



ST PATRICK'S SPECIAL SCHOOL

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DECEMBER 12, 2024



Dear Families

As the year draws to a close I share with you some of my reflections that I spoke about at our Christmas Mass last week.

This year has been full of celebrations, as we welcomed new staff, students, and families into our school community. We have continued to enjoy a wide range of community experiences this year that enhance our comprehensive learning program.

Throughout the year, our students have had the opportunity to engage in a variety of enriching learning experiences. From bushwalking and gym visits to We Rock the Spectrum, to a comprehensive literacy program, music, art, assemblies, and events like Outdoor Classroom Day, PE Week, Book Week, Science Week, tree planting and more. Students from Senior West have undertaken work experience at the High St Cafe and we have accessed the local Dulwich Community Centre for dance and movement lessons. We enjoyed a NAIDOC incursion and students from Senior West and Blue class presented a musical showcase like no other. Without doubt a true highlight was the Catholic Schools Music Festival where Katia, Isaiah and Sophie sang "When somebody Loves Me", an incredible performance that I know moved everyone in the Festival Theatre.

Reflecting on 2024

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the staff for their dedication to ensuring positive outcomes for every student. Your care, commitment, and compassion every day make a profound difference. I am incredibly proud of the team of educators here, and I truly appreciate each and every one of you—not just for what you do, but for who you are. You ensure that every student matters every day. You take time to deeply know every child....it makes a difference. Thank you.

However, all of this incredible work happens in partnership with you, our families. I say it every year and I will say it again... thank you for trusting us with your beautiful children. They enrich our lives every day. They teach us, they inspire us, at times they challenge us and that is when our work is most important. When I speak of families, I don't just mean parents, but also extended families, carers, and the grandparents who provide unconditional love and support. You are truly special, and I am in awe of the way you enrich our community.

As we close the year, we must say goodbye to some beloved members of our community. We farewell our groundsperson and previous bus driver Damian! There is no doubt Damian's commitment to the role and willingness to go

above and beyond will be sadly missed. I am forever asking Damian to achieve what seems impossible (our students are incredibly creative) and Damian always says "Leave it with me Cathy" and he always comes back with a solution. Thank you Damian; we will miss your work and your wit!

We also say farewell to Felicity Sieben. Felicity has been on extended leave for the past 2 years and has now tendered her resignation after 39 incredible years. Felicity is an inspirational educator who has been so influential in the lives of so many students and families.

To our graduating students and their families, we officially bid you farewell at our recent Graduation Ceremony. We celebrated all of your achievements with your families and friends, and we know you each have so much to offer the world. Daniel, Thomas, Katia, Alex, and Isaiah's journey is just beginning, and we look forward to hearing about all that they will accomplish.

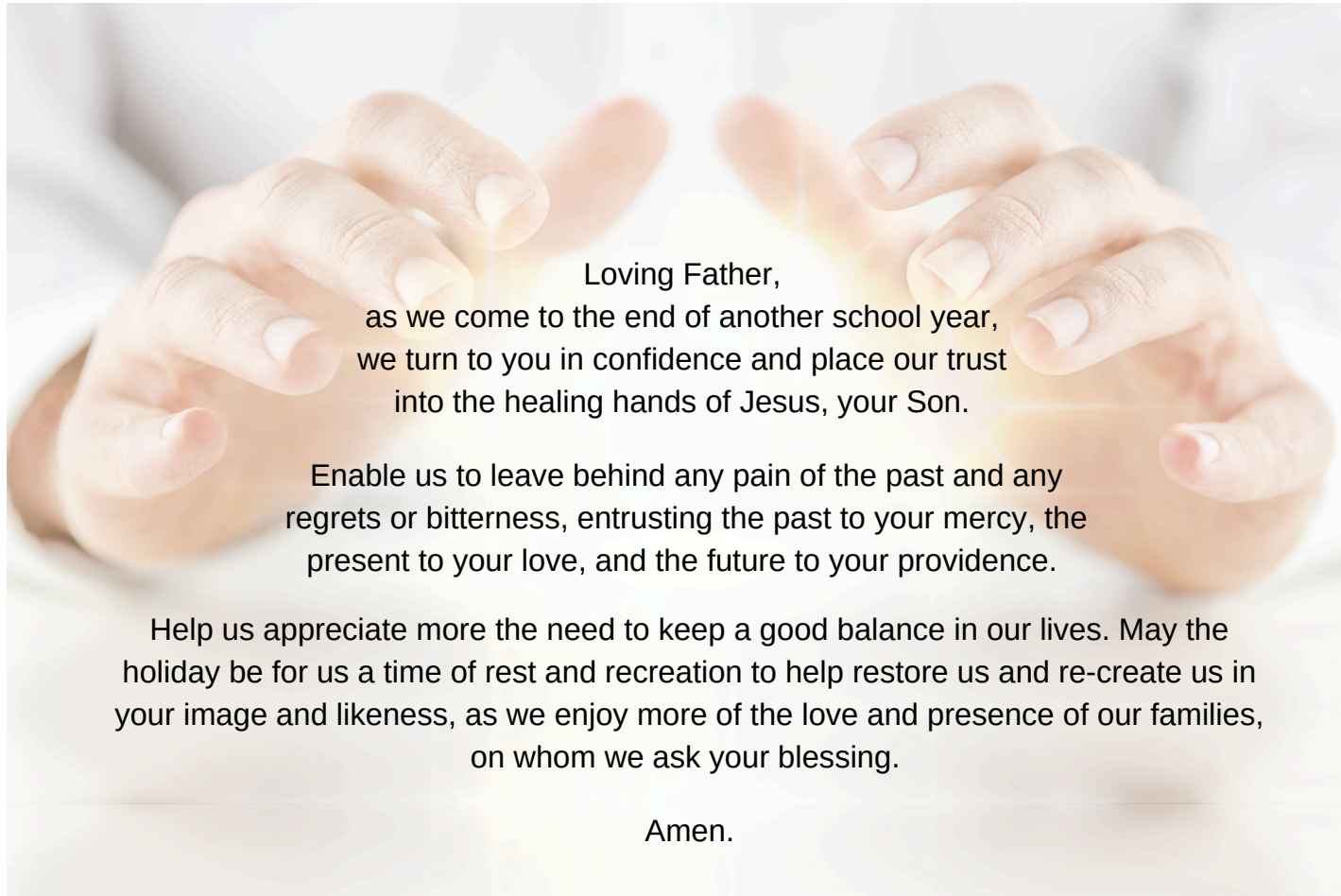
To all those who are leaving, please know that you will always carry our blessing with you. You are all part of the fabric that makes our community so special.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers for Abbey and her family as she continues to face significant health challenges. We hope the peace of Christmas gives them courage and hope. Thank you for all of your support, it means so much to me.

May the peace and joy of Christmas fill your hearts and homes with love.

Cathy

Cathy Sires
Principal - St Patrick's Special School



Loving Father,
as we come to the end of another school year,
we turn to you in confidence and place our trust
into the healing hands of Jesus, your Son.

Enable us to leave behind any pain of the past and any
regrets or bitterness, entrusting the past to your mercy, the
present to your love, and the future to your providence.

Help us appreciate more the need to keep a good balance in our lives. May the
holiday be for us a time of rest and recreation to help restore us and re-create us in
your image and likeness, as we enjoy more of the love and presence of our families,
on whom we ask your blessing.

Amen.

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Over the last few weeks, I have had the privilege to participate in several events with our students. Attending the Graduation for 5 of our students was occasion filled with joy, reflection, and sense of unity. To Thomas, Daniel, Katia, Alex and Isaiah, your engagement and enthusiasm showed how much St Patrick's means to you, your family and network of people. To our Graduating students, I wish you every success in your future pathway.

I have also had the opportunity to have a visit to High Street Café, where I was able to have a coffee made by one of our students and was fortunate to see other students make banana cake. What an experience! It was also a pleasure to meet our old and new junior families at morning tea this week.

I have also had the wonderful opportunity to attend a professional learning opportunity with some of the staff from both campuses. It was inspiring to see the alignment of our school communities as we shared ideas, experiences, and best practices.

And what an incredible event our End of Year Mass was. I heard such wonderful reports of previous evenings, and this year did not disappoint. Wishing you all a blessed Christmas and New Year.

Thank you for your ongoing support and participation in the life of our community.

Kind regards

Shannon

Shannon Correll

Principal - Catholic Special Schools

End of Year Mass



Christmas Celebrations

AT ST PAT'S



variety
the children's charity™

Bus Phone Numbers



Red Bus:
0407 606 950

Green Bus:
0417 821 292

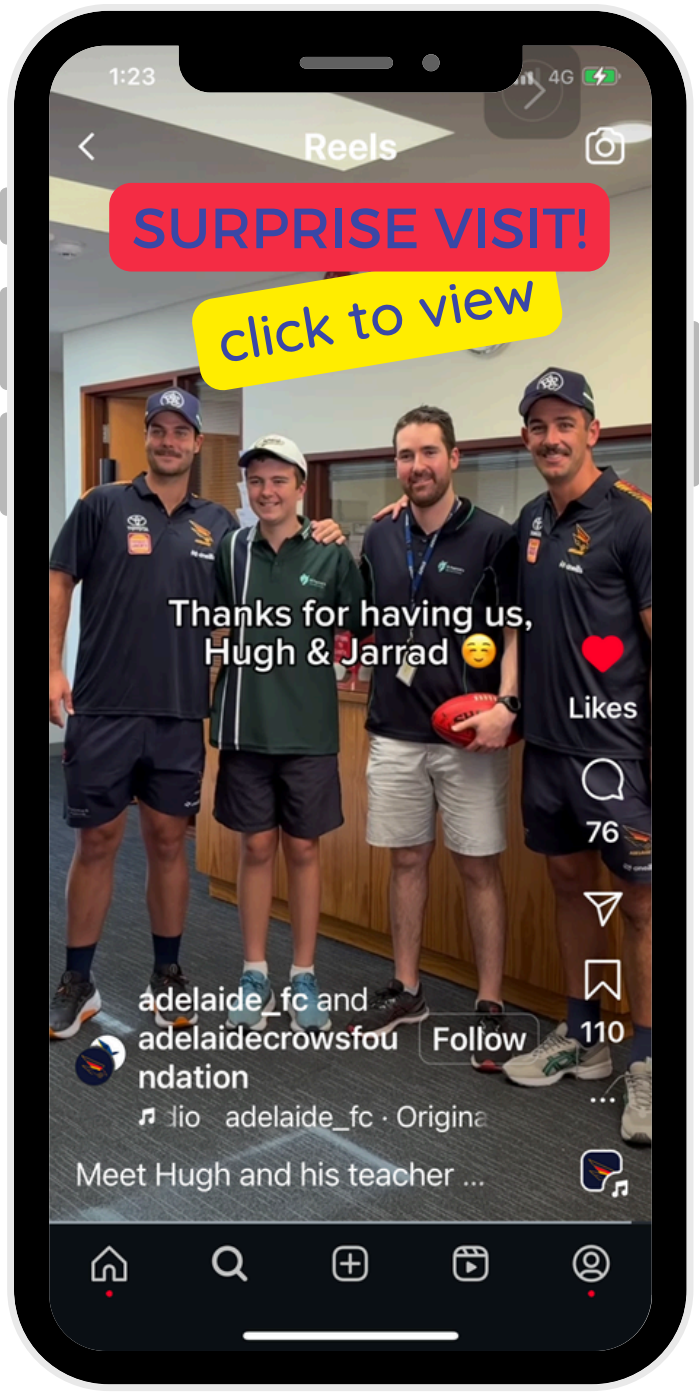
Rainbow Bus:
0406 829 513

2025 TERM DATES

- Term 1**
28 January to 11 April
- Term 2**
28 April to 4 July
- Term 3**
21 July to 26 September
- Term 4**
13 October to 12 December

2025 PUPIL-FREE DATES

- Monday 28 April 2025
- Monday 21 July 2025
- Monday 13 October 2025
- Friday 12 December 2025



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