



ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL WINTON

TERM 4 | Week 9 | 2025

Friday December 5th
Last Day, Half Day

Monday December 8th
Report Cards Published
Via COMPASS

Monday January 26th
Australia Day Public Holiday

Tuesday January 27th
Pupil Free Day

Wednesday January 28th
First Day of 2026
School commences at 8.30am,
drop off anytime from 8.15am.

CHRISTMAS MASS

Join us for Christmas Eve Mass,
December 24th at 6pm in the St
Patrick's Church.



GET IN CONTACT

Our office is intermitently
staffed throughout the
Christmas School Holidays but
we're always contactable assist
with getting ready for school
and to answer any questions
you may have.
**Phone 4657 1652 and leave a
voicemail or email
wntn@tsv.catholic.edu.au
and we'll get straight back to
you.**

Newsletter

A Message from Our Principal

Just like that, our 2025 school year has come to a close. And you can bet St Pat's students were kept abuzz with learning and engagement right up until the final school bell. As I described at our Presentation Night, this school year has been one of consistency in all the right ways. Even as we cracked the 50-student enrolment mark, we've remained committed to high-quality, personalised education every single day, resulting in another wonderful year of building student achievement and exceeding benchmarks. Highlights for the year included taking part in Winton's 150th celebrations, representing our school and diocese as an executive delegate for the Queensland Catholic Primary Principals Association, and our Mini-Mulka experience, where in one short week students brought Peter Pan to life in a full-scale performance.

Earlier this week, our community gathered for our End of Year Mass. Alongside giving thanks for the many blessings we've received throughout the year, the Mass, centred on the birth of Christ, offered a beautiful reminder that every ending holds the promise of new life. Just as Christmas marks the beginning of a new chapter in our faith story, so too does the close of our school year open the door to fresh beginnings as we look with hope and excitement toward 2026. This gathering was also our final opportunity to formally farewell and bless our Year 6 graduates. Although it is always a bittersweet milestone, this year we feel their departure especially as these students have been instrumental in shaping the culture and spirit of our school. Yet even as we celebrate all they have contributed, we do so with pride and optimism, knowing their legacy will continue to inspire students who follow.

As the old saying goes, there are two certainties in life—death and taxes—and I think we could add 'rain at the St Pat's Fete' to that list as well. Yet even the wild weather couldn't dampen our community spirit. With a shed packed full of stalls, generous fete-goers and incredible raffles and prizes, this year's fete was our most successful since the school took over the event from the parish five years ago. We are truly grateful to everyone who contributed from local businesses and families that sponsored the event, to stallholders, volunteers and those who helped with the set-up and pack-up. We love running this event each year as a way of giving back to the community that gives so much to us.

Our term dates for 2026 are included on the back, and we look forward to welcoming all students on the first day, Wednesday, January 28th. Classrooms will open at 8:15am for an 8:30am start. Just a reminder that we provide all books and learning materials students need for the year. With regards to uniforms checked shirts can be purchased from Searles, and sports shirts and school hats are available at our school office. Otherwise, children simply need to bring their bag packed with lunch, a hat, and a water bottle to be ready for the first day.

Our St Pat's team will all be returning to the positions you know and love in 2026: Miss Hawke as our Early Years Teacher (Prep and Year 1), Miss Warry as our Middle Primary Teacher (Years 2 and 3), and Miss Stacey as our Upper Primary Teacher (Years 4, 5 and 6). As previously announced, over the holidays, we will be recruiting to backfill Dayna's Specialist Teacher position as she assumes the Acting Principal role for 2026 while I step aside to take maternity leave.

Finally, from the bottom of my heart, thank you for the support and absolute privilege you have afforded me in leading this unbelievable school, community, and little family over the past five and a half years. At St Pat's, we know what an honour it is to be, as our motto reminds us, just one footstep in our students' faith and future. I cannot wait to see the footsteps this school and these extraordinary young people will take in the years ahead.

Merry Christmas, enjoy the Summer Holidays and Thank You!

Bridget Tully

Early Years (P&1) News

What a joyful finish to the year we've had in Early Years! Santa's mischievous elf, Elfie, kept everyone guessing with his daily surprises. Students delighted in discovering his antics each morning, and we're hoping he finds his way back to our classroom again next year.

English saw students publishing their own innovations of familiar texts. Throughout the week, we teamed up with Upper Primary to move through the entire writing process. During this collaboration, our Early Years learners confidently stepped into the illustrator role and helped shape the direction of each story, resulting in some truly impressive writing pieces.

In Maths, students revisited addition using a strong focus on place value. Using the YUMI mat, they explored how numbers move to represent tens and ones while also practising how to sequence numbers accurately. This revision strengthened their understanding and wrapped up our mathematical learning beautifully.

Across Religion lessons, students have been re-engaging with scripture and daily prayer routines. Over two wonderful days, we joined Middle and Upper Primary classes to explore the themes of Advent. Together, we unpacked key Bible passages, created Advent wreaths, and illustrated actions for our Advent calendars.

HASS learning took students on a journey around the world as they compared Christmas celebrations in Australia, Japan and Mexico. Through this exploration, they discovered the unique foods, traditions and gift-giving customs that make each country's Christmas special.

As we close out the year, I wish all families a merry and safe Christmas. Thank you for your support, warmth and partnership. I am excited to continue at St Patrick's next year as the Prep/Year 1 Teacher.

- Miss Hawke



Middle Primary (2&3) News

Middle Primary have been busy this term working through the Writing Traits to create their own imaginative pieces in English. Students have moved through the writing process—planning, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing—while using the traits to ensure their work is of high quality. It has been wonderful to see their creativity shine and their confidence grow as writers.

In Mathematics, our focus has been on consolidating key number concepts from across the year. Students have engaged in games and activities to strengthen their understanding of number patterns, addition, subtraction, and place value. This revision has helped them connect ideas, practise strategies, and prepare for the next stage of their learning journey.

In Religion, we have explored the liturgical season of Advent, reflecting on its meaning and importance as we prepare for Christmas. Alongside this, students have enjoyed celebrating the festive season in the classroom with Christmas parties, creative artwork, and joyful activities.

In HASS, students put their learning about democracy into practice by voting earlier in the term for their end-of-year class reward. This week, they finally enjoyed their chosen celebration, which was a wonderful way to see their understanding of democratic processes come to life.

As we wrap up the year, we would like to wish all families a joyful Christmas filled with peace, love, and special moments together. May the holiday season bring rest and happiness, and we look forward to an exciting year ahead in 2026.

- Miss Warry



Upper Primary (4/5/6) News

As we enter our final week of school, Upper Primary has been buzzing with creativity, collaboration and celebration.

In English, students spent four action-packed days working alongside the Early Years to complete our whole-school writing project. Across the week, our writers created a wonderful variety of text types including short stories, recipes, persuasive letters and even recounts capturing the daily life of an elf! Back in class, Upper Primary students have also been focusing on crafting well-written paragraphs through persuasive texts- strengthening their ability to structure ideas clearly and convince an audience with purposeful language choices.

In Mathematics, students continued attending self-selected number clinic groups, choosing concepts that best supported their learning goals. These clinics included multiplication of two-digit numbers by one- and two-digit numbers, breaking apart and analysing worded problems, short division-with and without remainders- and even a maths games station, providing a brain break while still building fluency and number sense. Students have enjoyed the independence, challenge and ownership that these clinics encourage.

In Religion, the last fortnight has been full of joy and laughter as students retold the birth of Jesus- with a modern twist! Given a set of creative criteria, Upper Primary delivered hilarious and engaging drama performances. Instead of travelling on donkeys, Mary and Joseph arrived in Teslas; Siri provided directions to Joseph's hometown; angels communicated through iPhones; and selfies were taken at the stable! Despite the humorous updates, students thoughtfully preserved the key messages of the biblical story and reflected on how modern storytelling can engage audiences while staying true to Scripture.

In Week 9, the whole school came together to explore the season of Advent, focusing particularly on the Advent wreath described by Isaiah. Students deepened their understanding of the messages of hope, love, peace and joy, collaboratively creating Advent wreaths, and on Tuesday created Advent calendars inspired by biblical teachings.

Wishing all our families a safe and joyful Christmas break. I look forward to returning in the new year and continuing to teach our wonderful Upper Primary students.

- Miss Stacey



ST PAT'S COMMUNITY FETE - THANK YOU

We were overwhelmed by the support we received towards this year's Fete. Mark it in your 2026 calendar because we will be back. In addition to our sponsors and our Fete Convenor Vickie Bowden, we would like to thank the following helpers:

St Patrick's Staff

St Patrick's P&F Committee

Alan Gilliland

Winton Work Camp

St Patrick's Parish

Gavin Baskett

Belly's Beats

Peter Thompson

Richard Scarr

Marvellous Miss Mary

Sim Morris

Hannah Tanks

Ergon Energy

Mitch Mullins

Harry Brodie

Winton Firies

John Paynter

John Mahwinney



2026 TERM DATES



Term 1

Wednesday 28 January -
Wednesday 1 April

Thursday 2 April - IPRASS Travel Day

Term 2

Monday 20 April -
Friday 26 June

Term 3

Monday 13 July -
Thursday 17 September

Friday 18 September - IPRASS Travel Day

Term 4

Tuesday 6 October -
Friday 4 December