majority of tests will be completed today, with a number of catch-up assessments to take place next week.

Next Tuesday we celebrate **St Patrick's Day**, which will also see the **Year 6 Induction** as leaders of our school community. Our Year 6 students have already stepped confidently into this role, and I have received lovely feedback from Prep families complimenting them on their care and commitment as **Big Buddies**.

During the induction ceremony we will also announce the next tier of leadership within the school. **Mini Vinnies and Reef Guardians** have already started strongly, with Mini Vinnies speeches taking place during lunch times. Students have also voted for the peers they believe will best represent them as **House Captains**, and some of these results were extremely close.

There will be many wonderful and aspiring leaders who may not receive a badge next week but will continue to lead with integrity. Our Year 6 students will receive a card with their badges attached during the ceremony, and families will not be notified of specific roles beforehand. Year 6 students are still very young and, while some will receive a leadership badge next Tuesday, all will need our collective guidance and encouragement as they grow into the leaders they aspire to be. We know that sometimes the very best leaders never need—or even want—to wear a badge.

This weekend many in our community will have the chance to truly **celebrate life** at our annual **Catholic Schools Race Day**. Due to this week's weather event, tickets are still available. If you have not yet committed, it would be wonderful to see you there enjoying some time together as a community. This event is an incredible fundraiser for our school and has helped us replace classroom furniture over the past few years. If you are unable to attend but would still like to support this event, please use the QR Code below to purchase tickets in our 50/50 Raffle. Thanks to our families who have sponsored this event or supplied vouchers for prizes. We will publish a full list to recognise your generosity next week! Thank you! Thank YOU! THANK YOU!



Kim O'Shea-Hard
PRINCIPAL



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

St Patrick's Day Feast Day and Year 6 Leadership Induction

Preparing for a Joyful Celebration

We are excited to be celebrating the Feast Day of St Patrick, our patron saint, on Tuesday, March 17. This special occasion will give us the opportunity to come together as a community to reflect on the inspiring life of St Patrick, who dedicated his life to spreading the Gospel and serving others with courage and faith.

The day will begin with a **liturgy**, led by Fr Anthony where students, staff, and families will join in prayer and thanksgiving. The theme of the celebration will centre on St Patrick's legacy of faith, hope, and love.

Then at 1pm, we will join for our **Celtic Celebration of Music** a special showcase featuring performances by our talented Senior Choir and Senior Ensemble. This celebration will take place in the Multi and promises to be a delightful highlight of the day, filled with Irish-inspired music and a joyful atmosphere. Adding to the celebration we will also have the cutting of our school cake to mark the special occasion.

Year 6 Leadership Induction

Another significant moment in our celebrations will be the **Year 6 Leadership Induction Ceremony**. Our Year 6 students will be formally presented with their leadership badges, symbolising their commitment to serving as role models and contributing to the life of our school community. During the ceremony, the students will pledge to lead with integrity, compassion, and humility, inspired by the example of St Patrick.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 6 students and look forward to seeing them embody the values of leadership and service throughout the year.

Join Us

We warmly invite families to participate in this special celebration of faith, and community. From the meaningful moments of the liturgy to the uplifting Celtic music and the induction of our school leaders, it promises to be a day to remember.

Let us come together as a school family to honour the legacy of St Patrick and celebrate the spirit of leadership and unity that makes our community so special.

"May the strength of God pilot us, may the wisdom of God instruct us, may the hand of God protect us, may the word of God direct us." – St Patrick

Tracey Cook

APRE



MASS WITH CHILDREN

All families are warmly invited to attend the
Catholic Parish of Bundaberg's monthly

Mass with Children

9am
Sunday March 22
@St Patrick's Church

Followed by a light morning tea

Everyone welcome



READING

GRIF LINC GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
LITERACY IN CONTEXT

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY



Does your 8-14 year old
child struggle with
reading?

**FREE ONLINE READING PARTNER SESSIONS
FOR 5 MONTHS**

Students must be available 2 times per week for 30 mins for 5 months

The GriffLinC Reading Research team has developed a new method for pre/early adolescent students who are not yet independent readers. Reading Partners use artificial intelligence to write short texts specific to your child's interests and reading level, and use a six-step method during each online session. The researchers collect data on your child's reading assessments at the beginning and end of the project, as well as video recordings of the sessions. This data will be used to evaluate the impact of the project on pre/early adolescents who are not yet independent readers.

Researchers

Professor Beryl Exley & Dr Frances Hoyte

Apply

Fill out this form



GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

To learn more
about
GriffLinC
scan the QR
code



BIG WATER WALK

Friday March 20

St Patrick's Mini Vinnies Project Compassion fundraiser

Big Water Walk

Bring in your Project
Compassion Donation Boxes and
join in the fundraising fun.

The Big Water Walk will commence at 9am for students.



SPORTS NEWS

BUNDABERG DISTRICT U12 SCHOOL SPORTS TRIALS—2026

Trial information will be advised in the school's newsletter each week detailing trial information for upcoming individual and team events.

Gaining selection in a Bundaberg District Team is the first step on the pathway to representing Wide Bay and Queensland. To represent Bundaberg District, students must be born 2014, 2015 & 2016 (only exceptional 10 year old students will be given permission to trial in team sports). The majority of team sport trials occur in February and March.

Please be aware of the following points:

- Team sports are selected in an U12 category and it is very unlikely that a 10 year old student would be selected, with the exception of Rugby League. Rugby League selects students in U10, U11 and U12 categories due to the contact nature of the sport.
- Bundaberg District trials are not 'have a go' trials. St Patrick's has a responsibility for sending students who we feel display high ability in the chosen sport and a high level of behaviour.
- Students wishing to trial must have a consent form issued by the school with authorisation from Mr Plumb, Ms Gollshewsky or Mr Egan. Students will not be able to participate in the trials without a ***Bundaberg District Primary Schools nomination form***.
- Cross Country and Athletics nominations will be made by the school after our school carnivals. Swimming & Aquathlon are the exceptions – Wide Bay School Sport are responsible for the selection of these teams.

BDSS Sport		Age Group	Date	Venue	Time
Football (Soccer)	Girls	Born 2014, 2015 and 2016	19 March	Shalom College	4:00pm -5:30pm
	Boys	Born 2014, 2015 (exceptional 2016)	17 March (only 2015 & 2016) 19 March (2014)	Shalom College	4:00pm -5:30pm
Touch	Boys & Girls	Born 2017 or 2015 (only exceptional 2016)	20 March 27 March	Shalom College Bundaberg Touch Grounds	3:30pm -5:00pm
Tennis	Boys & Girls	Bon 2014, 2015 and 2016	20 March	Drinan Park Tennis Centre	8:45am-3:00pm
Basketball	Boys & Girls	Born 2014, 2015 and 2016	19 March 24 March	Norville State School Multipurpose Hall	3:45pm - 5:30 pm
Hockey	Boys & Girls	Born 2014, 2015 and 2016	16 & 23 March (players are expected to attend both days)	Hinkler Park, Thornhill Street	4:00pm - 50:00pm
Rugby League	Boys & Girls	Born 2014, 2015 and 2016 (exceptional 2017)	16, 23 & 30 March	Waves Sporting Complex (please park at Western end)	3:30pm - 5:30pm

SENIOR CROSS COUNTRY—NOMINATE BY 23 MARCH



Reminder to nominate your child.

Time to get ready for the 2026 St Patrick's Senior Cross Country Carnival at Shalom College on **Monday 27 April 2026**. Year 3-6 parents would have received an email notification to nominate which event your child will compete in at the carnival.

Nominations need to be made **by Monday, 23 March** via [Parent Orbit](#) for students born in 2014, 2015 and 2016 - for either the competitive 3km/2km OR 1km Fun Run event. All students born in 2017 and 2018 will compete in a 1km event. Parents are welcome to support their child/ren during this event.

FOOTBALL QUEENSLAND & BRISBANE ROAR SOCCER CLINICS—TERM 2

St. Patrick's will once again host the Football Queensland & Brisbane Soccer Clinics during Term 2 on Tuesdays from 3:15pm to 4:15pm over 4 weeks from 5 May to 26 May 2026.

Please refer to the final details of the program and register by scanning the QR code which will take you to the Football In Community Website.

FOOTBALL QUEENSLAND **BRISBANE ROAR** | **FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY**

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Discover the joy of football in a safe, inclusive, and exciting setting where kids can learn, play, and have fun!

Why join our FQxRoar School Program at your school?

- Make New Friends
- Learn New Skills
- Score Goals
- Meet Your Heroes
- Exclusive Offers

community@footballqueensland.com.au | (07) 3208 2677

Scan me to register!

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS RACE DAY 2026



Bundaberg

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Race Day 2026

50/50 Raffle

MINIMUM PRIZE \$1,000!

Admission \$85: <https://www.trybooking.com/DJHIZ>

BUNDABERG CATHOLIC SCHOOLS RACE DAY

50/50

RACE DAY RAFFLE

WIN
MINIMUM

\$1000

FOR JUST
\$10

YOU COULD WIN 50% OF
THE RAFFLE EARNINGS!

*The more tickets sold,
the BIGGER the prize.*



RAFFLE DRAW DETAILS

14 March 2026

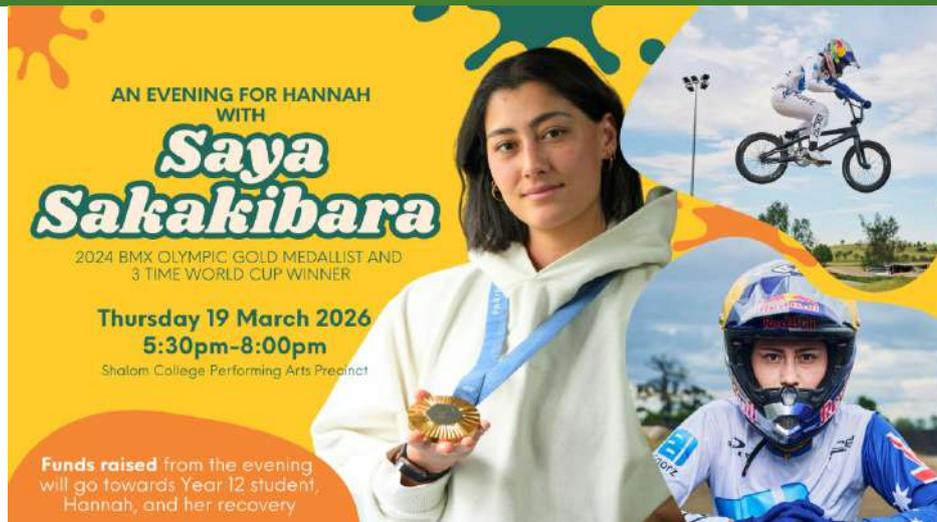
4:00 PM

Bundaberg Race Club

BUY TICKETS NOW!

<http://www.raffletix.com.au?ref+m5nsr>

OUT AND ABOUT



An Evening for Hannah with Saya Sakakibara

Thursday 19 March 2026

5:30pm-8:00pm

Shalom College Performing Arts Precinct

The evening will include canapés and drinks in the Foyer from 5:30pm, then from 6:45pm guests will move into the Theatre to see an in-depth Q&A with **Saya Sakakibara**.

**Tickets include canapés
\$25 - \$45pp + Booking fees**

All members of the community are welcome to attend.

*Tickets can also be purchased with cash or EFTPOS from the Shalom College Finance Office

**All money raised from the event will go to Year 12 student, Hannah, and her recovery.
2024 BMX Olympic Gold Medallist & 3 Time World Cup Winner**

Saya Sakakibara is one of Australia's most exciting cycling talents – widely regarded as one of the nation's premier BMX racing athletes. Known for her speed, skill and fearless racing style, she has become a dominant force on the international BMX Supercross circuit, proudly representing Australia on the world stage.

Competing at the Olympic Games, Saya fulfilled a lifelong dream and inspired a generation of young riders across Australia. Her courage, perseverance and passion for BMX have made her not only a champion athlete, but also a powerful role model in sport.

Away from the track, Saya is known for her positivity, humility and commitment to growing BMX in Australia. She continues to inspire young athletes to dream big, work hard and never give up.

BOOK TICKETS HERE: <https://www.trybooking.com/DJPFL>

Thanks to our Sponsors

**MHUGH
STEEL**



THE AGENCY

The waves

FOOTMOTION

IWC
PHARMACY
Community Pharmacy - Since 1958

TERM ONE PLANNER

WEEK 1	Week 26th January-30th January		
Monday	AUSTRALIA DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY		
Tuesday	Term 1 Commences	8.40am	Whole School
WEEK 2	Week 2nd February-6th February		
Monday	Opening School Mass	9.00am	Years 3-6
Tuesday—Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	5P
WEEK 3	Week 9th February—13th February		
Tuesday—Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	5S
WEEK 4	Week 16th February—22nd February		
Monday	Parish Mass	9.00am	Year 6
Tuesday—Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	6L
Wednesday	Ash Wednesday	8:30am	Whole School
Friday	PUPIL FREE DAY		
Sunday	Children’s Mass—St Patrick’s Mass	9:00am	All welcome!
WEEK 5	Week 23rd February—27th February		
Monday	Parish Mass	9.00am	Year 3
Tuesday—Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	5G
WEEK 6	Week 2nd March—6th March	Time	Year Level
Monday	Parish Mass	9.00am	Year 5 & 1
Tuesday—Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	6B
Thursday	Dance Night on oval	5:30pm	Whole School
WEEK 7	Week 9th March—13th March	Time	Year Level
Monday	Parish Mass	9.00am	Year 4
Tuesday—Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	6F
WEEK 8	Week 16th March—20th March		
Tuesday	St Patrick’s Day Liturgy & Yr 6 Leadership Induction	9:30 am	Whole School
Wednesday—Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	2W
WEEK 9	Week 23rd March—27th March		
Monday	Parish Mass	9.00am	Year 2
Tuesday—Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	2S
WEEK 10	Week 30th March—2nd April		
Monday	Palm Sunday	8:40am	4K & 4B
Tuesday	Last Supper	8.40am	4F
Wednesday	Good Friday	8.40am	5S
Thursday	Easter Prayer	9:00am	Year 6 & Prep
	Easter Hat Parade	10:00am	Prep to Year 3
	Mini Fair	11:00am	Whole School
	Term Concludes	3:00pm	Whole School

2026 TERM DATES	
TERM 1	Monday 27 January - Thursday 2 April
TERM 2	Monday 20 April - Friday 26 June
TERM 3	Monday 13 July - Friday 18 September
TERM 4	Tuesday 6 October - Friday 4 December