



ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL WINTON

Newsletter

A Message From Our Principal

Last week marked five years since I first joined the St Pat's family, and while this definitely borders on boasting, I gave myself a free pass to reflect on the incredible accomplishments, improvements and progress we've made as a school in that time. I'm proud of the consistency we've built, and the way our school continues to thrive. Not because of any one person, but because of the shared commitment from staff, students and families to make St Pat's a welcoming, inclusive and high-achieving place. As we look ahead to what we can achieve next, our ambitions only grow. While we can't do everything at once, we remain focused on what matters most: our students and their learning. I feel incredibly privileged to be leading our little school and walking this journey with you. And grateful to our entire community for their unwavering support.

On Monday, all our families received via email a survey titled 'Have Your Say'. As part of our ongoing commitment to improvement, I strongly encourage every family to take a few moments to complete it. This annual survey is a key opportunity for you to share your thoughts. The results play a direct role in setting priorities and highlighting what matters most to our community. Honest, constructive, and positive feedback helps ensure that decisions are informed by the voices of our families. Every response truly counts, and your input is both needed and appreciated.

Over the past fortnight, our students took part in two exciting arts workshops. A visual arts session with the talented team from Shake & Stir, and a high-energy dance workshop delivered by Dance North. These experiences build on students' weekly Arts lessons with our specialist teacher, Mrs Harris, who focused on Visual Arts last term and has introduced Dance this term. One student, who was certain dance "wasn't for him," proudly told a peer who missed it, "it's not dance — it's just moving your body." While we're always focused on building sports participation through our interschool carnivals, representative opportunities and our sports intensives, Arts also has an increasing presence in our school and we've been quietly working on a major arts project for our community to enjoy in early Term 4.

Children's Book Council of Australia's (CBCA) annual Book Week is coming. Book Week at St Pat's is so much more than just a costume parade. It is a special period dedicated to celebrating great Australian children's books, and to inspire a love of reading.

Our Book Week celebrations will include:

- Queen Victoria's Book Fair from 8.00am-3.30pm daily.
- CBCA Library Section and Sessions – Where we reveal this year's CBCA Book of Year Winners and students can explore all the shortlisted books.
- A Book Week themed Tuckshop
- Special guest readers across the week
- Book Week Dress Up on Monday - students are to come dressed as a book character from one of their favourite books.
- Winton Shire Council Book Week Humphry Bear Event – for Early Years & Middle Primary

We're all gearing up for an incredible adventure as we prepare to head to Longreach for our annual whole-school Storyfest Out West sleepover on September 11th and 12th! Yesterday, students brought home a letter to confirm their attendance and transport. Please ensure these are returned by Thursday next week. We really encourage full participation from our school community, and to support this, parents are very welcome to come along for the sleepover as without parent helpers we wouldn't be able to attend. If you have any questions about Storyfest, particularly if this is your first time attending, then please don't hesitate to reach out.

This morning, our P&F celebrated the teachers who joined us at the beginning of this year with hampers filled with Winton goodies. We are in awe of the dedication and efforts of our staff here at St Pat's, and are so grateful for their choice to relocate to Winton to pursue their vocation. Recent teacher strikes across Queensland have highlighted the challenges schools face today. Our teachers work hard every day to provide the best for your children. We encourage parents to support this effort by speaking directly with teachers about any concerns, no matter how big or small. Teachers are your first point of contact, following this you can contact myself. For more information or further specific information about our school and processes, I encourage you to visit our school website.

Bridget Tully

TERM 3 | Week 4 | 2025

Thursday August 14th

StoryFest Attendance and
Transport Slips to be
returned

August 18th - 22nd

Book Week

Don't miss our Book Fair before
and after school all week!

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

P&F UPDATES

UPCOMING EVENTS

Storyfest Out West

Parent helpers are needed to
assist with transport of students,
sleepover and catering.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, August 25th

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

Early Years (P&1) News

Our classroom has been hopping with learning like a mob of curious kangaroos! Just like how we've been learning these bouncy marsupials explore their surroundings with energy and enthusiasm, our Early Years classroom has had a real focus on learning through doing and collaboration.

In English, students have been developing their speaking and listening skills during partner and group discussions. Our littlest learners have made wonderful progress in whole-body listening- sitting up and tracking the speaker to show they are actively engaged. With the help of mentor texts, students explored information texts, learning how authors write with a clear purpose: to inform the reader using real facts. When it came time to write, students confidently used The Writing Process, their phonics knowledge and classroom resources to independently write simple sentences. In reading, we focused on reading with expression- because let's be honest, nobody wants to hear a robot read! Students giggled along with Miss Hawke's 'robot reading', and did a fantastic job giving clear feedback to ensure she reads with emotion and pauses at sentence boundaries.

In Maths, we have been on the move, revising how to give and follow simple directions. Students had a blast navigating their way around a classroom obstacle course, and using Beebots by giving their partners step-by-step directions. This week, we dove into the world of 2D shapes. A highlight was our 'Guess What Shape I Am?' game. Try this one at home: I have 2 sides shorter than the other 2, I have 4 corners and 4 sides... what am I? To celebrate, students created colourful and creative Shape Monsters using their understanding of sides and corners in a hands-on task that combined art and geometry.

Our classroom turned into a mini lab, as students explored different materials and their observable properties. Using 'mystery bags,' students asked thoughtful questions while classmates described what they felt using scientific vocabulary like soft, rigid and rough. The excitement was high as mystery items were revealed!

This fortnight, we explored God's dream for the world. Through storytelling and discussion, students identified kind and loving actions (like helping and sharing), and what doesn't reflect God's love (like pushing or leaving others out). We also continued learning about God's covenant with Abraham. Students reflected on trust, and created beautiful collages of people in their lives they trust, just as Abraham trusted God.

Our classroom has turned into a wombat warren of map makers! Students have started creating simple maps and identifying natural, managed and constructed features in their environment. Through hands-on activities and visuals, students are becoming more confident in understanding their place in the world, and how we represent it on a map.

This fortnight has been a joyful journey of discovery, collaboration and creativity. From expressive reading to shape-building, our Early Years students have been giving their best in every area of the curriculum and their achievements have been rewarding to witness.

- Miss Hawke

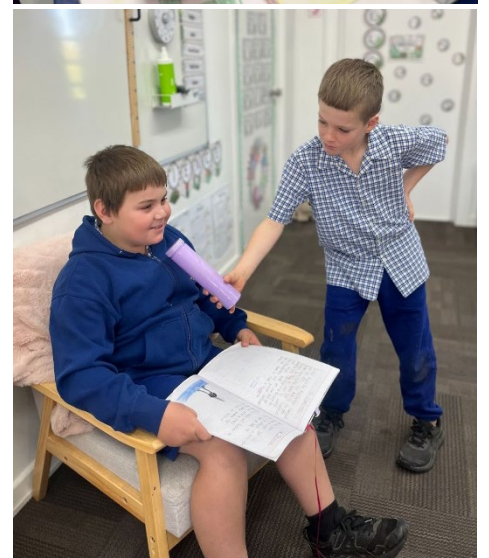
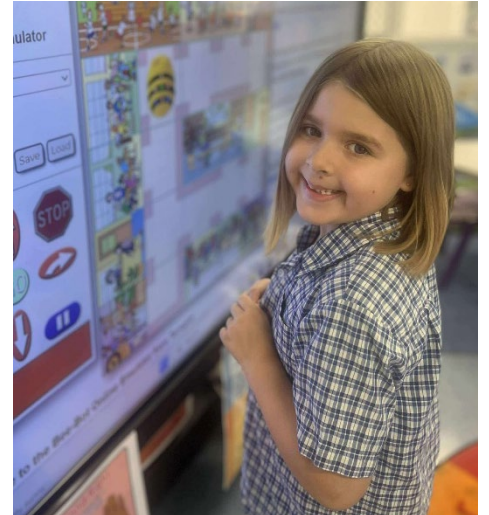
Middle Primary (2&3) News

As we move through the term, Middle Primary students have demonstrated enthusiasm, creativity and thoughtful engagement across all areas of learning.

In literacy, students have continued their exploration of our mentor text, 'The BFG' by Roald Dahl. This unit is designed to develop oral language and listening skills through imaginative and structured activities. One of the highlights has been the 'Giant Interviews', where students created their imagined giant characters and participated in interviews, responding in role to questions about their name, interests, appearance and personality. These lessons encourage expressive language, character development and confident speaking.

Students have also engaged in a range of writing tasks, including giant profiles, speech dialogue and predictions about the text to support narrative development, and comprehension. These tasks have been carefully differentiated to meet the needs of all learners. Some students focused on building descriptive vocabulary and sentence structure, while others extended their writing through character motivation. Group discussions and scaffolded planning tools supported students in organising their ideas, and expressing them with clarity.

In Mathematics, students have recently completed their unit on fractions. Year 2 students focused on understanding halves, quarters, and eighths, while Year 3 students extended their learning to thirds, fifths and tenths. A highlight lesson involved using playdough



Middle Primary (cont.)

and fractional measuring cups to explore volume - students used combinations such as six, one-thirds cups to create two cups of flour. This hands-on activity prompted rich mathematical discussion and demonstrated the practical application of fractional concepts.

Following this, students created part-representative models to demonstrate their understanding of fractions visually. These models allowed students to consolidate their learning and communicate their reasoning with clarity.

In Religious Education, students have completed Unit 5: New Testament, where they explored key stories and messages from the life and teachings of Jesus. More recently, students have begun learning about the Trinity, examining the relationship between God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. This unit encourages reflection and understanding of foundational Christian beliefs and supports students in making connections between scripture and personal faith.



- Miss Warry

Upper Primary (4/5/6) News

The Upper Primary students have truly stepped into their roles as event planners, poets, scientists, young authors and more this term! There's never a dull moment in our classroom, with learning that is purposeful, hands-on and bursting with creativity.

In English, students have taken on the role of biographers, collaborating to write Miss Stacey's life story! Through this process, they have been refining their sentence fluency, and carefully organising text structures to suit the purpose of informing and engaging their audience. During our Literacy Rotations, students follow a routine that supports independence and growth. Activities include typing practice, bookclub reading and meetings, guided reading alongside Miss Stacey supported by individualised student goals, free writing, and a task linked to our reading focus. This fortnight, we've zoomed in on reading fluency. Students recorded themselves reading aloud and reflected on their expression, pace, accuracy and ability to read punctuation. They will revisit their recordings next week to check for improvements and set new reading goals - a great way for students to take ownership of their learning.

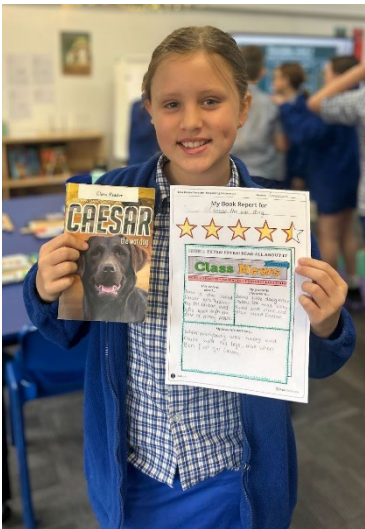
In Mathematics, the topic of time has taken centre stage.

- Year 4 have been converting between units of time and solving elapsed time problems.
- Year 5 have explored the difference between 12 and 24-hour time, and applied their knowledge to real-world contexts such as flight and train schedules.
- Year 6 have been busily interpreting timetables and are currently designing a mock excursion to Australia Zoo. This task has required them to consider timeframes, transitions and a set of criteria to create a smooth, realistic schedule - talk about real-life learning in action!

In Science, our little scientists have been exploring the fascinating world of materials and learning to identify the difference between physical and chemical changes. Now, they're shifting gears to become experts in fair testing. Their learning kicked off with exploring the question: What happens to gummy bears in different liquids? Students discussed and identified the independent variable (what changes), the dependent variable (what is measured), and the controlled variables (what stays the same). This hands-on approach has sparked curiosity and scientific thinking across the cohort.

I am so proud of the way our Upper Primary students have dived into their learning - with curiosity, collaboration and creativity. In the Upper Primary years, every day counts, so I thank families for prioritising attendance and helping students stay engaged and connected. After all, learning is more fun when you're part of the action!

- Miss Stacey



Religious Information

The Feast Day of Saint Mary MacKillop is celebrated on August 8th each year and holds deep significance in the Catholic faith, especially in Australia. Mary MacKillop was Australia's first canonised saint, recognised for her unwavering dedication to education, social justice and care for the poor. As co-founder of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, she played a pioneering role in establishing schools, orphanages and shelters across rural and remote communities, ensuring all children—regardless of background—had access to quality education and support.

Her remarkable life of faith, courage and perseverance in the face of adversity continues to inspire Catholics around the world. Mary MacKillop's legacy reminds us of the power of one person's commitment to making a difference, and how acts of kindness, justice and service can transform lives.

As we read and reflected on her story today, we are reminded of how closely her mission aligns with the mission of our own school—guided by the charisms of St Patrick and the vision of Sisters of Mercy foundress Catherine McAuley. Her example is a timely and powerful reminder of the values we strive to live out each day: Belong, Respect, Courage and Mercy.

Join us for our next mass with Fr Col this Sunday, on August 10th at 6pm in the St Patrick's Church.

Footsteps for Faith and Future



ST PATRICK'S
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
WINTON

St Patrick's Catholic School is an inclusive Catholic community providing a quality learning experience that nurtures, enriches and inspires all to strive for success.

OUR VALUES

Belong

The St Patrick's family **moves together**, promoting hospitality, service and inclusive partnerships between parents, students, staff, parish and community.

*Welcome one another just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.
Letter of Paul to the Romans 15:7*

Courage

Like St Patrick, we find strength in faith. We are **guided** by our trust in God, to endure all we encounter on this **journey of life**.

*"Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong."
1 Corinthians 16:13*

Respect

We care for all of God's creation, valuing each individual and serving our school and wider community with our whole heart **following** the spirit of Catherine McAuley.

*Do for other people what you want them to do for you.
Luke 6:31 (ICB)*

Mercy

Inspired by the words of Catherine McAuley, we **walk along the path** of justice by responding to the needs of others compassionately.

*Act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with God.
Micah 6:8*

