

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Friday 18 November 2022

Good morning everyone

Our School Board Chairs met for their final 2022 gathering this week and heard from guest presenter Amanda Houston (Business Development and Strategy Leader). Amanda provided an overview of current school funding providing clarity around the complexities of the processes and determinants. I extend my sincere thanks to Amanda for her interesting and informative presentation and my thanks also to John Kennedy (Administration and Governance Coordinator) for the great work he has done in supporting our Board members.

I was delighted earlier this week to join the Holy Spirit College community as they gathered for their annual Speech Night. Congratulations to all award recipients on their outstanding achievements and to College Principal, Alison Wales and all involved in the preparation of what was a wonderful evening that showcased all that Holy Spirit College has to offer.

Today is the official last day of formal schooling for our 2022 Seniors. It is a milestone of tremendous significance for these young people, for their families and for our college communities who have nurtured, supported and encouraged them through their educational journey. Congratulations to all who have contributed countless hours to the organizing and staging of Graduation Masses and final assemblies to ensure these were meaningful and memorable events for our departing students. I offer my heartfelt thanks for the great contribution our 2022 Seniors have made to Catholic Education in the Diocese of Rockhampton over the duration of their schooling and wish them every success in all their future endeavours. May God bless them in abundance as the next stage of their life journey begins.

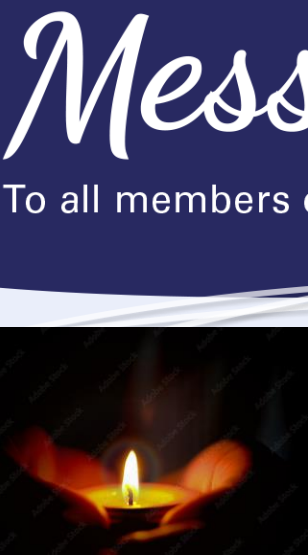
Today, the Diocesan Education Council (DEC) meets for the final time for 2022. We have been indeed blessed to have such dedicated Council members who have contributed their time, wisdom and knowledge so generously throughout the year. I am very appreciative and grateful for the guidance and faith-filled service of Bishop Michael, Mark Gibbs (Chair), and our members Phillippa Johnson, Kate Lipke, Mandy Anderson, Amanda Houston, Marguerite Van Blerk, Ross Jones and Catherine Dunbar.

I am very much looking forward to gathering with those who will be new to Leadership roles in 2023 for our Induction Days in Rockhampton next week. These important days provide a chance to reflect on what it means to hold a leadership position in Catholic Education and I extend my heartfelt thanks to all those who have taken on these new responsibilities in our communities.

God bless,

Leesa

Where's Leesa: Monday 21 Leadership Induction; Tuesday 22 November Leadership Induction and Mercy College, Mackay Speech Night; Wednesday 23 to Friday 25 November, Office.



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

Sr Mary St Pius Lennon, RSM, Rockhampton who taught in Mackay, Springsure, Barcaldine and Biloela, and a great friend and supporter of Catholic Education.

Lethorieo (Theo), Year 3 student, St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg.

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

Sr Beryl Amedee, RSM Rockhampton.

Reflection from Pope Francis

On this first anniversary of the launch of the Laudato Si Platform for Action, which promotes ecological conversion, I encourage this mission, crucial for the future of humanity, so that it may foster in everyone a genuine commitment to the care of creation.



Pictured left, Johnathan Thurston with students from St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School, Mackay.

JT visited the school this week as part of their prize in the Get Ready Queensland (Queensland Government) Competition.

Since 2017, Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton (CEDR) and the Australian Catholic University (ACU) have partnered to deliver the Graduate Certificate in Education - **Safeguarding Children and Young People** to over 110 CEDR staff. The four units involved in the two-year degree are: *Working with Children and Young People: Ethics, Values and Practices*; *The Theology of Childhood: Close to the Mystery of God*; *Safeguarding Childhood: Perspectives from Law and Welfare*; and *Safeguarding Children: Implications for Professional Practices in Institutional Settings*. The course is designed to equip participants with the knowledge and understanding of contemporary issues and responses to safeguarding children and young people through the exploration of conditions and factors that facilitate or impede child-safe environments. You can see information from past participants [here](#).

Circular 2022/246 was provided to Principals and I encourage you to speak with your Principal if you are interested in studying this fully sponsored course as applications are currently being sought for the 2023-2024 cohort. If you would like to know more, please contact Brett Halter (Student Services Manager) on 07 4994 8107 or brett_halter@rok.catholic.edu.au.

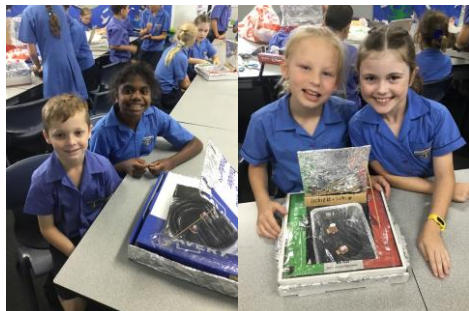
As a Catholic school, **St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, Gladstone** teaches students about the gifts and fruits of the Spirit. During the recent Year 5 Camp, teachers, camp instructors and parent helpers witnessed character strengths and virtues through the words and actions of the students.



Certificate III Aviation (Remote Pilot) students from **Holy Spirit College, Mackay** were given a special tour of the Air Traffic Control Tower at the Mackay Airport as part of their studies. Students are learning how to communicate on aviation air-band radio frequencies by gaining their Aeronautical Radio Operator Certificate (AROC).



Emmanuel Catholic Primary School, Mackay Year 3 students have been investigating how well heat is transferred using different types of materials, such as metals, plastics and ceramics and identifying how materials are used to keep things hot and cold. Students designed and created a solar oven to cook 's'mores using tiny teddies, marshmallows and chocolate' and then wrote a procedure to teach others how they could make their own solar ovens.



Congratulations to **St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Emerald** and students from Years 5 and 6 (pictured below) who participated in the Central Highlands Maths Tournament and came away overall champions.



Please see page 3 for Farewells to Long Serving Staff.

Further Farewells in next week's Message Stick.

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Congratulations to:

Phillippa Johnson on her appointment to the position of Indigenous Education Coordinator commencing 2023.

Allan Wilson, The Cathedral College, Rockhampton on his appointment to the position of Project Officer: Indigenous Education commencing 2023.

Aaron Brown on his appointment to the position of Assistant Principal: Student Formation at Shalom College, Bundaberg commencing 2023.

Belinda Smith on her appointment to the position of Acting Assistant Principal: Religious Education at St Mary's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton for 2023.

Farewell to Long Serving Staff who are leaving us at the end of this year.

Mark Fox, Bundaberg

Mark commenced with Catholic Education at Our Lady's Longreach in 1986 and has since worked at St Joseph's Wandal (1988 to 1992), APRE St Joseph's Biloela (1992 to 1993) Principal St Patrick's Bundaberg (1994 to 2003), Principal St Francis Xavier, Mackay (2004 to 2012) Principal St Patrick's Bundaberg (2013 to 2022). We sincerely thank Mark for his 37 years service to Catholic Education and wish him every blessing for his retirement.



Mary Taylor, Bundaberg

Mary commenced with Catholic Education at St Therese's Monto in 1991 and this was followed by St Patrick's Bundaberg where she later was appointed to the position of APRE. In 2005 Mary commenced at Shalom College and in 2018 was appointed AP: Mission. We sincerely thank Mary for her 31 years of dedicated service to Catholic Education and extend best wishes to her for her retirement.



Virginia Blake, Gladstone

Virginia commenced with Catholic Education in 1993 and has taught at St John the Baptist and Star of the Sea Gladstone. In 2003 Virginia also filled the role of Acting Assistant Principal: Administration. With almost 30 years' service with Catholic Education, we sincerely thank Virginia for all those years of service and wish her every blessing for her retirement.



Nikki Rutten, Monto

Nikki commenced with Catholic Education in 1995 as a teacher at St Joseph's Biloela and over the years has held various positions at the school; APRE, Acting Principal and Principal. In 2022 Nikki commenced at the Catholic Education Office in the role of CEO Consultant before moving to St Therese's Monto in August 2022 into a teaching position. We sincerely thank Nikki for her dedicated years of service and wish her every blessing for the future.



Jason Baulch, Bundaberg

Jason commenced at Shalom College Bundaberg in 1997 and during his time at the College has held the positions of PE Coordinator (1997 to 2018) and recently House Coordinator. We sincerely thank Jason for his 26 years with Catholic Education and wish him every success for the future.



Brett Hoskins, Bundaberg

Brett commenced at Shalom College in 2001 as a full-time teacher and during his time at the College was also Core Studies Coordinator from 2008 to 2018. Brett concluded at Shalom at the end of Term 3 this year. Thank you, Brett and best wishes.



Bernadette Brosnan, Biloela

Bernadette commenced at St Joseph's Biloela in 2002 as Administration and Finance Secretary and has remained in that role for the past 18 years. We sincerely thank Bernadette for her dedicated service and wish her all the best for the future.



Janelle Bowkett, Biloela

Janelle commenced at St Joseph's Biloela in 2004, leaving in 2007 and returning in 2009 and has been in the role of Teacher Assistant to the present. We sincerely thank her for her service to St Joseph's Biloela and extend every blessing to her for the future.

