



ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL WINTON

Newsletter

TERM 3 | Week 2 | 2025

Monday June 28th
School Photos

Tuesday June 29th
Sports Uniform

Due to a timetabling change for this week HPE will be on Tuesday

Friday August 1st
Fortnightly Assembly
Visual Arts Workshops

Wednesday August 6th
Dance Workshops

August 7th-8th
Outback Futures Winton
Clinic

Monday August 18th
Book Week Dress Up

Friday September 5th
Pupil Free Day

September 11th & 12th
StoryFest Out West Whole
School Sleepover

Wednesday September 17th
Winton Poetry Festival

Thursday September 18th
Last Day of Term

Friday September 19th
IPRASS Travel Day

A Message From Our Principal

The second half of the year is underway, and we're excited for the learning and growth this term will bring. This term promises to be full of rich experiences, with a special focus on inspiring a love of literacy through three upcoming events—Book Week, Storyfest Out West, and the Winton Poetry Festival—that will make reading and writing even more enjoyable across the school. It's clear from the start that the whole school is ready to embrace all the opportunities ahead, making this term one of the busiest and most inspiring yet!

We've packed a lot into the first fortnight of the term, starting with a day of NAIDOC celebrations, cricket workshops, Central West Representative Athletics Trials, and diving into exciting new topics in our classrooms. A standout highlight was celebrating our Prep students' 100 Days of Learning! To mark this milestone, the whole school "aged" overnight, coming dressed as little, wrinkly, grey oldies, as if we'd gained 100 years of life experience. A massive thank you to our incredible families for going all-out with the costumes. A very special congratulations to our Preps we're so proud of your learning journey, and to all our students, for making St Pat's the best place to be.

Monday marks our School Photo Day, and it is essential that all students wear full and correct uniform. Please pay close attention to these important Uniform Policy requirements:

- Plain, simple stud or hoop earrings only; no other jewellery is allowed.
- Hair longer than shoulder length must be securely tied back.
- Only small, practical accessories in school colors, such as hair ties and snap clips, are acceptable.
- Clear nail polish is the only permitted type.
- Makeup is not allowed.

These details will be carefully monitored to uphold our high standards. To avoid any last-minute adjustments and potential disappointment, please ensure your child meets these requirements before arriving at school, on photo day.

If you have not yet placed an order for school photos, there is still time. While all students will have individual photos taken, orders for sibling or specific group photos must be submitted by Monday morning. To ensure these arrangements are correctly processed, please inform our office or staff accordingly.

Over the past few years, St Pat's academic achievement has been on an exciting upward trajectory. This success is a testament to our exceptional teaching team and the vibrant culture of learning and high expectations we nurture every day. This year is no exception—our students continue to go from strength to strength, and we're absolutely thrilled to celebrate their outstanding NAPLAN results. Our Year 3 students have outperformed like schools and exceeded Queensland state averages in every domain, while our Year 5 students have also delivered excellent results, surpassing state averages in reading, writing, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy. These achievements reflect not only the hard work and determination of our students but also the supportive and inspiring environment we are proud to cultivate here at St Pat's. We couldn't be prouder of our students and staff and are excited to continue this journey of learning excellence together.

Finally, you can catch our P&F this weekend at the Winton Camel Races! They'll be running a canteen for the event, so make sure you come hungry and ready to enjoy some delicious food. From sandwiches and soft drinks for lunch, to tea and sweets in the afternoon, and hearty hot pot meals to keep you warm for dinner, our P&F will have something tasty for everyone. Come along, support our school, and enjoy a great day at the camel races!

Bridget Tully

P&F UPDATES

NEXT MEETING

Monday, August 25th

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

Early Years (P&1) News

As we've entered Term 3, we have had a fantastic and busy couple of weeks in the classroom, with lots of hands-on learning and enthusiastic participation from all students.

In English, students have been learning all about how to use conventions in their writing. To continue their learning we utilised *The Gingerbread Bear* as our mentor text. We explored how punctuation, capital letters and sentence structure help our writing make sense. To continue this, this week, students have been putting these skills into practice by writing their own information reports about platypuses. They've learnt new vocabulary like classification, appearance, habitat and diet, and have worked hard to organise their ideas. One of the most fascinating facts students enjoyed was discovering that male platypuses have venomous spurs on their back legs!



In Maths, we started with a revision of number skills. Prep students focused on recognising and writing numbers up to 20 and worked on reading number names. Year One students extended their learning to numbers up to 120 and continued exploring simple addition strategies. This week, all students have been learning about positional and directional language, using words such as left, right, in front, behind and beside. Year One students have taken this further by setting up an obstacle course and giving and following simple directions to a partner. Next week students will begin drawing simple maps to show their understanding. This learning ties directly into their Humanities and Social Science (HASS) unit, where they are investigating different types of maps and how they help us represent familiar places.



In Science, we've started a new learning sequence to explore materials. Students identified the seven main types of materials and explored the classroom to find objects made from each. Students drew and labelled their findings. Next week, they'll explore the features of materials through hands-on tasks like a mystery bag challenge, where they'll describe objects using their sense of touch.

In Religion, Early Years students have continued learning about the story of Abraham and Sarah and their special role in the Bible. They discovered that Abraham was one of the first people God spoke to and learned about his close relationship with God. The scripture tells us that the stars represent God's family, so students decorated stars to symbolise themselves as part of that family.

- Miss Hawke



Middle Primary (2&3) News

Middle Primary have had a really settled and positive start to the term. It's been great to see students so engaged and enthusiastic across all areas of learning.

In English, we've been revisiting key writing skills and adding fresh ideas to our Writer's Notebooks. Students have been full of creativity and are starting to write with more detail and imagination. We've also begun exploring our new class text, *The BFG* by Roald Dahl. It's been a hit! The story has sparked lots of rich conversations about characters, language, and the world of giants.

Middle Primary (cont.)

In Maths, we've been revising number concepts like addition and subtraction strategies, patterns, and fact families. This week we've started our unit on fractions. Year 2 students are learning about halves, quarters and eighths, while Year 3 students are extending to tenths, fifths and thirds. We've been modelling these using both numbers and shapes to help build strong understanding.

In Religion, we've continued learning about the New Testament, focusing on the story of Jesus calming the storm. Students have compared the versions in Mark 4:35–41 and Luke 8:22–25, and have had some thoughtful discussions about faith, trust and courage.

In History, we've started looking at the idea of past and present, with a focus on how Winton has changed over time. Students have been exploring old photos, maps and stories to see how people, places and technology have evolved.

In Science, we've begun investigating materials and how they change state. Students are learning about melting, freezing and evaporation, and have started exploring what causes these changes through hands-on activities.

Last Friday, we joined Prep in celebrating 100 days of school by dressing up as 100-year-olds! There were plenty of walking sticks, grey wigs and giggles - it was a fantastic way to mark the milestone. On the same day, we walked to the post office to send postcards to old classmates, friends and family. It was a lovely opportunity to practise writing for a real purpose while revising basic sentence boundaries.

It's been a fantastic start to the term and we're looking forward to all the learning still to come. Thanks for your ongoing support!

- Miss Warry



Upper Primary (4/5/6) News

There's a handful of figurative language sprinkled throughout this newsletter- can you spot each type the Upper Primary students have been learning? A hint: There are 7.

Buzzing with activity, our Upper Primary classrooms have been full of focused learning and collaboration. From writing to number work, Science investigations to Gospel reflections, the Upper Primary have truly hit the ground running with their learning.



In English, students have revised the importance of speaking and listening in collaborative group work and reviewed each step of the writing process. They explored informative texts, learning how an author structures and writes with a clear purpose. Paraphrasing has been a key focus in reading, with students practising how to highlight key ideas, use synonyms and rearrange sentence structure. Through word matrices, they've been investigating how prefixes and suffixes change the meaning of base words. Their curiosity has grown roots like a tree, reaching deeper into vocabulary and meaning.

In Maths, students have developed a solid understanding of angles and their properties. They've measured angles- their rulers whispered with precision as they drew and measured angles- and calculated unknown values in complementary and supplementary angles. As part of an engaging task, students searched for angles in their environment, and even in words! Number skills continue to be practised and strengthened, with daily fluency using the four operations.

Upper Primary (cont.)

In Science, students explored different materials, describing their properties and observable features. Investigations focused on flexibility, waterproofness and breakability, and students recorded their findings to draw real-world conclusions. There was a snap! and a crack! as materials were tested.

In Religion, students have researched the Gospel writers- Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. They investigated who they were, when they wrote their Gospels and who their intended audience was. Using this knowledge, students reflected on key messages in the New Testament, and responded to how the author's context and purpose help shape understanding. Their knowledge is a compass, helping them navigate the deeper meaning behind each message.

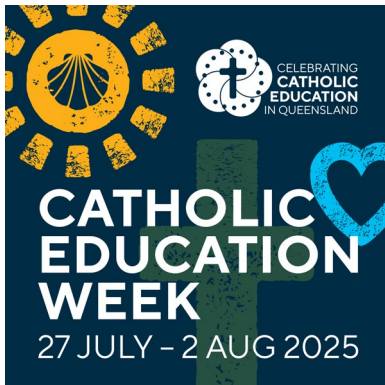
In HASS, students reflected on the purpose and significance of NAIDOC Week. After highlighting key words from texts to build a visual timeline, they listened to a First Nations perspective and created thoughtful written responses. They took to these tasks like ducks to water. This term, their focus will shift to Civics and Citizenship, where they'll learn more about rules, responsibilities and participation.

To finish off the fortnight with flair, students have shown consistent effort, critical thinking and creativity across all learning areas. From drawing angles to exploring texts, it's been a rewarding fortnight of learning.

- Miss Stacey



Religious Information



Next week is Catholic Education Week, a special time to recognise and celebrate the vital role Catholic schools play in nurturing faith, knowledge, and community. We want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the strong partnership between our school, families, and parish. It is this collaboration that creates the welcoming environment where your child/ren can thrive both spiritually and academically. As we observe this meaningful week, we also celebrate our school's rich legacy and remember that our journey at St Pat's is one we walk together, inspired by the charisms of St Patrick and the Mercy Sisters.

Join us for our next mass with Fr Mick this Sunday, on July 27th at 6pm in the St Patrick's Church.

