

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Reflection from Pope Francis

How good it would do our relationships, as well as our lives of faith, if we were to be docile, to truly pay attention, to soften up in the name of compassion and the good of others, like Jesus and the Canaanite woman.

Please remember in your prayers recently deceased members of our wider Catholic Education Family.

Joan Muller, former secretary St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Park Avenue.

Congratulations to:

Sharon Lapere on her appointment to the position of Assistant Principal: Teaching and Learning, Emmaus College, North Rockhampton commencing 2024.

Claire Stitt, Deputy Principal: Mission, The Cathedral College, Rockhampton on being nominated in the TEACHX Awards.

Bronte Wills, teacher Emmaus College, North Rockhampton on being nominated in the TEACHX Awards.

Friday 25 August 2023

Good morning everyone

This Sunday is Social Justice Sunday. The annual Social Justice Statement from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC), Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace, is always released ahead of Social Justice Sunday encouraging the Catholic community to reflect and act on social, economic and ecological issues. This year's Statement, *Listen, Learn, Love – A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples* ([link](#)), invites members of the Church to walk with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in "friendship and love to show all that love can not only change individual lives, but that it can change society for the better." I would commend the ACBC Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace website for further information and resources.

I was delighted to spend time with Teacher Assistants and Liaison Officers at the Indigenous Education Workers Gathering held at KCC from Tuesday to Thursday this week. The program included discussions on: CEDR's vision for Indigenous Education, progressing interconnectedness and focusing on Indigenous Pedagogy; Curriculum conversations on Australian First Nations' Histories, Cultures and Spiritualities; as well as exploring Maths and Literacy Toolkits, classroom management approaches and information on student protection and cyber security. My sincere thanks to Phillippa Johnson (Indigenous Education Coordinator) and Team for their extensive work in presenting this very valuable professional development for our staff who support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in our kindergartens, primary schools and colleges.

Our 2024 Primary Staffing conversations commenced this week to ensure adequate staffing levels for next year. Again, my thanks to Gary Cooper and the Employee Support Services (ESS) Team and the CEDR Leadership Team for their valued involvement in this important process.

Our School Board Chairs met for their Term 3 gathering on Monday and heard from guest presenter Amanda Houston (Assistant Director: Business and Strategy) on school finance and budget considerations. My sincere thanks to all our Board Chairs and members for their ongoing service to schools and to all who support Board members in their roles.

I met with representatives of CEnet (Catholic Education Network) on Monday to discuss updates on network connectivity, security, data analytics and reporting, and collaboration technologies. My thanks to Nigel Wadsworth (Chief Information Officer) for his continued oversight and coordination of CEnet services.

Congratulations to the students who participated in the Qld Catholic Schools and Colleges Music Festival held in Brisbane last weekend. The students performed with distinction and were wonderful ambassadors for Catholic Education in our Diocese. A huge thank you to their teachers and parents who supported them as they showcased their outstanding musical talents at the festival.

Thank you to all those who were involved in Book Week celebrations this week. It has been delightful hearing of the many creative activities happening in schools to promote this event which so effectively champions a love of reading.

God bless,

Leesa

Where's Leesa: Monday 28 August, Office; Tuesday 29 August, Christian Brothers Farewell Mass, St Brendan's College, Yeppoon; Wednesday 30 August, Office; Thursday 31 August, Office; Friday 1 September, Queensland Directors' Forum, Brisbane.

Preservice Teachers:

Are you thinking about applying for the Career Assistance Program? Watch our video [here](#) to hear from our Career Assistance Program participants and mentor teachers to find out more about this amazing opportunity! This program is available at multiple Catholic Primary Schools within the Diocese of Rockhampton. Apply today <https://applynow.net.au/jobs/CER726>
Applications close Friday, 15 September 2023.

Pictured below after the 8:00am Thursday Mass at St Joseph's Cathedral Rockhampton last week are the year 6 students from **St John's Catholic Primary School Walkerston**, with Principal, Nathaniel Rice (left) and Bishop Michael (centre).



Book Week at **MacKillop Catholic Primary School, Mackay**



Congratulations to the students who participated in the **Queensland Catholic Schools and Colleges Music Festival** held in Brisbane over the weekend. Thanks to the staff and parents who supported our students as they enjoyed a wonderful music filled weekend.

The Cathedral College Rockhampton



Marist College Emerald



Shalom College Bundaberg



Chanel College Gladstone



Congratulations to **Marist College, Emerald**, Year 9 student Oliver who received this year's Dolphins Challenge Coaches' Award. During a recent assembly, Oliver was presented with a Dolphins NRL jersey signed by Wayne Bennett and Jesse Bromwich.



Watch **St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, North Mackay** Book Week activities via this [link](#)

More Book Week photos in next week's edition of the *Message Stick*.

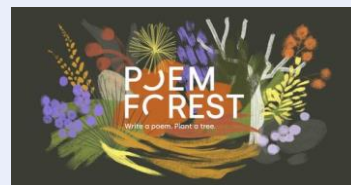
SEEKING GRADUATE AND EXPERIENCED TEACHERS FOR 2024

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 15 SEPTEMBER 2023

Apply Today!



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



Teachers and students from Catholic Schools in Queensland with an **interest in poetry** are invited to take part in the Poem Forest Prize. A native tree will be planted for every poem received from a student. For further information click [here](#).



The Australian Federal Government Department of Education has developed the **Mathematics Hub** to provide teaching and learning mathematics resources for teachers, students and families. Find out more via this [link](#).



St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Rockhampton ABC Capricornia recycling story [view](#)

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