

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Reflection from Pope Francis

During Lent we are called to respond to God's gift by accepting his Word, which is "living and active" (Heb 4:12). Regular listening to the Word of God makes us open and docile to his working and bears fruit in all we do.

The Season of Lent



Friday 3 March 2023

Good morning, everyone

Year 12 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from colleges across the Diocese gathered in Rockhampton this week for a two-day program consisting of leadership and career focused workshops. I was delighted to join students at the Celebration Dinner on Thursday evening with guest speaker Aunty Carol Willie who shared her experience, insights and wisdom. The gathering concludes today with Mass at St Joseph's Cathedral and my thanks to Bishop Michael for presiding. This is a very special opportunity for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander senior students to come together, to be inspired and to feel supported by all within Catholic Education. I acknowledge these students for the young emerging leaders that they are and wish them well for the year ahead. My sincere thanks to Phillippa Johnson (Indigenous Education Coordinator) and her team for the planning and preparation of this very worthwhile experience for our students.

I am looking forward to joining our principals next week for their annual gathering in Rockhampton. This year the principals will participate in professional development sessions presented by The Brown Collective on a wide range of topics. My sincere thanks to Mark Effenev for leading the coordination of these important professional learning days and all those who have assisted.

This week, many staff members from our schools and the Catholic Education Office were involved in training and in-service workshops in the areas of Curriculum and Administration. I am aware of the considerable amount of planning and preparation involved in coordinating these opportunities and initiatives and I offer my sincere thanks to all involved.

I am also aware of the significant endeavour currently underway across our schools in collating Census data. This process is critical for our funding, staffing, and resourcing of schools and informing planning for future developments. It is a detailed collection process directly impacting our capacity to meet the needs of the communities we serve. I am grateful for all the effort involved in collating and presenting this crucial data.

Finally, applications for our 2023 Primary Graduate Teacher Scholarship Program close on 3 April. As well as financial assistance, the Scholarship offers an opportunity to secure an early offer of employment in identified schools in the Diocese. Eligibility criteria apply and further information for interested preservice teachers is available via the links on page 2 of this week's *Message Stick*. I would ask that you encourage undergraduate student teachers at your school who are in their final year of study to consider applying. The Scholarship Program is part of a range of initiatives CEDR has in place to recruit and retain great teachers to staff our schools into the future.

God bless,

Leesa

Where's Leesa: Monday 6 Office; Tuesday 7 March to Thursday 9 March, Principals' Gathering - Professional Practices Compliance Program, Friday 10 March, Office.

**Spirit of Catholic Education
Awards 2023
Nominations OPEN
Monday 6 March**



Nominations can be made via the following link
[Nominate](#)



Pictured left, Leesa with students from The Cathedral College and St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, attending the announcement by the Queensland State Government on Wednesday of the re-development of Browne Park Rockhampton.

Farewell and thank you, Dorothy (Dot) Lewis, St Brendan's Catholic Primary School, Mackay. Dot commenced with Catholic Education in 1979 at St Mary's Catholic Primary School Mackay, until 2011. After taking some leave she returned in 2015, as a foundation staff member at St Brendan's Catholic Primary School, Mackay. We extend sincere thanks to Dot for her 40 years' service with Catholic Education and offer our best wishes for her retirement.



Caritas Australia Diocesan Director for Rockhampton. Caritas Australia is seeking a passionate Diocesan Director for the Rockhampton Diocese. This paid position is appointed by Caritas Australia in conjunction with Bishop Michael and promotes the work of Caritas Australia. For more information including a copy of the role description contact the HR Manager on 4887 3090. To apply for the position, submit your resume and cover letter hr@rok.catholic.net.au

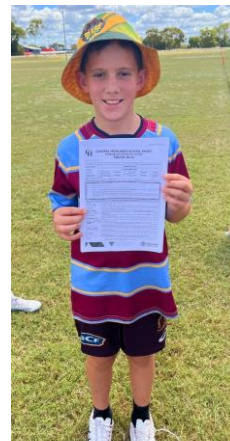
Today Friday 3 March is World Hearing Day which highlights the importance of integrating ear and hearing care within primary care as an essential component of personal health care. Additional information can be sourced [here](#)



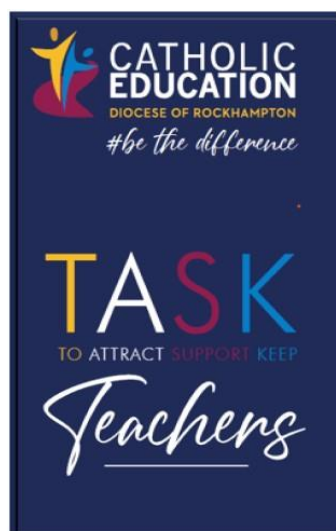
Emmaus College, Rockhampton, Year 7 Indigenous Welcome Ceremony. Every year Emmaus College celebrates their new Year 7 Indigenous students and families with a welcome ceremony. The ceremony is led by the College's Connecting Cultures Committee and takes place in the Yarning Circle at the college. Pictured below with Year 7 Indigenous students are far left Eamon Hannan (Principal) and far right Phillippa Johnson (Indigenous Education Coordinator, CEDR).



Last week students from **St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Clermont** travelled to Emerald for the Central Highlands Touch trials. Congratulations to Boston (pictured right) on being selected.



Critical to the work of Catholic Education – Diocese of Rockhampton (CEDR) is the recruitment and retention of great teachers. CEDR continues to commit to significant resources across a range of initiatives to ensure optimal staffing outcomes. To find out more please click on graphic below.



CATHOLIC EDUCATION
DIOCESE OF ROCKHAMPTON

The opportunity is now!

Graduate and Experienced Teachers Apply

1800 228 433
rok.catholic.edu.au

Student Wellbeing Coordinator
Catholic Education Office
Applications close 5.00pm
Sunday 5 March

For further information and other employment opportunities please click [here](#)

Graduate Teacher Scholarship Program

Applications close
3 April 2023

CATHOLIC EDUCATION
DIOCESE OF ROCKHAMPTON

rok.catholic.edu.au
1800 228 433

Applications now open for prospective graduates. Apply [here](#). Watch our video [here](#).

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