

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

It is hard to believe that Week 7 is finally upon us. The vibe that is permeating St Patrick's is certainly one of positivity. The students are engaged in their learning which has shown steady improvement since Week 1. The students are happy and are quite willing to engage in conversations about their hobbies and lives in general. This in itself, suggests a calm and happy environment where student learning can be maximized. Our challenge is to keep this momentum going until Easter.

At the heart of any community is the notion of an open and transparent line of communication. Whilst we are endeavoring to update the school's website and Facebook page on a regular basis, these modes of communication are designed to provide quick snippets of information about our student learners and daily school routines. If you have any questions or queries, your first port of call is always the St Patrick's School Office.

Finally, please feel free to join the St Patrick's staff and students on Tuesday 16 March as we celebrate St Patrick's Feast Day. This is an extremely important event in the liturgical life of the school. Mass commences at 9:30am.

Teaching and Learning

Ms Donnelly, our Ignite Learning expert (Visible Learning), in consultation with the teaching staff has begun to formulate a plan for the next stage in the school's Ignite Learning journey. The Ignite Learning project is based on John Hattie's Visible Learning work which includes the world's largest collection of research on what actually works in improving student outcomes. This work is aimed at developing expert learners in all our students.

2021 will see the teaching staff tackle the domain of Feedback and how it relates to student learning as a means to further improve the school's understanding of Visible Learning.

Current research defines Feedback as information:

- ◆ for the learner and teacher about the learner's performance
- ◆ about performance relative to learning goals
- ◆ based on evidence of learning
- ◆ from the teacher, from the student or from peers, and;
- ◆ leading to changes in teacher and student behaviour.
- ◆ We look forward to sharing the Feedback journey in later articles.

Student Protection Contacts

One of the most important concerns of any community should be the health, safety and well being of its children and young people. Children and young people should grow up free of violence and exploitation. They should be able to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially in conditions of freedom and dignity. Our Catholic Schools have a number of specific child protection reporting responsibilities detailed in our Student Protection Processes and Guidelines which can be accessed via the school's website - <https://www.allora.catholic.edu.au/student-protection.html>

The school has three Student Protection Contacts. They include the school's counsellor Mrs. Jayne Farquharson, Ms. Mary Donnelly and Mr. Keith Blaikie.

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





Faith and Mission

WALKING FOR WATER – Matilda Gasson – Year 6

Last week, starting on Monday, the Year 5/6 girls and boys began walking around the oval with a bucket of water. The reason we have been doing this is because we are raising awareness of the people overseas, who have been walking miles every day to collect water for their meals, shower, crops and animals. We have been trying to see what it is like having to carry water for long-distances. This takes a lot of time out of their education. We are realising how lucky we are to have fresh water on tap.

On every Friday until Easter, during snack and after school, the Year 6 girls are selling ice blocks for 50c to raise money for Project Compassion. This organisation helps people that are less fortunate than ourselves. You can also donate at this time if an ice block is not for you.

Sacramental Preparation 2021

Celebrating a sacrament for the first time is an important step in the life of a child and is a vital expression of Catholic life. Since sacraments are so important, they are taken very seriously and there is a need to prepare, to receive them thoughtfully and thoroughly.

This year, the Sacramental Program will be run over two terms. During Weeks 1-4 of Term 2, St. Patrick's Parish will undertake the Sacrament of Reconciliation for any child in Year 3 or above who has not completed their reconciliation. During Weeks 6-9 of Term 2 we will run the Sacrament of Confirmation and during Weeks 2-5 of Term 3, we will run the Sacrament of First Eucharist for all children who have completed their Reconciliation between 2019 and 2021.

Please see Karine Preston if you would like to register your child for this year's Sacrament of Reconciliation Program. If you have any questions regarding the programs, don't hesitate to ask.

Toowoomba Catholic Schools Excellence Awards

The Toowoomba Catholic Schools Excellence Awards are a great way to acknowledge and celebrate the outstanding contribution of members of our school team. We encourage you to nominate staff and volunteers from our school community for these prestigious awards. The categories for the awards are as follows.

Excellence in teaching and learning

- Early career teacher (0-3 years teaching experience)
- Primary expert teacher
- Secondary expert teacher
- eLearning (individual or team) *NEW CATEGORY

Excellence in leadership

- School leadership (individual or team)
- Middle leadership (individual or team)
- Emerging leader

Excellence in education support

- Teaching and learning support
- Administration, finance and facilities support
- Volunteer support in a school setting

For more information about these awards, visit www.twb.catholic.edu.au and click on the Excellence Awards button on the home page.

DATE CLAIMERS

- 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 1 ends

Term 2

- **19th April—Pupil Free for Staff PD—School Closed**
- **School starts Tuesday 20 April**
- 26 April—ANZAC Day Public Holiday School Closed
- 3 May—Labour Day Public Holiday School Closed
- 25 June—Term ends

Term 3

- **12 July—Pupil Free for Staff PD—School Closed**
- **School Starts Tuesday 13 July**
- 30 July—Bishops Inservice Day—School Closed
- 3 Sept— Moderation day—Staff PD—School Closed
- 17 Sept—End of Term 3

Term 4

- **4 Oct—Queens Birthday Holiday—School Closed**
- **School Starts Tuesday 5th October**
- 6—8 October Year 5/6 Camp
- 15 Oct—St Patrick's Fete (TBC)
- 3 Dec—End of Term 4 and 2021 school year.

God Bless

Keith Blaikie—Principal

Keith Blaikie