



ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL BUNDABERG
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Newsletter Term Three Week 4

8 August 2026

Principal's Pen – Monica White

This week we celebrate a monumental milestone: 150 years of education for the children and families of Bundaberg. Since our doors first opened in 1876, St Joseph's has been more than a school. It has been a steady, faith-filled presence through generations of change. St Joseph's has the rare distinction of educating children across three centuries, the 19th, 20th and now the 21st century, making it the oldest continuously operating school in the Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton.

A Short History of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg began in 1876, when two Josephite Sisters were sent by Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop to establish a convent school in the Bundaberg community. With the support of the parish priest, Fr Rossolini, the school began a lasting story of Catholic education, service and belonging.

The Sisters' mission included: Educating young girls, providing moral and religious instruction, visiting the sick and friendless and supporting widows and orphans regardless of creed or nationality.

The church building doubled as a classroom: Pews were removed after Sunday Masses and replaced with desks for Monday classes. The process was reversed every Friday.

Mary MacKillop visited Bundaberg in 1878 and 1879 during visits to Queensland Josephite communities. Due to conflict with Bishop Quinn, the Josephite Sisters withdrew from Queensland and left Bundaberg in July 1880, despite strong community support.

After Father Rossolini's death (1893), support for the Sisters declined, and the Sisters left Bundaberg in 1897.

The Sisters of Mercy arrived in 1897 and took over the school. Enrolment grew rapidly: 333 students by the end of 1897 with a further 170 students enrolled during 1898.

The Sisters of Mercy expanded staffing to eight Sisters, including music teachers and a lay sister, helping manage very large classes.

In 1899, they moved to a new convent in Bourbong Street, which also became a boarding school for girls from surrounding rural areas.

For 150 years, St Joseph's has continued the mission of faith-filled learning, care for families, and practical compassion for those most in need. Generations of students, families, staff, clergy, religious sisters and parishioners have helped shape the school's strong Catholic identity and community spirit.

As we celebrate our 150th this Friday and Saturday we give thanks for the courage of its founders, the dedication of all who have served this school and the ongoing call to grow as one in faith, hope, learning and love. And to our parents and families, thank you for walking beside us through working bees, P&F fundraisers, celebrations, challenges and the everyday moments that make up school life. As we celebrate

150 years, one of the things of which we are most proud is the number of families whose connection to St Joseph's spans multiple generations. There are families within our school whose grandparents, parents and children have all called St Joseph's their school. That loyalty and enduring connection are among the greatest compliments a school can receive.

Thank you for continuing to choose St Joseph's and for partnering with us to ensure every child can flourish in faith, learning and life. I hope that many families can join us on Friday and Saturday for our celebrations.

Monica White

150th Celebrations

07 AUGUST 2026

CELEBRATE 150 YEARS FAMILY DAY

GAMES, DANCING, ART, AND FAMILY FUN



8:30AM	School Prayer Assembly Feast Day of Mary MacKillop Mary MacKillop Award Unveiling of School Song
9:10AM	Old Fashioned Games Rotaional Activities
10:10AM	Time Capsule - Location at Front of School
10:30AM	Family Picnic - Bring a Rug and Join Us On the Oval Subway Orders Close Thurs 06.08.2026 at Midday
11:15AM	Bush Dancing - Dance Floor on the Oval
12 - 2:00PM	Fun Fair - Enjoy a variety of fun stall bought to you by our stdents 1:45pm - Prep Raffle Being Drawn

OPEN SCHOOL

FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO VISIT CLASSROOMS AND ENJOY OUR DISPLAYS OF:

- Memorabilia
- Student Artwork
- School History

DONT FORGET TO DRESS UP!

Everyone is invited to dress up in clothes from the 'golden days!'

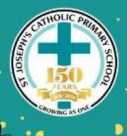
GOING HOME WITH PARENTS

Students are welcome to go home with their parents/guardian at any time during the day.
**Please let your child's classroom teacher know and sign out at the office before leaving

FUN FAIR STALLS WILL COST BETWEEN

\$0C AND \$2

PLEASE BRING SMALL CHANGE



Celebrating 150 Years

1876-2026

Community Celebration Day
Join us for a day of spirit, fun, and tradition!

Saturday August 8th

Community Celebration Day

10:30am - Parish Mass for Feast Day of Mary MacKillop,
11.45am - Open school: visit classrooms, memorabilia, student artwork, opening of the new paver path garden.
Food and drink vans,
150th merchandise for sale,
6:30pm - Dinner at The Brothers Club with entertainment

Contact and information:
PH: 4151 4771
email: sjbg@roh.catholic.edu.au



This Friday, we invite children to dress up in "olden days" clothing, or what they imagine students may have worn when St Joseph's first opened its doors. To give you some inspiration, I've included a few photos. I found the boys' outfits at Vinnies. Thank you to Dane, Darcee and Kyra for being our wonderful models!



From the APRE – Laura Campbell

Greetings to our families

Mary MacKillop Feast Day

This week, our school community will celebrate the Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Australia's first saint and a woman whose faith, courage and dedication to others continue to inspire generations. Our school will lead a special prayer gathering on **7 August** as we honour her life, legacy and enduring connection to St Joseph's.



St Mary MacKillop holds a special place in the history of our St Joseph's community. In 1866, together with Fr Julian Tenison Woods, Mary founded the Sisters of St Joseph with a mission to bring education to children, particularly those living in poverty and in rural and remote communities. At the invitation of Fr Rosolini, the Sisters of St Joseph established our school in 1876, making their contribution to the education and formation of young people in Bundaberg a treasured part of our story. Mary herself visited St Joseph's Bundaberg on several occasions, leaving a lasting legacy that continues to shape our school today.

Mary MacKillop lived a remarkable life of faith, perseverance and service. Despite facing many challenges, including hardship, illness and opposition, she remained steadfast in her belief that all people deserve dignity, compassion and access to education. Her famous words, *"Never see a need without doing something about it,"* continue to inspire us to respond with kindness and action to those in need. Throughout her life, Mary devoted herself to caring for the poor, supporting vulnerable families, and bringing hope to communities across Australia and New Zealand.

Students will be learning about the life of St Mary MacKillop, her unwavering faith, and her connection to our school. Through these learning experiences, they will gain a deeper understanding of how her values of service, courage, compassion and trust in God can guide us in our daily lives.

ARTWORK

Over the past few weeks, students have been working with Mrs Robinson to create religious artworks that will be displayed around the school. They illustrate a wide variety of techniques and mediums being taught in across the school during Arts lessons. Many other artworks will also be on display in classrooms for our 150th celebrations. Some student artwork has been used to create payer cards for the feast day.



Spirit of Mary MacKillop Award

Each year, staff reflect on the virtues exemplified by Mary MacKillop and nominate students who consistently demonstrate these qualities within our school community. These virtues include:

- Service to others
- Compassion
- Respect for the dignity of all people
- Courage

- Awareness of God's presence
- Tolerance and understanding

As we celebrate this important feast day, we invite families to learn more about St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and her extraordinary life by visiting: <https://www.sosj.org.au/our-story/saint-mary-mackillop/>

Prayer to Mary MacKillop



God of Love, your heart reaches out to those who are experiencing poverty in our world. Open our eyes and ears to hear the cries of your people bound down by the injustices of this world.

May we, like Mary MacKillop, respond in word and action to the struggling peoples of our world. Saint Mary of the Cross, serving the neglected ones, Pray for us.

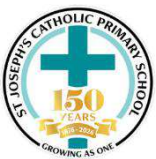
Amen.

© Mary MacKillop Today

<https://www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/>

Have a blessed week,

Laura Campbell



Catholic Parish of Bundaberg



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



Reminder: 2026 Premier's Reading Challenge

All **St Joseph's students** are taking part in the **2026 Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC)**, running from **11th May to 28th August!** This initiative encourages students to **develop a lifelong love of reading** by exploring a variety of fiction and non-fiction books.

Reading Record Forms have been sent home—make sure to track your child's progress!

Challenge Requirements:

- **Prep to Year 2:** Read or experience **20 books**
- **Years 3 & 4:** Read **20 books**
- **Years 5 to 9:** Read **15 books**

Help us **continue our 100% participation streak** and foster a love for reading!

Book lists are available at [PRC Website](#). Let's get reading

Happy Wednesday.

~ Emma Robinson

Assistant Principal of Curriculum

School Fees

Due Date: this, **Friday, August 7, 2026**

School fees are due today, unless you have an approved payment plan in place.



Student of the Week

Term 3 Week 3

2	Ryden	For trying your best in all learning this week. Your focus and persistence has been amazing!
1	Mack and Penelope C	For your great partnership in Maths. You worked well together to spot errors and solve problems. Well done!
2	Archer R and Tyde	For consistently approaching every task with determination, always producing accurate, exceptional work. Thank you for being a dependable role model in our classroom!
3	Xavier	For your hard work, effort and great listening in many learning areas this week. Keep up the fantastic work!
	Astrid	For demonstrating persistence to achieve your learning goals this week. Your effort and enthusiasm for learning has been impressive. Fantastic work!
4	Oliver	For excellent manners at the end of each day!
	Nathan R	For showing care for the wellbeing of others.
5		Not Presented as Year 5 was on Day Camp
6		Not presented due to the Teacher being away.

Shout Outs

Term 3 Week 3

Frankie H and Tommy W	For being great Year 6 role models with their buddies on Friday in the library. You show love and courage when you share your light to inspire others.
The Morrow Family	For being very generous and offering to run a special stall at our fete. You are a shining light for others.
Corbin	For always being so polite in the afternoon and always saying "goodbye" and/or "have a good afternoon". You are a walking Jesus in our community.
Thomas M, The Um Family and Kiara	For the faith you showed when you supported the Catholic Education Week Mass and represented our school with pride.
Year 1	For your excellent sportsmanship and encouragement of each other during PE lessons. You demonstrate love for others, just like Jesus.
Alfie	For packing up all the sports equipment at the end of the play without being asked. You show love towards others at our school when you help.
Ms Whelan and Mr Wootton	For showing love for their students by collaborating so well as inclusive education teachers. You show love and courage when you share your light to inspire others.
Mrs Anderson, Miss Jody, Miss Long and Miss Wassell	Thank you for the care, compassion and dedication you show the OSHC children each day. Through your kindness and willingness to always lend a helping hand, you embody the spirit of Mary MacKillop. Your hard work and commitment to our OSHC community are greatly appreciated. Thank you for letting your light shine and for making a positive difference in the lives of our children, families and staff. ❤️
Daniel	For taking time out of his play to care for a classmate when they were down. You are a walking Jesus for our community.
Zara Rose	For being a kind friend to others, including others, being patient and helpful. Just like St Mary MacKillop you share your generosity and care for others.

Outside School Hours Care



ST JOSEPH'S BUNDABERG OSHC

AFTER SCHOOL
MONDAY TO FRIDAY 2:45PM-6PM

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
MONDAY TO FRIDAY 8AM-6PM

Scan to enrol online
or call 0477 465 679

Safe and Nurturing Environment **Nutritious Afternoon Tea** **CCS Approved Provider**



**ORDERS NOW OPEN
for**

Friday 7 August, 2026

Family Picnic 150th Celebrations

(orders will close THURSDAY 6/8/26 at Middy)

**PARENTS/GRANDPARENTS/FAMILY
CAN ORDER LUNCH TOO!**



St Joseph's P&F Term 3 Lunch Order Overview

Week 2 - 24 July - **BROS'S BAKERY**

Week 4 - 7 August - **SUBWAY**
(Family Picnic 150th Celebrations)

Week 7 - 28 August - **GP Witt's Fish & Chips**

Week 9 - 11 September - **PIZZA HUT**

If you are available to help serve lunch orders
(approx 10:30-11:00am),

please contact the School Office



2026

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Bundaberg P&F

CELEBRATING 150TH YEARS 1876 - 2026

150TH Celebrations P&F RAFFLE

1ST PRIZE
FAMILY DAY PASS to LADY MUSGRAVE ISLAND with LADY MUSGRAVE EXPERIENCE
Donated by Torque Drilling Management/Connellan Family

2ND PRIZE
\$150 VOUCHER TOWARDS A FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHY SESSION FROM *Images by Alexandria*

3RD PRIZE
ST JOSEPH'S 150TH CELEBRATIONS MERCHANDISE PACK

TICKET PRICES

1	FOR	\$5
3	FOR	\$10
8	FOR	\$20
20	FOR	\$40
30	FOR	\$50

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON FLEXISCHOOLS ONLY until Friday 7 August at 4:00pm

CASH SALES AVAILABLE on Saturday 8 August

Drawn at the **ST JOSEPH'S 150TH CELEBRATION DINNER SATURDAY 8 AUGUST**

Thank you for supporting our school community! ♥

Out and About



The Autistic Child

A parent workshop covering simple strategies to help at home.....
Focussing on skills for children up to 12 years of age

When: Wednesday
29th July @ 9:30 - 11:00 am

Where:
PLC Bundaberg
Gate 6 Woondooma St.
Opposite the Library

To register email:
chead13@eq.edu.au or
nturn100@eq.edu.au

Free. No Cost.
Child minding not available

Queensland Government



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SHALOM COLLEGE

Save the Dates

Year 7 2028

APPLICATIONS OPEN
December 2026
Online | *Semester Two Year 5 Report Card required
APPLY at www.shalomcollege.com

INFORMATION EVENING
Wednesday 10 February 2027
Shalom Performing Arts Precinct
Parents & Students Welcome
REGISTER NOW at www.shalomcollege.com

COLLEGE OPEN DAY
Tuesday 23 February 2027
Shalom College Sports Centre
Parents & Students Welcome
REGISTER NOW at www.shalomcollege.com

APPLICATIONS CLOSE
Friday 12 March 2027
Online | Applications Open December 2026
APPLY at www.shalomcollege.com

- APRIL-MAY 2027: Appointments for Interviews
- END OF JUNE 2027: Notification sent to advise of acceptance outcome

Pathways to Excellence for all

Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton