



ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL BUNDABERG

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Newsletter Term Three Week 9

9 September 2026

Principal's Pen – Monica White

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week marks National Child Protection Week, a time to raise awareness of the shared responsibility we all have in ensuring children are safe, supported, and valued in every community.

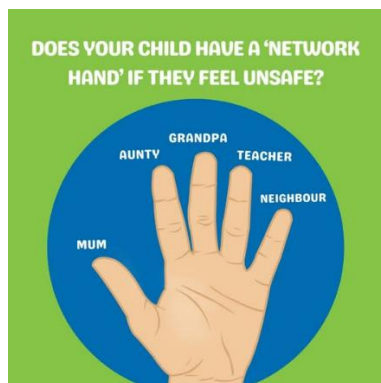
This year's theme, **"Shifting Conversation to Action,"** builds on the important message that **"Every Conversation Matters."** Conversations play a vital role in increasing awareness, challenging attitudes, sharing knowledge, and encouraging people to reflect on how they can contribute to the safety and wellbeing of children. However, meaningful change occurs when those conversations are followed by action.

The theme reminds us that protecting children requires more than good intentions. It calls on individuals, families, schools, and communities to take practical steps that strengthen protective environments and support children to thrive. Whether it is recognising signs that a child may need help, speaking up when something does not seem right, or creating opportunities for children to feel safe and heard, every action contributes to a culture of protection.

This year, our focus is on turning awareness into action by strengthening support networks, building children's confidence and protective behaviours, and empowering communities to play an active role in keeping children safe from harm.

By moving from conversation to action, we can make a real difference in the lives of children, ensuring they not only have a voice but also experience the safety, care, and support they deserve.

At school, we are committed to equipping students with the knowledge and skills to keep themselves safe. One important strategy we teach is the **"Five Trusted Adults Hand"**, which encourages children to identify five safe adults they can talk to if they ever feel worried, unsafe, or need support. Knowing who to turn to and having the confidence to seek help are important protective factors that can make a significant difference in a child's life.



Within our school we have a number of Student Protection contacts, who are promoted as an option for one of the 5 trusted adults. They are:

Monica White, Laura Campbell, Sonya Dexter, Kellie Clancy & Julie Chaplin.

I encourage you to have a conversation with your child about who their 5 trusted adults are.

Kindest regards,

Monica White

From the APRE – Laura Campbell

Greetings to our families and friends

Teachers as Learners

In an ever-changing and sometimes challenging world, professional learning is essential in ensuring that educators continue to grow, adapt, and provide the very best opportunities for students. At St Joseph's, our staff are committed to lifelong learning and are always seeking ways to enhance their practice and strengthen student outcomes.

Professional development is an ongoing process that enables all staff to reflect on their work, develop new skills, and remain informed about current educational research and best practice. United by a shared commitment to our students, our staff continually strive to create engaging, inclusive, and supportive learning environments where every child can flourish.

Last week, staff participated in a range of targeted professional learning sessions facilitated by consultants from the Catholic Education Office. These sessions focused on key areas including Religious Education and Inclusive Education. Teachers explored effective contemporary approaches to teaching and learning, deepening their understanding of how to engage students meaningfully, foster a love of learning, and support each child to achieve their full potential.

The professional learning opportunities provided practical strategies, valuable resources, and fresh perspectives that staff can readily implement in their classrooms. Collaborative discussions also allowed teachers to share experiences and learn from one another, further strengthening the quality of teaching across the school.

We are grateful for these opportunities to learn and grow as educators. By continually investing in professional learning, we ensure that our students benefit from high-quality teaching practices that nurture their academic, social, emotional, and spiritual development.



Have a blessed week

Laura Campbell



**Help St Joseph's win a share of \$3000 in vouchers
just by shopping at Sugarland Plaza**

Every dollar spent at Sugarland Plaza equals one School
Rewards point when receipts are uploaded via the campaign website.

Prize Pool

- 🏆 1st Place – \$1,500 Big W Voucher
- 🏆 2nd Place – \$1,000 JB Hi Fi Voucher
- 🏆 3rd Place – \$500 Best & Less Voucher

**Plus register
online for your
chance to win
a \$1000 Woolworths
Gift Card**

Parent-Teacher Meetings – Weeks 9 & 10

Over the next two weeks, our **Parent-Teacher Meetings** will be taking place. These meetings are a valuable opportunity for families and teachers to connect, celebrate successes, and work together to support each child's ongoing growth and development.

Why Parent-Teacher Meetings Matter

A strong partnership between home and school is one of the most influential factors in a child's educational success. When parents and teachers communicate regularly and work towards shared goals, students benefit from a consistent network of support that helps them feel confident, capable, and engaged in their learning.

Parent-Teacher Meetings provide an opportunity to:

- ❖ Gain a deeper understanding of your child's academic progress, learning habits, and social development.
- ❖ Celebrate strengths, achievements, and areas where your child is demonstrating growth.
- ❖ Discuss learning goals and identify strategies that can support continued progress both at school and at home.
- ❖ Share valuable insights about your child's interests, learning preferences, and wellbeing.
- ❖ Develop a shared understanding of how we can best support your child to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

You know your child better than anyone else, and your perspective is invaluable. By combining the knowledge families have about their children with the expertise of teachers, we can create the best possible conditions for student success.

These conversations are not only about reporting progress, they are about building relationships, fostering trust, and ensuring that every child receives the support and encouragement they need to reach their full potential.

If you have not yet booked an appointment, please email your child's teacher directly to arrange a suitable time.

Our teachers look forward to partnering with you to celebrate your child's achievements and plan for continued growth. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to your child's education - your engagement truly makes a difference.

Happy Wednesday.

~ Emma Robinson

Assistant Principal of Curriculum

Catholic Parish of Bundaberg



[Click here for the latest issue of the Catholic Parish of Bundaberg Newsletter](#)

Join Us!

CELEBRATE

150 YEARS

1876-2026

Friday 16th October - Sunday 18th October



Friday, 16th October
5.30pm Holy Rosary Church
Eucharist with Bishop Danny
presiding, followed by FREE
light meal.
Memorabilia Display

Saturday, 17th October
10.00am "Do It For
Cancer" Luncheon
Brothers Sports Club
Prizes & Entertainment
Ticketed event. \$40
from the Parish Office

Sunday, 18th October
8.00am Mass Holy
Rosary Church
Memorabilia Display in
Novakoski Centre
Multi-Cultural Morning
Tea to follow.

CONTACT US

07 4151 6666 sbundaberg@rok.catholic.net.au

Rossolini Place Level 1
66 Woongarra Street
Bundaberg

SOCIAL ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE WORKING PARTY



Walk & Contemplate

at Baldwin Swamp

"All are welcome to accompany us
on a Contemplative Walk
around the ponds followed by
a shared morning tea."

Please wear a hat and bring a water bottle
and a plate of food to share.

12 September

Saturday 9.00am

Facilitated by: *Pauline Marefield*

Season of Creation

The Catholic Parish of Bundaberg

School Photos



Queensland
School Photography
"Putting a smile on every face"

The school has been notified that class and individual photos will not be delivered until Term 4. We will keep families updated as more information becomes available.



PIZZA HUT LUNCH ORDER
FRIDAY 11 September
Orders now open on



Orders close THURSDAY 10/9/26 at Midday



Outside School Hours Care

School Holidays Just Got More Exciting!

Our **Vacation Care Program** is **out now** and packed with fun activities, adventures and new experiences for children to enjoy these holidays.

We are also **open on Pupil Free Days**.

[Click here to enrol today.](#)

Existing families can book directly through the **Xplor App**.

Don't miss out, places fill quickly!

Week One				
MON 21 September 2026	TUES 22 September 2026	WED 23 September 2026	THURS 24 September 2026	FRI 25 September 2026
Crochet and Croquet Learn to play crochet with aallet and balls then learn to crochet granny squares with Mrs Merefield.	Botanical Gardens We will take photos of the wildlife and flowers at the gardens to be displayed in a mini OSHC art gallery.	Slushie and Damper Day Bake some yummy damper and enjoy an icy cold slushie.	Reading Cinema We will watch a movie in comfort and enjoy a yummy snack.	Wheels Day Bring your scooter or skates for a day of fun. Helmets are a must and padding recommended.
				
\$70 + \$5 incursion fee	\$70 \$25 excursion fee	\$70 + \$10 incursion fee	\$70 + \$25 excursion fee	\$70

Week Two				
MON 28 September 2026	TUES 29 September 2026	WED 30 September 2026	THURS 1 October 2026	FRI 2 October 2026
Spa and Switch Day Wear your PJ's and be pampered throughout the day or compete against your friends on the Nintendo Switch	The Mater Visit and Queens Park Visit the Mater Hospital for a tour and then enjoy an exploration around Queens Park.	Tinaberries Travel to Tinaberries to pick some strawberries and enjoy a freshly made ice cream	Cubby House, Movies and Pizza Day We will make our own cubby houses for us to watch our favourite movies from. We will also enjoy a pizza lunch.	Super Soaker Day Receive your own super soaker and test your skills with a variety of games.
				
\$70 + \$15 incursions fee	\$70 \$25 excursion fee	\$70 \$25 excursion fee	\$70 \$10 incursion fee	\$70 + \$20 incursion fee

They have done it again! Winners are Grinners.

A big CONGRATULATIONS to the 2026 Opti Minds team.

For the last 7 weeks the Joey's Team of Logan (6), Lottie (5), Beth (5), Henry (5), Theo (4) and Piper (4) have been working on their Opti Minds Challenge and last Saturday they travelled to Maryborough to show off their solution. And they came **FIRST**.

The team competed in the primary school division in the Science Engineering category.

The Challenge was:

Identify a problem in Opti-TOPIA and explain how it negatively affects the society. Describe the event or inspiration (the "spark") that motivates the Head Engineering Team to find a solution. Tell the story of how their idea develops into the design and construction of a device that improves life in Opti-TOPIA.

Design, build, and present a device that, when activated, grows beyond its original size and the team's initial expectations. The growth must be measurable in centimetres and clearly visible to the audience. The device should continue growing for as long as possible during the 10-minute performance.

Evaluate the success of the device by demonstrating its positive impact on Opti-TOPIAN society. The total cost of designing and building the device must not exceed **\$75.00**.

To solve this challenge without adult input the team met every Monday and Thursday for an hour after school and every playtime in the last week. A great commitment was made by all involved.

I'd like to thank Liam Wooton who helped with supervision, organising communications and paperwork.

I would also like to thank the team's parents who supported the students getting them to training and the event. I'd especially like to thank Mrs Eaton (Henry's mum) and Mrs McKenzie (Lottie's step grandmother) who volunteered to be judges on the day.

Well done everyone. Remember "be a problem solver not a problem maker".

Pauline Merefield



Respectful Relationships Education

"The Catholic school is an environment in which faith, culture and life intertwine"

Pope Leo XIV, Drawing New Maps of Hope (2025)

Biological sex and gender content: Prep - Year 12

Lower Primary (Prep - Year 2)

Interests and strengths help shape an individual's identity

Body safety is a responsibility

Girls and boys should be afforded equal rights, respect and opportunities

Upper Primary (Years 3 - 6)

Gender stereotypes come from culture, history and social expectations

Gender stereotypes can be harmful, unfair or unequal

Gender stereotypes can be challenged to achieve fairness and equality

Junior Secondary (Years 7 - 10)

How roles, decision-making, and levels of power, coercion and control within relationships can be influenced by gender stereotypes

Challenging gender stereotypes can prevent violence and abuse in relationships

Senior Secondary (Years 11 - 12)

Supporting gender equality

Addressing stereotypes, discrimination and harassment

Human rights for diverse groups

Help-seeking and reporting for gender-based violence

Scan below for resources to support conversations at home:

Act for Kids -
Emmy and Friends
(Prep - Year 2)



NAPCAN -
Listening to children
(Prep - Year 6)



NAPCAN -
Listening to young
people (Years 7 - 12)



The Line
(Years 9 - 12)



Real Talk Australia
(Prep - Year 12)



The Line
(Years 9 - 12
Parents and Carers)



Created and Loved
(Parents and
Carers)



SCHOOL PLANNER

TERM 3

WEEK 6

Science Week 15 - 23 Aug

Bullying No Way Week 17 - 21 Aug

Year 6 to Shalom for Science Lesson 18 Aug

WEEK 7

Year 6 Camp 24 -26 Aug

Book Week 22 - 28 Aug

Book Week Dress Up Day 28 Aug

WEEK 8

Music with Ms. Marie Make Up Day 31 Aug (in lieu of 04 Sept)

Indigenous Literacy Foundation Book Swap 02 Sept

Pupil Free Day 04 Sept

WEEK 9

Child Protection Week

St Joseph's NAIDOC Celebrations 11 Sept

WEEK 10

Last Week of Term 3

Wide Bay Touch Tournament

Out and About

Flourish Family Fun Day 2026

Get ready with Birdie
THIS YEAR'S THEME: **GET READY WITH BIRDIE**
Supporting children and families to get ready for and get through natural disasters and disruptive events

An all-inclusive family-friendly event that celebrates and acknowledges the diversity of families in our region

FREE entertainment, information stalls and activities will be available for the whole family to enjoy!

Now date & venue
Thursday 1 October
9 am - 1 pm
PCYC Bundaberg
1 Civic Avenue

Incorporating the Welcome Baby Celebration and traditional Teddy Bears Parade

Dress Teddy as your favourite First Responder

Food and drinks available for purchase

Birdie's Tree has been created by the Queensland Centre for Perinatal and Infant Mental Health, part of Children's Health Queensland to support children's disaster preparedness, resilience and recovery.

Supported by:

- BUNDABERG REGIONAL COUNCIL
- wide bay kids
- Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service
- C&K Childcare & Kindergarten
- RESOURCES CENTRE
- CONTRIBUTING STALL HOLDERS

AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST STRAWBERRY PICK'N DAY
SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2026 • 9:00AM-3:00PM
SSS Strawberries Farm, 11 Rosedale Road, Oakwood QLD 4670

TWO GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™ OFFICIAL ATTEMPTS
1. Most people picking strawberries simultaneously (single venue)
2. Most strawberries eaten in one minute by an individual • \$10,000 REWARD

Together We Make History
Join thousands of families for one unforgettable day in the strawberry fields.

PICK	TAKE HOME	FAMILY DAY
Your place in the official simultaneous pick.	Adults: 1kg • Kids: 500g of strawberries included.	Farm activities, food, fun and a memorable day together.

GET TICKETS / REGISTER NOW
Tickets from \$10 • Everyone welcome
Every ticket holder who checks in is counted.
sss-strawberries.com.au/picknday/

Ticketed event • Gates open 8:00am • Wear something red
A family-friendly community event brought to you by Gina's Table and Host by SSS Strawberries

BROTHERS CRICKET CLUB BUNDABERG

JUNIOR REGISTRATION OPEN NOW
2026/27 season starts October 10

YOUNG ENGINEERS PROGRAMS

AT YOUR SCHOOL! OR A VENUE NEAR YOU

Build, code & explore engineering
Learn physics, robotics & programming
9-WEEK TERM | 1HR 15MIN WEEKLY SESSIONS

Register now: cq.young-engineers.com.au

AT ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL BUNDABERG, WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE TARIBELANG-BUNDA, GOORENG GOORENG, GURANG AND THE BAILI PEOPLE AS THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LANDS UPON WHICH WE MEET.

WE PAY OUR RESPECTS TO THE ELDERS OF THE PAST, PRESENT AND EMERGING AND ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR SPIRITUAL CONNECTION TO COUNTRY.

FOR WE TOO, ARE ONE IN LAND, ONE IN SPIRIT, ONE IN FAITH UNITED IN GOD'S LOVE.

