

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Reflection from Pope Francis



The word that makes hope blossom in the world and relieves the suffering of the poor: tenderness. We need to overcome the temptation to be concerned only about our own problems; we need to grow in tenderness before the tragedies of the world.

Please remember in your prayers those members of our extended Catholic Education Family who have passed away recently.

Rosie Weilharter, long serving staff member Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School, Gladstone.



Please remember in your prayers those members of our extended Catholic Education Family who are unwell.

Khiana Blakey, Year 8 Holy Spirit College, Mackay and daughter of Allison Blakey, Principal MacKillop Catholic Primary School, Mackay.

Friday 19 November 2021

Good morning everyone

Today marks the final day of schooling for our graduating Year 12 students. It is a milestone day for these young women and men, for their families and for all those in our college communities who have nurtured, supported, and encouraged each one on their educational journey. As these fine ambassadors for Catholic Education embark on the next chapter in their lives, I offer them my sincere congratulations on all they have achieved and on the significant contribution they have made to our Schools and Colleges. I pray that God will keep them safe and bless them abundantly into the future.

The Diocesan Education Council (DEC) gathers today for our final meeting for 2021 with a wide-ranging discussion on the agenda including a review of the Annual Budget, the draft Modern Slavery Policy, the NSIT process and a summary of our Policy Audits. Council members are also delighted to welcome our 2021 Spirit of Catholic Education Diocesan winner, Natalie McCosker (APRE St Patrick's, Emerald), for the presentation of her award by Bishop Michael, and to launch our Catholic Education Reconciliation Action Plan. I wish to thank most sincerely our DEC members for their collegiality, generous service and wise counsel. I know all the members of the DEC are very grateful to Bishop Michael for the confidence and trust he places in them to serve on the Council and provide advice to him with respect to the conduct of the Ministry of Catholic Education in this Diocese.

It was wonderful to see so many of our schools and colleges take part in the STEM MAD National Showcase initiative on Tuesday this week run by Catholic Network Australia. STEM MAD is designed to acknowledge and promote STEM learning initiatives that address real world problems and demonstrate how Catholic students take action that matters. In response to the papal call to action in *Laudato Si: Care for our Common Home*, student teams collaborated to design a product, service, or innovation to Make a Difference (MAD) to others or the environment in areas such as health and wellbeing, community and global issues, inclusive school and community infrastructure and environmental sustainability solutions. The nationwide digital event showcased entries from winning teams in various categories including Shalom College, Bundaberg who took out the Sustainability Award (Secondary). Congratulations to all students and staff involved in this innovative and exciting project.

Earlier this week, I was delighted to join the Holy Spirit College community for their annual Speech Night. My thanks to Alison Wales (Principal), staff, students and families for the very warm welcome and I extend my congratulations to all Award recipients.

Next week I am looking forward to welcoming our newly appointed leaders to our Leadership Induction gathering in Rockhampton. My congratulations to all who are taking on new responsibilities in these roles in 2022. We are very blessed to have dedicated and faith-filled people, committed to our ethos, ready to lead our communities in providing a quality Catholic education to all who seek our values.

God bless,

Leesa

Where's Leesa: Monday 22 November, Office; Tuesday 23 November, Leadership Induction Day; Wednesday 24 November, School visit St Francis Tannum Sands; Thursday 25 and Friday 26 November, Office.

Catherine McAuley College, Mackay. All hands-on deck this week, which epitomizes the spirit of Catherine McAuley, as staff begin to move into the former Mackay Sugar Research Institute, for opening in 2022 as our new Catholic College.



MacKillop Catholic Primary School, Mackay Year 1 and 2 students held a Pet Show this week raising funds for the RSPCA.



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Blackall recently had Uncle Wade, Wade and Dylan visit the school to teach the students about their culture. The students had an awesome day dancing as well as spear and boomerang throwing. Watch [here](#)

Term 4 Week 6 has been a very busy week in the VET Hospitality and Design Technologies Year 10 Food Studies and Nutrition classes at **Chanel College, Gladstone.**



Bruce and Denise Morcombe have been visiting schools in the Mackay region this week. Pictured below with students at **St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School, West Mackay.**



We are being encouraged to start preparing for the disaster season and wide range weather events that can impact Queensland including bushfires, storms, floods, and cyclones.

For more information click [here](#)

Prepare your home click [here](#)

Employment Opportunities

For additional vacancies and to apply please click [here](#)

- Specialist Music Teacher, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, North Mackay commencing January 2022. Applications close 26 November 2021.
- Secondary Teachers, St Patrick's / Mercy College Mackay commencing in 2022. Applications close 3 December 2021.
- Experienced Teachers, all Regions, commencing 2022. Applications close 3 December 2021.

FIND YOUR NEAREST COVID VACCINE CLINIC

Book your COVID-19 vaccine at a GP, pharmacy or Queensland Health clinic near you

Farewell to long serving staff who are leaving us at the end of this year.

Kathryn (Kathy) Cooper: Commencing as a Relief Teacher for our Gladstone schools in 2000, Kathy relocated to Biloela taking up a role as classroom Teacher at St Joseph's. Kathy has remained in this role for the past 20 years also stepping in as Acting APRE when needed. Her dedicated service and professional leadership are very much appreciated, and we wish Kathy every blessing in the future.



Krystine Rehbein: Krystine was a familiar face at the Shalom College in her role as Book Hire Manager from 2005 to 2021. Krystine was a much-valued member of the College's Libraries. We extend our thanks to Krystine for her wonderful service to Catholic Education and the Shalom College community. (Sincere apologies to Krystine for the error in her farewell last week).



Simon Korneliussen: We extend our thanks to Simon for his 15 years of service as our VET Coordinator in the Mackay Region. Simon has assisted and encouraged hundreds of students explore their vocational career options and facilitated great relationships with industry, business and the wider community. We wish Simon every blessing into the future.



Anne Lidster: Anne started with Catholic Education in 1995 as a part-time and casual relief Teacher for the Rockhampton Region before taking a part-time teaching position at St Anthony's. Since 2003 Anne has taught at St Joseph's, Wandal in a part-time or full-time capacity and this year marks 26 years of service to Catholic Education. Our heartfelt thanks to Anne for her dedication and commitment to her vocation over so many years.



Penny Wilton: Emmaus College will bid farewell to Penny after 24 years of service to the college. Penny joined the Emmaus staff in January 1998 and has held several senior roles including Middle Leader for Senior English and Acting Head of Department of SOSE. Penny will most certainly be missed. We are very grateful for her long service to Catholic Education and the Emmaus community.



Sandy Hunt: For the past 22 years Sandy has worked as a Teacher Assistant at St Peter's in Rockhampton. Sandy's kind and patient encouragement has assisted hundreds of students to reach their potential and her presence on staff has been a great blessing. Thank you, Sandy, for your great service to St Peter's and to Catholic Education.



Michael Denman: Michael commenced with Catholic Education in 1998 as a relief teacher in the Mackay Region. In 1999 he took on a full-time teaching role at Mercy College and remained for over two decades. Michael became Head of Department of Technology in 2010 and was also Acting Technology Coordinator at different times between 2001 and 2007. We are very appreciative of Michael's dedicated service to the Mercy College community over so many years.



Sincere thanks and best wishes to all these long serving staff for the future.

More farewells to long serving staff in next week's Message Stick.