



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:

Mrs Shooter
Mr Blaikie

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 to another term. We hope the Easter holidays provided opportunities for you, as a family, to spend some valuable time together. Easter is not just one day. It is a whole season of 50 days which will last until Pentecost. Eastertime is about new life. We rejoice in the new life of Jesus. It is also about light overcoming darkness. At the Easter Vigil, the Pascal candle was lit from the Easter fire and carried into the darkened church. This new Pascal light will burn brightly for 50 days of Easter. It is a symbol of the risen Jesus, the 'Light to the World', whose light was not put out with death but shines now for us all to see.

ANZAC Day

As in previous years, students from St Patrick's School will march in the Allora ANZAC Day Parade. The parade will begin from the corner of Drayton and Herbert Streets at 10:40am (assemble at 10.15am).

We encourage all St Patrick's students to participate in the march. This is an extremely important and reverent occasion for our students to remember the sacrifice and service of our Australian Defence Force personnel. For those children representing St Patrick's School in **Years 1 to 6**, they need to wear the **regular formal summer uniform** (that is not sport uniform) and, especially, their school hat. **Prep students** will wear their normal uniform which is the **regular sports uniform**. Parents are reminded to bring water and we ask that sunscreen is applied before the children march.

On Tuesday 25th April students are required to assemble at the Sports Museum at 10:15am which is located on the corner of Drayton and Herbert Streets. The march will commence at 10:40am and will finish at the Allora Cenotaph on Warwick Street. Students may be collected after the ANZAC Service has finished. Please see your child's classroom teacher before you leave the Allora Cenotaph.

Students from Glengallen will also represent St Patrick's School at the Allora State School ANZAC Ceremony on Monday 24 April. This service will commence at 9:30am.

St Patrick's School will also commemorate ANZAC Day on Monday 24 April with a liturgy commencing at 2:15pm. The students from Glengallen will lead this commemoration. We are extremely fortunate to welcome Flight Sergeant Symon Campbell who will provide the ANZAC Day address. Symon has spent 26 years in the Australian Defence Forces and is a Medical Technician (Paramedic). Our ANZAC Liturgy will be held on the grass near the Shrine. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

As ANZAC Day looms closer, we are always moved by the examples of self-sacrifice and courage displayed by the soldiers at Gallipoli. I would like to share with you a story about Alexander White, a 33 year old maltster from Ballarat. He was wounded by a Turkish shell fragment. In hospital, nurses found that he wore a locket containing the photograph of his wife and infant son. They also found in his possession, a Bible and a poem he had cut from a newspaper. Let me share the poem with you:

Let me be a little braver

When temptation bids me waver,

Let me strive a little harder

To be all that I should be.

Let me be a little meeker

With the brother that is weaker

Let me think more of my neighbour

And a little less of me.

Lest We Forget

St Patrick's P&F Care and Concern Group

The Care and Concern Group is once again ready to spring into action around the township of Allora. The aim of this initiative is to engage our school families in order to support a number of local residents to manage and tidy various gardens around Allora. All parents or grandparents are welcome and encouraged to participate. Together, we can make a huge difference. Our next outings will be:

- **Saturday 6 May and Saturday 4 June.** Please meet at St Patrick's at 9:00am and bring garden tools, lawn mowers and trailers for rubbish removal. Everyone is welcome to attend!!



Staff updates

It is with great pleasure that we announce that Mrs Jen Fenn has accepted a fulltime position at Assumption College. This position commenced in Term Two, 2023. Whilst we are saddened to see Mrs Fenn leave her current role as school counsellor after 15 months of dedicated service to St Patrick's School, we are extremely proud of her achievements. Mrs Fenn has been instrumental in the roll out of 'Zones of Regulation' which has been adopted by the school as a well being framework for staff and students to use on a daily basis. Mrs Fenn's attention to detail, communication and professional standards have been exemplary. Thank you, Mrs Fenn. You are a major loss to St Patrick's School but certainly Assumption College's gain. All the best and good luck. The recruitment process to replace Mrs Fenn has been commenced by TCSO.

In other staff news, interviews were held on Friday 14 April for the position of School Officer (Workplace Health and Safety). This position has been vacant since Mrs Andrea Lewis' resignation at the end of 2022. A successful applicant has been identified and will be released to the school community once the recruitment process has been finalised. The tasks associated with this role were absorbed by the school's administration team in Term One.

Project Compassion

Just a friendly reminder that all Project Compassion boxes that were sent home on Ash Wednesday need to be returned to school by Friday 28 April. Any money raised will be greatly appreciated.

School Attendance— Paul Murphy | TCSO Senior Education Leader

Whilst the percentage of school attendance at St Patrick's School for Term 1 hovers around 95%, it is crucial that attendance at school remains a strong focus for our school community.

The Forrest Review: creating parity (Andrew Forrest, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet), identified that if a child's school attendance falls below 90% (ie they frequently miss more than half a day of school a week) their education is considered at risk. If attendance falls below 80% (ie they miss a day of school every week) their education is significantly diminished. In other words...

- *less than 80% attendance - no better than no schooling at all*
- *90% attendance is required for a child to receive the education needed for job readiness*

attendance is even more important than the quality of the school.

This research is powerful stuff that really quantifies what teachers and principals have known for years.

A recent State of the Sector Report from the Queensland Catholic Education Commission identified that in 2022, the Semester 1 attendance rate for Queensland Catholic schools was 88%.

So what can we do practically from our perspective - here are some suggestions from the Victorian Education Department.

1. Addressing individual student needs

Identifying risks of student disengagement from education needs to happen early so that actions can be taken to reduce or avoid these risks.

2. Engaging with the family

Managing issues of non-attendance can be difficult, particularly in circumstances where there are apparent stress factors within families. Working with a family in a way that can prevent attendance issues is critical. Successful school-family relationships will be underpinned by open and effective communication.

3. Attendance student support group

When student attendance issues are identified and it becomes apparent that a student may require ongoing intensive support in order to remain engaged in school, an Attendance Student Support Group should be convened.

4. Referral to school or community-based wellbeing professional

When exploring attendance concerns, schools may identify behavioural, health or social issues such as anxiety, depression or bullying for an individual student.

There is no doubt that chronic poor student school attendance is a challenge that is increasing for all schools and will require ongoing attention and persistence.

Winter Uniform

The St Patrick's School winter uniform will be worn from Tuesday 2 May. Once the weather warms up in September then a date will be communicated to you when students may resume wearing their formal summer uniform. If you require any advice on the school's winter uniform, please contact the school.

Jump Rope for Heart

What do Cabbage Patch Kids, Walkmans and the Rubik's Cube have in common? These fads were the ultimate in playground cool for kids growing up in Australia in the 1980s. While you'd be hard pressed to get your hands on some of these collectibles today, another Australian icon from 1983 has stood the test of time. This year, Jump Rope for Heart, the Heart Foundation's famous primary school skipping challenge, turned 40! Whether you grew up with it yourself, or now have little ones of your own getting involved, it's certainly stood the test of time.

Why has Jump Rope for Heart lasted for 40 years?

When researchers asked primary school-aged children about their **views on physical activity**, they discovered three key ingredients for enticing kids to be more physically active: it needs to be fun, social and outdoors. Well, Jump Rope for Heart ticks all three boxes, especially the fun part. For example, through their own secure online platform, kids can unlock 12 awesome badges to collect as they keep track of their skipping minutes. There's also heaps of cool prizes they can earn when they hit a fundraising milestone, from a mystery skipping rope to a Vuly kids' bike. If that's not enough, kids participating in Jump Rope for Heart can put their own stamp on their skipping experience by choosing from one of two avatars.

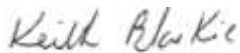
Jump Rope for Heart and St Patrick's School

To help with your understanding of Jump Rope for Heart, a Parents and Guardians Guide will be sent home today for your information. Whilst there is a fundraising aspect to Jump Rope for Heart, the decision to fundraise will be left to parents. From a school perspective, using Jump Rope for Heart will hopefully provide a greater avenue for all students to participate actively and positively in physical activity. Jump Rope for Heart is a fun way for your child to be more physically active, leading them to a future of better health outcomes and reducing the risk of heart disease in adulthood.

We hope to launch Jump Rope for Heart on Friday 28 April.

Enjoy the rest of your week. Hopefully we can either touch base in person at school or next week with our ANZAC commemorations. As always, if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate in contacting the school.

Kindest regards



Keith Blaikie—Principal



DATE CLAIMERS

Term 2—2023

- 19 April—P&F Meeting at 6pm. ZOOM only
- 24 April—Allora State School ANZAC Ceremony at 9:30am (Glengallan)
- 24 April—St Patrick's ANZAC Liturgy commencing at 2:15pm near the Shrine
- **25 April—ANZAC DAY Community Parade assemble at 10.15am, cnr Drayton and Herbert St's for a 10:40am march off**
- 28 April—Whole School Assembly at 2:15pm in the Church
- **1 May—MAY DAY Public Holiday. (School closed)**
- 2 May—Winter uniform commences
- 4 May—Glengallan Leadership Day
- **6 May (Saturday) - 9am P&F Care and Concern home visit**
- 8 May—Board Meeting at 6pm in library