



ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL WINTON

Newsletter

TERM 4 | Week 3 | 2025

Wednesday October 29th

Prep Transition

For ALL 2026 Prep students, drop off from 8.15am

Thursday October 30th

Fortnightly Assembly

All are welcome from 8.30am

Thursday October 30th

Combined Schools'

Swimming Carnival

Evening Carnival 5pm-8pm at The Winton Memorial Swimming Pool, school day as usual.

Friday October 31st

Day for Daniel

Students are invited to raise awareness by wearing red and making a gold coin donation.

Monday November 3rd

Cinderella Spinderella

Performance

EY and MP will be attending this WSC organised event.

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

A Message From Our Principal

Welcome back to Term 4! Wow! What a start to Term 4! As I sit down to write our first newsletter for the term, I can hardly believe how much we've already managed to pack into just three short weeks, and that's only the beginning. With a busy and exciting calendar ahead, it's no wonder we're all feeling a mix of excitement and exhaustion. This term may only be nine weeks long, but you can be sure that our teachers are as committed as ever to delivering high-quality learning experiences right through to the very last day of school.

In Week One, with the generous support of our P&F and under the expert guidance of TheatreiNQ, our students proudly brought Peter Pan to life in a full scale performance. Throughout the week, students immersed themselves in every aspect of theatre, from taking part in a formal table read and choreographing safe fight scenes, to exploring both the stage and backstage and even helping make costume decisions. Nerves were certainly high as we came together at midday Friday for our one and only full rehearsal before show day, but what a performance it turned out to be! As the culmination of our 'mini-mulka week,' the production involved every student from Prep to Year 6 and was nothing short of spectacular. We couldn't be prouder of the bravery, creativity, teamwork, and sheer joy our students displayed as they stepped into the spotlight for this once-in-a-lifetime experience.



We were delighted to host the first of our fortnightly Prep Transitions in Week 2. Our Prep Transitions are open to ALL 2026 Prep-aged children – whether you're planning to attend St Pat's, WSS, LODE, or are still deciding. It's all about giving our little ones a chance to experience what school is all about in a safe, fun, and welcoming environment. Off the back of our mini-mulka week our first transition was a pirate themed morning where children made pirate hats, explored animals in the ocean and even went on a treasure hunt to the different areas of our school. Our next transition is Wednesday October 29th, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to email us at wntn@tsv.catholic.edu.au.

Yesterday, our Year 5/6 students returned from an unforgettable SMYLE Camp to the Whitsundays and what an adventure it was! After having to reschedule earlier in the year due to flooded roads, we were rewarded with perfect weather for our trip. Be sure the check out the Upper Primary News section for all the camp highlights.

On Thursday evening, all students are invited to attend the Winton Combined Schools' Swimming Carnival, which officially commences at 5 pm. Students born in 2016 or earlier have the option to compete in the 200 m Individual Medley at 4:30 pm; note that this event is not required for Age Champion points, although all other events are. The main program focuses on students born between 2013 and 2017, who will compete in races in the order of Breaststroke, Backstroke, Butterfly, and Freestyle. Students born in 2017 will swim 25 m

P&F UPDATES

NEXT MEETING

Monday, November 10th

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

Principal News (Cont.)

lengths, while those born before 2017 will swim 50 m lengths. Students born in 2018 or later will take part in a modified program of novelty races in the big pool alongside swimming helpers and water activities in the mid-sized pool. The Winton Shire Council will be providing a free BBQ dinner, and we hope that, combined with the cooler evening weather, this will encourage an even bigger turnout of spectators for the event.

Coordinated by the Winton Shire Council, next Friday we will be teaming up with the Winton State School to commemorate Day for Daniel. We understand some students may not attend following the Swimming Carnival and have rearranged our day to accommodate this, so they aren't missing any classwork. Students who do attend are to be dropped off and collected from St Pat's as usual. Students are invited to raise awareness by wearing red and making a gold coin donation. The WSC will also be providing a Hotdog Lunch for all students, but please still pack Morning Tea for them.

In 2026, North-West will not be holding a Swimming Trial, and the committee has also confirmed that Central West will follow suit. This means that students hoping to make the NW swimming team for state championships will need to individually nominate by submitting times from a Swimming Australia sanctioned event. The decision was made at a level beyond the school and, unfortunately, was only announced this week, leaving us with little opportunity to adjust our current plans. I, like many families, am frustrated by this change and know it will limit our ability to have Winton representatives at a NW level. Central West, in conjunction with North-West, is preparing a detailed letter to all families outlining the change and the nomination process, and I will share that information as soon as it is available. This sudden change marks a shift from the current school swimming selection process, where times from school carnivals were used, and will take effect from the start of the 2026 school year. While we will continue with our Combined Swimming Carnival this year, we will review the timing of the event in future years for example, holding it at the end of summer, now that we are no longer required to submit times over the school holiday period.

Although we've still plenty of learning to happen before the school holidays it is that time of year our community is curious about our staffing for the following year and regarding this I've two important announcements to make:

1. Mrs Linda Harris has taken a full-time permanent position in Longreach and will conclude in her role of traveling to Winton once a week as our Specialist Lesson Teacher. Whilst this position was only a trial for the 2026 year we will continue the role of employing a Part-Time Specialist Lesson Teacher into our future and will begin recruitment for this shortly.
2. Last term, I proudly shared that I had joined the Catholic Leadership Foundation's Into The Deep Program and had planned to take Professional Renewal Leave and Long Service Leave in Term 1. However, in a delightful turn of events, I will now be taking Maternity Leave for the 2026 school year. I understand the significance of this news for our school community particularly as we near the end of the year, but ask for your understanding regarding the personal nature of this announcement and wanting to wait an appropriate time before making such announcement. The recruitment process for my replacement has already commenced, and I anticipate that Townsville Catholic Education will be in a position to announce an acting principal for 2026 within the fortnight.
3. All other staff including teachers and school officers will be continuing in their current roles in 2026.

Don't forget to show a little extra love to your Grandparents and Special Friends this weekend! We had an absolute delight hosting you this morning at our Grandparents and Special Friends festivities. Every year the crowd and enthusiasm grows, today the energy was so high, I could hardly keep up! With all that excitement it felt like we were all children for a while this morning... and we loved every minute of it.

- *Bridget Tully*

Early Years (P&1) News

Ahoy, families! Term 4 has kicked off with a swashbuckling start as our Early Years pirates took to the stage in Peter Pan! From Neverland to centre stage, our little stars truly hooked the audience with their confidence, courage and charm. We couldn't be more proud of each and every performer who showed that with a sprinkle of pixie dust and a whole lot of heart, anything is possible!

In English, Week 2 and 3 have been action-packed with imagination and creativity bursting at the seams! Students have been learning to create their very own imaginative texts-complete with a beginning, middle, and end. Our journey began with We're Going on a Bear Hunt, helping us sequence our stories in the right order (because no one wants to find the bear before you've even packed your picnic). Next up was The Gruffalo, where students discovered the magic of mighty word choices like knobbly knees, terrible tusks, and purple prickles. This week, the fun reached a new plot twist as students began to innovate their own versions of The Three Little Pigs. From The Three Huge T-Rex's to The Three Miniature Ghosts (featuring a witch as the bad guy, of course), it's safe to say our authors know how to keep their readers huffing and puffing for more! In reading, students have been polishing their performance skills by focusing on reading with expression, because stories aren't just meant to be read, they're meant to be felt! They've loved watching Miss Hawke bring Fantastic Mr Fox to life (with some truly fantastic voices and word choices). Students have been putting these skills into practice through Story Plays and Reader's Theatre, proving they're ready for any stage, big or small.



Early Years (cont.)

In Maths, after subtracting our worries about subtraction, students added a new skill to their mathematical toolkit, collecting and representing data! Collaboratively, they created questions, collected answers using tally marks and turned their findings into colourful pictographs. From favourite fruits to the most popular playground games, students have been graphing their greatness and making clever inferences about what their data tells them. Independently, they've also begun creating bar graphs. Talk about raising the bar!

In Religion, students have been exploring the special sacrament of Baptism, learning about the rituals, symbols and items that make this such a meaningful celebration. From the white gown to the baptism candle and anointing oil, students discovered how Baptism is a beautiful way of being welcomed into both the Church and God's family.

Our HASS lessons have had students reflecting on the many ways we celebrate and commemorate special moments (from birthdays and Christmas to ANZAC Day and NAIDOC Week). Through discussions and collaborative tasks, students are learning the difference between celebrations and commemorations.

In Science, curiosity is in full swing (and roll, push and pull)! Students have been investigating how and why objects move the way they do. From blocks that slide to balls that roll, students are discovering that science isn't just about questions and answers, it's about wondering, predicting, testing and giggling when the objects zoom off the table.

- Miss Hawke



Middle Primary (2&3) News

Middle Primary have launched into Term 4 with enthusiasm and creativity, making the most of every learning opportunity. The term began with an exciting start as students participated in a professional performance of Peter Pan. They loved working alongside performers, learning drama techniques and building confidence through guided workshops. It was an excellent way to spark imagination and teamwork!

In Week 2, Middle Primary launched into English with a focus on the 6+1 Writing Traits, beginning with Ideas. Students have been learning how to generate and develop their own ideas in writing, while also identifying strong ideas in the texts they read - leading to rich discussions and imaginative pieces. In Spelling, we've been focusing on long vowel sounds, starting with the long a and moving into the long e, using word sorts, games, and writing tasks to reinforce these patterns across reading and writing. Reading has been a particular highlight, with many students showing exciting progress as they move up levels, build fluency, and grow in confidence.



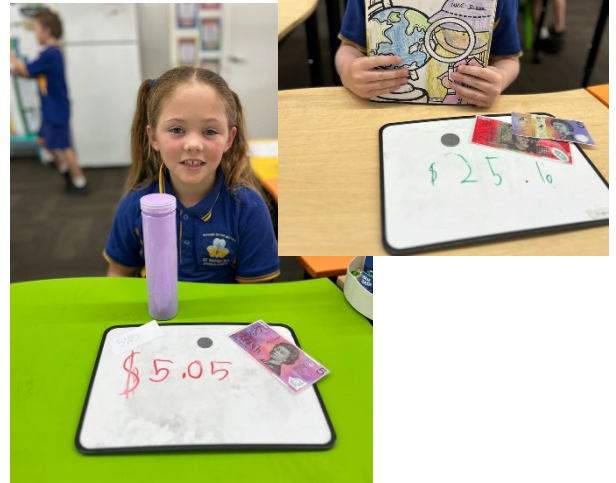
Middle Primary (cont.)

In Mathematics, our focus has been on financial literacy. Students have been learning to identify coins and notes, and apply addition and subtraction strategies in money related contexts. Differentiated tasks have supported learners at all levels, ensuring everyone is challenged and supported.

Religion lessons have seen us wrapping up last term's inquiry into parish communities. Year 2 students have been exploring the history of parish life and how it is revealed through stories, symbols, and traditions. Year 3 students have deepened their understanding of how clergy, religious, and lay people work together to shape parish and diocesan life in the past and present.

In HASS, we've begun our Civics and Citizenship unit, where students are learning about rules, responsibilities, and the importance of community participation. Meanwhile, in Science, we're investigating push and pull forces through hands-on experiments and real-world examples that help students understand how objects move and interact.

- Miss Warry



Upper Primary (4/5/6) News

What an unforgettable week our Year 5/6 students had at camp in the Whitsundays! From sunrise to sunset, there was never a dull moment and our students truly shone every step of the way. Whether it was tackling new challenges, supporting their mates, or showing impeccable manners, they represented St Patrick's with pride and positivity. From the long haul drive to the last goodbye, their teamwork and enthusiasm never wavered!

On Tuesday, students were in their togs from 7 am to 5 pm - now that's what we call a school day! We travelled a total of 110 km by boat, exploring some of the most breathtaking parts of the Whitsundays. Our first stop was snorkelling around Dumbbell Island, where students participated in a marine survey to collect data on fish species, turtles, sharks, and anemones living in the reef. A few curious jellyfish made an appearance too, but luckily, they were the type without brains, so they couldn't think of stinging our brave snorkellers! Of course, the day wouldn't have been complete without a bit of adventure. Miss Candice set the trend by leaping off the boat into the crystal-blue water. After our reef adventure, we cruised to a lookout with panoramic views of the beaches and islands before finishing the day with a swim at Whitehaven Beach, where students fed fish and tried their best to catch a scaly souvenir. What a fantastic day on (and in) the water!

On Wednesday, we enjoyed a more relaxed morning making the most of the resort's facilities one last time. There was some fierce competition on the mini-golf course! Later, students travelled to Townsville where the fun continued at the Ninja Parc, King Pin Bowling, and Laser Tag. Miss Stacey's competitive streak came out in full force. Rumour has it the students might just have taken the win in bowling (though Miss Stacey insists it was a "technical glitch" on the scoreboard)! We wrapped up the day laughing, sharing stories, and carb-loading at Fasta Pasta.

Camp is such a special opportunity for our students to grow in independence, resilience, and self-discovery. It's where they step up, try something new, and learn just how capable they really are. It was incredible to watch our Upper Primary students take on every experience with courage and a smile. Beyond the adventure, they also built new friendships and strengthened connections with students from our sister school, St Francis, Hughenden. There was laughter, teamwork, and plenty of memories that will be cherished for years to come.

- Miss Stacey

