

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Reflection from Pope Francis

We are invited during Lent to stop for a moment. We should pause in prayer, in order to welcome the Word of God, and to pause like the Good Samaritan in the presence of a wounded brother or sister. Love of God and love of neighbour are a single love.

The 2024 Premier's Coding Challenge is now open for students in Years 3 to 10. Students are invited to develop an app, game or website to make their school a better place to teach, learn and play. More details can be found via this [link](#).

MacKillop Catholic Primary School, Mackay staff and students have been involved with raising funds for Project Compassion. Staff hosted a pink morning tea raising \$165 with more funds still coming in.



Friday 8 March 2024

Good morning everyone

This week, I was delighted to join boarding students from The Cathedral College, Rockhampton for their annual *Formal Dinner* held in the TCC Mercy Centre on Tuesday evening. Partner at Swanwick Murray Roche Lawyers, Robert Rooney (2009 TCC College Captain), was guest speaker for the evening and recounted his experience as a TCC boarder and shared some of his academic and professional journey. The occasion provided a unique opportunity for students to experience dinner formalities and protocols including the art of conversation and observing social etiquette. Congratulations to all involved on a very successful and enjoyable evening.

On Wednesday evening, CEDR partnered with *Berry Street Education* to facilitate an information webinar for all parents of students in our kindergartens, primary schools and colleges. The aim of the webinar was to provide parents with practical strategies to help children manage their stress response. Valuable insights into what is happening in a child's brain when they go through a 'melt down' and providing ways to bring a child back to a calmer state were discussed. It was pleasing to have Executive members of Catholic School Parents Queensland also join the webinar. My thanks to Bianca McLeish (Student Wellbeing Coordinator) for facilitating this very important session for our parent community.

Finally, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Springsure host their 71st Annual St Patrick's Day Race Meeting tomorrow, tremendously supported by Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School and Kindergarten staff and families. After a rained-out event last year we wish the organisers a very successful and enjoyable event for the whole Springsure community.

God bless,

Leesa

Where's Leesa: Monday 11 March and Tuesday 12 March, Office; Wednesday 13 March, Queensland Directors' Forum, and Queensland Bishops' Meeting, Brisbane; Thursday 14 March, Brisbane; Friday 15 March, Office.



Pictured left:
Indigenous Year 12 Students from Colleges across the Diocese with Bishop Michael, following their Commencement Mass at St Joseph's Cathedral.

Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School, Gladstone have introduced *Working Together Wednesdays* which give the whole school the opportunity to collaborate and learn together. Teachers are taking the opportunity to reflect and collaborate with their peers to deepen their knowledge and skills. Students are collaborating with staff during the whole school Working Together Assemblies to hear whole school messages that help them be ready to learn.



St Mary's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton recently participated in Clean Up Australia Day, even pulling a trampoline out of a creek.



Emmaus College, Year 12 Student, Zarah recently spent a week in Canberra for the 2024 [Heywire](#) Winners Regional Youth Summit. During her week, Zarah met and worked with fellow Heywire winners. At the end of the week, the group presented their ideas in the Great Hall of Parliament House to numerous Government Departments, Foundations, Community organisations and all Heywire members. Zarah pictured below with the Prime Minister.



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg recently hosted *Awareness Week* for Rare Disease Day, with activities planned each day. This is part of the school's journey alongside Sam one of the students and his family, raising awareness about living with a life-limiting disease. The video available via the following link, "Sam's Journey" was shared with the school community. <https://youtu.be/BdEWzXBS0wU> The school also held a colour fun run to raise funds, see photos below.

The school raised \$1,284.00 for Hummingbird House. <https://hummingbirdhouse.org.au/>



Parents, Teachers and Teacher Assistants from **all three sectors of education in the Mackay region** recently attended presentations on supporting students on the autism spectrum. The in-service was conducted by Professor Dawn Adams, Dr Kate Simpson and Mrs Louise White from the Autism Centre of Excellence at Griffith University. The opportunity was hosted by Catholic Education and made possible through the generous financial support of the Dyer Foundation.



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PROJECT COMPASSION

FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

Resources

These resources are designed to assist schools to create lasting change for all future generations.

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