

St Patrick's School Allora— Newsletter



Dear Families,

Welcome back to another Year! We trust your Christmas and New Year Celebrations were both joyous and surrounded by family and friends. Like many of us, the departure of 2020 has been a blessing in disguise. Whilst COVID 19 is still reeking havoc in many parts of the world, we need to remain thankful that the virus has been largely controlled in Australia. A lesson we can all learn from the events of 2020 is the remarkable resilience people have displayed and their willingness to reinvent themselves.

We look forward to 2021 with much enthusiasm and positivity.

2021 Class Structure and Staffing

The Class Structure and Staffing for 2021 remains largely unchanged. The only addition is Mrs Jennifer Kirkland. Mrs Kirkland has accepted the position of Science Teacher for 2021. Mrs Kirkland provides a wealth of experiences and we look forward to her igniting a passion for Science in all our learners. Other key staff and contacts include:

Talgai—Prep	Katie Hickey
Cunningham—Year 1 and 2	Lyn Geyle and Kathryn Lucas
Dalrymple—Years 3 and 4	Karine Preston (Deputiser)
Glengallan—Years 5 and 6	Mary Donnelly (Ignite Learning Expert)
Learning Support Teacher	Debbie Groombridge (Wednesday)
Teacher Aids	Emma Heit, Andrea Lewis and Amanda McCosker
Workplace Health and Safety	Andrea Lewis
Teacher Librarian	Debbie Groombridge (Tuesday)
Library Officer	Julie—anne Flynn
Music	Lesley Telford (Tuesday)
Science	Jennifer Kirkland (Wednesday)
ICT Technician	Jeeva Rajapakshage
School Counsellor	Jayne Farquharson
Cleaner	Judy Allen
Administration and Finance	Elizabeth Partington
Principal / APRE/ Middle Leader/ HPE Years 1 to 6	Keith Blaikie

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
Jayne Farquharson

Reminders

- **Uniform Days**
Sports
Wednesday, Friday.
Formal
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday.
- 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

Staff Professional Development

As part of our preparation as a Learning Community, staff in all facets of the school's operations have undertaken significant professional development. An added advantage of these sessions is not only to keep abreast of the latest diocesan initiatives but allows the staff to prepare for the arrival of our students and hit the ground the running on the 27th of January. These activities included:

- Student Protection and Code of Conduct Training
- Whole Staff Induction and Vision for 2021
- Whole Staff review of the school's Strategic Plan
- Data Wall and Student Support Committee Meetings
- **Sentral**—Academic Reporting (TCSO)
- Workplace Health and Safety Training.



'And we are off!' All of our new Prep Learners enjoying their new learning environment for the first time!

Faith and Identity

Teaching staff were also invited to attend a 'Josephite Spirituality Day' facilitated by Mary Mackillop College, Highfields. Apart from being extremely informative, it provided an opportunity for staff to reflect on the visibility of the Josephite Charism within the community of St Patrick's.

As a result, we have identified a number of areas where we can mesh the traditions of the Josephites with our continual focus on academic growth for each student in the school. Staff have selected a saying from Mary Mackillop which will be used to drive this initiative throughout the year. The quote for 2021 is - ***"Find happiness in making others happy"***. More information will follow throughout the term.

School Uniforms

Just a reminder that uniform days will be Sports uniform to be worn on a Wednesday and Friday. HPE practical lessons will take place on a Friday. Formal school uniform to be worn on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Newsletters

The St Patrick's Newsletter will be published on a fortnightly basis. (Weeks 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9)

Assemblies

Assemblies will occur on a Friday (8:50am) - **Parish Meeting Room**. (Weeks, 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10)

DATE CLAIMERS

2021

- 26th January—Australia Day Holiday
- 27th January— Day one of Term 1
- 4th February—Assembly (8:50am Thursday)
- 5th February—Allora Show Holiday
- 9th February - Opening School Celebration (Includes Year 6 Leaders Induction—9:30am)
- 12th February - CD Swimming—Allora Pool

God Bless

Keith Blaikie

Principal