



## PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

28st March 2025

### Easter—What's the fuss about?

Easter, it is just another commercialised chance for large corporations to make money from? A time for people to eat in excess and give treats to one another? An excuse for a long weekend? Some sceptics would say yes to each of these points. I would argue strongly against that way of thinking. While navigating the maze of commercialisation, we can and should find the elements of our Faith woven within and bring those to the forefront of our personal reflections and celebrations.



For myself, as a member of the Catholic faith, Lent, the lead up to Easter, is liturgically a time of preparation and thought. A time for reflection, a time to give and a time to be thankful. A time of sadness, culminating with Good Friday which then leads to ultimate celebration and a time of rejoicing during the season of Easter.

As a member of a thriving Catholic Primary School, Lent encompasses praying, fasting and alms giving. I love that over the years the focus within our school includes 'giving up' something for Lent but can also transform into 'giving to' others in our community and beyond. Easter is a time of great joy for young children, the excitement of eggs, hunts and family time can easily be combined with the elements of faith – we just need to make it happen. I absolutely love a homily I heard Fr Andrew Hogan give when he was in Bundaberg a few years ago. At one of our Easter Liturgies, he produced a whopping great chocolate Easter egg in the middle of the liturgy. The delighted and awe filled sounds of our students made some of our staff begin to wonder if they needed to intervene and keep the students contained. But no, Fr Andrew went on to talk about the meaning behind the hollow chocolate Easter eggs (a representation of the empty, sealed tomb of Jesus) we receive at Easter. A talking point that I still use when speaking with our students around Easter time.

As a mother, wife, daughter and sister, from my point of view Easter is one of two extremely special times during the year to express my faith, show those I hold most precious in my heart how much I love them and a wonderful opportunity to gather with family and friends to celebrate. I embrace the eggs (tomb), bunnies (new life) and opportunity to have family time. I also ensure my family knows why we are privileged enough to have this time together, the 'reason for the season' if you will. We celebrate not only with family, friends and good food, but we also nourish our souls by attending Mass, discussing Holy Week and Easter and reflect on the amazing commitment of Jesus to live out his mission.



So, what is all the fuss? Is it wrong to want to decorate your table with beautiful bunnies, eggs and foliage? No, embrace it. Talk about it. Own it as a wonderful reflection of faith and enjoy, maintain and even create some new individual family traditions. Jesus died for us, that is why we can be thankful and celebrate – it is worth the fuss.

**Tracey Cook**

APRE



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

### Big Water Walk

Today we held our very first Big Water Walk. The aim was for our students to transport water around the school in an attempt to experience how it may be for young children in other countries who go to great lengths to access clean water.

It was a wonderful way for our students to engage with the stories of Project Compassion and experience why we are raising money to help a school in Samoa install a large water tank. Thank you so much to our very generous families who have all contributed toward helping us achieve this goal.



## MINI FAIR

FRIDAY, 4 APRIL

- LUCKY DIP
- MYSTERY BAGS
- YEAR 6 ARCADE
- NAIL POLISH
- HAIR SPRAY & TATTOOS
- ZOOPER DOOPERS
- TRASH 'N' TREASURE
- BUCKET DUNK
- BEANBAG TOSS
- GUESS THE JAR
- AND MUCH MUCH MORE!

EVERYTHING 50c TO \$2

### Mini Fair

This term during Lent, we have been learning about those less fortunate than ourselves through the stories of Project Compassion. As in previous years we will hold our annual Mini Fair as the major school fundraiser for Project Compassion. The aim of the Mini Fair is to have our children be involved in the planning and management of an event in which their ideas can help out others. The Mini Fair will be held on the last day of school this term (April 4th at 11.00am). You will have received information letters about the fair from class teachers. You are most welcome to attend the Fair with your children and they are permitted to go home with you at the conclusion of the fair. Please note that Friday 4 April is a free dress day for all of our students.

Please note that prizes and some items sold at the Mini Fair, including cupcakes may contain nut traces, egg, cow's milk, dairy and gluten.

**Parents, please note:** If you plan to depart early, please support the school by signing out through the office or inform your classroom teacher, so they can amend the class roll.



## Fourth Week of Lent (Week beginning Monday 31 March)

Irene lives in a remote village in the Kongolo Region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Life hasn't been easy for Irene. After losing her father in a war, Irene and her family were forced to flee their home. Life became even more challenging when her husband left, leaving Irene to raise her 2 children alone. Without finishing her education and with few job opportunities in her village, she struggled to provide even the basics for her family.

Things began to change when Irene joined the Youth Capacity Strengthening Program (YCSP), run by Caritas Kongolo with the support of Caritas Australia. Through the program, Irene learned sewing skills and was provided with a sewing machine and fabric. Irene also gained farming skills. Now, she grows enough food to feed her family and even shares her sewing knowledge by mentoring other women in her community.



*"Before, women depended on men's income, but now, with our sewing skills, we can take care of ourselves," Irene said.*

Your support of Project Compassion helps women like Irene to create brighter futures for themselves and their families.

[Watch Irene's story here.](#) (For secondary students and parents)

**Will you stand in solidarity with people like Irene this Lent?**

## Holy Week

Holy Week and the lead up to Easter are very important parts of our Church year. This year we will reflect on Holy week with a Palm Sunday reflection, Holy Thursday meditation, Good Friday commemoration and then celebrate with our Easter Liturgy. It is always wonderful for our students to participate in various types of prayer and our Holy Week and Easter events are a perfect way to do this. All families are most welcome to attend.

*Tracey Cook*

APRE

## Holy Week & Easter Events 2025

*in the Multi*

### Tuesday

Year 4 Palm Sunday Reflection - 8:40 AM

### Wednesday

Year 4 Holy Thursday Meditation - 8:40 AM

### Thursday

Year 5 Good Friday Commemoration - 8:40 AM

### Friday

Easter Liturgy - 9:00 AM

Prep - Year 3 Easter Hat Parade - 10:00 AM

Mini Fair - 11:00 AM



## TUCKSHOP NEWS



The Tuckshop will be shut on **Friday, 4 April**.

There will also be no Sausage Sizzle.

Parents are reminded to send lunch to school with their children for the last day of Term 1.

## ANZAC DAY CIVIC PARADE



An email has been sent to all parents this week, with all the information for students wishing to participate in the Friday ANZAC Day march in town. Last year, we were so proud and impressed by the large number of well presented and beautifully behaved St. Patrick's students, who joined many staff to stand and march in solidarity for those who sacrificed so much for the wonderful life we enjoy today...lest we forget!



## 2025 CROSS COUNTRY—YEAR 3—6: IMPORTANT DATES

We're all set for this year's Senior Cross Country (Year 3—6) at Shalom College on Monday 28 April.

'A' Division students are invited to attend a **'Walk the Course'** afternoon at Shalom College on **Thursday, 24 April at 3:45 PM**. This is a great opportunity for students to familiarise themselves with their respective events.

**NEW DATE**

**MONDAY 28 APRIL**

**ST PATRICK'S SENIOR CROSS COUNTRY**

**NOMINATIONS CLOSE 28 MARCH**

3KM (11 - 12 YEARS)  
2KM (10 YEARS)

1KM (8 - 9 YEARS)  
1KM FUN RUN (10 - 12 YEARS)

### Event Times (Monday 28 April):

1. 9:10 AM: 11 & 12 yrs (3km - A Division)
2. 9:40 AM: 10yrs (2km - A Division)
3. 10:10 AM: 8 yrs (1km - A Division)
4. 10:20 AM 9 yrs (1km - A Division)
5. 10:30 AM: 10-12 yrs (1km - Fun Run)

Presentations: Age Champions (10-12 yrs) and Overall Champion House will be presented immediately after the event at Shalom.

Students placed first and second in A Division (born 2013, 2014 and 2015) will be considered for selection to compete at the **Bundaberg District Cross Country** trials to be held at Avoca State School on Friday **16th May**. Qualifying times need to be met to participate in the District carnival..

# VACATION CARE NEWS

## Easter Vacation Care – Book Now!

Vacation Care will be available during the Easter Holidays at OSHC! Bookings are essential and can be made via the **Xplor parent app**. Please note that some excursion days have limited vacancies due to bus capacity. The full program, permission forms, and additional details will be shared via a communications post on Xplor. Paper copies are also available from the OSHC room/junior library.



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New families need to register and can find the enrolment form at [St Patrick's After School Care](#), while existing families who haven't attended in a while should contact the service for a re-enrolment form. The daily fee is \$63, with some activities at an additional surcharge (see vacation program for further details). All fees exclude any government subsidies. St Patrick's OSHC is an approved child care service and Child Care Benefit and the Child Care Rebate are available.



## Easter Holiday Program

Mon, 7 April	Tue, 8 April	Wed, 9 April	Thur, 10 April	Fri, 11 April
<p><b>Easter Stuffers - Incursion-</b></p>  <p>Stuff your own special Easter friend to take home!  <b>\$15 surcharge</b></p>	<p><b>Can we build it?</b></p>  <p>Let's find out!                      Put on your not-so-hard hat and work together as a team to make OSHC's biggest ever cardboard box construction.</p>	<p><b>Cooking with Michelle - Incursion-</b></p>  <p>Make your own Easter goody to take home and also something yummy to share for afternoon tea.</p>	<p><b>Reading Cinemas "Dogman" - Incursion-</b></p>  <p>A combined excursion with St Mary's OSHC kids.  <b>\$20 surcharge</b></p>	<p><b>Desing your own T-shirt</b></p>  <p>You provide the white/pale coloured 100% cotton t-shirt and we'll provide the iron-on transfer and pens to decorate your own t-shirt.</p>
Mon, 14 April	Tue, 15 April	Wed, 16 April	Thur, 17 April	Fri, 18 April
<p><b>Cube Sports Dance Games - Incursion-</b></p>  <p>Some fun dance activities involving FUN and MUSIC!  <b>\$10 surcharge</b></p>	<p><b>It's Rocket Science! - Incursion -</b></p>  <p>Have some EXPLOSIVE fun with bottle rockets and other cool science stuff!  <b>\$20 surcharge</b></p>	<p><b>Easter Activities</b></p>  <p>Enjoy some Easter activities which may, or may not, include an Easter Egg hunt!</p>	<p><b>Chill-Ax Day</b></p>  <p>A nice relaxing day to end our last week of vacation care.</p>	<p><b>Good Friday Public Holiday</b></p>  <p>Happy Easter everyone!</p>

## SPORTS NEWS

### BUNDABERG DISTRICT U12 SCHOOL SPORTS TRIALS—2025

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 **2013, 2014 & 2015** (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
Hockey	Girls & Boys	2013, 2014 & 2015	Monday 31 March	Hinkler Park, Thornhill Street	4:00 to 5:00pm
Rugby League	Girls & Boys	2013, 2014 & 2015 (Age appropriate girls of representative standard)	Monday 31 March	Waves Sporting Complex (Thabeban Road)	3:30 to 5:30pm

## OUT AND ABOUT

### HOLIDAY CLINICS

**DATE:** 11/4/2025  
**TIME:** 3.00pm - 5.00pm  
**AGE:** 5-12 years  
**COST:** \$49  
**WHERE:** 25 Fred Courtice Avenue, Bargarra



# OUT AND ABOUT

## QLD YOUTH ALDRIDGE EQUESTRIAN CHALLENGE



### Maryborough Showgrounds June 23 to 27 2025

Prep to Yr 12      Clinics & comps

COWBOY RACING    ROPING    CUTTING    RANCH SORTING

RANCH CLASSES    WORKING EQUITATION    PRESENTATION

RANCH BOXING    SPORTING    LEAD CLASS    RIDER CLASS

REINING    MECHANICAL COW    LIBERTY

Noms open Week 1 of Term 2!

Education    Inclusivity    Wellbeing    Community    Courage

## RFDS BUNDABERG BASE

# Picnic with the planes

Live music, lawn games, face painting, delicious food, licensed bar and the chance to peak inside the world of the Flying Doctor!

Saturday 10 May  
2:00pm to 6:00pm  
RFDS Bundaberg Base  
20 Aviation Cres, Kensington



Registrations essential  
Scan the QR code or visit  
[rfds.co/4gYZqNK](https://rfds.co/4gYZqNK)



Royal Flying Doctor Service  
QUEENSLAND SECTION

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY TEXTRON AVIATION

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



### GRIFF LINC READING RESEARCH



Image - MS Word Stock Image

## FREE ONLINE TUTORING FOR 6 MONTHS

Students must be available 2 - 3 times per week for 30 mins

The Griff Linc Reading Research team has developed a new tutoring method for middle years students struggling with reading. The tutors use artificial intelligence to write short texts specific to your child's interests and reading level, and use a six-step teaching method during each tutoring 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 tutoring sessions. This data will be used to evaluate the impact of the project on middle years students struggling with reading.

<b>RESEARCHERS:</b> Professor Beryl Exley & Dr Frances Hoyte	<b>TO APPLY:</b> Email - <a href="mailto:f.hoyte@griffith.edu.au">f.hoyte@griffith.edu.au</a> GU Ethics Reference Number: 2024/201
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## Annual Parish Fundraising Luncheon

Saturday, 5 April at the Brothers Sports Club  
11.30am for 12.00pm start

# Do it for Cancer

Two Course Luncheon and continuous raffle

Ticket Price  
\$30pp



# OUT AND ABOUT



  Surf Life Saving Queensland

## DOLPHINS X SLSQ ELLIOT HEADS HOLIDAY CLINIC

MONDAY 14 APRIL  
ELLIOT HEADS SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB  
9:00AM - 11:00AM



**REGISTER**



## SEASON 2025-26

NOW OPEN FOR REGISTRATIONS

**Season Start & Come 'n' Try Days**  
Sun 30 March & Sun 6 April 2025

Scan the QR to  
sign on - or visit  
the link below



**Sign Up Now!**



**\$5 Entry**

## BLUE LIGHT DISCO FRIDAY 4TH APRIL

5pm - 7pm Prep to Yr 6 | 7.30pm - 9.30pm Yr 7 to Yr 12  
Bundaberg Civic Centre, Bourbong St, Bundaberg Central



## WIDE BAY ALL SCHOOLS TOUGH

**Date:** Thursday 4 September 2025  
**Venue:** Bundaberg Touch Fields  
**Convenor:** Bundaberg SHS and Bundaberg Touch Association

# Sharks Camp

Join Australia's Largest Volleyball Clinic!

## 8TH-11TH APRIL 2025

GRADES 4-12

### ALL SKILL LEVELS WELCOMED



**EXCLUSIVE CAMP T-SHIRT AND WATER BOTTLE**

School's out, Sharks Camp is in! These holidays for elite coaching, advanced drills, and more. Get the edge and start the new term stronger than ever!

**BRISBANE 4122 | GOLD COAST 4215 | SUNSHINE COAST 4551**

# TERM ONE PLANNER

<b>WEEK 1</b>	<b>Week 27th January-31st January</b>		
Monday	<b>AUSTRALIA DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY</b>		
Tuesday—Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	Mrs Cook & Friends
<b>WEEK 2</b>	<b>Week 3rd February-7th February</b>		
Tuesday—Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	5P
Friday	Opening School Mass	9.00am	Years 3-6
<b>WEEK 3</b>	<b>Week 10th February—14th February</b>		
Tuesday—Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	5S
Friday	Year 6 Leadership Induction	9.00am	Whole School
<b>WEEK 4</b>	<b>Week 17th February—21st February</b>		
Monday	Parish Mass	9.00am	Year 6
Tuesday—Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	6M
Friday	<b>PUPIL FREE DAY</b>		
<b>WEEK 5</b>	<b>Week 24th February—28th February</b>		
Monday	Parish Mass	9.00am	Year 1 & 5
Tuesday—Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	6A
<b>WEEK 6</b>	<b>Week 3rd March—7th March</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Year Level</b>
Monday	Parish Mass	9.00am	Year 3
Tuesday—Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	6S
Wednesday	Ash Wednesday	8:40am	Whole School
Thursday	St Patrick's Dance Night	5:00pm for 5:30pm start	Whole School
<b>WEEK 7</b>	<b>Week 10th March—14th March</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Year Level</b>
Monday	Parish Mass	9.00am	Year 4
Tuesday—Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	2N
<b>WEEK 8</b>	<b>Week 17th March—21st March</b>		
Monday	St Patrick's Day Liturgy Year 6 Leaders Announced (during Liturgy)	9.30am	Whole School
Tuesday—Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	2C
<b>WEEK 9</b>	<b>Week 24th March—28th March</b>		
Monday	Parish Mass	9.00am	Year 2 & 4
Tuesday—Thursday	Courtyard Prayer	8.40am	2W
<b>WEEK 10</b>	<b>Week 31st March—4th April</b>		
Tuesday	Palm Sunday	8:40am	4M & 4K
Wednesday	Last Supper	8.40am	4F
Thursday	Good Friday	8.40am	5S
Friday	Easter Prayer	9:00am	Year 6 & Prep
	Easter Hat Parade	10:00am	Prep to Year 3
	Mini Fair	11:00am	Whole School

2025 SPORT DATES			
28 April	Cross Country	Years 3 to 6	Shalom College
2 May	Junior Obstacle Course	Prep to Year 2	St Patrick's
20 June	Senior Athletics Day	Students born 2016, 2015, 2014 & 2013	Shalom College
27 June	Junior Athletics Day	Students born 2020, 2019, 2018 & 2017	St Patrick's
21 November	Swimming Carnival	Years 3 to 6	Bundaberg

2025 TERM DATES	
<b>TERM 1</b>	Monday 28 January - Friday 4 April
<b>TERM 2</b>	Tuesday 22 April - Friday 27 June
<b>TERM 3</b>	Monday 14 July - Friday 19 September
<b>TERM 4</b>	Tuesday 7 October - Friday 5 December