

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:

**Miss Donnelly,
Mr Maher and Jayne
(school counsellor)**

Reminders and To Do List

- **Change to FlexiSchools**— please note that we have now changed over to 'FlexiSchools'. [Click here for instructions](#)
- **Please remember that we are a 'Nut Aware' School.**
- **Church Times** - Church 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,

It's about 'Justice'— At St Patrick's, we value 'Justice'. Last Friday we celebrated Day for Daniel and through the efforts of our students families, raised a considerable amount of money for the foundation. We made links with our learners between the funds raised, our value of justice and where these funds were going to—to support families affected by crime.

The children went for a walk down the street to raise awareness before returning to school for some activities led by our year 6 school leaders. The children had a great time and our school leaders once again rose to the challenge.

Parents as Co-Creators in Learning— The terms 'Parent Engagement' and 'Parent Involvement' are often used to mean the same thing. They are not. Both are good, however one has much more of an impact on student learning progress than the other.

Parent involvement in schools includes attending events, volunteering in class or other activities, and serving on school councils and parent committees. *Parent engagement* includes parent support for children's learning at home in addition to ensuring that the partnership between school and home is built on communication and support—both ways.



One characteristic of highly effective schools is that they form partnerships to enhance student learning and wellbeing. This includes partnering with parents and families (Masters, 2015).

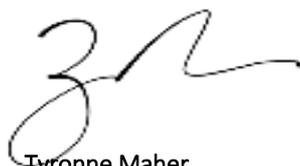
Why is parent engagement in learning important? There is strong evidence that parent engagement is associated with improvements for students of all ages. This includes early literacy, school adjustment and student attendance, motivation, self-regulatory behaviour, social skills, retention and graduation rates. This evidence confirms the importance of valuing and supporting parent engagement in learning.

Research has identified positive home-school relations as a characteristic of schools with high academic standards, regardless of student backgrounds. Highly effective schools regard parents as partners in education and promote home-school partnerships. There are elements of engagement that have the greatest effect on academic achievement for children. These include:

- ⇒ Providing a safe, secure and intellectually stimulating home environment; and
- ⇒ Modelling educational values and aspirations, has a significant and positive effect on achievement and a child's ability to adjust to change.

Home-based parent engagement has been shown to have a greater effect on academic attainment than school-based parent involvement in activities. However, school-based parent involvement is still very important and helps create good relationships between schools and families, facilitating positive teacher-child interactions.

God Bless



Tyrone Maher
Principal

“At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents.”

Jane D Hull, Governor of Arizona (1997 to 2003)

St Patrick's School Allora— Newsletter

School News



Save the Date! - this year's graduation ceremony will be held on Thursday the 3rd December from 5:30pm. On this night, we celebrate the achievements of our departing Year 6 students. The success of this night has always been in the attendance of all students (present and past) and their families, not just the families of our graduating year 6 students. We look forward to seeing everyone there on the evening.

'Drop Off' and 'Pick Up' Safety— Please ensure that if not parked on the school side of the road that it is safest for your children if you come and collect them from the school side of the road to walk them across. Parents are reminded to keep an eye on their children once they have arrived at their vehicle. Last week a student attempted to cross the road while their parent was talking and was almost struck. Please take extra care in our school zone— adhering to the 40km/hr road rules.

Swimming Lessons— Swimming lessons will be conducted on Monday 23rd, Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th November. These lessons focus on water safety, awareness and swimming fundamentals for our younger students; water safety and stroke correction for our older students. There is a strong focus on participation and all children will be instructed in regard to their needs. Children will need goggles and suitable swimmers (girls must have one piece swimmers). While the pool is shaded, a swim shirt is still highly recommended. Please start communicating that these lessons are fun and important lessons. We strongly recommend that all children participate in swimming lessons, outside of our school lessons, as we cannot teach your child to swim in just 3 lessons each year. Please let Tyrone know if you are able to assist in these sessions.

Swimming Carnival— The results of a school survey issued some months ago has led us to continuing our school swimming carnival on the Friday of week 8 (as per the calendar). Our swimming is about fun and participation. For those of our children who take their swimming more seriously and are hoping to qualify for the 2021 Central Downs Carnival should not be concerned about not swimming quite fast enough at the beginning of the swimming season. As has been the case in previous years, swimming club times can be provided at the beginning of 2021 and, providing they meet qualifying times, children can still be nominated into the carnival.



Lest We Forget— On Wednesday, Remembrance day will be celebrated across Australia. This day marks the signing of a treaty; on the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month in 1918; which ended world war one. Of particular significance to this day is our 'Shrine'. The Shrine was built in 1918 to honour the local families who lost their sons to war. Students will participate in a minute's silence at school on this day .

DATE CLAIMERS

- 11th- 13th November - Year 5/6 Camp
- 18th November - Second Prep Transition Morning - 8:40 - 11:25am
- 23rd - 24th November - Swimming lessons
- 27th November - Swimming Carnival (Allora Swimming Pool)
- 2nd December - Prep Transition Afternoon 2-3pm (NEW to 2020 in response to family feedback)
- 3rd December - Semester 2 Reports issued
- 3rd December - 5:30 - 7pm - Graduation Ceremony - All children to attend
- 4th December - Last Day of School
10am - End of year assembly in the church (to conclude by 12noon)
12noon - School closure for 2020

2021

- 26th January—Australia Day Holiday
- 27th January— First day of term 1