



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

COVID 19 Update

As you would be aware, The Premier announced yesterday (Wednesday 30 December) a vaccine mandate for ***all school staff in Queensland*** will be implemented for the 2022 school year. The mandate will apply across all school sectors. It is vitally important to stress that the vaccination mandate for school staff at school sites ***does not apply to students (even if they are 16+ years of age)***. Whilst there is still much confusion in regard to mandatory vaccinations in the broader community, please see Mr Blaikie if you have any questions.

St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal

The annual St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal is still well underway, a total of \$321.00 was raised at the Musical. The school is still accepting non-perishable (Christmas-themed) food items. Please drop them into the baskets provided near Dalrymple classroom. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Graduation Mass - Thursday (2 December)

Sports Uniform during the day. Formal Uniform required for Mass (Years 1 to 6).

- BBQ dinner will be provided for students and families from 5:00 until 5:45pm. Tea and Coffee will be available for adults.
- Students to meet their classroom teacher at 5:45pm near the Church.
- Glengallan students and all families enter the Church at 5:50pm followed by Talgai, Cunningham and Dalrymple.
- Graduation Mass commences at 6:00pm and concludes at approximately 7:30pm
- All students need to be collected from the Church at the conclusion of Mass.

Thanksgiving Liturgy and Awards Ceremony - Friday (3 December)

Formal Uniform (All students Years 1 to 6).

- Students need to bring their morning tea to school.
- Thanksgiving Liturgy and Awards Ceremony – 10:00am in the St Patrick's Parish Church
- 2021 Academic Awards
- Musical Presentations – Mrs Telford
- Year 6 Graduation Cake will be cut and shared amongst the school community at the completion of the awards ceremony.
- Announcement of the Champion House for 2021
- Students may be collected by parents from classrooms at 12pm.

Interhouse Swimming Carnival—Friday 26 November

Congratulations to all students who participated in the recent Interhouse Swimming Carnival. Whilst the competition in the pool was thoroughly entertaining to watch, it was the cheering and encouragement extended to all students which was the real winner on the day. Well done to Hughes who were victors at the end of the carnival. Although the weather provided some challenges the resilience displayed by our students and parent helpers was equally inspirational.

Age Champions

12 Years: Matilda and Will; **11 Years:** Ruby and Hugh/Riley; **10 Years:** Maggie and Billy;
9 Years: Priseis and Tom; **8 Years:** Katelyn and Noah.

Records

A number of records were smashed during the carnival. Our congratulations to the following students:

- Will (12 Years) Open 100m Freestyle, Open 200m Medley and 50m Backstroke.
- Tom (9 Years) 50m Freestyle, 50m Backstroke and 50m Butterfly.

Feeling Safe

Our School Student Protection Contacts are:

Ms Donnelly
Mr Blaikie
Ms Jayne Farquharson

Reminders

Uniform Days

Sports

Wednesday, Friday.

Formal

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday.

Summer Uniform

Starts Monday
6th September

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



Preventing the “Summer Slide”

The “Summer Slide” is the name given to the regression we often see in reading after the Christmas holiday break. It most commonly affects early readers with newly acquired skills, but also older students who are still consolidating their reading. The following suggestions may help students to continue practicing their reading, while still enjoying their holiday break.

1. **Make reading in context a priority** – reading that is related to meaningful activities (such as using recipes, sending and receiving letters, reading street signs and playing games with instructions) is more likely to keep students interested and engaged.
2. **Visit the local library** – encouraging students to borrow what interests them can be a great way to keep up reading practice over the break (and any time!) Lots of children also enjoy practicing their reading using their favourite picture books.
3. **Read TO and WITH your children** – do it often and make it fun! Children of any age benefit so much from being read to, and it is a lovely way to connect throughout the day. Encouraging students to view reading as an enjoyable experience is particularly important for reluctant readers. Being read to is also a great way for students to build vocabulary and “book language” which helps them become more proficient readers themselves. More resources will be sent via the Parent Portal and Sentral in the near future.

The Season of Advent

As we welcome December, the season of Advent heralds the Church's New Year. Advent is a season of waiting. Many of the words we pray and sing are full of desire, hope and expectation. One of our Advent companions is Mary, and during these weeks we remember her as she awaited the birth of her child. We know what waiting is like, especially at this time of the year. We wait as the chance of rain increases, and as the school year draws to a close. Advent is a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming is remembered. We know that the first coming of Jesus at Bethlehem will not happen again, so during Advent, we prepare and long for a new coming of Jesus into our lives. We remember the call of Jesus to his followers to make our world a peaceful and loving place, and so, during Advent, we make special efforts to be signs that God is with us. This is what the word “Emmanuel” means – God-with-us, and why it is used throughout the season of Advent.

This week we are sad to be farewelling Mrs Julie-Anne Flynn from our school community. Julie-Anne has been a dedicated employee, always giving above and beyond what has been expected of her. Her strong work ethic and passion for the library has seen her being requested by other librarians at other schools in the diocese. Over the last 14 years while working at St Patrick's, she has worked on a casual basis at St Francis de Sales Clifton, St Stephen's Pittsworth, St Joseph's Millmerran as well as the following schools in Toowoomba - St Mary's College, St Joseph's College, Our Lady of Lourdes, Sacred Heart, St Anthony's and St Saviour's College. Julie-Anne loved working with various Teacher Librarians throughout the diocese. She saw these as learning opportunities, learning new skills which she then implemented at St Patrick's, ensuring that we were always well resourced and up to date in our practices.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry and Holy Christmas. Please find time during the seafood, ham, plum pudding and backyard cricket to reflect on the real message of Christmas and be thankful every day for living in such a blessed country.

Kindest regards

Keith Blaikie—Principal

DATE CLAIMERS

Term 4—2021

- **1 December—Prep Transition Day # 4 from 2:00pm to 3:00pm.**
- **2 December—Graduation Mass 6:00pm in the St Patrick's Church**
- **3 December—End of Year Liturgy and Awards Ceremony. 10:00am in the Church**
12 noon School Closes

Term 1—2022

- **24 January—Book drop from 9:00 to 12:00am.**
- **24 January—School Shop from 9:00 to 12:00pm.**
- **25 January—School commences at 8:40am with a whole school assembly. Everyone welcome. Morning Tea will follow to welcome our new parents.**
- **26 January—Australia Day Holiday, school closed.**