

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Reflection from Pope Francis

God, who is Love, has drawn near to you his Son Jesus and wants to share your life, your struggles, your dreams, your thirst for happiness.

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

Brett Galletly, husband of Suzanne, St Mary's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton, father of Ethan and Hamish, The Cathedral College and Josie St Mary's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton.

Please remember in your prayers those members of our wider Catholic Education Family who are unwell at this time.

Brett Holden, husband of Bec Holden, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg.

Friday 8 September 2023

Good morning everyone

This week marked NAPCAN's National Child Protection Week ([NCPW](#)) which aims to engage, educate and empower all Australians to increase their awareness and understanding of the complexity of child abuse and neglect and work together to prevent it. The continuing message for NCPW each year is 'Every child in every community deserves a fair go' and this year is further complemented by the theme '*Where we start matters*'.

Today, we conclude our two-day Student Protection Inservice which is convened biennially during NCPW. This year marked the 10th anniversary of this important gathering. I very much valued the opportunity to join our Student Protection Contacts and Principals from our kindergartens, schools and colleges, as well as CEDR Leadership Team members and invited guests from Rockhampton Police, Education Queensland and Queensland Government Child Safety personnel.

It was a great pleasure to have Anne Czekanski join us at the Inservice. Many of you would remember Anne who served for 18 years as Student Protection Coordinator for CEDR. Anne's passionate commitment to the safety and welfare of our students set the benchmark for all we do each day to protect those entrusted to our care.

The Inservice featured an extensive array of expert presenters who are at the forefront of child protection in Australia. The content is often challenging, and I sincerely thank all participants for their commitment to continuous improvement of our Student Protection endeavours. I also extend sincere thanks to Brett Halter (Student Services Manager) and the Student Protection team for their hard work in coordinating the Inservice.

It was wonderful to spend time with Year 3 students at St Mary's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton (pictured below) on Tuesday to share memories of my Primary School days as a St Mary's student and to recall the school's amazing history since it was established in 1900.

I was also delighted to spend time with our World Youth Day Pilgrims on Tuesday to hear of their remarkable, life-changing experiences at WYD2023 in Lisbon last month. It was certainly a most memorable event and a spiritual encounter our young teachers will always carry with them. May their hearts continue to burn within them as they take the message of God's love to all in their communities.

I extend to all every best wish for the last week of Term 3.

God bless,

Leesa



Photo L- R at the **Student Protection Inservice** are: Fr James McEvoy ACU, Leesa Jeffcoat; Commissioner Bob Atkinson AO, APM; Carol Ronken, Bravehearts; Professor Daryl Higgins, ACU; Dr Deidre Thompson, Bravehearts; Professor Sarah Wendt, Flinders University; Brett Halter, CEDR Student Services Manager.



Where's Leesa:

Monday 11 September,
Office
Tuesday 12 to Thursday
14 September, National
Directors' Catholic
Education Gathering,
Canberra
Friday 15 September,
Office.



The Lights of Christmas show will return this year to display a magnificent light show across St Joseph's Cathedral. This joyous and family friendly event is an iconic part of Christmas celebrations in Rockhampton and will be welcome news to many. This community event is free for all to attend. The Lights of Christmas show will take place from 17 to 23 December 2023.

Photo L-R: Cr Drew Wickerson, Lights of Christmas Committee Chair, Rob Alexander, Bishop Michael McCarthy and Rockhampton Mayor Tony Williams.

Creating the foundations for a Catholic Education at Catholic kindergartens.

Pictured below: current students at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Park Avenue, who attended St Joseph's Kindergarten Park Avenue over the past 10 years.



Photo L-R below at the recent **Virtues Training Day** are: Cherie Blinco St Peter's, Rockhampton; Elizabeth Carter St Joseph's, Park Avenue; Jocelyne Benoit CEDR; Kellie Arndt Emmaus College, North Rockhampton; Amanda Cowley Emmaus College, North Rockhampton; Rheanna Starr St Joseph's, Wandal and Tammy Dorsett St Mary's, North Rockhampton.



Congratulations to **Harley from St John's Catholic Primary School, Gladstone** and **Maggie from St Mary's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton** (both pictured below) who have recently returned from Germany where they competed for Australia in the World Dwarf Games. They came away with bronze for football and gold for basketball; whilst Harley also medalled in the relay in track and field (bronze) and 5 different events in swimming gold in 100m medley and 25m Butterfly, and Silver for 25m breaststroke, 25m freestyle and 4x25m freestyle relay.



Prep students at **Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Longreach** have been busy hunting for *tricky words* in newspapers.



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EB10 CATHOLIC EDUCATION ENTERPRISE BARGAINING

Stay informed, on the proposed (EB10) Enterprise Agreement by clicking [here](#)



Students and teachers from Catholic Schools with an interest in poetry are encouraged to take part in POEM FOREST. A native tree will be planted for every poem received from students and teachers. Entries close 22 September. Visit the website to find out [more](#).

RUOK? DAY
 Thursday 14 September 2023

This is a National Day of Action which highlights the importance of meaningful conversations and reminds us all to start discussions every day. For further information and resources click [here](#)