



## Our Vision

An inclusive community committed to high levels of learning for all.

## Our Mission

In the spirit of Saint Mary Mackillop, we strive for excellence with love, dignity, integrity and justice.

## Dear Families

Whilst it's only been five weeks, I can honestly say I am thoroughly enjoying the challenge of leading St Patrick's School, due largely to how welcoming and wonderful the school community has been.

At a recent Professional Development session, research suggests that a principal of a school such as St Patrick's will be talked about on average, 300 times a day, by the students only. This statistic does not include teachers or parents. The mind can only boggle at the amount of conversations going on around us. With that in mind, I hope these many conversations will provide a clear snapshot into my personal educational philosophies and how these philosophies may be beginning to permeate our school's culture. As a leader, it is so important to model the key messages which underpin your personal philosophies – this is something I strive to do every day.

During the early stages of Term 1, I have been able to explicitly articulate the leadership pillars which provide the foundation of my teaching philosophy to a number of parents and staff. These leadership pillars include:

- *It is all about the students and their holistic development.*
- *My goal as a teaching and learning professional is to provide authentic/innovative learning experiences where all children can succeed or grow.*
- *Our Catholic Faith is used as a lens to create good citizens of the world.*

Upon reflection, I hope that your experience and observations of the first 30 days of 2021 are synonymous of the values outlined.

## Faith and Identity

Each year, our unique Lenten journeys always provides a different faith experience for us all. The main message I have received this year is one of self-sacrifice and to look beyond ourselves to those who are less fortunate in this world. With this in mind, I am constantly reminded of my grandmother. I can still remember Granny Currie always saying to me... "Live simply so that all may simply live". How can I argue with such a profound statement? Easter always brings back a flood of fond memories of my grandmother. I can vividly remember her collecting the alfoil paper that surrounded each Easter egg. It was her war experiences of rationing and doing without during the Second World War that shaped her life. She certainly lived a very simple life and was 60 years ahead of time in regard to recycling.

The challenge has now been issued to the students of Glengallan to raise community awareness of social justice issues. Whilst raising some very welcome funds for Project Compassion will be an added bonus, Lent is a time to educate both students and adults about the social inequity many people face on a daily basis. Project Compassion is also about giving students a voice and to encourage them to take ownership and responsibility for the problems of the world. We look forward to their Lenten initiatives for 2021.



## Parents and Friends Association — 2021

The first meeting of the St Patrick's Parent and Friends Association took place on Wednesday 17 February. This meeting witnessed the election of a new committee for 2021. The meeting was well supported by a number of parents and all positions on the committee were filled.

During the evening Gretta Barton representing the Allora Branch of Life Education presented a donation cheque of \$5000 to P&F President Trevor Philp. This generous donation will be put to good use within the school.

## Feeling Safe

Our School Student Protection Contacts are:

**Ms Donnelly**  
**Mr Blaikie**  
**Ms Jayne Farquharson**

## Reminders

- **Uniform Days**

### Sports

Wednesday, Friday.

### Formal

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday.

- Please remember that we are a **'Nut Aware' School.**

- **Church Times - Celebrations are up and running again with social distancing measures in place. Times for Masses are as follows:**

**1st Sunday - 9am,  
2nd and 3rd Sunday - 5.30pm**

**4th & 5th Sunday - Liturgy of the Word with Communion - 9am**



## Central Downs Swimming Report

On Friday 12 February, representatives from St Patrick's attended the annual Central Downs Swimming Carnival at the Allora Pool. A wonderful and very successful day was had by all. The students need to be congratulated on their positive attitude and willingness to uphold the values of the school. Congratulations must go to Will, Hugh Ruby and Tom for winning age champion in their respective year levels. Special mention also needs to be made of Billy who was runner-up in his age group. Well done to all the swimmers who represented St Patrick's during this carnival.

## Southern Downs Swimming Report

On Monday 22nd February Tom, Billy, Ruby, Riley, Hugh, and Will represented the Central Downs at the Southern Downs School Swimming Carnival in Warwick. Tom, Billy, Ruby, Hugh, and Will qualified to go on to the Darling Downs Carnival on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at Gatton with Tom, Billy, Ruby and Will receiving age champions. Hugh received runner-up age champion. A special mention should be made of Will who was awarded the Phil Willing Swimmer of the Carnival trophy. And also, congratulations go to Tom, who broke the 9yrs 50m backstroke record. All of the swimmers made a great effort yesterday. Good luck to all the swimmers going to Gatton next Wednesday for the Darling Downs Carnival. (Will Peters – Year 6).



## School Photo Orders

Envelopes went home yesterday with the eldest child in the family. If you wish to order, an envelope per child needs to be completed with family photo orders being placed on the eldest child envelope. Orders to the school office by Wednesday 3rd March. If you have question please ask at the school office. Photos will be taken on the morning of Wednesday 10th March.

God Bless

Keith Blaikie—Principal

## DATE CLAIMERS

- 26 Feb – Central Downs Netball, Soccer and Rugby League Trials
- 3 March—Darling Downs Swimming—Gatton
- 5 March – Assembly (8:50am)
- **10 March – School Photos**
- 16 March – St Patrick's Feast Day Mass (9:30am)
- 17 March – Central Downs Tennis Trials
- 19 March—Assembly (8:50am)
- **25 March—Cross Country with St Francis at Allora Golf course (Please note the new date!)**
- 1 April—Easter Liturgy 9.30am all welcome
- 1 April—Term ends
- 2 April—Good Friday

**Term 2 starts Monday 19th April**