

Newsletter



**ST MARY'S
CATHOLIC
SCHOOL**
Mary Our Help

Book Fair Bonanza

Each year, our school Library is transformed into a bookworm wonderland. The love of reading is something that we hope to foster in all learners at our school and the Book Fair is one platform that we use to inspire the sheer enjoyment of reading.

Mrs Alana Browning lives and breathes her role as Librarian in our school and has implemented many new initiatives this year. Each week on Parade, one student is selected as the "Star Reader". This child is publicly recognised and rewarded for completing their weekly reading and returning books by the due date. Each week, the number of entries in our "Star Reader" jar grows. We thank all children who read daily.

We also have initiated Library Monitors in our school. Mrs Alana Browning spends time each week upskilling the students to return books to the shelves using our dewey system. Our Library Monitors keep our resources in tip top shape.

Each week, all classes visit the Library to borrow their home readers. These readers are based on their current instructional reading level. The children are also encouraged to borrow books of their own choice. These books provide the perfect platform for families to engage in shared reading with their children.

As a school, we actively encourage all families to read with their children each day. Daily reading improves the function of the brain, increases vocabulary, improves theory of mind and increases knowledge. Reading also sharpens one's memory, strengthens writing skills and fosters concentration.

If you would like any assistance with supporting your child to develop a love of reading, please pop in to speak with your classroom teacher, or drop into the office to speak with Mrs Alana Browning.

As we know...

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."
Dr Seuss.

Mrs Colette Williams

Principal





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Religious Life of our School

This Sunday, we will be holding our final Family Mass for 2021. Thank you to those families who returned their forms to say they would be attending. The students will be taking on various roles within the Mass and it will be lovely to see a large number of our school families in attendance. If students have not returned their form to nominate for a role, they are still welcome to come and take part by singing, or just being part of the celebration. The Parish will pray the Rosary from 7.40am, as a fitting end to the month of the Rosary. Students are encouraged to gather outside the church at 7.50am to take part in praying the final decade of the Rosary before processing into the church together. There will also be a short morning tea after the Mass for families to get together and have a chat.

Today our school has observed All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day with a whole-school meditation in the St Mary's church. All Saints' Day (November 1) and All Souls' Day (November 2) are two important feast days celebrated by the whole Catholic Church. What may surprise many people is that Halloween is actually the one vigil for both All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.

Many families have their doubts about celebrating Halloween. For some, the practice of trick-or-treating is seen as an invasion by American culture. For others, the association with pagan ritual is viewed as inappropriate and even dangerous for children. In fact, Halloween has deep Christian roots, dating back to the eighth century, when Pope Gregory III established All Hallows' (known to us as All Saints' Day) on November 1. This was to be a day to honour all the saints who died with or without Church recognition. All Souls' Day follows on November 2 and is a time in which we pray for all the dead, including our own special friends and family.

Light, long a symbol of life in Jesus, was used on 'Halloween' (meaning 'All Hallows' Eve') to welcome good spirits and ward off evil ones. Candles were lit and placed inside hollowed-out squash, turnips, or later, after the discovery of America, pumpkins. Children, wearing masks, would go 'souling' from door to door, begging for soul cakes for those in purgatory.

Understanding the historical background of Halloween customs shows that most are not antithetical to Christian faith. Used appropriately, they can provide opportunities for religious learning in a school context. Celebrations of Halloween, however, should certainly not overshadow those of All Saints' and All Souls' which provide the context for Halloween.

Mrs Alicia Nines

Assistant Principal RE





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Mary Mackillop OSHC

**OSHC is at St Mary's
Monday to Friday.**

**If you would like to know
more or to register,
please phone Miss Rob
on 0428 216 062.**



MANAGED BY

**MARY
MACKILLOP
CHILDCARE NQ**

St Mary's
Outside School Hours Care

T. 0428 216 062
E. bowenoshc@mmcnq.catholic.edu.au
47 Poole Street
Bowen QLD 4805

Class Awards



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Congratulations to this week's awardees:

Back row: Mica McVeigh Yr 4, Quade Cristaudo Yr 3, Porscha Fenn Yr 2, Ryan Guy Yr 4, Korey Waite Yr 6, Seraphina Dale Yr 1, Gabby Williams-Hockings Yr 5, Ryda Acton Yr 5.

Front row: Lacey Gattera Prep A, Wynter McMahon Prep B.

Principal Awards



Congratulations to all of this week's Principal awardees!



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The Kapok Crafters

The Kapok club have been getting creative this week. They explored different techniques for painting, including puff paints and salt paints. Check out these masterpieces!



Day for Daniel

Today is Day for Daniel and students were in red to recognise this important day. They completed activities and lessons with their teachers, on the theme of personal safety and learning strategies to keep safe in a range of environments.

Remember the 3 Rs to personal safety:

Recognise...React...Report.



Newsletter



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Bowen Family Fun Day!

**BOWEN FAMILY
FUN DAY**

Saturday 6 November 2021
9am - 1pm | Hansen Park

FREE EVENT

Under 5's Play Area	Petting Zoo	First 5 Forever
- Sensory Play	Face Painting	Food Stalls
- Art Tables	Live Music	Health & Wellbeing
- Reading Mat	Horizontal Bungee Run	Stalls
- Water Play	Large Jumping Castle	Fire Truck Demo

Proudly Supported By
Queensland Government

Whitsunday Regional Council

Bowen Family Fun Day is being held on **Saturday, 6 November** from 9am - 1pm, at Hansen Park. St Mary's Catholic School will be running a donut stall for this event.

To make this fundraiser a success, we are seeking volunteers to come along and give an hour of their time. If you are able to volunteer, please contact the office.

Events such as this would not be possible without the support of our wonderful St Mary's Community.

We thank you for your ongoing support.

*We
need
your
support!*

St Mary's Catholic School
**CINNAMON
DONUTS**

**\$1 EACH
OR
6 FOR \$5**

You are warmly invited to

ST MARY'S AWARDS NIGHT

December 1st 2021
6:00pm-8:00pm
Undercover Area



**ST MARY'S
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YOU ARE INVITED TO ST MARY'S SCHOOL
FOR...

P&F Christmas Party
A CHEERFUL CELEBRATION



Complete with Christmas music, food and drink, and a special visit from the man in red!

Wednesday 1st of December
4:45pm-6:00pm
Prior to Awards Night

Drinks are available for purchase (cash only) and food is available to order (see order form)

Bring along a picnic rug and watch the children play!



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Student Online Safety

All National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one app of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, tips and sign for adults.

12+ Under 18s should not use this app

AGE RESTRICTION

TIKTOK is a video-sharing social media app which lets people create, view and download looping 15-second clips. Typically, these are videos of users lip-synching and dancing to popular songs or soundtracks (often for comic purposes), enhanced with filters, effects and text. Designed with young people in mind, TikTok skyrocketed in popularity in 2019 and has featured near the top of download charts ever since. It now has around 800 million active users worldwide.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know About

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT
Most videos appearing on a child's feed are light-hearted and amusing. However, some clips have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, themes of suicide and self-harm, or young teens calling in sexually suggestive ways. The sheer volume of uploads is impossible to moderate entirely – and it is possible for adults to be exposed to explicit and age-inappropriate content.

EXPLICIT SONGS
TIKTOK primarily revolves around videos of users lip-synching and dancing to music. Shockingly, some featured songs still contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the app's young user-base, there is a risk that children may view explicit lyrics and need to be able to identify any explicit language or suggestive videos.

TIKTOK FAME
The app has created its own celebrities. Charli D'Amelio and Addison Rae, for example, were catapulted to fame by exposure on TikTok – leading to many more fame opportunities to go viral and become "TIKTOK famous". While most singing clips tending to be the most popular, it has a 100M+ likes, and has many fans trying to get featured.

HAZARDOUS VISIBILITY
Communicating with others is simple on TikTok – including commenting on and reacting to users' videos, following their profiles and direct messaging them content. The majority of these interactions are harmless, but – because of the abundance of users – TikTok has experienced problems with predators contacting young people.

ADDICTIVE NATURE
Like all social media, TikTok is designed to be addictive. Users are highly entertained – but that also makes it hard to put down. In order to protect you from the addictive nature of the app, we recommend you limit your child's screen time to 30 minutes per day.

IN-APP PURCHASES
There is an in-app option to purchase TikTok coins, which can then be converted into digital rewards for sending or receiving comments that a user likes. These rewards have 10% to 100% off on various items. Buying coins is now restricted to users 18+. TikTok doesn't require users to verify their age on sign-up, so a young person could easily access the feature if they were determined to.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK ABOUT ONLINE CONTENT
Discussing your child's online TikTok use is essential to help them understand what they are doing and why they should not post or share details or explicit videos which reveal information about their school or home address. In the long run, teaching them to think critically about what they see on TikTok could help them to become social media savvy.

MAINTAIN PRIVACY SETTINGS
In early 2021, TikTok changed the default setting for all users to "public" – meaning if they use the app without a parent or guardian, their videos are visible to everyone. To help you control your child's privacy, we recommend you set their account to "private" (which only allows your child to see their own and their friends' content) and "lock" (where you build an another user's content by revealing your own videos alongside their's) or "locked" (where you can only see their content if you are approved by them). This might mean your child's content is not visible to others, but it will help them to control their privacy.

LEARN ABOUT REPORTING AND BLOCKING
With the correct privacy settings applied, TikTok is a relatively safe platform. However, some content may be inappropriate, so it is important to report inappropriate content and get them to report it to you about anything concerning that they've seen. TikTok allows users to report inappropriate content, where you can also block individuals seen through their profile.

ENABLE FAMILY SAFETY MODE
Family Safety Mode helps parents and carers limit their own TikTok account to their child's. Through your mobile, you can control your child's safety settings, including limiting screen time, restricting their ability to exchange messages (and with whom), and blocking a lot of age-inappropriate content. TikTok's Family Safety Centre also provides more resources for parents and carers to support online safety among families. These resources can be found on their website.

USE RESTRICTED MODE
In the app's "Digital Wellbeing" section, you can set and monitor screen time (specific content viewed or watched, for instance) on any device. This can be used to limit your child's screen time, though, that the algorithm recommended content isn't totally appropriate – so it's wise to stay aware of what your child is watching.

MODERATE SCREEN TIME
As an entertainer on TikTok, you can help your child to manage their time on the app. In the "Digital Wellbeing" section, under "Screen Time Management", parents limit the daily permitted time on the app (an experiment ranging from 15 to 60 minutes to one hour). This preference can also be locked behind a PIN. That way, your child can't get their screen time of TikTok without knowing the lock code.

Meet our expert
Parvati Datta is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids & Click, a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @nationalonlinesafety



On the 23rd of November, we will be hosting a Great Book Swap at our school.

The Great Book Swap is a fantastic way to celebrate reading within our community, while raising funds for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. It is also an opportunity for students to further extend their knowledge of Indigenous culture and languages.

Everyone can browse for a book they would like to exchange for a gold coin donation.

Our name for the Great Book Swap is 'Wamparla House'. Wamparla means possum in Arabana, a language traditionally associated with the western side of Kati Thanda (Lake Eyre) region.

All funds raised from our Great Book Swap will go towards buying books to give to remote communities across the country.

If you have some books at home that you no longer need, we would love to use them as part of this wonderful event! Please drop off book donations to Miss Kristy before the event or at the school office. Parents and carers are more than welcome to come along.

Miss Kristy

IEW



St Mary's Parish Weekend Mass Times

Saturday – 6:30pm

Sunday – 8:00am



**ST MARY'S
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St Mary's Catholic School Community Calendar Term 4 2021

Wk	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	4 October	5 First Day Term 4	6	7 5:15pm P&F Meeting	8 Swimming Lessons 9am Whole School Mass	9	10
2	11	12 11:20am P - 3 Bravehearts Visit	13	14 3:15pm Catholic Identity Advisory Group Team Meeting	15 Swimming Lessons Year 3 Class Mass	16	17
3	18	19	20	21 5:15pm Board Meeting	22 Swimming Lessons Year 1 Class Mass 7pm Youth Group Church	23	24
4	25 Book Fair - before & after school	26 Book Fair - before school	27 Book Fair - before school	28 Book Fair Last Day - before and after school	29 Swimming Lessons 9am Whole School Meditation Day for Daniel - wear red	30	31 8am Family Mass at Church
5	1 Nov	2 Melbourne Cup Day Year 3 Safety Circus Visit	3	4 5:15pm P&F Meeting	5 Swimming Lessons Year 2 Class Mass	6 Bowen Family Fun Day Donut Stall	7
6	8	9 1:50pm School Captain Speeches	10	11 9am Remembrance Day Liturgy 3:15pm Pizza Party at Front Beach 5:15pm Board Meeting	12 Swimming Lessons Year 4 Class Mass	13	14
7	15	16	17	18	19 Swimming Carnival	20	21
8	22 Year 6 Orientation Day St Catherine's Catholic College	23	24	25 6pm Bowen State High Parent Information Session 9am Advent Graduation Mass 6pm Year 6 Graduation	26 8:30am Meet and Greet - Emily Harle Step up Day Final Day of Pre-Prep	27	28
9	29 Year 6 Transition Bowen State High	30	1 6pm Awards Night	2 9am - 12noon Pool Party	3 Last Day of Term 12pm finish	4	5