



PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

29th November 2024

We are all on a spiral path.

No growth takes place in a straight line. There will be setbacks along the way...

There will be shadows, but they will be balanced by patches of joy as we grow and progress. Awareness of the pattern is all you need to sustain you along the way.

As we approach the end of another year together, Kristen Zambucka's words above, certainly resonate with me, **'No growth takes place in a straight line'** is my favourite line! It reminds us that, to learn and grow, we need to endure a myriad of encounters, some more challenging than others. Then, as we approach the Christmas season, Luke 2:10, plants a seed of hope with **"The angel said unto them, 'Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy'".**

As a community, we have certainly shared plenty of 'joyous' moments with more to follow, in the shape of the Senior Swimming Carnival (Fri 29th Nov), Year 1 Nativity Play (9am Mon 2nd Dec), Year 6 Graduation (9am Tues 3rd Dec), Celebration Night (5pm Wed 4th Dec), End of Year Liturgy (9am Fri 6th Dec), Year 6 Assembly (11am Fri 6th Dec) and so many more end of year experiences, that will be afforded across year levels.

The last day of school is Friday, 6th December. The Year 6 assembly will finish around 11:45am. All students will return to class from assembly, to have the roll completed. Students will then be released for parent collection at 12pm, from **Powers and Mulgrave Street** entrances. Outlined in previous newsletters, any student needing to remain at school from 12pm, will need to be registered via this [GOOGLE link](#). This is to ensure we have enough supervision in place for students remaining between 12pm-3pm. All students collected at **3pm**, will do so from **Mulgrave Street**, unless remaining for After School Care, which will operate normally. Students catching a bus, will be walked down to **George Street at 2:45pm**. Parents wishing to collect their children before 3pm, will have to do so from the Library, as the front office will be closed from 1:30pm.

Academic Report Cards, along with 2025 Class Lists, will be distributed digitally on the last day of term. I would like to thank everyone who forwarded educationally sound requests for consideration. We have worked hard to ensure a balance between classes, by entering a variety of information into Class Solver. Class Solver worked well for us this year. We have considered all requests and are confident we have the best version possible, for the common good of Saint Patrick's. For this reason, classes will now be final. Class lists will be distributed with the student's first name followed by the first letter of surname e.g. Catherine G. **If you would like your child's name/s omitted from lists altogether for privacy reasons, please notify us by the 3rd of December.**

Holidays are fast approaching, but our OSHC will open for the first time over this Christmas vacation period. This has been a welcomed addition, in way of supporting working families. Claire O'Connell, Andrew Wagner and their growing team, do an amazing job. It is a privilege to be afforded this service. High expectations of student behaviour and safety are paramount. Team OSHC have worked all year through and I hope they enjoy a well-earned break from the **23rd December until 13th January.**



Click our
school crest
to go our
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website



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page



Absentees

4994 8336

spb_absentees@rok.catholic.edu.au

PRINCIPAL NEWS CONTINUED

Next year we welcome back **Shaye Curd, Christina Brimelow and Sara Salmond** who return from Maternity Leave. This has reduced the number of contracts available to start 2025, so we temporarily farewell **Katharine Harrington** and **Sean Killeen** who have become valued members of our community. Sean has accepted a contract for 2025 at St. Joseph's, Bundaberg. We also wish **Amanda Modolo** all the best, as she takes Maternity Leave in preparation for the arrival of their family's third baby. Sean, Kat and Amanda will remain as parents at our school and very much connected to this community. We also thank **Cameron McDonnell**, another parent connection, who has done an exceptional job replacing Ivan Williamson this term. We welcome our Groundsman, **Ivan Williamson** (and his two brand new knees) back in the New Year.

Grace Whaleboat is not only a past student of St. Patrick's, but has completed 7 years as a School Officer since graduating from Shalom in 2017. Grace will move on in 2025 to pursue a career in Teaching. This is a goal that Grace has worked toward for some time and we wish her all the very best!

Staffing for 2025 is as follows;

Prep	Lucy Storey	Sandi Lascelles	Kellie Lerch
Year 1	Zana Hook	Christina Brimelow	Shaye Curd
	Jed Morley	Claire Baillie	Jed Morley
Year 2	Andrea Wust	Kelsie Newby	Jess Clarey
Year 3	Jess Cullinan	Rebecca Lovejoy	Andrea Tindall
Year 4	Cathy Keegan	Sally French	Deanne Moller
Year 5	Larisa Green	Matt Plumb	Sara Salmond
		Annette Hammermeister	
Year 6	Amelia Morine	Rachel Medley	Jessie Salmon
Specialist Teachers	Gabby Lindeman	Taryn Gollshewsky	Jed Morley
Tuesday to Thursday	Design and Digital Technologies	Physical Education	Music
Learning Support	Leah Walton		
	Bec Holden		
Support Staff	Carissa Begeda, Ali Botha, Donna Delaney, Kiera Doherty, Megan Evans, Daisy Henden, Debra Hess, Deb Hughes, Carla Kellaway, Leanne Krebs, Bianca Maultby, Elke McCrystal, Chris McMahon, Sonya McMillan, Jodie Philips, Jessie Richards, Lauren Smith, Taitum Staley, Kim Werchon and Cristian Zandona		

PRINCIPAL NEWS CONTINUED

BOARD & P&F

On the 22nd October, we held our Annual General Board Meeting. This was a lovely opportunity to look at the 'year that was' and to spill and fill positions for the new school year. This Friday evening, we will say farewell to Zoe Lewis who has been on our Board for several years. We wish Zoe's family all the very best (including youngest child Flo, better known as Marty from the musical) as they prepare to move south. Congratulations to Tanya Wakeley who has taken on a second term as Chair of the Board, with Ben Pollock Vice President. We then welcome in Kelly Dwyer, Yesmin Dever, Brendon Croft, Bree Watson, Lucy Storey, Stephen Dale and Father Don as continuing members of the Board, and Katie Chadwick new to the Board in 2025.

Parents and Friends Associations in general have struggled across school communities to remain viable due to parents becoming busier, but it is important for us to stay connected. In previous years (especially since COVID) the Board and P & F have morphed together as one. Next year, I would like to try and form a P & F in its own right. If you'd be interested in taking on a P & F executive position in 2025, could you please direct an e-mail to Kim O'Shea-Hard to express your interest and an Annual General Meeting will be held early next year.

Thanks again, not only to the group of wonderful parents listed above, but to all who continue to be supportive of this community. What you say about us to the wider community is often filtered back via enrolment interviews. We are so blessed to serve such a large number of parents who consistently choose to look through a 'glass half full' lens and are always keen to help us make this the best environment possible for the precious young people in our care.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for journeying, so smoothly with us, throughout this school year. I am sure you and your families have endured some **'shadow moments'** but hope there are **'patches of joy'** afforded to you over the Christmas season. At this point in time, I am feeling grateful for the support, cooperation and friendship afforded by our parents and staff for the benefit of our wonderful students. We certainly have been blessed with the best! Thank you! It has been a busy 2024 and I pray that all enjoy a safe and sustainable end to the year, as we collectively look forward to the promise of 2025. For those who have finished their St. Patrick's journey, including Year 6 and their parents (who don't have younger siblings) we wish you all the best and ask that **'God hold you in the palm of his hand'** always!

Kim O'Shea-Hard

LAST WEEK OF SCHOOL EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	TIME	VENUE
Friday 29th November	Senior Swimming Carnival		Bundaberg Swim Academy
Monday 2nd December	Year 1 Nativity Play	9:00am	MPS
Tuesday 3rd December	Year 6 Graduation	9:00am	MPS
	End of Year Excursion—Year 6	10:45am—12:30pm	Norville Pool
	End of Year Excursion—Year 3	11:30am—2:00pm	Reading Cinemas
Wednesday 4th December	End of Year Excursion—Prep & Year 1	8:45am—11:15am	Shalom Movies
	End of Year Excursion—Year 2	9:00am—11:15am	Inflatable World
	End of Year Excursion—Year 4	11:00am—1:30pm	Shalom Movies
	Celebration Night	5:00pm—7:00pm	MPS
Thursday 5th December	End of Year Excursion—Year 5	9:00am—12:00pm	Bundy Bowl
Friday 6th December	End of Year Liturgy	9:00am	MPS
	Year 6 Farewell Assembly	11:00am	MPS
	School Dismissed	12:00pm	

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT—LOVE

This week we reflect on the theme of love for the fourth Sunday of Advent. The fourth Sunday of Advent this year falls on December 22nd.

Traditionally, the fourth candle on the Advent wreath symbolizes love. Also called the “Angel’s Candle,” this final purple candle calls attention to the messenger who appears to Mary in the Gospel and reminds us that God’s love is the reason for the Incarnation. The holidays are filled with images of home. In Hallmark movies especially, home is a beautiful house in a country village with a wide front porch where rocking chairs and blankets invite close family members to sit outside in the frosty air with a cup of steaming hot chocolate cradled in mittened hands. Neighbours call out cheery greetings, inspiring spontaneous singing of Christmas carols in perfect harmony.



This is not the case for many people around the world. But the fourth Sunday in Advent calls us to spread this love to all. A time to reflect on our loved ones and spread some love to those who may be in need.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MASS

Children's Christmas Mass

Come join us as we celebrate Jesus' birth!

Christmas Eve

Tuesday 24 December - 5.30pm - Holy Rosary Church

All the children are invited to be involved!

Come to the sign up Tuesday, 3 December at 3.30pm to 4.00pm in the Novakoski Hall (behind Holy Rosary Church)



Everyone is welcome!

SENIOR STRINGS TO LAKES RETIREMENT HOME

On Monday the Senior String Ensemble travelled to The Lake's Retirement Village and treated the residents to a morning of music. This is an annual performance we do, not only is it a wonderful performance opportunity, but it is very special to be able to provide music to people who otherwise would not be able to attend live performances.

The ensemble performed a selection of pieces they have learnt throughout the year, followed by two solo performances by Year 6 students, Kaitlyn and Florence. Miss Kate bought some of her friends along to play a few pieces as well, then to finish off and spread some Christmas cheer, we had a singalong of some carols to end a wonderful morning of music.



CELEBRATION NIGHT

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WEDNESDAY 4TH DECEMBER

Our annual Celebration Night is our last social event of the year to showcase our students perform Christmas Carols to their families. To ensure the event is weatherproof, we will hold the event in the MPS and due to limited space, it will be run over two sessions as follows.

Session 1 - Prep, Year 1 & Year 2 Arrive at 5:00pm for a 5:15pm start. Concludes at approximately 5:45pm.

Session 2 - Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 Arrive at 6:00pm for a 6:15pm start. Concludes at 7:00pm. We ask that you do not arrive before 6:00pm to allow students and parents of Prep – Year 2 to depart the school.

Please bring a folding chair for adults and siblings. Students will sit with their cohort at the front of the stage area. Parents and siblings will sit behind the seated students. Parents attending both sessions are welcome to bring dinner, however, please keep in mind we have limited space in the multi.

All students are to wear Christmas colours, unless classroom teachers have specified otherwise.

Parents should be aware that school staff are not supervising students during this evening. All students attending should be accompanied by an adult who is responsible for their supervision, and this includes high school age children.

LIBRARY BOOKS RETURN

Overdue reminder notices have been sent home with your child this week. Can we ask that any overdue library books be returned as soon as possible to assist us in completing our end of year inventory.



**PLEASE
RETURN
YOUR
LIBRARY
BOOKS**

CANDY CANES

At this time of year students like to exchange Christmas cards and treats such as candy canes to other students. We ask that children do not give gifts of candy canes to the other children. It is wonderful that children wish to give things to others, however we ask people to give non food gifts. Unfortunately candy canes can cause issues with a number of children on particular diets, children with allergies to some of the additives, not to mention the high sugar content. Cards, stickers and other small items can give the message that they are thinking of others.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE GROUP

**DO YOU WANT MAKE A DIFFERENCE
IN OUR COMMUNITY? YOU'RE INVITED TO**

Join our Conference Group

Have a spare 1 to 2 hours a week?
We are passionate about assisting people in need.

HOW YOUR PASSION AND SKILLS CAN HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- Interviewing people in need, listening to their stories, giving them assistance
- Packing hampers, re-stocking shelves, updating the database
- Using computer skills
- You can also volunteer in the store or warehouse.
- Enhance and share your faith journey with other like-minded people and more...

Meetings are held fortnightly at 12:30pm (not necessary to join).
Training provided; no experience necessary.
Family Support is open Mondays, Tuesdays
and Thursdays (9am to 11:30am)

Express your interest by scanning the QR code
or emailing: bundaberg.office@svidpqld.org.au
National Police Check will be required.



St Vincent de Paul Society
QUEENSLAND
good works

“Have a spare 1 to 2 hours a week and want to make a difference in your community? You're invited to join our Support Centre and Conference/Group. How your passion and skills can help make a difference:

- Interviewing people in need, listening to their stories, giving them assistance etc.
- Answering phones, booking appointments, updating the database etc.
- Using computer skills

Enhancing and sharing your faith journey with other like-minded people.

Meetings are held monthly, 12:30pm. (Not necessary to join). Training provided, police check required, no experience necessary. Family Support is open: Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays (9am to 11:30am) There are other skills required not listed, why not enquire now? EMAIL: bundaberg.office@svidpqld.org.au Phone: 4339 3751 Forms: <https://forms.office.com/r/MHsttcDpq8>”

OUT AND ABOUT



Help give families a hand-up to get kids back-to-school ready

**BUNDABERG POP-UP SHOP
JANUARY 2025**

Bundaberg Recreational Precinct Exhibition Room (Off Main Pavilion), Douglas Lane

Monday 13th – Friday 17th January

Open: Mon: 8am – 4:30pm | Tues to Thurs: 8:30am – 4:30pm | Fri: 8am – 12pm



www.schoolsavvycq.com

Find us on



What is **school savvy?**
by CatholicCare
CENTRAL QUEENSLAND

As a *not for profit*, community-driven initiative, School Savvy takes the position that there is no place for casting judgement on anyone who needs to ask for help.

Program Overview

School Savvy CQ is an annual back to school resources initiative designed to assist both junior and senior school students from families who are struggling financially.

Basic stationery supplies and second-hand school uniforms are made available to families at very low-cost, during pop-up shops held throughout January of each year.

The goal of School Savvy is to ensure that all students have the opportunity to be well-equipped and ready to make the most of each new school year, regardless of their family's financial position.

CatholicCare has successfully run School Savvy CQ for the past six years, with pop-up shops opened across Bundaberg, Childers, Gin Gin, Gracemere, Mackay, Rockhampton, the Capricorn Coast, and Mount Morgan. In 2024, School Savvy CQ opened a brand new pop-up shop in Gladstone.

Eligibility

School Savvy does not individually assess pop-up shop attendees against any set eligibility criteria. Instead, an honesty system is actively promoted and encouraged where users:

- Only access the program if they are struggling financially
- Take only the resources they need
- Consider others when purchasing

School Savvy believes strongly in not setting an eligibility criteria because of the stories that attendees tell. The reasons for families needing to access School Savvy supplies vary greatly. From unexpected job losses to grandparents who take custody of children at short notice, a lot of School Savvy attendees are often in temporary situations where they do not qualify for alternative assistance programs.

School Savvy 2024 by the numbers



www.schoolsavvycq.com

Find us on