

# Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family

18 October 2024



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Rockhampton

**'Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted.'** (Albert Einstein)

*While I believe the data, we gather in schools to improve student learning and wellbeing is essential to continuous improvement, I also am very aware that our students cannot, and should not, be reduced to numbers. In speaking with so many parents over the years as to their reasons for choosing a Catholic education, at the top of the list of their responses are words like, values, sense of welcome, high expectations, pastoral care, faith, community, reputation. As staff in Catholic education, we should never underestimate the unseen benefits of our work and our efforts. The time and energy given to building relationships, making connections and actively seeking to assist those in need, contributes so much towards building an authentic Catholic school. What are the things that truly count in your school? The things that, if missing, would change the culture of the place? Promote and protect the things in your school that truly count.*

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

**Isla Marschke**, daughter of Christie Jacobsen, Shalom College, Bundaberg.

**Congratulations to:**

**Kate Aplin**, on her appointment as Assistant Principal: Curriculum (APC) at Shalom College, Bundaberg commencing in 2025.

**Amanda Ruscoe**, Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Yeppoon and husband Nic on the safe arrival of Charlie George.



**St Mary's Catholic Primary School North Rockhampton** are preparing for the school's 125-year celebrations to be held next year. If you or someone you know have memories, photos or memorabilia you would like to share, please contact the school on 4994 8210 or email [SMNR\\_125Years@rok.catholic.edu.au](mailto:SMNR_125Years@rok.catholic.edu.au) for more information.

Dear Colleagues

I am aware of deep sadness surrounding members of our Catholic Education family at Shalom College, Bundaberg as a result of recent tragic circumstances. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who are suffering, may they know the love and support of family and friends at this very difficult time. We ask our loving God to bless all students, staff and families at Shalom, to strengthen their spirit and provide them comfort in their sorrow.

I was able to visit Shalom this week, to spend time with the community and to attend their Academic Awards Evening on Tuesday and the Year 12 Graduation liturgy today. Both events are meaningful and memorable occasions marking significant milestones. Congratulations to graduating students and to all those who received awards on your outstanding achievements.

Also, while in Bundaberg this week, I very much enjoyed my school visits to St Joseph's, St Mary's and St Patrick's Catholic Primary Schools. My thanks to respective Principals Laura Campbell (Acting), Bill Goodwin and Kim O'Shea-Hard for the wonderful hospitality I received at each school and for the very valuable opportunity to spend time engaging with students and staff.

Over the past fortnight, we have had the delightful pleasure of hosting visiting priests from India, Fr Sebastin Panampuzha Joseph and Fr Sebastian Michael as they toured parts of the diocese exploring similarities and differences in our schooling systems. Throughout the immersion experience, Fr Sebastin and Fr Sebastian engaged in discussions on many aspects of Catholic Education including curriculum, student protection, Indigenous Education, Inclusive curriculum, trauma-informed approaches, information technology, cybersafety and secondary education pathways. They very much enjoyed their time and were most appreciative of the warmth and hospitality they experienced. My thanks to all who contributed to ensuring such a welcoming and informative visit for our guests.

This week 30 staff attended a professional learning in Rockhampton delivered by Torres Strait Islander presenter Deb Belyea from Zeyawgub (Zay-ow-goob) Consultancy. An interactive workshop, participants engaged with Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems, culturally responsive teaching approaches and teaching and learning content reflective of First Nations peoples' histories, cultures and spiritualities. My thanks to Phillippa Johnson (Indigenous Education Coordinator) and her team for providing this important professional development for staff.

This Sunday is World Mission Sunday when Catholics worldwide come together in prayer, solidarity and support for the Church's mission efforts. Thank you to all in our school communities for the great support of Catholic Mission particularly during October (Mission Month) and for fostering in our students a sense of empathy and social responsibility.

God bless

*Michael*

**Where's Michael:** Monday 21 October and Tuesday 22 October, Office; Wednesday 23 October, School visit Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Springsure, Marist College, Emerald Awards Evening; Thursday 24 October, School visits St Joseph's Clermont and St Patrick's Emerald; Friday 25 October, School visits Marist College and St Brigid's Emerald.

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Yeppoon recently held an Art Exhibition, showcasing a piece of artwork by every student in the school. The Art display was held in conjunction with Book Week and Parent Teacher Interviews.



For the **20th Day for Daniel**, the Daniel Morcombe Foundation is releasing an online children's book. The book is inspired by a story Bruce Morcombe tells during school presentations about a cat learning how to stay safe. Other fun, free and easily accessible resources can be downloaded from [Keeping Kids Safe Resources for Teachers, Parents & Carers \(danielmorcombe.com.au\)](http://danielmorcombe.com.au)

Wear **red** next Friday to remember Daniel and support the Foundation in its 20<sup>th</sup> Year.

Congratulations to **St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton** who were the successful Central Queensland Rugby 7s Champions, 10 years boys and 12 years girls.



## World Teachers' Day QLD

Friday 25th October 2024  
[worldteachersday.com.au](http://worldteachersday.com.au)

World Teachers' Day is a wonderful opportunity to recognise and applaud Queensland teachers for their important role in our communities and for the positive impact they have on the lives of students. Let's join together to thank all Queensland Teachers on World Teachers' Day, Friday, 25 October 2024. Share your celebrations by using [#WTDQLD](https://twitter.com/WTDQLD)

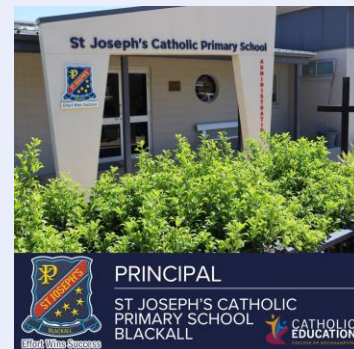
Waste pollution is an increasing threat to the health of our Great Barrier Reef, with 80% of debris being made up of plastic materials. The Pioneer River plays a major role in this, as it feeds directly into the reef. Senior students from **St Patrick's College, Mackay** participated in a community clean-up in an effort to minimise waste pollution in the surrounding area.



## Reflection from Pope Francis

In this month dedicated to the missions, let us ask the Holy Spirit to help us make Christ the cornerstone of our lives. May we bear joyful witness to the unity and peace the Holy Spirit gives us.

## Employment Opportunities:



PRINCIPAL  
 ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL  
 BLACKALL  
 CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Applications close  
 Friday, 18 October 2024.

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

## Term 4 Important Dates

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

Friday, 1 November, Feast of All Saints

Saturday, 2 November, Feast of All Souls

Tuesday, 5 November, Melbourne Cup

Friday, 15 November, Year 12 students conclude

Friday, 22 November, Year 10 and 11 students conclude

Sunday, 1 December First Sunday of Advent

Friday, 6 December, Term 4 concludes

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