



Dear families & friends

This afternoon, St Paul's was truly honoured to welcome Bishop Michael, Father Bill Senn, Mr Michael McCusker, and Mr Mike Kelso for a memorable school visit. Bishop Michael's heartfelt commitment to visiting every school in the Diocese before the end of Term 1, alongside our new Director, Mr McCusker, is deeply appreciated.

Their visit was a delightful experience for our students. They engaged warmly with many of our students, answering their questions with remarkable ease, grace, and even a touch of humour. Their insightful thoughts on leadership left a lasting impression on our Year 6 students. I am profoundly grateful to them for taking the time to visit St Paul's and for the inspiration they brought to our school community.



In 2025, St Paul's is prioritising whole school practices and family engagement. Today, I wanted to take a moment to highlight the significant impact that family engagement has on student achievement. Research consistently shows that when parents are actively involved in their children's education, students perform better academically, have higher self-esteem, and are more motivated to succeed.

Your involvement can take many forms, from attending assemblies and P&F organised social events, to volunteering in the tuckshop or on the P&F committee and participating in parent-teacher conferences. Other ways include engaging in your child's learning through Seesaw and homework activities and encouraging reading at home. Every bit of engagement makes a difference and helps create a supportive learning environment for our students. This is why we prioritise it for the whole community in 2025!

Another new feature this year is daily organised activities in the library during the first break to give students a wider variety of activities to engage in. Activities include chess club, card games, and arts and crafts. If one of these interests you or you have other skills that the students might enjoy, you are always welcome to volunteer some time to help out.

Have a good week & God bless,

Anthony Greene

Prayer for the Virtue of Mindfulness: Heavenly Father, grant me the grace to be mindful of Your presence in every moment. Help me to slow down, to embrace the stillness, and to cherish the simple, sacred beauty of life. Guide my thoughts, words, and actions, so they reflect Your love and wisdom. In every breath I take, let me remember Your everlasting peace. Amen. **St Paul:** Pray for us.

APRE News

Welcome to a new year at St Paul's, I hope this year's journey is one where you achieve all you hope for. It is a privilege every year to welcome over 40 excited Preppies, other new students, and their families, who join our wonderful school. Their St Paul's journey lies ahead of them, and though a little anxious and nervous, their obvious enthusiasm is a gift to us all. We should all be enthusiastic for what lies ahead, the opportunities presented to us to improve our education, to form new friendships, to form closer bonds as a community, and to grow in our faith.

It is wonderful to get so many in our community joining us on a Friday Prayer Assembly. This year we are having a focus on making sure our assemblies are sitting within our Catholic School framework. For Catholics, the **purpose of a prayer assembly is to engage in communal prayer and spiritual reflection.** Unlike a performance, which is intended to entertain or display talent, a prayer assembly is a **solemn and sacred gathering focused on worship and connection with God.** Clapping is generally associated with **applause and celebration of human achievements**, while **prayer** is a form of **communication with the divine.** Therefore, **clapping during a prayer assembly may distract from the reverent atmosphere and the prayerful intentions** of the participants. It is important to maintain this distinction to honour the sanctity of the moment and to help everyone present to focus on their spiritual journey. With this in mind you are probably aware that clapping has occurred during, and straight after, our prayer assemblies in the past. **This year we will refrain** from doing so to **maintain the intent of the Prayer.** At the **end of the Prayer** section of Friday's assembly, someone will invite all those present to **thank the grade** presenting, **for creating our prayer experience.** This would be the **appropriate time for applause.**

It is important that parents and guardians realise the difference between Prayer and a Performance. For our prayer assemblies, **not all students may be reading** or taking a speaking role. Some may only sing, some do the slides, some may be acting, they may light our lamp or have helped make up prayer cards to give out, **but everyone in the class has helped to create the prayer experience** for the school. If you come expecting to see your child talking etc... they may not be. If this were a performance, teachers would be trying to put every student to the front so all can be seen participating on the day, this is not how prayer assemblies' work. If you would like more information on this please come and chat with me when you have the time.

The first week was amazingly calm and welcoming, and I noticed that what most students bring in abundance to our school is a great attitude; they want to be here and are keen. **Tom Stoppard** once wrote, **"A healthy attitude is contagious but don't wait to catch it from others. Be a carrier."** Our attitude is everything; it is what drives us to be our best and to use our gifts to their fullest. A great attitude keeps us strong in the face of all the adversities we face on a daily basis, it keeps us moving forward. Attitude is a choice we make. 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 choices you make, MAKE YOU. Choose wisely."**

A wise man, Bennet hones in on the ultimate truth, we make the choices that dictate the sort of person we want to become. So, 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. I encourage all students to take every opportunity they can this year to share their gifts as the more you get involved in our school's life the greater your St Paul's journey will become. The success of the Journey will be measured, at the end, in memories of opportunities taken or not taken, in the way we have shared our gifts and by the way we have treated each other.

May this year be an exceptional part of your journey and may your memories be many.

God Bless,
Mark Roberts
A.P.R.E.

Important Dates	
7 th Feb	Yr 6 Leadership Retreat
12 th Feb	Instrumental Lessons begin
12 th Feb	Year 1 Information Session 3.25pm
13 th Feb	Prep Information Session 3.25pm
14 th Feb	Yr 6 Leadership assembly
21 st Feb	Bishop's Inservice Day PUPIL FREE DAY
12 th Mar	NAPLAN starts

WOULD YOU LET YOUR CHILD MISS A YEAR OF SCHOOL?

One day off each fortnight is equal to missing more than a year of schooling by the end of Year 12. A reminder to our families to develop good habits with your child by ensuring they always attend school, unless there is reasonable excuse. The more time your child has at school, the more likely they will achieve in their learning.

Every day counts

MOST STUDENTS ATTEND SCHOOL EVERY DAY
It's important that children are at school all day, every day.

EVERY DAY AT SCHOOL COUNTS
Missing even 1 day can make a difference.
1 day off school each fortnight = Missing more than a year of learning over 12 years.
Each day's learning builds on what has been learnt before.
Good attendance begins in Prep. It's where good habits begin.

ATTEND ALL DAY, EVERY DAY
Missing 1% of school can impact a student's learning.
Missing 2-3% can impact a student's learning.
What parents can do:
Promote the importance of school, Don't leave the teacher, Go to school meetings, Praise the child's teacher, Be organised at home, Supervise homework, Ask about their child's day, Encourage to help at school.
Get involved in your child's school.

For more information go to the Every day counts website: <https://education.qld.gov.au/initiatives-and-strategies/initiatives/every-day-counts>



2025 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM
Parent Information Sessions will be held:



Tuesday, 4 February at 5:30pm

(St Joseph's Wandal Hall)

Thursday, 6 February at 5:30pm

(Holy Family Church)

Participating children need to be Baptised & 9 years old

Children do not have to attend this session, but one parent/carer **must** attend one evening as this is an important part of the program.

For further information, please contact

Anthony Greene anthony_greene@rok.catholic.edu.au

or Beryl Mills berylmills18@gmail.com

Or visit [Sacramental Program Google Site](#) for timelines

What if my child is not Baptised?

Children aged between 7 and 12 years who are not Baptised Catholics prepare for the Sacraments through a different pathway called 'The Rite of Christian Initiation for Children'. Gail Davis is the co-ordinator and can assist with enquires - gailtdavis58@gmail.com

