



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,

We trust the rain has not caused too many problems for you. 2022 is certainly throwing a number of challenges our way. The Term 2 Principals' Forum was held recently in Warwick during Week 3. Whilst it is significant time away from school, the level of professional development as leaders and exposure to current modern educational research and trends is immeasurable. Dr. Coughlan (TCSO Executive Director) highlighted the need and challenge for us all to remain faithful to our mission as Catholic educators. In other words...

"Catholic education is about more than test scores. Our work is essentially formative.

Staying on Mission purpose is to bring together all the dimensions of the human person, so that he or she becomes someone capable of pursuing truth in the spirit of love. Forming the hearts, minds and identities of students is invisible work that no one can fully measure on a chart.

Catholic schools are not factories or businesses, they are places of human development, places of potential, not products. Our core business is providing high-quality teaching and learning experiences for every student within a distinctively Catholic environment. This is the real story that sits behind and beside the measurable data collected on student outcomes, and the reason why this data is important.

We cannot waver on this commitment to keep the formation and nurturing of students at the centre of all we do and resist the growing temptation to turn learning into a win/lose lottery. That would be a sure sign that we have abandoned our Catholic identity."

In terms of St Patrick's School Allora, it would be interesting to gather some parent and student voice about the distinctively Catholic environment of our school. Hopefully evidence would point to the school's inclusive culture, where our faith is an invitation to all people and that our relationships centre on hospitality, respect and a sense of welcome, permeate every aspect of the school community.

Dr. Neil Carrington delivered the keynote address at the Principals' Forum and talked about culture. Whether it is my lifelong fascination of anything aeronautical, the graphic presented to us was used to discuss and frame our thinking about culture and our 'why'. The graphic (see below) depicts a summary of the damage sustained by planes returning from missions over Europe in 1944. Like anything, the ability to think laterally or from a distinctive perspective can be a very powerful tool. Engineers, upon looking at this graphic, reinforced the areas where the red spots grouped together. But another engineer decided to look at the points where there was no damage and maybe it was these areas that required closer attention. Was the damage sustained around the front of the plane, near the engines or in the middle of the wings the cause for many planes to crash?

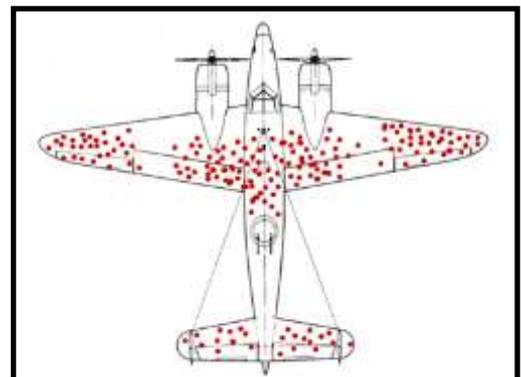
As we move towards 2023 and the formation of a new strategic plan, staff will focus on the following questions. What is our why? What do we want for our students as they move into the future? Our aim is to develop a rally point for our discussions. This phrase should summarise why we do what we do. This rally point will become the springboard for our new strategic plan.

The school would also like to offer any parent an opportunity to sit down with our principal to discuss the future of St Patrick's School. During Week 10 of Term 2 from 3pm until 5pm, Mr Blaikie will be available to talk to any parent. No appointments are necessary. Discussions will focus on the following key points:

What do you see as our rally point?

- Why are we here?
- What do we want for the future?
- What does success look like in our school?
- What is named/ understood as our success criteria?
- How do you know we are being successful?

If you have any feedback prior to Week 10, please remember that our door is always open.



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.

Winter 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



Glengallan—Genius Hour

To further deepen their learning as part of Glengallan's Genius Hour, Year 6 students Jonte and Eddison, under the supervision of Ms Donnelly and Mr Blaikie, visited Toni and Michael Dwan's 'Elwanvale' Limousin and Stockhorse property on the outskirts of Allora. Toni was talking to these students because Jonte and Eddison are interested in learning about how not to stress cattle when working with them in the yards. Toni Dwan breeds about 200 surrogate cows a year and strongly agrees that keeping cattle calm was very important, which was the boys' main goal for the visit. Some ideas Toni had for keeping cattle calm was the need to be gentle, "do not make your yards go straight under a roof because the cattle may think it is a bear cave" and lastly, "let them move at their speed, not your speed". Eddison said "I felt it was really great to be learning about cattle as Jonte and I would like to be cattlemen when we leave school".



A worker demonstrates how to load a cow calmly into a restraint.



Toni demonstrates how to operate the pneumatic restraint.

Application for School Transport (Outside Brisbane)

To help ensure our local school communities receive the appropriate amounts of School Transport funding through the Non State Schools Transport Assistance Scheme (NSSTAS) it is important parents are made aware of the Student Travel Rebates which are available. Applications for Semester 1 2022 rebates are now open online and close on 31 May. Please see the St Patrick's website for more information. Source: QCEC – Queensland Catholic Education Commission

St Patrick's P&F Care and Concern Group

The **Care and Concern Group** has been mobilized with a very successful second 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. **Our next dates are Wednesday 25 May from 3:30pm until 5:00pm and Saturday 18 June from 9am until 11:00am.** Please remember that it is not too late to join the P&F Committee. The next meeting will be held **TONIGHT** Wednesday 18 May commencing at 6:00pm.

Project Compassion

Just a massive thank you to our school community as we raised a total of \$327 for Project Compassion. As a community we also need to acknowledge Cassie and Ross Williams who donated the scrumptious biscuits for our very fortunate Mums to consume on Mother's Day. As a result, the gold coin donations provided by our families prior to Mother's Day were also donated to Project Compassion.

Date Claimer

The St Patrick's School interhouse athletics carnival will be held on Thursday 23 June. The students from St Francis de Sales will also join us on this day. Whilst both schools will remain separate in terms of house competition, the added competition will only benefit both schools. Ball games will again be the focus for parent involvement so please dust off your sand-shoes and start assembling your teams.

Kindest regards

Keith Blaikie—Principal

DATE CLAIMERS

Term 2—2022

- 18 May—Newsletter uploaded at 3pm
- 18 May—P&F meeting 6pm
- 19 May—Whole School Assembly at 2:15pm
- 24 May—Whole School Mass at 9:30am.
Everyone is welcome to attend.
- 24 May—Darling Downs Cross Country
- 26 to 27 May—Life Education
- 27 May—Gala Day, Allora State School
- 30 May—Reconciliation Week
- 1 June—Newsletter uploaded at 3pm
- 1 June—Geckoes Wildlife visit
- 8 June—Athletics Training at 7:30am
- 15 June—Athletics Training at 7:30am

16 May - 2022

Dear Parents/ Caregivers,

In order to provide updated information in regard to the basic routines of St Patrick's School for both new and continuing families, the following information is provided.

1. Normal School Day

- School commences at 8:40am and finishes at 2:55pm.
- Students may arrive from 8:15am. Students will then place their bag in the space provided outside their classroom and proceed to the library. Reading material is provided for all students.
- Students will be supervised from 8:25am until 8:40am by a member of staff.
- The school day is divided into three sessions:
 - Session 1 – 8:40am to 10:45am
 - **Lunch – 10:45am to 11:25am**
 - Session 2 – 11:25am to 1:30pm
 - **Late Lunch – 1:30pm to 1:50pm**
 - Session 3 – 1:50pm to 2:55pm.
- **Students are to be collected outside the front gate at the end of school. Students will be unable to be collected from the gates on Warwick Street. Teachers need to sight individual parents before students are allowed to exit the school.**
- Please note that students need to be signed into school by a parent if they arrive after 8:40am or if they need to leave early for an appointment.

2. Student Absences

- If your child is sick or will be absent from school, please notify the school by either;
 - Parent Portal
 - Email: allora@twb.catholic.edu.au
 - Phone: 07 4666 3551
- Notifications of student absences would be appreciated in advance whenever possible.

3. Student Medications

- If medications need to be administered at school, please collect an appropriate form from the office. The school requires written permission from parents.

4. Student Lunches

- We encourage all families to send enough nutritious food for two eating breaks which are provided throughout the day.
- Please remember that we are a **'Nut Aware'** school.
- To access the Australian Guidelines for healthy eating, please follow the link below:
[Australian Guide to Healthy Eating | Eat For Health](#)
- There is no tuck-shop available.

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5. School Uniforms

- Just a reminder that the Sports uniform needs to be worn on a Wednesday and Friday. HPE practical lessons will take place on a Wednesday.
- Formal school uniform needs to be worn on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.
- Winter uniform is worn from May to August (depending upon the weather). Commences after the Labor Day Public Holiday.
- Prep students will wear their Sports uniform throughout the week.
- Please note that a school hat and water bottle are needed each day.

6. Newsletters

- The St Patrick's School Newsletter will be published on a fortnightly basis.
- The Newsletter will be emailed to all parents on the Wednesday of odd numbered weeks. (Weeks 1, 3, 5 and 9)
- **Weekly Reminders** will be communicated prior to the start of every week.

7. Assemblies

- Assemblies will be held on a Friday (2:20pm) in the **Multi-Purpose Court or Library**. Assemblies will run on a fortnightly basis. (Weeks, 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10)

8. Parent/ Teacher Contact

- Central to the success of your child's academic development is having an open and positive relationship with your child's classroom teacher.
- If you would like to make an appointment to see your child's teacher, either contact the office on **07 4666 3551** or alternatively, contact your child's teacher via email.
 - Talgai (Prep/Year 1): Katherine.Hickey@twb.catholic.edu.au
 - Cunningham (Year 2): Jannita.Hentschel@twb.catholic.edu.au
 - Dalrymple (Year 3/ 4): Karine.Preston@twb.catholic.edu.au
 - Glengallan (Year 5/6): Mary.Donnelly@twb.catholic.edu.au
- Teaching staff are unavailable for appointments before school as they need this time for their daily preparation. Please contact the office if the matter is urgent.

9. COVID 19 Update

- Both staff and students will continue to wash/ sterilize their hands on a regular basis throughout the day.
- If your child has a birthday and you would like to bring in some baking, we ask that it is pre-packaged rather than home baked. This will reduce the risk of any cross contamination.
- Adults are still required to adhere to the usual physical distancing, wear masks and hand sterilization protocols.

10. School Bus Providers

- Please contact **Matt and Tracey Heslin** on 0429 663 397
- Bus Runs – Talgai West, Hendon, Berrat and Spring Creek.

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Information Sheet 1 – Parent Portal

Central for Parents App 1

St Patrick's School Allora is moving to a new portal and app for parents and caregivers in Semester 2, 2021. The roll out of this new portal will begin in Week 9, Term 2. The **Parent Portal** is available via any device with an internet connection. The app is called **Central for Parents** and is available from Google Play Store or the Apple App Store.

To access the Portal, you will receive a unique Portal Access Key for each student from the school that will provide access to your students' information. Once you set up an account password, you can use this login for both the Parent Portal online and the App.

If you have students at another Diocese of Toowoomba Catholic School, you will receive a separate Access Key from the other school. You will be able to switch between schools within the App settings.

With the Parent Portal or the mobile phone app, you will have access to:

Newsfeed

The newsfeed will contain news items from the school relating to your child. Some items may require you to act, whilst others will be informational only.

The Newsfeed items can also contain attachments that you can download. When a Newsfeed item requires you to take an action (e.g. excursion approval), clicking on the item will take you to a screen that will allow you to perform that action.

Academic reports can also be published to the Portal newsfeed.

Absences

Absences allows you to communicate absence information to the school. This includes past absences that require explanation and 'future' absences. A 'future' absence occurs when you are aware your child(ren) will be away from school.

Messages

Messages acts as a direct line of contact between parents/caregivers and the teachers of your children's classes. It is important to understand when you can expect responses from Teachers. This should be discussed with Teachers to have realistic expectations of communications and to know how long you can expect to wait between correspondences.

Interviews

Interviews relate to Parent and Teacher interviews. Parents can book available time slots or request a specific time.

Resources

School documents that we wish to share with you as parents/caregivers.

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Links

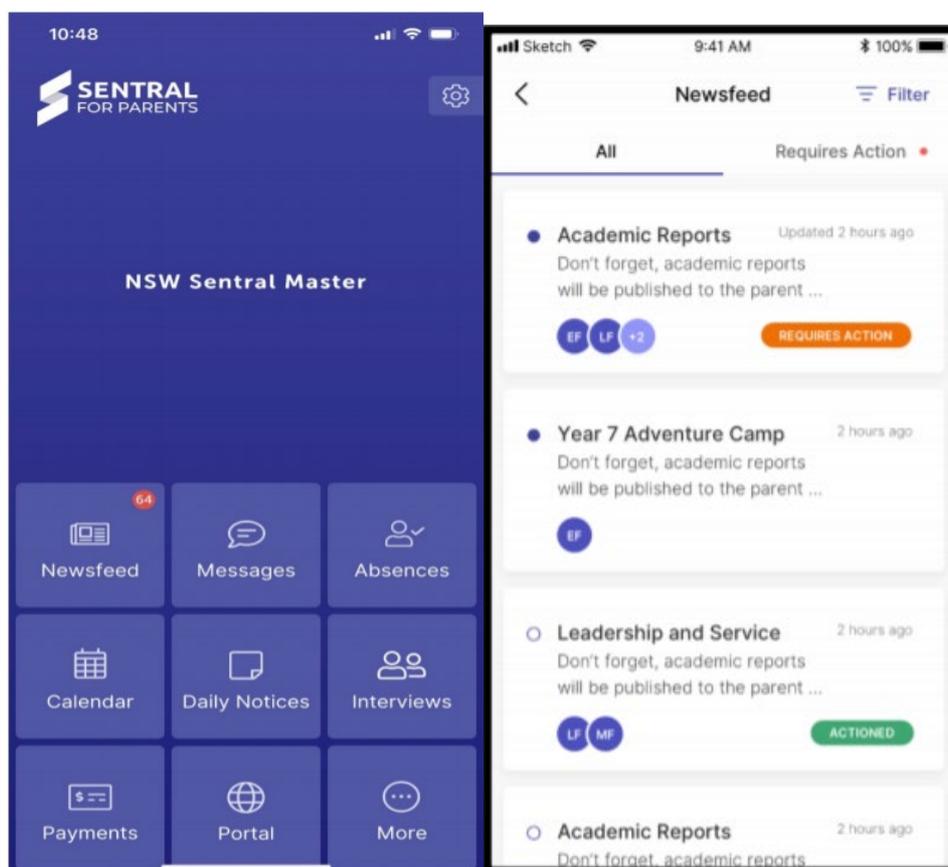
We will share web sites of interest to parents and caregivers and you will see links to these sites here.

- School Newsletter
- School Calendar (Sentral)
- School Website
- Administer Medication at School Form

Calendars

In Calendars, you can view school schedules and important events by 'Today', 'Week', or 'Month' by clicking on the sections at the top of the screen. Drill down into a specific event in the calendar for details.

Sentral for Parents App home screen and example Newsfeed



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Information Sheet – 2 - Parent Portal

Getting Started with the Sentral for Parents App

Recently we let you know that we would be moving to a new online portal and app for communications with parents and carers.

A Portal Access Key has been emailed to all families. This Portal Access Key will provide access to your students' information. Once you set up an account password, you can use this login for both the Parent Portal online and the App.

If you have students at another Diocese of Toowoomba Catholic School, you will receive a separate Access Key from the other school. You will be able to switch between schools within the App settings.

Getting started

1. Download the app. Depending on your device, visit either the Apple App Store, or the Google Play Store and search for Sentral for Parents.
2. Search for your school in the search box.
3. Tap **Next**.
4. Tap **Register here**.
5. Enter your details.
6. Tap **Create Account**.
7. You will receive a confirmation email.
8. Click the link in the confirmation email to verify your details.
9. Log in to the app.
10. Use the access keys provided by your school to add your children to the app. Access keys can be added in the Settings menu.
11. You will then see the Home Screen.
12. View the QuickStart guide.
13. You're now ready to use the app.

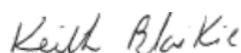
There is more information on getting started here: <https://info.sentral.com.au/new-app-getting-started>

Watch the video here: <https://player.vimeo.com/video/431752138>

The complete user guide can be downloaded here: [User Guide\](#)

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate in contacting the school.

Kind regards



Keith Blaikie - Principal

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From the Fathering Project

The below article, written by Dr Bruce Robinson, shares some positive messages on the importance of dads' involvement in education.

Supporting school learning at home

When dads support school learning at home, this shows our kids that we truly value education and the school.

Your job as a parent is to encourage them, support them and challenge them to learn and do their best. If you can instil in them the mindset that learning is a process, that is positive and enjoyable, they will grow up to be lifelong learners who thrive on challenges.

Evidence – Did you know?

1. Fathering involvement in educational activities with their children is associated with improved educational outcomes for all students.
2. Children at all ages with fathers interested and involved in their learning have a clear academic advantage.
3. Children do not stop needing their fathers because they get older, or because lives get busy.
4. You don't have to be strong academically yourself to have an impact on your child's education. Evidence shows you just have to be supportive and positive about learning.

Top tips

1. **Read with your child from an early age** and encourage a positive attitude to learning from reading – both books and online.
2. **Promote a positive mindset in your children** to help them see the benefits and enjoyment that can be found in learning and improvement.
3. **Don't put too much pressure on them.** Encourage them to be as good as they can be and help them plan how to improve.
4. **Be willing to help with homework**, even if that just means asking them questions.
5. **Let them be independent learners and be there to support** if they want to do the home learning themselves.
6. **Encourage them to see mistakes as an important part of the learning process** and help them to see how to use their mistakes to learn.
7. **If homework is causing stress or arguments, put it aside and take a break.** Try again later and if there are still problems, contact the teacher to discuss solutions.

Dr Bruce Robinson is the founder of The Fathering Project – [Your support of learning impacts your child's results at school - The Fathering Project](#)

If you or your children are struggling

Kids can call Kids Helpline on 1800 551800 or Youth Beyond Blue on 1300 224 636 or you can contact your child's GP. If you are struggling, call Lifeline on 131 114, or Beyond Blue on 1300 224 636.



Student Travel Rebates



Semester 1

Bus Fare Assistance

- Does your child attend a **school outside the Brisbane City Council** boundary?
- Does your family spend more than **\$40/week*** on fares to and from school (* \$30/week if you hold a concession card)?
- Does your child travel on a **publicly available service** not owned or associated with the school?

Students With Disability

- Does your child have a **verified disability** that requires **transport assistance** to and from school?
- Has your school's learning support teacher assessed your child's **travel capability rating** as 'semi-independent' or more dependent?

Visit our website to see if you qualify for our financial assistance to help with the cost of transport and **apply at SchoolTransport.com.au during May.**

Late applications cannot be accepted after 31st May.