

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.

Feeling Safe

Our School Student
Protection
Contacts are:

**Ms Donnelly
Mr Blaikie
Mrs Jennifer Fenn**

Reminders

Uniform Days Sports

Wednesday, Friday.

Formal

Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday.

Summer Uniform

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**

Dear Families

Welcome back and Happy New Year! Whilst the influence of COVID-19 once again casts a shadow over the 2022 school year, the staff of St Patrick's School, Allora, have been busily preparing for the return of students on Monday 7 February. The academic, spiritual and emotional development of our students has again been the focus of staff professional development since their return to school on 19 January. Exploring concepts such as the science of learning and refining individual personalised learning ensures student engagement and progress are the cornerstones of the school's academic culture.

The St Patrick's Way of Life

In another exciting development for St Patrick's, the school welcomes Mrs. Jannita Hentschel to the teaching staff who will take responsibility for the school's Year 2 cohort. Mrs. Hentschel is a highly experienced educator who displays a genuine passion for numeracy and literacy. She has received extensive professional development in early years education in her recent role at St Mary's, Warwick, and will relish her opportunity to teach in a small rural context. Mrs. Hentschel completed a double degree from University of New England in 2008 and received a Masters in Education specialising in Special Education in 2011.

To further enhance the quality of the students' academic progress is the appointment of Mrs. Kathryn Lucas as the school's new enrichment teacher. Mrs. Lucas is a highly experienced classroom teacher whose role will centre around providing explicit classroom interventions for reluctant readers and offering enrichment opportunities for our more capable learners.

New enrolments are always welcome. Please feel free to contact St Patrick's School on 4666 3551 or by email allora@twb.catholic.edu.au to arrange a school tour or alternatively, for more information access the school's website www.allora.catholic.edu.au and complete the online application for 2022. Come and experience the St Patrick's Way of Life, where our Catholic faith is one of invitation and our Christian story provides an identity which is totally inclusive.

COVID 19 Updates

Whilst the latest advice on COVID 19 restrictions and guidelines can change rapidly, St Patrick's School will continue to keep you updated as our response to the current wave of COVID-19 evolves. Please read the following information which will hopefully clarify any questions or queries you may have in regard to this matter.

- Students of all ages are still able to attend school regardless of their vaccination status. We cannot stress this fact enough. **St Patrick's School is open to all students regardless of their vaccination status.**
- All staff, volunteers and contract workers who work at St Patrick's School are expected to be fully vaccinated.
- Parents (carers) are welcome on the school grounds for drop offs, pick-ups and parent teacher meetings, and are not required to be fully vaccinated.
- All adults on site must wear a mask and register using the Check In Qld app.
- St Patrick's School is open for students who maybe vulnerable (adequate supervision cannot be maintained at home) and those whose parents are essential workers. Please register your child's name and relevant days required using the following link.

Link - <https://forms.office.com/r/Fg7Y3ddEbu>

- Please note that the **Book Drop-Off** on **Thursday 3 February** will be available from 9:00am until 3:00pm. Staff will be on hand to answer any questions.
- Please note that the **School Shop** will be open on **Thursday 3 February** from 9:00am until 3:00pm for uniforms only. Parents are asked to make an appointment due to COVID 19 restrictions so adequate physical distancing can be maintained. The cost of additional items from booklists supplied by the school will be distributed in class and invoiced to individual family school fee accounts.





St Patrick's Welcomes New School Guidance Counsellor

St Patrick's School would like to introduce our new Guidance Counsellor, Ms Jennifer (Jen) Fenn. Jen has been working with the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office since July 2019. She currently sits across five schools in the Diocese. Jen has a long history of working with children, young people, and families. She is passionate about promoting students' social and emotional wellbeing and learning outcomes. Jen will be attending St Patrick's every second Monday.

Jen will work collaboratively with the school community to promote and foster the achievement, participation, development, mental health, and wellbeing of all students. Some common concerns addressed through guidance counselling include persistent difficulties with emotion and behaviour regulation, peer relationship issues, low self-esteem and confidence, and learning difficulties.

If you would like more information on the Guidance Counselling Service then please contact the school. Jen looks forward to working with the students and the wider St Patrick's school community.



St Vincent De Paul 2021 Christmas Appeal

The annual St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal was an outstanding success. St Patrick's School raised over \$300 for this wonderful community initiative. This money, coupled with the donations of non-perishable food items, provided much relief to some local families who were experiencing some form of financial hardship over the Christmas period. From all accounts, the families who received these hampers were extremely thankful of the generosity shown by St Vincent De Paul. Living by the example of St Mary of the Cross Mackillop who never saw a need without doing something about it, to this day, still provides a wonderful example of servant leadership for the students of St Patrick's School to emulate. Our thanks must go to Mr. Tony Cowley who graciously accepted the school's contribution to the St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal.



From a staff and school perspective, we cannot wait until school resumes on 7 February. Whilst the staff have enjoyed the extra time to prepare for the coming year, the school is really missing the vibrant and enthusiastic personalities of all our students. As an old principal once said...a school is only a bunch of buildings without students. Just like the image below...we are ready to go.

Kindest regards

Keith Blaikie—Principal



DATE CLAIMERS

Term 1—2022

- 25 January to 3 February—School is open for only children of essential workers and vulnerable students.
- 27 February—Newsletter Week 1, Term 1.
- 3 February—Book Drop-Off and School Shop will be open from 9:00am until 3:00pm.
- 4 February—St Patrick's School will be closed due to **Allora Show Public Holiday**.
- **7 February—Term 1 commences at 8:45am with a Whole School Assembly followed by a New Parent Information Morning Tea.**
- 9 February—Newsletter Week 3, Term 1