



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

Whilst the last two weeks have been extremely busy with parent teacher interviews, Leaders' Induction Mass, P&F Meet and Greet with the Parent Information Night, our growth and engagement as a school community has been very positive. The foundations of another successful year have certainly been laid. From a school perspective, the staff have been working extremely diligently over the course of Term 1 with the ever-present threat of COVID 19. There is much professional wisdom within our team of teachers and school officers here at St Patrick's School. The Parent Information night provided a casual forum where parents could gain a deeper understanding of the inner workings of the classroom. This level of parental engagement can only enhance the student, teacher and parent relationship which is the corner stone of effective education. As a school community, we also need to acknowledge the hard work and organization of our P&F volunteers for their facilitation of the BBQ Meet and Greet. Your unconditional help is greatly appreciated.

With this in mind, it is hoped that a St Patrick's Education is a uniquely distinctive one, clearly identified by the following key areas.

1. It is all about the students!
2. As teaching and learning professionals, our goal is to provide authentic and innovative learning experiences where all children can succeed or grow. Quality education is not dependent upon a postcode!
3. Our Catholic Faith is used as a lens to develop compassionate citizens of the world. It is one of invitation and our Christian story provides an identity which is totally inclusive.
4. Being distinctively Catholic boils down to how we treat people and each other. If we are truly distinctive then all students, staff and parents feel a sense that they belong, are valued and can be successful.

Leaders' Induction Mass

For those of you who were able to attend the Leaders' Induction Mass in Week 8, you would have witnessed the Year 6 students receiving their badges from their Prep buddies. This relationship between our youngest and oldest students is the foundation of leadership at St Patrick's, as it is about providing an example and introduction for our Prep students to the St Patrick's way of life. Many of these bonds become lifelong.

The Year 6 badges are a sign of their commitment to lead the students of St Patrick's School. As our representatives, we challenged them to commit to leading by example, to uphold the school's mission statement which is anchored in the spirit of Saint Mary Mackillop and to support the school's values of love, dignity, integrity and justice. The Year 6 students then recited their pledge.

We accept these badges before God and our school community. In accepting these badges, we promise to uphold the school's Mission statement in the spirit of Saint Mary Mackillop, and we will strive for excellence with love, dignity, integrity and justice. We will endeavour to give support to our principal, teachers and support staff of our school and to all who might be placed in authority. We further promise to provide leadership based on integrity and justice as an example to our fellow students.

Congratulations to all our Year 6 students. You are now custodians of the spirit of the Sisters of Saint Joseph and the example provided by St Patrick, and for all the community members that have gone before you. We wish you all the best for the coming year.

St Patrick's P&F Care and Concern Group

The **Care and Concern Group** has been mobilized with a very successful first outing. Our mission with this initiative is to foster positive relationships with members of the St Patrick's Parish Community, where families work together to help members of the parish who are in need of some help. This could be garden maintenance, house cleaning or shopping. **Our next date is Saturday 2 April** from 9am until 11:00am. If you and your children are keen to help please contact Keith Blaikie [email](#) for further information.

Alternatively, please meet at 8:45am outside the entrance to St Patrick's School. Please remember that it is not too late to join the P&F Committee. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 20 April commencing at 6:00pm.

Project Compassion

Just a friendly reminder that Project Compassion boxes were sent home on Ash Wednesday and need to be returned to school on Wednesday 20 April. Any money raised will be greatly appreciated. Lenten Ice Blocks are still for sale every Friday afternoon. There are a steal at 50 cents each.

Glengallan Sport Student Reports

Southern Downs Football

On Friday 11 March, Emilia and Riley attended the Southern Down Soccer trials. The Central Downs trials were cancelled because of bad weather, so Emilia and Riley got to go to the Southern Downs Soccer trials instead. Both students had an outstanding effort and got accepted into the team. The Darling Downs trials are going to be held on 9 May at CF White Ovals, Harris Street, Stanthorpe.

Southern Downs Touch Football

On 17 March, Jake represented St Patrick's at the Southern Downs Touch Football trials in Toowoomba. There were six teams and he played 3 games. He lost his first game he won the other two. Jake tried really hard but unfortunately was not selected for the Darling Downs team. It was hard against the Toowoomba students. But that didn't stop Jake from doing his best.

Central Downs Tennis

The boys did the school proud and won the day for St Patrick's. Over the day, St Patrick's team won 66 games in total. The closest school won 49 games. Douglas and Jonte were selected for the Southern Downs trials which are to be held in May. Special mention needs to be made of Maggie who had to withdraw due to a broken arm two days before the carnival.



Southern Downs Rugby League

Southern Downs trials were great. There was a massive number of good kids there trying out. We all played our hardest and although some of us didn't make it, we all had fun. Students were cheering each other on, which gave you a big confidence boost. Although we were tackling each other, we made sure we didn't hurt anyone. If you weren't playing, you were either watching or doing drills on the backfield. I also noticed that 9 out of 10 students would shake the referee, opposition and selectors' hands. I loved the experience and it was great.

Southern Downs Netball

On Friday 4 March, Maggie, Amelie and I went to Southern Downs Netball Trials. As you came in they would write a number on your leg, then you tick your name off the list. We played 3 games. While you were playing the games, they would mark you on your passing and your footwork. If those two things were good enough you would make it to the final game and if you won that game you would make it to the possible and probables match. Maggie made it into that game but didn't make it into the other teams. She tried her best and we had a really good time.





Resilience – Jenn Fen (School Counsellor)

The St Patrick's School Counsellor Mrs Jenn Fen has been proactive in talking to our older students about being resilient in the face of the constant exposure to negative news from all over the globe. It is all about keeping the lines of communication open both at school and at home, together with keeping the current world events in perspective. Mrs Jenn Fen worked with our Glengallan students on Friday 18 March. Here are some key learnings from our students:

Cassie—“There is an old and new part of our brain. The old part makes you flip your lid whereas the new part provides control”.

Riley—“Everybody gets cranky but it comes down to how you control your anger and the strategies that you use”.

Arthur—“Having worries help you do the right thing”.

Billy—“If you have a worry or something that is bothering you, it is this worry that is already protecting you from harm”.

Supporting your child following natural disaster

Natural disasters, such as bushfires, floods, cyclones and droughts, are stressful and often traumatic. What takes place, and the speed with which it happens, can be chaotic, confusing and overwhelming. Understandably, as a parent or carer, you may feel worried about the impact on your child. Here are some insights that might be helpful as you support your child at this difficult time.

How might my child react to what has happened? Just like us, children may be feeling scared, anxious and overwhelmed. Children and young people will show this in different ways, depending on their age, understandings, life experiences, personality and available support. The following are the kinds of reactions you might see in your child (or experience yourself) following the disaster:

- * high state of alert and stress
- * emotional distress
- * irritability, nervousness or jumpiness
- * sleeping difficulties
- * physical complaints (stomach aches, headaches).

These are reactions many children experience in the days and weeks following a natural disaster. Should these become worse or prolonged it is important to seek professional support. We cannot change what our children have seen or experienced nor the distress they are feeling. However, there are things we can do to help them cope and recover well.

The Stormbirds Program offers further support to children and young people affected by natural disaster. For further information:

www.mackillopinstitute.org.au/programs/stormbirds.

As our Lenten journey continues, this period also invites us to spend time looking into our hearts. We can see that sometimes we can be mean or selfish or avoid the truth. We can also see how much we have tried to be agreeable and to act with kindness toward others. When we look into our hearts, we can see both the good and the bad. As a result, this Lenten journey encourages us look at life with greater objectivity rather than subjectivity. While it is always positive to receive the good we must also act on the bad and learn from it.

Enjoy the approaching holidays and thank you for a wonderful term.

Kindest regards

Keith Blaikie—Principal

DATE CLAIMERS

Term 1—2022

- 25 March—Allora History Excursion for Talgai and Cunningham
- 28 March—Interhouse Cross Country with St Francis de Sale at Clifton Golf Course
- 29 March—End of Term 1 Mass in the parish church commencing at 9:30am. All are parents are most welcome.
- 29 March—‘Mates Program’ for Glengallan students
- 30 March—Central Downs Cross Country at Pilton
- 31 March—School Photos (Formal Summer Uniform)
- **1 April—Assembly at 2:20pm in the library. Term 1 concludes at 2:55pm.**
- 15 April—Good Friday
- 18 April—Easter Monday (**School Closed**)
- Tuesday 19 April—Staff Professional Development (Pupil Free Day/School Closed)
- **Wednesday 20 April—Term 2 resumes at 8:40am**
- 20 April—Newsletter
- 20 April—P&F Meeting at 6pm in the library