



ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL WINTON

TERM 3 | Week 10 | 2025

Thursday September 18th

Last Day of Term

Friday September 19th

IPRASS Travel Day

Tuesday October 7th

Term 4 Commences

October 7th-10th

Mini-Mulka Week

Saturday October 11th

St Pat's presents Peter Pan

Mid-morning performance at the
Winton Shire Hall

October 20th-23rd

Year 5/6 SMYLE Camp

Friday October 24th

Grandparents' Morning

Thursday October 30th

Combined Schools'
Swimming Carnival

Evening carnival commencing at
5pm, school day as usual.

Tuesday November 4th

Winton Gazetted Show
Holiday

Tuesday November 17th

Presentation Night

Friday November 28th

Annual Community Fete

Monday December 1st

End of Year Mass

Friday December 5th

Last Day, Half Day

P&F UPDATES

NEXT MEETING

Monday, October 13th

3pm, St Patrick's Assembly Room,
all parents welcome.

Newsletter

A Message From Our Principal

We made it, the last day of term is here! After a tremendously busy few months, our students and staff have more than earned a well-deserved break. Term Three is often our best and busiest, and this year was no exception. We celebrated with our community throughout the term, starting with NAIDOC activities, welcoming guest readers for Book Week, and coming together for an unforgettable whole-school sleepover at Storyfest Out West. Our students also had great opportunities to develop specialised skills, especially during Arts August with industry-led workshops. They even took part in daring skateboarding sessions and, just yesterday, showcased their talents at the Junior Bush Poetry Festival. But if you ask me, the standout moment was our Upper Primary's Wax Museum, a brilliant display of their biography writing, research, and passion for learning. It's been a positively amazing term from start to finish, and we couldn't be prouder of everything our students have achieved, experienced, and learned.

As mentioned, just yesterday we enjoyed watching our students shine at the Winton Bush Poetry Festival. Every year, the calibre of performances amazes me, and although I couldn't be there in person this time, I've heard the competition was as strong as ever. I'm especially proud of all our students — especially our Preppies, who started the year too shy to say hello but stood confidently on stage in front of hundreds, reciting poetry on their own. That's a huge achievement! While we celebrate some fantastic results, it's really about the courage and effort everyone showed. Our Middle and Upper Primary groups took first place in group performances, and the Edgar girls, River and Willow, won their individual sections. Several others also placed individually, including Bridie, Cecil, Clifford, Ericson, Rae, and Matilda. Well done St Pat's!

We're excited about next term, with some key events to look forward to:

- **Mini Mulka** – In Week One, students will take part in week long intensive, bootcamp-style workshop led by professional educators from TheatreINQ, culminating in a Peter Pan performance on Saturday. All students will be involved in the performance with our Year 5 & 6 students having starring roles which they have received scripts for to practice over the holidays. Due to our commitment to delivering this unique and enriching Mini-Mulka experience, full student attendance is essential throughout the entire week.
- **Year 5/6 SMYLE Camp** – In Week Three, our Year 5/6 students will head to the Whitsundays for their make-up SMYLE camp, rescheduled from Term One due to weather. While not all SMYLE schools will attend, St Francis Hughenien will join us. Further information has been given in a letter to our Year 5/6 families.
- **Combined School Swimming Carnival** - Scheduling the swimming carnival involves several challenges, including the representative sports calendar, heat, school holidays, and pool closures. For this reason, our swimming carnival is held in Term 4, while swimming lessons remain in Term 1. Holding lessons early allows students to focus on water safety and technique when they're more confident in the water, rather than just racing. We won't run swimming lessons in Term 4, as there wouldn't be enough sessions before the carnival, and this helps us maintain a balanced HPE program across multiple sports throughout the year. However, at parents' request, this year we will trial an evening Combined Schools' Swimming Carnival starting at 5pm on Thursday, October 30th. Students will attend school as usual that day and then be invited to join us back at the pool in the evening. To encourage maximum participation, an alternate school program will be offered on Friday, October 31st for students who may be too tired to attend school after the carnival, ensuring no key learning is missed.

Principal News (Cont.)

You may have noticed I've been a little absent over the past fortnight, or then again perhaps not as it's made no difference to our school running like clockwork, thanks to our incredibly dedicated and capable staff who haven't missed a beat. The reason for my two stints away is pretty exciting

1. I was honoured with a place in a leadership program through the prestigious Catholic Leadership Foundation. This year-long national formation program involves retreats, projects, mentoring, and exercises designed to develop leaders who inspire positive, faith-led change within their communities. The first retreat for this took place in Sydney prior to our Storyfest Sleepover. This is a huge professional development opportunity that will directly benefit our school community by enriching the way I lead and serve. As part of the program, I will be participating in a pilgrimage in France next year for a month of intensive development, for which I will be taking Professional Renewal Leave in Term One, alongside some Long Service Leave. I look forward to sharing more details with you soon and am excited for the growth this opportunity will bring.
2. Just this week, I also had the privilege of representing Townsville as a delegate at the Queensland Catholic Primary Principals Association (QCPPA). It's so important for our small outback school to have a voice at the state level, ensuring our unique challenges and strengths are heard and supported. Being part of this wider conversation helps us advocate for the resources and policies that benefit our students, while connecting us with other passionate leaders across Queensland.

I'm grateful for these opportunities to grow and advocate on behalf of our school community.

Wishing everyone a restful and joyful break, may the holidays bring time to relax, recharge, and return ready for another fantastic final term.

- *Bridget Tully*

Early Years (P&1) News

What an incredible fortnight we have had learning in and out of the classroom! Between visiting Story Fest and gaining a world of inspiration for writing and illustrating our own pieces of work to being Bush Poets on the big stage! Their rhymes, rhythms and confidence shone so brightly, it was truly the best mouse-terpiece!

In English, students have been exploring persuasive texts. We've been working hard on sentence beginnings to help our writing stand tall and grab a reader's attention right from the start. Last week, we read the mentor text 'Hey, Little Ant' and this week, we giggled our way through 'Daisy, Eat Your Peas!' Students loved debating whether Daisy should tuck into those peas or not. We even held a class vote to see which side was more convincing. Using the Talk, Draw, Talk, Write strategy, students built persuasive arguments and collaborated to convince their audience. You could say they're really learning how to 'peas' their readers with powerful words! Students have been polishing their reading fluency by learning that sometimes it's not about racing to the finish line, but about slowing down to truly understand the story. We've practiced partner reading (because books are even better when shared) and enjoyed Readers Theatre, where students not only read the words but act them out. This way, they're showing us they're not just reading the text, they're comprehending it.

We've been busy moving from addition to subtraction because sometimes you just have to take away to add to your learning! Year One students have been strengthening their knowledge of addition and subtraction strategies such as bridging to 10, combinations to 10 and counting back. To practice these skills, students have been using the YUM! mat, which gets their whole bodies involved in the learning. By physically stepping, hopping and moving along the mat, students can see the numbers, say the numbers and feel the

numbers, all at once. This hands-on approach helps turn tricky number problems into something active, engaging and fun. Prep students have been busy focusing on their combinations to 10 and learning how to write their very own number sentences. There's been lots of excitement as students discover how many different ways numbers can come together to make 10. This foundational skill is setting them up with strong number sense for all the maths adventures ahead.

Students have been exploring Jesus' mission through stories from his life. Together, we reflected on the story of the Two Blind Men, discussing how Jesus showed compassion, loving your neighbour and to treat others the way you want to be treated. We also looked closely at the story of the Passover, considering what it teaches us about faith, trust and God's plan. These stories have helped students think about how Jesus' mission continues to inspire us to live with kindness, care and love for others.

In HASS, students have been building their map-making skills by learning to describe the features of a map and reflecting on ways we can care for the places around us. They've been exploring how to create their own maps of familiar spaces like their school and home, carefully labelling important features such as water, gardens and buildings.



Early Years (cont.)

Through this, students are not only learning how to represent places on paper, but also thinking about how to look after the special places they belong to.

- Miss Hawke



Middle Primary (2&3) News

As Term 3 comes to a close, it's been a fun and full-on finish in our middle primary classrooms. From poetry performances to science experiments, students have thrown themselves into learning that's hands-on, creative, and full of curiosity. It's been a fantastic way to end the term with proud moments, new skills, and lots of smiles all around.

One of our biggest highlights was the Bush Poetry Festival, where students worked hard throughout the term to rehearse both group and individual poems. Their expressive performances and teamwork truly shone, and we're thrilled to share that our group poem earned us first place! It was a proud achievement and a fantastic celebration of rhythm, voice, and collaboration.

We also had the chance to attend Story Fest, where students took part in creative writing tasks and explored the lives of different children's authors. A standout moment was meeting Nathan Luff, whose humour and storytelling insights left a lasting impression. Students returned with new ideas and new ways to plan and craft their own writing pieces.

Back in the classroom, we've wrapped up our literature unit on *The BFG*. Over the past fortnight, students have been working with the 6 + 1 Writing Traits—ideas, organisation, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions, and presentation. These traits have helped students reflect on their writing and build strong foundations for the learning ahead in Term 4. Whether through poetry, author workshops, or narrative writing, students have been developing key literacy skills like oral fluency, vocabulary, and the ability to organise and express ideas clearly.

In Mathematics, Year 2 students have been consolidating their understanding of place value, addition, and subtraction. They've been using strategies like counting on, bridging, and partitioning to solve problems and explain their thinking. It's been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they represent numbers in different ways and choose strategies that work for them.

Meanwhile, Year 3 wrapped up their angles unit with lots of excitement. We explored angles as turns and compared them to right angles using everyday objects - doors swinging open, book pages being turned, and scissors snipping. Students loved spotting angles in action and describing them as smaller than, equal to, or greater than a right angle.

In Religion, Year 2 students have been exploring the history of parish communities and how their stories, symbols, and traditions reveal a shared identity. Year 3 students have taken this further by recognising how people express their beliefs and contribute to parish life in different



Middle Primary (cont.)

ways. These discussions have helped students connect their learning to real-world faith experiences and reflect on what it means to belong to a community.

Science has been a hands-on highlight, with students investigating changes of state through melting and freezing experiments. From icy cubes to gooey chocolate, they've observed how heat affects materials and learned how to conduct fair tests by changing one variable at a time. There's been lots of predicting, observing, and recording - and plenty of excitement as students discovered the science behind everyday transformations.

- Miss Warry



Upper Primary (4/5/6) News

Over the past fortnight, students have immersed themselves in a variety of writing experiences. Through free writing opportunities and clinic groups, they have drafted a wide range of text types. The focus has been on strengthening their understanding of text structures and features so that their writing truly matches its purpose- whether to inform, entertain, or persuade.

In Mathematics, Year 4 and 5 students explored the fascinating world of symmetry. They identified lines of symmetry in both familiar and irregular shapes, while Year 5 students extended their skills further by creating symmetrical drawings. These concepts were then applied to reflections on the first quadrant, linking geometry with coordinate work. Meanwhile, Year 6 students have been learning how to find the difference between positive and negative numbers, following shortcut rules to calculate efficiently and building confidence in applying these skills on number lines and the Cartesian plane.

Within Religion, students concluded their exploration of the Trinity and Jesus' messages in the New Testament. Their reflections demonstrated a growing awareness of faith in everyday life. Looking ahead, next term's focus will move to Church communities, living with faith and preparing for the season of Advent.

Science lessons closed the term with students evaluating their fair test experiments. They suggested improvements to ensure reliability and fairness in investigations, showing growing confidence in their ability to think scientifically. Term 4 will see an exciting shift into Physical Sciences, where students will explore light, energy and forces while practising the important skills of using equipment safely during experiments.

Another highlight this past fortnight was our participation in Story Fest. Students were inspired by meeting published authors and illustrators who shared their creative journeys, writing processes and the importance of persistence in developing ideas. They walked away with fresh strategies for generating imaginative texts and the realisation that even professionals go through multiple drafts to refine their work. For me as a teacher, the festival provided valuable insights into how storytelling, visual literacy and author craft can be embedded into our daily literacy block. These tips and tricks- from brainstorming techniques to editing strategies- will continue to shape how we support students in developing both confidence and creativity in their writing.

This term has been filled with effort, curiosity and achievement from all Upper Primary students. Their resilience and commitment to learning across all subject areas is something to be proud of. As we head into the holidays, I wish everyone a safe and happy break- rest up, recharge and enjoy the Outback Festival fun. See you all in Term 4!

- Miss Stacey



LOCALS SUPPORTING LOCALS

A big thanks to 4D Love of Bread for serving up afternoon tea every Wednesday for Homework Club and going the extra mile by donating fresh bakery goods for Storyfest

A huge thanks to Winton News for generously buying a book for every single St Pat's student at the Storyfest Book Shop!