



ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL WINTON

TERM 1 | Week 7 | 2024

13th – 22nd March

NAPLAN Testing Window

Thursday 14th March

Student Safety Session

Class Lessons on Protective
Behaviours with Guidance Officer
Miss Britt

Friday 15th March

St Patrick's Feast Day

Everyone welcome to a morning of
activities including Year 6 Leaders
Induction

Friday 22nd March

Ride 2 School

WSC Event - Meet 7am at the Barry
Wilson Memorial Park

Monday 25th March

Cross Country

Wednesday 27th March

Last Day of Term

Thursday 28th March

IPRASS Travel Day

29th March – 1st April

Easter Long Weekend

Monday 15th April

Term 2 Commences

P&F Meeting

Monday, March 11th

5pm in the St Patricks
Assembly Room

Newsletter

A Message From Our Principal

Happy International Women's Day to our fantastic all-female team of educators! It is an honour to work alongside such passionate, talented and resilient women. We often speak about the importance of positive school/home relationships for student wellbeing and success, but respectful partnerships support the work of our teachers and school officers and therefore enhances the culture of our workplace. There is a crisis of teacher shortages across our nation because of overwhelming job demands. It is important, particularly now, that we all do our bit to ensure we maintain our positive school community for the benefit of both our students and staff.

This week, I attended Townsville Catholic Education (TCE) Principals' Conference in Townsville. This conference provides valuable opportunities for me to learn from, liaise with and be inspired by other senior leaders. At St Pat's we are privileged, even in our rural remote setting, to be supported by such an extensive team across our diocese and ensure that our students are afforded the same opportunities and experiences as though they were at any one of our TCE schools. I thank Mrs Mary-Ellen Pattinson for helping out during my time away.

Next week, students in Year 3 and 5 will commence NAPLAN Testing. We maintain a very relaxed approach to NAPLAN as we do all assessment, placing no extra pressure on students regarding the tests and urge parents to do the same. We have worked with students across the term to ensure they have all the skills to access the test, such as navigating the test functions, without overwhelming them about test specific content. Our schedule for testing is as follows:

WRITING	READING	CONVENTIONS OF LANGUAGE	NUMERACY
Wednesday, March 13 th	Thursday, March 14 th	Monday, March 18 th	Tuesday, March 19 th

If you know your child will be absent for a scheduled test please advise me at your earliest convenience so I can arrange catch-up tests.

Survey season is upon us. In the next few weeks, you will be asked to fill out two surveys both related to our Catholic School Renewal process that we are undergoing this year. Every five years we go through a rigorous process as part of our funding agreements. It is also a time for reflection and discernment about the future direction of our school. I encourage you to complete the surveys in a timely manner to the best of your ability. The Enhancing School Catholic Identity (ECI) is already available to parents via COMPASS. Please don't let the Catholic title put you off responding. You are all part of our St Patrick's community and want to hear from you and what you value.

I hope to see you all geared up in green for our annual St Patrick's Day festivities next Friday at 8.30am commencing with a liturgy where we will induct our Year 6 School Leaders.

Bridget Tully

Early Years (P&1) News

I can't believe these little learners have only been at school for 7 weeks! They have truly settled into routine, and now it's full steam ahead towards finishing their first term as St Pat's students.



To complete our procedural unit, students have applied all their knowledge to create their own pictorial and written texts to showcase their skills. We have become quite the cooks in the Early Years classroom, so if you're looking for steps on how to make a banana split ice-cream, ham and cheese sandwich, buttered toast or even how to go down a slide, look no further than the walls displaying these students' amazing work. For the remainder of the term, students will be exploring likes and dislikes of familiar topics using descriptive language.

Who remembers learning how to subitise numbers in Prep? Subitising is the ability to recognise a small quantities amount without counting it such as when a person holds their five fingers up or the three on a dice. This foundational skill is what the Preps are focusing on for the next fortnight. Year Ones are developing their skills to skip count in 2s, 5s and 10s from any starting point.

As we are learning about The Creation Story, we have also been discussing God's plan for humanity and how we can become our best selves. As a class, we have been exploring how people live in this world, how we treat one another and what respect and dignity looks like through God's eyes. Over the next fortnight, students will be working towards writing prayers of thanks through the You-Who-Through-Do structure.



Science has been a hit this term with the Early Years class! We have been exploring what plants and animals need to survive and what happens if their needs aren't met. To consolidate our learning, students had the option to pick either a water, land or polar animal of interest. Students planned their animals' ideal habitat which included shelter, water and food and turned these plans into dioramas. It was amazing to see how invested this class was in adding every last detail from their drawings into their animals' habitats.

- Miss Casey

Middle Primary (2&3) News

During English and Literacy learning, students composed texts of their choice including imaginative, persuasive and procedural. They applied the taught writing traits to their work and are showing wonderful growth in being able to write fluent sentences, use conventions and consider appropriate word choice to engage their audience. They have also broadened their knowledge of proper and common nouns, ghost letters, parts of speech and long vowel spelling patterns.

In Mathematics, students have been using a variety of strategies to solve subtraction sums and word problems. They applied their knowledge of addition and subtraction to identify, continue and create number patterns. The Year Three students have also been completing numeracy revision questions in readiness for NAPLAN, which begins next week.

In Religion, students worked collaboratively to create thoughtful prayers of praise and forgiveness. Over the coming weeks, they will create and illustrate their own prayers.



Middle Primary (cont.)

In Science, to wrap up their unit on the Earth's rotation and everyday observations, students completed a Leap Year lesson on February 29. They have since begun their new unit about Earth's resources, how to identify them and what their uses are.

During Humanities and Social Sciences, students have loved being transported to places around the world to investigate celebrations and commemorations. So far, they have received boarding passes to experience Chinese New Year, Bastille Day, Waitangi Day, Diwali, and Independence Day.

- Miss Brodie



Upper Primary News



In English, students are finalising their class novel, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, where they have been identifying the figurative language devices used by Roald Dahl. Students have explored the personality traits of each character within the text, and created a range of figurative language examples to describe their chosen character. They are preparing for their final English task for the term where they will create character posters to demonstrate their deep understanding of figurative language devices. Students are working diligently on their free writing pieces. I'm very proud of the initiative of our Upper Primary students who have explored and drafted a range of text types so early in the year, these include: persuasive texts, recipes, narratives, game boards and comic strips.



In Mathematics, students are reviewing and revising number and algebra concepts taught this term. Year Four students have been exploring the properties of odd and even numbers through addition, subtraction and multiplication problems. They have applied their knowledge and skills to solve complex sums to deepen their understanding of these number concepts. Year Five students have been extending their knowledge and understanding of multiplication by solving multi-numerical problems. They have been preparing for NAPLAN through daily practices of a range of mathematical concepts across the curriculum, including measurement, number sense, algebra, space, probability and statistics. Year Six students have been solving a range of problems where they applied their knowledge of prime and composite numbers, and squared numbers to solve complex order of operation sums.



Our religious unit has focussed on prayer and scriptures in the Old Testament. Students have learnt about the technique of parallelism and its purpose through scripture. They will learn about Mary and her role as the Mother of Jesus and of the Christian Church. Students will analyse elements and features of Marian prayers to describe the role of these types of prayers in the life of believers both past and present.

Our students have been working on something to present at the St Patrick's Day Liturgy.

Looking forward to another fabulous fortnight of learning. Everyday counts in the Upper Primary class!

- Miss Stacey



ST PATRICK'S FEAST DAY

WHO All friends, families and parishioners

WHAT Liturgy with Year 6 Leaders Induction,
Bingo, Outdoor Games and Morning
Tea

WHERE St Patrick's School

WHEN 8.30am on Friday March 15th

WHY To celebrate our Patron Saint - St
Patrick

WEAR YOUR BEST GREEN OUTFIT

APRE News

A brief history of our namesake – St Patrick in preparation for his Feast Day:

The legend of St Patrick, although filled with some storytelling exaggerations, is a tale of bravery and unwavering faith even in adverse times. Widely known as the Irish patron saint, St Patrick is actually from England. When he was 16 he was taken from his family's home by Irish Raiders. Patrick was held captive in Ireland for six years. During this time he worked as a shepherd outdoors away from civilisation. Lonely and afraid, he turned to his religion, becoming a devout Christian. A voice—which he believed to be God's—spoke to him in a dream, telling him it was time to leave Ireland. This voice guided him safely back to Britain, on foot he walked 300 kilometres to the coast where a cautious captain allowed him to board his ship and flee Ireland. Upon his return to Britain Patrick reported that he experienced a second revelation—an angel in a dream telling him to return to Ireland as a missionary. After being ordained a priest he was sent to Ireland with a dual mission: to minister to Christians already living in Ireland and to begin to convert the Irish.

St Patrick continues today to be a source of inspiration both for our staff and students. Although he experienced martyrdom Patrick was renowned for teaching from his heart and making his message relatable to others.

Join us for mass with Fr Eme this Sunday at 6.30pm in the St Patrick's Church