



ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL WINTON

Newsletter

A Message From Our Principal

The past two weeks have been full of energy and growth across the school. Students embraced new challenges and overcame fears during our exciting skateboarding workshops. The Upper Primary impressed us all with their informative and well-prepared Wax Museum presentations, and the Middle Primary class led a thoughtful Father's Day Prayer, supported by beautiful contributions from every year level.

Throughout the year, our staff engage in ongoing professional learning to enhance their ability to create dynamic, high-quality, and inclusive classrooms—ultimately leading to better student outcomes. On Friday's Pupil Free Day, we had the pleasure of hosting the team from St Francis in Hughenden. As well as showcasing our school, our teachers participated in professional development focused on the Science of Learning and had valuable opportunities to collaborate and moderate assessment pieces.

Earlier this year, Townsville Catholic Education announced that their much-loved youth arts festival, Mulkadee, would be placed on an indefinite pause. No one was more devastated by this news than our Year 6 students, who had eagerly watched and waited for their turn to participate—having seen the Year 5/6 students attend each year since they first started school. Mulkadee gave our students an incredible opportunity to develop their talents by immersing them in a dedicated, multidisciplinary performing arts experience, supported by industry professionals. The loss of Mulkadee is a significant one—particularly for students in regional and remote areas, where access to large-scale, specialist arts experiences is limited. So, with the strong support of our parents, we decided to bring the spirit of Mulkadee to Winton—creating a special experience we've coined 'Mini-Mulka' for our whole school community to enjoy.

Our Mini-Mulka experience will take place during Week 1 of Term 4, from Tuesday, October 7th to Saturday, October 11th. Throughout the week (Tuesday to Friday), students will participate in an intensive, bootcamp-style workshop led by professional educators from TheatreiNQ. This exciting week of rehearsals and creative development will culminate in a special performance of Peter Pan on Saturday. Please note, while some Townsville Catholic Education schools may have an additional pupil-free day during this week, our school will not. Due to our commitment to delivering this unique and enriching Mini-Mulka experience, full student attendance is essential throughout the entire week.

We are incredibly excited to provide this unique opportunity for our students to engage deeply with the performing arts, develop new skills, and create lasting memories together. Mini-Mulka promises to be a highlight of the year, and we can't wait to see our whole school community come alive with creativity and joy during this special week.

If you think things might slow down as we come into the end of Term 3, look out, because we plan on finishing up on an absolute high. Luckily there's a long weekend to ensure everyone is well rested for our end of term events such as Storyfest and the Winton Bush Poetry Festival.

Due to staff travelling for work commitments followed by all our staff attending Storyfest our office will be largely unstaffed this week. Please give any important messages to Dayna who will be on duty before and after school or your classroom teacher. Alternatively, you can email me and I will respond as soon as possible.

Bridget Tully

TERM 3 | Week 8 | 2025

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

Tuesday October 7th
Term 4 Commences

Saturday October 11th
St Pat's presents Peter Pan

October 20th-23rd
Year 5/6 SMYLE Camp

Friday October 24th
Grandparents' Morning

Tuesday November 4th
Winton Gazetted Show
Holiday

Tuesday November 17th
Presentation Night

Friday November 28th
Annual Community Fete

Friday December 5th
Last Day, Half 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, October 13th

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

Early Years (P&1) News

From echidnas with spikes to arguments with bite, our Early Years writing took a sharp turn from informative to persuasive, and thankfully the chairs survived to tell the tale. In English, students have been working through the Writing Process to become published authors and illustrators of their very own book. Each child chose an Australian animal and used their paraphrasing skills to create simple fact-filled sentences and beautiful illustrations. These masterpieces are now published and proudly displayed in our classroom so pop in and have a read. This is a huge achievement for our Early Years students and they are so proud of their work. To kick off our persuasive writing, something unusual happened in the Early Years classroom... we had no chairs! Students worked together to write a persuasive text convincing Miss Tully that chairs are essential in our classroom. They brainstormed powerful word choices like superior and illustrations to strengthen their arguments. Their reasons were so convincing that the chairs were finally returned.

In Maths, we've moved from polygons to problems, as their maths skills just keeps adding up! Students explored all things 2D and 3D shapes like their names, comparing their features and even sorting them into groups. As students dived into addition, they have given the plus sign a fun new nickname - Gus the Plus! Prep students have been developing their knowledge of counting strategies. They have been finger counting, using ten frames and drawing pictures to add numbers up to 10... at this rate, they'll have more strategies than a magician has tricks up his sleeve! Meanwhile, our Year 1s have been applying their knowledge of place value to solve addition problems. They are full of big number knowledge, ask them how many tens make 100 and watch them light up with answers!

In Religion, students have been learning about the Golden Rule: Treat others the way you want to be treated. Together, we explored what this really looks like in our everyday lives. The class brainstormed and acted out 'bucket-filling' behaviours such as giving compliments, smiling at others, using kind words and lending a helping hand. We talked about how these small actions can make a big difference in filling someone's 'bucket' and spreading joy. As a class, we also reflected on how Jesus would treat others in our classroom- with patience, respect, kindness and love. Students enjoyed role-playing these ideas and thinking of real-life situations where they can put the Golden Rule into practice, both at school and at home.

In HASS, we have budding geographers who have been exploring maps! Students compared globes, Google Maps and traditional paper maps while discussing their different purposes. They were amazed to discover that there are 7 continents on Earth. Can you name all 7 like our Early Years explorers?

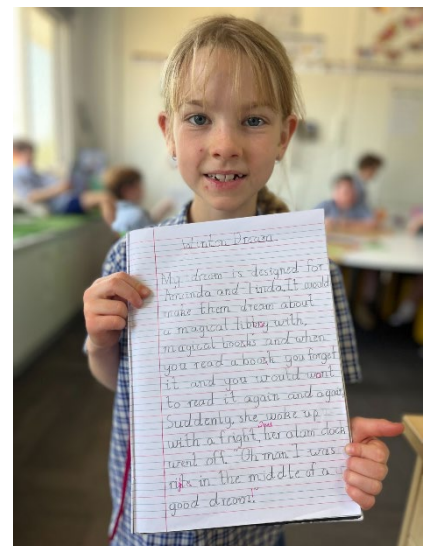
In Science, we've been investigating materials and their properties. Students made predictions about whether different materials could bend, break, or twist before testing them out in hands-on experiments. Wood, plastic, metal and paper were all put to the test. Students were amazed that paper could twist and bend, but wood wasn't quite so flexible.

- Miss Hawke

Middle Primary (2&3) News

Throughout the week, Middle Primary students have engaged in creative tasks, explored a range of concepts both new and familiar, and participated in reflective dialogue across learning areas.

In English, both Year 2 and Year 3 students have been inspired by Roald Dahl's *The BFG*, using the text as a mentor for crafting original poems. Year 2 students created acrostic poems that captured the magic and mischief of the story's characters, experimenting with descriptive vocabulary and playful phrasing. Year 3 students extended this work by composing rhyming couplets, building rhythm and meaning through paired lines. Their poems demonstrated growing control over sentence structure and purposeful language choices as they explored how poetic devices can entertain, inform, and evoke emotions. Across both year levels, students reflected on their creative decisions and shared their work with pride.

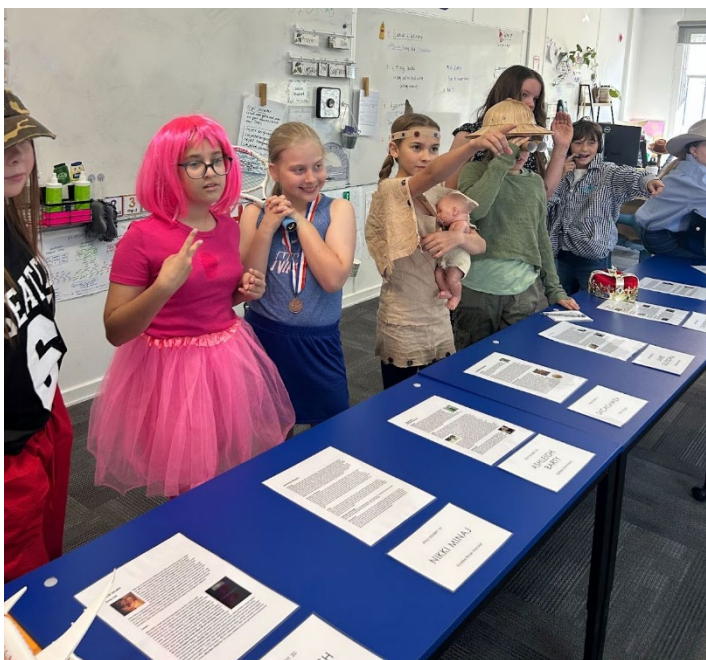


Middle Primary (cont.)

In Mathematics, we've wrapped up our unit on time. Students interpreted calendars, read clocks, estimated durations and sequenced events in everyday contexts. Year 2 learners demonstrated their ability to represent time and apply it to real-life situations, while Year 3 students used their understanding to solve problems involving elapsed time and daily scheduling. We engaged in short time trials to apply stopwatch skills in engaging hands-on ways. With this unit complete, Year 2 is now consolidating number concepts, including place value, counting sequences and mental strategies for addition and subtraction. These foundational skills are helping students build fluency and flexibility in mathematical thinking. Meanwhile, Year 3 students have begun exploring angles—identifying right, acute and obtuse angles, describing turns and using geometric language to reason about space and shape. Their investigations have sparked plenty of “aha!” moments as they connect abstract ideas to the physical world.

In Religion, students have begun our new unit titled "The Church Community." Through stories, discussions, and reflections, they are learning about the roles, symbols, and shared beliefs that shape Christian communities. This unit encourages students to consider how belonging to a faith community supports identity, connection and purpose. Already, students have begun sharing their own experiences of community—from family traditions to school events—and making thoughtful links to the values of care, service and belonging.

- Miss Warry



Upper Primary (4/5/6) News

It's been another buzzing fortnight in Upper Primary – with writing, reading, numbers and even a touch of divine inspiration keeping our brains firing. Here's a peek into what your brilliant young learners have been up to.

The highlight of recent weeks was our Wax Museum Exhibit, where students stepped into the shoes (and sometimes the wigs and hats!) of famous figures they researched. Their biography writing was polished, purposeful and proudly presented to parents, staff and peers. The costumes were just the cherry on top! A huge thank you to everyone who came along to support our young authors.

Alongside this, students are sharpening their reading fluency through Readers' Theatre, checking in weekly with their goals and conferencing with their teacher. Vocabulary has also been under the microscope, as we investigate those “tricky but terrific” unknown words. In spelling, the focus has been on complex consonant graphemes. Students are becoming experts at spotting and using them.

After flexing their skills in converting measurements, students have now blasted off into the world of Space (no, not the astronaut kind – though that would be fun too!).

- Year 4 have been mastering grid references – imagine treasure maps, but with fewer pirates and more precision.
- Year 5 are confidently reading ordered pairs and plotting their positions in the first quadrant – turning numbers into neat little coordinates.
- Year 6 are extending their thinking onto the full Cartesian plane, working with all four quadrants, positive and negative integers and plenty of cross-checking.

Upper Primary (cont.)

It's safe to say we've been plotting, locating and mapping more than Google Maps itself!

In Religion, students are exploring the New Testament, focusing on the Pentecost story. They've been reflecting on the Holy Spirit's presence – how it moved among the Apostles then, and how its gifts and fruits continue to move among us today. From courage to kindness, students are realising these gifts aren't just stories from the past – they're qualities we can live out every day (even on Monday mornings!).

Upper Primary continues to buzz with curiosity, energy and creativity. Every week, we're reminded of how much growth happens when students are challenged, encouraged and celebrated. As we head into the final stretch of the term, we're encouraging students to finish strong – keeping up their effort, showing persistence and maintaining high attendance.

- Miss Stacey



Religious Information

Pope Leo became the new leader of the Catholic Church in May 2025, just a few months ago. He follows Pope Francis and is already bringing a fresh energy to the Church. As Pope, his role is to guide Catholics around the world, share the message of Jesus, and help people live their faith. Pope Leo is focusing on young people, modern technology, and making everyone feel welcome in the Church. His recent decision to make a young, tech-savvy teenager, Carlo Acutis, a saint shows his desire to connect faith with the modern world.

In that same spirit, our own St Patrick's Parish has launched a Facebook page — be sure to follow it to stay up to date with Mass times, events, and parish news!



**St Patrick's Parish
Winton**

73 followers • 0 following

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