

Week 1 Term 1 2024

Dear families and friends,

St Paul's was bubbling with excitement on Monday with the anticipation of the exciting year of new learning and friendships. It was a pleasure to welcome new and existing families back and see the students settle into their new classes so quickly.

This morning, St Paul's had the pleasure of **welcoming Bishop Michael, Miss Jeffcoat and Mr Kelso** for a school visit. Bishop Michael is making the effort to visit every school in the Diocese before his Bishop Inservice Day on the 16th February. He is passionate about Catholic Education wanting to remain connected to staff and the students and acknowledges the good work that is happening in our schools. A massive commitment by Bishop Micheal and Leesa Jeffcoat and it was great to see the students engaging with them so well.



Please take the time to read some information from the holidays and recent events.

- ✓ **Congratulations** to Olivia and Dom Jorgensen on the safe arrival of a healthy little boy, William Henry, on the 16<sup>th</sup> January. I am happy to report that both mother and child are doing well, and William is as cute as a button.
- ✓ **Congratulations** to Miss Brae Whatmore ( our new Year 1 teacher) on her engagement to Travis over the holidays. They are planning to marry in September.
- ✓ **Thank you to our teachers and staff** for the many extra hours they have put in over the past few weeks to ensure everything was prepared and looking spic and span for the return of the students. Many of them were in before we started our Professional Development days on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January or worked over the weekend to ensured a smooth transition back to the 2024 school year.
- ✓ You may have heard that on 11<sup>th</sup> January the **Library and Administration building** were broken into and vandalised by some youths. Thankfully the police were quick to locate the culprits, but it was very disappointing to see the level of meaningly destruction and chaos they caused. Special thanks to Ms McManus, Mr Roberts, Mrs Anderson and Dr Fisher for their assistance in helping to clean up. Also thanks to the team from Neat One Cleaning and AB Glazing for their quick response to our call for help seeing all the areas return to some sense of normality by Saturday afternoon. Ms McManus is still working away on getting things sorted in the library but has put in an amazing effort to get it nearly back to normal.



We have a lot planned for 2024 so please keep reading the newsletter weekly and keep an eye on important dates to avoid the disappointment of missing something.

Have a great week & God bless,

*Anthony Greene*

**Prayer for the New Year:** Lord, may the success of our year be measured in memories of opportunities taken, the way we have shared our gifts with each other, and most importantly, by the way we have treated each other. We ask this prayer through Jesus your Son. Amen.

**St Paul:** Pray for us.

### From the APRE Desk

Welcome to all in our St Paul's community. I hope you had a happy and Holy Christmas break. It has been a wonderful start to the year welcoming back continuing students and especially welcoming new staff, students, and families to our St Paul's community. Like the new students this year, and many of those returning, I am a little anxious and nervous, but also excited and enthused for what lies ahead in 2024.

Roy Bennet said, *"Attitude is a choice. Happiness is a choice. Optimism is a choice. Kindness is a choice. Giving is a choice. Respect is a choice. Whatever choice you make, MAKES YOU. Choose wisely."*

We make choices that help us become the person we want to be. There will be opportunities presented to us all: to improve our education, to form new friendships, to form closer bonds as a community and to grow in our faith. Our job now, is to take these opportunities when they present themselves and share our gifts and talents with each other.

A reminder that our Prayer assemblies are on a Friday morning in the Big Shed starting at 8.35am, and all are welcome. Each week a different class will present a Prayer Liturgy based on what they have been learning in Religious Education in class, the Virtue of the week, or an important event like Anzac Day or Mother's Day. Each week we explore one of the Virtues. **This week is Friendliness:** St Paul was very accepting of all people, no matter their backgrounds, today we are called to be welcoming to all. May we start this year with great welcoming and by forming strong relationships with all. *"A friend is someone who understands your past, believes in your future, and accepts you just the way you are."* — Unknown

Each term all classes (Prep only Term 4) will also have a mass at the St Paul's church. All in our community are most welcome to attend any or all of our masses. As a school we will be leading one of our Parish masses each term in Week 7, information for all masses will come out in our newsletter.

**Sacraments:** The Sacrament program for this year is about to begin. If you are keen for your child to participate in 2024, for the Sacrament of Communion, children need to be baptised and over 8 years old. There are parent information sessions starting next week.

On Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> of February, Year 6 students will attend a full day retreat at St Paul's church to explore Christian Service Leadership, what it will look like at St Paul's and how and where student talents and gifts may be used to serve and lead.

On Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> of February we will celebrate our Year 6 Leadership Assembly in the Big Shed starting at 8.45am. Celebrating this occasion with our Year 6 cohort is always special and all are invited to this assembly.

As this new year opens up before us all, may our Attitudes and Choices lead us to achieving the goals we have set for ourselves and bring us closer and stronger as a community. May the success of our year be measured in memories of opportunities taken, the way we have shared our gifts, and most importantly, by the way we have treated each other. May this year be an exceptional part of your St Paul's journey and may your memories be many.

God Bless,

Mark Roberts  
Assistant Principal Religious Education

Important Dates	
7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	P & F Meeting
9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Yr 6 Leadership retreat
13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Pancake Day/Shrove Tuesday
14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Ash Wednesday
15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Year 6 Leadership Assembly
16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Bishop Inservice Day – Student Free Day
22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	10am Ordination Peter Doherty

## 2024 Sacramental Program

### Catholic Community of Rockhampton

# PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT


**Parent Information Nights will be held at 5.30pm on**

**Tuesday 30 January @ St Peter's School Library**  
**Thursday 1 February @ Holy Family Church**

**Attendance at one of these sessions is vital to finding out what is involved in the preparation process for your child to receive Sacraments in 2024.**

For further information, please contact:  
 Sacramental co-ordinators for baptised children:  
 Beryl Mills - berylmills18@gmail.com  
 Anthony Greene - anthony\_greene@rok.catholic.edu.au

Sacramental co-ordinator for non-baptised children:  
 Gail Davis - gaildavis58@gmail.com



**LOOK WHAT'S NEW AT ST PAUL'S**  
**Thank you P&F for this great memory board!**



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DIOCESE OF ROCKHAMPTON

**WE ARE HIRING**  
**OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE**  
**COORDINATOR**  
**ST PAUL'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY**  
**SCHOOL, GRACEMERE**

▶ TERM-TIME, FOR UP TO 38HPW

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**APPLICATIONS CLOSE**  
**5 FEBRUARY 2024**

[www.rok.catholic.edu.au](http://www.rok.catholic.edu.au)

 ST-PAUL'S  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL  
GRACEMERE

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Catholic Education is committed to best practice in student protection policies and procedures and is an equal opportunity employer. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people are encouraged to apply.

To apply click here:  
- <https://applynow.net.au/jobs/CER877>

## School Uniform

Thank you for your assistance in ensuring that students have returned to school wearing the correct **uniform**. The new dresses and socks look great and are a welcomed addition to our uniforms. I have noticed a lot of new hats, so please check that they are clearly named.

## Drop off & Pick Up

**Drop off & Pick Up** have been moving well for the first few days and I thank you for your patience and consideration to ensure the safety of the children. Below is the link to the guidelines that I would encourage you to read to prevent frustrations or accidents.

<https://www.spgrrok.catholic.edu.au/drop-off-and-pick-up>

**Staff/Bottom Car park is not for parents or students to use.**

## Outside School Hours Care

(OSHC) service is up and running again and taking bookings. **Be quick as places are filling fast!!!**



### Gracemere Redbacks Football Club (Soccer)

Registrations are open for the 2024 season  
Visit website [www.registration.squadi.com/login](http://www.registration.squadi.com/login)  
for registration. Search for Gracemere Redbacks.

Information Day - Saturday 3 February 2024

2.00pm to 4.00pm

Gracemere Sports Club Grounds

226 Victoria Street, Gracemere

Under 5's (from turning 5yrs this year) to Under 16's

Email: [gracemere\\_redbacks@hotmail.com](mailto:gracemere_redbacks@hotmail.com)

Contact: Rob Law - [0428 425 465](tel:0428425465)

**Redbacks Rock!**



## PIANO LESSONS AVAILABLE

**IN GRACEMERE**

**CONTACT**

**LYNETTE ANSTEY**

**0419358485**

Must have a piano or keyboard to practice on

Learn how to read music and play popular songs (all genres)

all ages are welcome to apply for [lessons](#)

