

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Friday 21 October 2022

Good morning everyone

Leadership teams from the Northern Region Primary Schools met last week to develop their 2023 School Improvement Plans. The day provided a wonderful opportunity for leaders to collaborate and share their priorities, goals and targets for the 2023 school year. CEO staff supported the conversations and assisted teams in making decisions and refining their plans. I extend my sincere thanks to Michael McCusker (AD: Schools – Northern Region) for leading these discussions and to all involved in this important planning.

I was very pleased to be able to attend the St Patrick's College Valedictory Evening in Mackay earlier this week and to have the opportunity to congratulate graduating students and award recipients on their outstanding achievements. My thanks to all those involved in what was a wonderful evening enjoyed by the whole school community.

This week, almost 30 Support Staff from schools across the Diocese took the opportunity to participate in this year's *A Pace of Grace* Retreat held at The Haven. The Retreat offered time to focus on personal and spiritual development and reflection. My thanks to Jocelyne Benoit (FIARE Consultant) for her wonderful work in facilitating this valuable, life-giving formation and to members of the FIARE team for their great assistance in the smooth running of these days.

The community at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Kindergarten, Springsure, gathered this week to celebrate a very special milestone: their 10 Year Anniversary. As one of our early Kindergartens, the opening of OLSH Catholic Kindergarten marked a new era in Catholic Education in providing quality Early Learning opportunities for children in response to the needs of families in our communities. My thanks to Tracey Novak (Early Learning and Care Manager) and her team for their great work in supporting our Kindergarten communities.

Congratulations to organisers of the St Peter's Caulfield Cup Raceday on a magnificent day held at Callaghan Park, Rockhampton, last Saturday. Thank you to all who worked so hard to make this important fundraiser for St Peter's a successful event which was enjoyed by the whole community.

I am very much looking forward to joining in celebrations next weekend as our second oldest school in the Diocese, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Barcaldine, marks its 125th Anniversary. A full weekend of activities is planned commencing Friday evening with Mass celebrated by Bishop Michael followed by dinner, Derby Day Races at the Barcaldine Racing Club on Saturday, and an Open Day, History Walk and High Tea on Sunday. The Sisters of Mercy founded this school in 1896 and it will be wonderful to have some of the Sisters with us next weekend for the celebrations. There will be lots of opportunities to gather, reminisce and give thanks for the significant contribution this vibrant and faith-filled school community has brought to the Barcaldine region over the past 125 years. We wish Trent Shillington (Principal) and the St Joseph's school community every best wish for a joyous and memorable celebration of this significant milestone.

Finally, I ask that you join with me in praying for our Senior students as they enter their final External Assessment period. We pray that the Holy Spirit will be ever at their side as a source of courage, wisdom, and strength.

God bless,

Leesa

Where's Leesa: Monday 24 to Wednesday 26 October, Office; Thursday 27 October, School visits, Our Lady's Longreach and St Joseph's Blackall; Friday 28 to Sunday 30 October, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Barcaldine 125 years celebrations.



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

Patricia Norcott, Bundaberg, mother of Amanda Norcott, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg.

Lois Wright, Rockhampton, mother of Mark Wright, Catholic Education Office, Rockhampton.

Joseph Roberts, Mackay, father of Harlen, Emmanuel Kindergarten, Korbyn, Emmanuel Catholic Primary School and Alexi, Holy Spirit College.

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

Jacob, Year 3 St Brigid's Catholic Primary School, Emerald.

Stephen Smith, husband of Nola, Emmaus College, North Rockhampton.

Reflection from Pope Francis

How often we send instant messages to the people we love! Let's do this with the Lord too, through short prayers of aspiration so that our hearts remain connected to him.

As part of the month of October, the *Aid to The Church in Need* promoted an international event to have a million children praying the Rosary for world peace on 18 October. During lunch break, students from **St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton**, (pictured below) voluntarily participated in praying the Rosary in the Prayer Space in the library. It was wonderful to have so many children pray together with the intention of world peace in their thoughts.



Olivia Rostirolla, Principal, **St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School, West Mackay**, welcomed former students, Ruby, Riley and Samuel. These Catherine McAuley College students spoke to Year 5 students about why Catherine McAuley College is such a great choice for high school.



St Patrick's/Mercy College, Mackay: The combined Pastoral Team (pictured below) had a very productive Planning Day recently, putting the final touches on St Patrick's College, Mackay, 2023 Year 7-12 House structure.



Pictured below from left are: Rob Alexander, Principal, The Cathedral College, Rockhampton, Bishop Michael, Sr Marg Dixon rsm and Leesa at the Farewell Mass for Sr Marg last week.



Staff and families from **Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Longreach** took to the streets recently to do a cleanup around the town.



During the recent school holiday period, **St Anthony's Catholic Primary School** Principal, Mick Roach, had the pleasure of visiting St Joan of Arc Catholic School in Sigatoka, Fiji. While there he presented the students with some resources and a set of Rugby League jerseys on behalf of St Anthony's. Staff and students were all delighted and very grateful for the visit and gifts. The visit ended with a game of Rugby League on the school oval.



Keeping kids safe!

Next Friday 28 October. Has your school registered? To do so click [here](#)

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Congratulations to:

Kim O'Shea-Hard, Shalom College, Bundaberg, on her appointment as Principal at St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg commencing in 2023.

Sandra Freeman on her appointment as Assistant Principal: Mission, Shalom College, Bundaberg commencing in 2023.

St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School, West Mackay on winning the random prize draw in this year's *Get Ready Queensland* School Competition, conducted by the Queensland State Government. They will now host Jonathon Thurston to show case how they prepare for natural disasters.

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