

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family

11 October 2024



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

'If you want to cut a person's hair, it is better if they are in the room' (Senegalese Proverb)

The above quote challenged me recently to consider if the right people are being consulted when decisions are being made. When it comes to developing the practices, we have in our classrooms and schools, are we consulting with the people who will be affected by our decisions? For example, the importance of 'student voice' in the development of school policy and practices has rightly been a focus of school leaders in recent times. When this occurs, students feel more empowered and engaged in their educational experiences and help create a more inclusive and respectful school culture. Making sure we have the 'right voices' at the decision-making table is at the core of the shared-wisdom model. Who is the missing voice that needs to be heard in your school community? How will you invite them to be part of a brighter future in your school community?

Please remember in your prayers recently deceased members of our extended Catholic Education family:

Don Reiman, former teacher Marian / St Stanislaus College, North Rockhampton and The Cathedral College, Rockhampton.

Sr Amabile Speranza, Sister of Mercy, Rockhampton.

Brian Fletchett, father-in-law of Michelle Fletchett, St Anthony's Kindergarten, North Rockhampton and grandfather of Madeline Fletchett, St Mary's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton.

Darryl McBryde, stepfather of Sara Umba, Catholic Education Office, Rockhampton.

Diana (Di) Davey, mother of Melissa Davey, School Counsellor, St Francis Catholic Primary School, Tannum Sands.

Dot Briese, stepmother of Lorraine Zischke, Teacher Assistant, St Francis Catholic Primary School, Tannum Sands.

Dear Colleagues

Monday this week marked one year since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war with a worsening of the conflict in recent weeks. In this month of October, that the Catholic Church dedicates to the Rosary, we are urged to pray for peace in the Holy Land, through the intercession of Mary. Peace in our own lives and communities is a blessing to be cherished – may we do all we can to promote a way of peace and love of neighbour through the example shown to us by Jesus.

Next week, Professor Peta Goldberg rsm will present her final workshop for the year on the *Baptism of Jesus*. I am aware that those who have attended Peta's seminar series have found them to be enormously beneficial in enhancing their understanding of Catholic teaching and identity. My sincere thanks to Peta for providing this formation opportunity for staff for the past four years, and to Kellie Jenkinson (Assistant Director: Mission) and the FIARE Team for coordinating and managing access.

Congratulations to all students who will be recognised at the Academic Awards Presentations that will be held in our colleges in the coming weeks. Each Award recipient is to be commended on their application to their studies and I also thank teachers and staff for their dedication and commitment and for helping students achieve their potential. I hope students, their families, teachers and the wider college communities enjoy these special events in the life of the college.

Today, the Shalom College community in Bundaberg celebrates their 40th anniversary with a range of activities including the premiere of the *40 Years of Shalom* documentary. I extend my very best wishes to Dan McMahon (Principal) and the Shalom community as they mark this joyous and important milestone.

God bless

Michael

Where's Michael: Monday 14 October, Office; Tuesday 15 October, QCEC Commission Meeting, Brisbane, Shalom College Academic Awards Evening, Bundaberg; Wednesday 16 October, School visits, St Joseph's and St Mary's, Bundaberg; Thursday 17 October, School visit, St Patrick's, Bundaberg; Friday 18 October, Shalom College Year 12 Graduation Liturgy, Bundaberg.



Visiting Priests from India, Fr Sebastin Panampuzha Joseph and Fr Sebastian Michael spent time with the CEDR Leadership Team during their education tour of the Diocese.

Pictured from left: Kellie Jenkinson, Amanda Houston, Carmel Kriz, Michael McCusker, Fr Sebastin, Fr Sebastian, Alison Wales, Mike Kelso and Tim Collins.



**Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton
Containers for Change**

The Diocese along with Catholic Education are collaborating to raise much needed funds for the Woorabinda Ministry. A Catholic school a month within the Diocese is invited to donate their containers to the Woorabinda Ministry. The school's donation will be showcased on the Diocesan and CEDR Facebook pages, Diocesan Webpage and within Parish Bulletins. To donate your school's containers, contact Vanessa at the Diocesan Office on 0499 359 719 or email vanessa.ramswarup@rok.catholic.net.au

WOORABINDA MINISTRY

Here's your member number. Keep it handy - you can use it to identify yourself at the refund point and track the change you're making.

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Congratulations to **Marist College, Emerald** who were the successful 2024 Queensland All Schools Touch Under 18 Mixed Champions.

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School and Kindergarten, Springsure 2024 Art Show was recently held at the Springsure Art Gallery.



All Souls Day

A message from Vanessa, Community Engagement Manager, Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton.

To commemorate All Souls Day via Diocesan social media, you are invited to send a picture of someone you have lost and wish to be honoured in a Diocesan Facebook Reel. The Facebook reel will collate all images of those faithful departed who are dearly loved and missed and will be scheduled for, Saturday, 2 November 2024.

Please note the reel only allows for up to 30 images, if you could kindly send pictures to communications@rok.catholic.net.au by Friday, 25 October to allow time for the reel to be created.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Biloela held their 61st Annual Ball last Friday. To view click [here](#)



Reflection from Pope Francis

The environment in which we live is a gift from heaven. Amid the trials of history and life, it reminds us of the beauty of our earthly dwelling. It must be safeguarded from the greed of money and speculation, which jeopardises our future.

Employment Opportunities



Applications close Friday, 18 October 2024.

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

Friday, 25 October
20th Day for Daniel and Queensland World Teachers' Day.



World Teachers' Day QLD

Friday 25th October 2024
worldteachersday.com.au

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