

From the Principal

Dear Families,

We are now approaching the halfway point of the second term. Lots of great work is coming out of the classrooms.

It was great to welcome Mr Matt Mackinlay to our school community and we look forward to his family joining us later in the year.

Thank you to the parents/carers that took the time to complete our Catholic Identity Survey. The data is valuable in our school moving forward. Congratulations to Natasha Horwood who won the \$200 coles voucher!

Enrolments are now open for 2026! If you have a child who is due to start prep in 2025 please get an enrolment pack from the office as spots are filling up fast!



info@nqsp.com.au (07) 4035 5388 4/90 Aumuller St, Cairns



School FEES

School Fees have been issued for the term. ALL families are expected to pay school fees as stated in the signed enrolment agreement. This is a very important contribution to our school as the fees do support us in providing the best education for your child/ren. I do understand that things come up which makes it difficult to meet financial commitments and it is a very sensitive and private matter. Each family's circumstances are taken into account and I have the authority to put in place a 'principal's concessions' for a period of time around individual circumstances.A massive thank you to those who have made contact regarding outstanding school fees.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Please make sure that your child/ren are attending school each day (unless they are ill). This is very important for their social and emotional development as well as their educational

development. Townsville Catholic Education Office provides regular reports on student absences. The Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 (EGPA) places a legal obligation on parents to ensure a child who is of compulsory school age is enrolled and attends a school, on every school day for the educational program in which the child is enrolled, unless the

the parent has a reasonable excuse.Please be aware that if a student has had more than

(7) unexplained absences in a school term then a meeting will be called with families in order to



discuss this. At St Kieran's, if a student has been absent for a

period of two days without explanation then a member of Admin will make contact. There are many things that we can do as a school to assist families in this area. Referral to a support service such as Family and Child Connect can be done. These referrals can be done with or without consent. If concerns continue, Townsville Catholic Education Student Protection will be consulted on further advice and action to authorities. If your child/renare absent for medical, family reasons etc please log this on compass or contact the school once immediately so we are able to log this for you.

IF CHILDREN ARE LATE! - The class roles are marked by 8.45am. If students arrive after 8:30 am they MUST go to the front once first to receive a lateslip otherwise they will be marked absent

<u>The Religious Life of Our</u> <u>School - from the APRE</u>



Thank you!

I'd like to thank the St Kieran's community for the lovely welcome. I have enjoyed my experiences of working at St Kieran's these past few weeks and I look forward to getting to know each member of our community into the future. A special thank you to Mrs Laffin and Ms West and the St Keiran's staff team for the warm welcome.

Reconciliation Week

Mrs Kemp has included further information about Reconciliation Week in this newsletter but I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge this important week in the life of our nation and to commit myself to working with our First Nations people and all people to further the work of Reconciliation.

Prayer for Pope Leo XIV

Over the past month we have witnessed some significant events in the life of our Church with the sad passing of Pope Francis, the pomp and ceremony of electing a new Pope and the installation of our 267th Pope, Pope Leo XIV. It really has been incredible to watch.

Pope Francis' legacy has been one of hope and peace and Pope Leo has clearly and and intentionally carried on these important themes.

As Catholic people we are filled with excitement and hope as Pope Leo begins this most important role. We pray:

Dear God

We thank You for the life and service of Pope Francis and we know that he is now at peace with you in heaven.

We pray for our new Pope, Leo XIV

That he will be a patient, kind and wise leader of our Catholic Church

Bless him with the courage and strength to serve and help all the people of the world.

We ask this prayer through Jesus, Your Son Amen



Feast Days

On Friday 23 May our Parish marked the feast of *Our Lady Help of Christians* with a procession through the Parish centre and a liturgy of the Eucharist. This important Feast emphasizes Mary's role as intercessor and protector for Christians, particularly those facing challenges and adversity. Thanks to all those at Good Shepherd Parish for planning and leading this celebration.

On Sunday 8th June we mark the Feast of Pentecost. This important event in the life is seen as the birthday of the Catholic Church, when the disciples, were given new gifts and the courage to go out into the world and spread the Good News.

Seminarians Visit

Our Parish recently welcomed a group of first year seminarians. This group of men are currently studying to become priests and are working through a process of discernment. It was lovely to meet these young men and we continue to pray for them. We pray for: Oscar, Oliver, Dylan, Pio, David, Bryan.

Sacraments 2025

Our parish sacramental program is currently taking place and we acknowledge and pray for all students who are undertaking this important journey.



Jangawala

At Jangawala, we have a wonderful opportunity to join together as a community to serve those in need. Through our efforts to feed the less fortunate, we show compassion and care for those who may be struggling. This initiative is a reminder of the importance of kindness, generosity, and the impact we can have when we come together to help others. By volunteering at Jangawala, we not only provide a hot meal but also offer a sense of dignity and hope to those facing challenging circumstances. It's a meaningful way to live out the spirit of Lent by giving of ourselves and sharing our blessings with those who need it most. I will check in with the Parish to see which dates St Kieran's has been scheduled on to support.

Good Shepherd Parish Mass Times

Saturday 6pm Sunday 7am, 9am, 6pm

Have a great week. Peace be with you!

Matt Mackinlay - APRE

<u>Learning and Teaching -</u> <u>from the APPL</u>

In Week 7, we are lucky to have Shake and Stir Theatre Co visiting St Kieran's. They will present a whole school drama performance based on the story, George's Marvellous Medicine. They will also run a targeted workshop for Year 2 students to participate in.

Students will receive a formal written report at the end of this term. This involves



Location: Community Hub - Across from the Prep Playground

teachers reporting student achievement and progress using evidence gathered based on what students have learnt in Semester 1.

Townsville Catholic Education has made some changes to reports going forward. Year 1 to Year 6 students' reports will include a description outlining the key learning undertaken for the semester and an application to learning and achievement level for each subject area. The report will also include one written comment by the teacher.

The Prep students' reports will reflect their application to learning and achievement level in English, Mathematics, Religion, and Health and Physical Education. Prep students only experience Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, The Arts (including Music), Technologies and Japanese. Experience in Prep means students experience (teach and monitor) some learning areas rather than being assessed and reported on all eight learning areas. Experiencing ensures continuity of learning in an age- appropriate way and that all necessary learning for success in Year 1 is undertaken.

Sip, Chat & Connect

We are pleased to invite all parents and younger children to a special gathering in a warm and supportive space! This is a great opportunity to connect with other families, share experiences, and build friendships in a welcoming environment.

Time: Friday straight after assembly







First Nations Voices



National Reconciliation Week 2025

The National Reconciliation Week (NRW) 2025 theme, *Bridging Now to Next*, reflects the ongoing connection between past, present and future.

Bridging Now to Next calls on all Australians to step forward together, to look ahead and continue the push forward as past lessons guide us.

In the #NRW2025 theme artwork created by Kalkadoon woman Bree Buttenshaw, native plants – which are known for regenerating after fire and thriving through adversity – symbolise our collective strength and the possibilities of renewal. This is a time for growth, reflection, and commitment to walking together.

Australia's history of reconciliation is not a linear one, we have made great strides and experienced disappointing setbacks.

Twenty-five years ago, Corroboree 2000 brought together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous leaders in a historic call for reconciliation. We continue that work in 2025, inviting all Australians to join us in *Bridging Now to*

Next – building a more united and respectful nation.

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) started as the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation in 1993 (the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples) and was supported by Australia's major faith communities.

In 1996, the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation launched Australia's first National Reconciliation Week.

In 2001, Reconciliation Australia was established to continue to provide national leadership on reconciliation.

In the same year, approximately 300,000 people walked across Sydney Harbour Bridge as part of National Reconciliation Week-and subsequently across bridges in cities and towns-to show their support for reconciliation.

Today, National Reconciliation Week is celebrated in workplaces, schools and early learning services, community organisations and groups, and by individuals Australia-wide.

On Thursday the 29th of May - members of our community came together to revise and renew our own Reconciliation Action Plan. This has now gone on to the approval stage. Stay tuned for the upcoming launch of our RAP in the weeks ahead.

We would love to formalise the First Nations Voices Advisory Group in order to revise our school RAP and to work together to ensure our students are supported in the best possible way. If you are available please contact either Codie Kemp

<u>ckemp10@skmtsv.catholic.edu.au</u> or Peta Laffin plaffin@skmtsv.catholic.edu.au.



First Nations Student Group - KIK

The Kieran's Indigenous Kids have been busy over the past few weeks planning and running activities to celebrate National Reconciliation Week. This is a wonderful opportunity to not only share First Nations cultures and history and recognising significant dates, but also to invite non-Indigenous people to be a part of creating a community based on mutual respect and understanding. The students had fun creating a bridge of bricks with inspirational words, linking to this year's theme Bridging Now to Next. We also explored the story Sorry Day and created a poster of support. To conclude Reconciliation Week, students will engage with learning about Eddie Mabo and the historical Native Title decision on Tuesday which is Mabo Day.

Classroom News

Prep:

We have had a great start to Term 2. The prep students have really enjoyed our Science and STEM lessons, learning about materials. We have been working hard on learning our alphabet letters and sounds and we have even begun learning our Tricky Words! In English we have also started looking at Fairytales and we are working towards presenting a play for our peers by retelling one of the fairytales we have learnt. One thing we are looking forward to this term is our very first Athletics Carnival that is coming up in Week 8! We are super excited!

Year 1:

We have had a busy and exciting Term 2 so far in Year One! Our students have shown great curiosity in Science as they learn about what plants and animals need to survive. We've explored the different needs of animals in various environments and have used this knowledge to create informative reports. Year One has also been developing their oral language skills through the StoryChamps program and working with our in-class speech therapists; a highlight of the week for many students! In Mathematics, we continue to explore place value and number, and have most recently been learning to compare time using everyday activities. In Health, Bluey has helped us explore important topics such as respect, friendships, social challenges, and emotions in a fun and meaningful way. As we move into the final weeks of school we will continue to finish our assessment pieces.

Year 2: Year 2 students have started Term 2 with a positive attitude to learning. In English, we have been learning how to write Information reports. In maths, we have been investigating fractions and refining our abilities to identify and name polygons. Most recently, we have been learning about sound waves in Science and look forward to extending our knowledge in STEM lessons throughout the Term.

Year 3: Year 3 have had a wonderful start to the term, diving into a range of exciting learning experiences across the curriculum. In HASS, they have been exploring the states of Australia, First Nations Countries and languages, as well as learning about significant landmarks. In Science, students have begun investigating the properties of



soil and rocks, sparking their curiosity about the natural world. In

English, they are discovering different forms of poetry and beginning to create their own verses. Meanwhile, in Maths, they are using their creativity and problem-solving skills to design their very own playgrounds, combining fun with real-world learning.

Year 4: It's been a busy and exciting term in Year 4 filled with engaging learning experiences. We explored the climates, vegetation, animals, and biomes of different continents. learnt about Christian communities and the history of the Catholic Church while creating dioramas, and developed our skills in writing factual recounts. We are recounting recent events such as the Mother's Day Fete. We also experimented with various visual art techniques such as colour, shapes and line. We have investigated the connection between fractions and decimals in math. and learned about the importance and properties of materials in science. Now, we are completing assessments to showcase all of our learning. Overall, it's been a productive and rewarding term!

Year 5:

Year 5 have been working hard on their writing skills. They are producing great pieces of work that will be published by the end of the term. They have also had the opportunity to participate in the PCYC 'Team -Up' program to assist them to develop leadership and teamwork skills.

Year 6:

We have had a great start of Term 2. The Year 6 students have really been working hard in all their subjects. In English we've been reading Us Mob Walawurru. It has been great to learn about the 1960's Central

Australia lifestyle and learning how life was back then. Year 6 also got to show the rest of the school their arcade games. They've worked really hard on this activity and should be proud of the work and effort they put into them. Year 6 are about to be very busy with their end of term assessments throughout the next few weeks.

Library



National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS) took place on Wednesday 21st May @ 12noon in the Library. This year's book "The Truck Cat" by Deborah Frenkel was well received by young & old. Thank you to all who joined in on the day, whether watching it LIVE in the Library or at their own convenience. A BIG thank you to Mary MacKillop Kindy for joining us on the day.

In its 25th year, this event is held annually by the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA). Every year a picture book, written & illustrated by an Australian author & illustrator, is read simultaneously in libraries, schools, pre-schools, childcare centres, family homes, bookshops & many other places around the country to not



only celebrate but promote the value of reading & literacy.









Prizes for the colouring competition will be handed out soon.

Music

Congratulations to our Year 5 Vocal Ensemble Group who received First Place at the Mount Isa Eisteddfod.
Thank you to Mrs Karissa Smith!

URSTRONG

Nip it in the Bud!

Is your child being Mean-on-Purpose? Let's 'nip it in the bud' before they lose all their buds!

Mean-on-Purpose behavior is intentionally cruel, rude, malicious, unkind, manipulative behavior that is designed to hurt someone and it is uncommon in children. Why? All kids want to get along and belong. Children are born joyous and see the world with wonder and awe. They love being around other kids, playing and experiencing that feeling of 'friendship'. Not only is friendship a basic need, forming friendships and being part of a "tribe" is a survival instinct deep within all of us. As teachers and parents, we need to



assume the best in children, give them the benefit of the doubt, and not project a very strong negativity bias or

our own past traumas onto kids.

It is far more common for children to experience Friendship Fires® (common issues or conflicts like misunderstandings, disagreements, or hurt feelings) as a result of Mean-by-Accident behavior.

Consider this example: A child sees their friend is having sushi for lunch, plugs their nose and says, "Eww! Sushi? That's gross!" Was that child being Mean-on-Purpose? Highly doubtful. It is far more probable the child is simply being honest about how they feel. Yes, it's rude. Yes, it's inconsiderate and lacks empathy. But, their intention was not to purposefully make their friend feel bad – they just don't like sushi and haven't yet learned when and how to filter their comments. Part of a child's social-emotional development is learning those "unwritten rules" and developing a more sophisticated inner-filter to 'bite their lip' and control impulsive reactions.

With all of this in mind, a child who is acting out in Mean-on-Purpose ways needs helps. Children or teenagers who do exhibit Mean-on-Purpose behavior might be experiencing difficulties at home, mirroring behaviors they've seen in others, or they might be struggling with mental illness like anxiety or depression. Whatever the reason, Mean-on-Purpose behavior is never okay and it is a big red flag that something is wrong. They need adult intervention to provide them with the support they need.

In addition to getting a child professional support (School Counsellor, Psychologist, or Therapist) to find out the root cause of the behavior, here are a few ways parents can support a child who is displaying Mean-on-Purpose behavior:

FOCUS ON EMOTIONAL REGULATION:

Their 'negative emotions' are big and overwhelming. Our <u>Friendology curriculum</u>

for schools is packed full of lessons devoted to this, helping children 'name it to tame it' (a term coined by Dr. Dan Siegel). As parents, we can help our child who is escalating emotionally ("dysregulated") by:

- Naming the emotion for them:
 "Woah, buddy, I can see that you're feeling frustrated."
- Validating their emotional experience: "We all feel frustrated sometimes and I know it feels hard."
- Offering a suggestion to tame the emotion: "Why don't you 'push pause' on this game for a moment and go get a big drink of water." (For younger children, distraction techniques work well here too: "Why don't you 'push pause' on this game for a moment. Let's go see if we can spot any birds in the trees! Have you ever seen a rainbow-coloured bird before? That would be cool!")
- Identify why it's important they calm down: "The game isn't fun for anyone right now and I know how much you love playing this game."
- Encouraging them: "You can do it! You're so good at calming yourself down. I'm proud of you!"
- Modelling calm behavior by using a quiet, gentle voice and demeanour. It's important to remember that an escalated adult cannot de-escalate an escalated child.

Like a balloon blowing up with air, we want to catch them before they pop and give them strategies to let that hot air out. The goal, however, is their self-awareness develops to the point where they notice when they're starting to escalate and take an action to calm down. Give this activity a try: <u>Big Emotions Snow globe</u>

ROLE-PLAY: Role-playing is essential for those children who typically act on impulse. Imagining themselves in different scenarios and role-playing their way around the Friend-o-Cycle clears those neural pathways in the brain so they know how to



react appropriately the next time they feel big, negative emotions

(frustrated, annoyed, angry, etc). Sometimes children are mirroring behaviours they've seen before, so we need to 'reteach' them that Mean-on-Purpose behaviour is not allowed and support them in finding a more helpful reaction. To learn more about the Friend-o-Cycle, watch this: Be a Friendship Ninja!

Empowerment comes from knowing exactly what to say and exactly what to do, which is why scripts are a big part of our Friendology curriculum. As you're role-playing with your child, help them craft a script for what they could say in those moments. What is their **Exit Strategy** if the game or activity is too intense and they feel themselves escalating? Maybe they say to their friends, "I'll be right back – I've got to go to the bathroom." Help your child come up with a one-liner they can say that feels right for them and role-play!

For younger kids, role-playing with toys or teddy bears is a very fun and effective way to help them practice. For scenarios, check out: <u>Friendship Fires Firepit</u>

SET THEM UP FOR SUCCESS: In

Friendology, we help children learn to make healthy choices in their friendships and develop boundaries. We do this by using the Friend-o-Meter – a visual tool that helps kids reflect on how they are feeling in their friendships. When children are in the Red-Zone on the Friend-o-Meter, it might trigger that Fight/Flight/Freeze/Fawn response. For children who exhibit Mean-on-Purpose behavior, their instinct is to Fight.

As parents, we can help our child identify the activities or situations that activate their Fight response. You might say, "I notice when you play handball, you seem to really get frustrated. Do you agree? Do you think handball brings out the best in you? What else could you do at recess that would be fun that would keep you in the Green-Zone

on the Friend-o-Meter?" Take it even further with this activity: <u>The Friend-o-Meter: Time to Chat!</u>

TEACH THEM ABOUT STRENGTHS:

What are your child's strengths? Character Strengths represent positive qualities within a child that help to bring out the best in them. When they are using their strengths, they feel good – energized, excited, and motivated. These attributes help children to learn and improve their mental health & wellbeing. Kids feel successful and happy when they are using their strengths.

According to <u>VIA Institute of Character</u>, humans possess 24 Character Strengths in different degrees. We all have a different mixture or combination of strengths; some representing our top strengths (often called Signature Strengths). With all strengths, however, if they are overused or misused they can actually be a weakness.

For children and teenagers, the two strengths we see that are often misused and end up being Mean-by-Accident are Honesty & Humour. With honesty, there are times we need to bite our lip. With humour, there are times the joke is 'too far' and comes across rude. As parents, you can help your child identify that tipping point by teaching them about strengths and letting them know when they've gone too far. Give this a try: Boundaries in Friendship: Drawing the Line

FOCUS ON KIND-ON-PURPOSE: As kids strengthen their self-awareness & social-awareness, we need to teach them to be Kind-on-Purpose. When a child learns to prioritize kindness, they follow the age-old rule: Think before you speak/act. This would look like a child keeping their comments about sushi to themselves because, even though they don't like the smell of it, they know it will make their friend feel bad.

As a parent, you might say to your child: "Ooops! Is telling your friend their feet are stinky Kind-on-Purpose? When it comes to



honesty and kindness, we always choose Kind-on-Purpose!" Or,

when your child is trying to be funny but it is coming across as rude, you might say: "Buddy, I know you're trying to be funny, but is that Kind-on-Purpose?"

Helping children understand that **kindness is strength** will go a long way in helping them make and maintain happy, healthy friendships. Kindness, warmth, and positivity are qualities that attract friends. Remind your child to be a Friendship Magnet! For a fun activity on how to be a Friendship Magnet, get your child to complete page 38 in our <u>Friendship Journal for Families</u>.



What an amazing event we held! Thank you to all of the parents and/or families who assisted us by helping on a stall, baking items for the cake/sweets stall or by bringing in an item during our free dress days.

A special thank you goes to Mrs. Mell Anderson who was able to come back to assist us in setting up and packing down our Mother's Day Fete. Without your help, this event would not have been possible.

Thank you to the wonderful support of outside community groups and schools. We appreciate your help and are forever grateful.



Without the support of our AMAZING sponsors, this event would not have been possible and we thank you for your support!









4-day Cruise to the Whitsundays for 2

Ticket Number #100 Kirsten Russell

2nd Prize Winner: \$500 CASH

Ticket Number #372 Sophie Dohnt

3rd Prize Winner: BBQ Package

Ticket Number #148 Latasha Venz

Thank you to Jay Morris & Bunnings for their sponsorship in our major raffle!





Congratulations Winner of the Pony Poo Lotto Number 69

Congratulations to the following winners:



Congratulations Lucky Door Prize Winner: Agnes Lagiono

You have won a \$150 Gift Voucher! Kindly donated by the Red Earth!







St Kieran's Catholic School Cent Sale Winners

1. #2498704- Megan	14. #2498551- Deni Lindley	27. #2478228- Jasmin Pap
2. #2478136- Ann-Marie Eaton	15. #2498523- Suzie Dallecort	28. #2478167- Jaidyn Corporal
3. #2498732- Peta Laffin	16. #2498672- Julie Patterson	29. #2478225- Lacoata Major
4. #2498732- Peta Laffin	17. #2478157- Nicole Clauson	30. #2498539- Sean McBride
5. #2478198- Helen Fisher	18. #2478204- Shonni R-James	31. #2478200- Leanne Munns
6. #2498622- Lydia Perkins	19. #2498597- Kaitlin Laffin	32. #2478225- Lacoata Major
7. #2498521- Suzie Dallecort	20. #2498568- Jenny Harders	33. #2498719- Tonya Murray
8. #2498679- Jade Teaukura	21. #2478242- Kayla Hayes	34. #2478223- Rachel England
9. #2478108- Jack Moore	22. #2478193- Tamika Richards	35. #2498620- Lydia Perkins
10. #2478222- Elizabeth Whittney	23. #2478159- Lucie Sanderson	36. 2478107- Jack Moore
11. #2478064- Letticia Fisher	24. #2498718- Tonya Murray	37. #2498682- Jessie Osbourne
12. #2498625- Rhonda Elms	25. #2498739- Renee Takurit	38. (Special Draw) #2498773- Jacinta Spreadborough
13. #2478159- Lucy Sanderson	26. #2498691- Brooklyn Moren	



Congratulations to Prep who sold the most raffle tickets! They enjoyed some delicious pizza as a way of saying thank you!

ST KIERAN'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

to Prep for selling the most Raffle Tickets!!









IMPORTANT DATES

Term 2 Dates

Week 7

Wednesday 4th June - School Photos with NQ Photography Friday 6th June- Prep & Year 3 Class Café

Week 8

Monday 9th June - Board meeting Thursday 12th June 8:30-10:30am -200m. 800m (Yrs 3-6 only) Friday 13th June Athletics Carnival - No Assembly this week

Week 9

Tuesday 17th June Netball Gala Day Wednesday 18th June - Dress in Origin Colours (Gold Coin Donation) Thursday 19th June - Assembly Year 1 Friday 20th June- Show Public Holiday Week 10

Wednesday 25th - Report released on Compass

Friday 27th June- Last Day of Term 2 Friday 27 June - Assembly Year 4

Term 3 Dates

Week 1

Monday 14th of July - Term 3 begins **Week 2**

Friday 25th July - MISSA Athletics

Week 3 - Catholic Education Week 2025

Thursday 31st July - Bush Dance Evening Friday 1st August - St Kieran's Mini Murri's Morning/Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day

Week 4 - Life Education Visit



Wednesday 6th August - The Isa Street Parade

Thursday 7th August - Cricket Gala Day Friday 8th August IPRASS DAY - NO SCHOOL

Week 5

Week 6

Monday 18 - Friday 22 August - Book Week Tuesday 19 August - Perform Education

Week 7

Wednesday 3rd September - Touch Gala

Thursday 4th September- Father's day Breakfast from 7.45am

Thursday 4th September - Assembly 8.30am

Friday 5th September - PUPIL FREE DAY Friday 5th September - Multicultural Festival (Parish)

Week 9

Week 10

Wednesday 17th - Friday 19th September - Year 4 Camp to Winton Friday 19th September - Last Day of Term 3

Term 4 Dates

Week 1

Monday 6th October - Term 4 begins

Week 2 - Swimming Lessons

Week 3 - Book Fair