Mary Mackillop’s reflective saying for this week is:
My heart would sink but for the firm conviction that God’d word can never fail. 28.6.1877

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week, during my week at the Leadership Forum in Warwick, there were many interesting topics covered. Some of the topics include:

⇒ ‘what is our bottom line?’ (so what is the expectation we have for learning, our staff, our parents and our students?) from Dr Pat Coughlan
⇒ Mission and Identity – ‘Learning it! Living it!’ and a closer look at what is happening in our schools around the catholic faith and mission from Gerard Hore
⇒ the vision, mission and intended goals for schools based on the Strategic Plan, the projects that are happening around our diocese and where they fit with this from Jim Midgley
⇒ The school renewal process for EiCE from John Coman
⇒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Education Plan – 2017 – 2020
⇒ OP / ATAR – leaving high school scores and how it will work.
⇒ Evidence for Learning by guest speakers – Dr Tanya Vaughn and Dr Pauline Ho.
⇒ Workshops on different topics
⇒ Staffing timeline for 2018 / 2019
⇒ Work with Ken Avenell around leadership and “What is your bottom line?” in our schools.

So, I look forward to sharing some of this work with you all as the term goes on. Thank you to Anne Standing for being here in my absence. Anne will continue to be the deputising in my absence.

We wish Erin, Chloe and Kaylah the best of luck next Wednesday when they compete at the Darling Downs Swimming trials in Gatton. I will be accompanying these girls as well. We look forward to hearing their results. Swim well and may God give then courage and strength to do their best!

Please keep in mind Olivia’s dad as he is unwell. We send all our prayers to her and her family this week.

Please check the calendar for the events coming up next week. I will be away Tuesday (APRE meeting), Wednesday (Swimming) and Thursday (NAPLAN Online training). Olivia will be taking the Year 6 leaders to GRIP Leadership conference on Wednesday and Casey will be attending Oral Language training in Toowoomba on Friday. All great opportunities for our staff to further develop their skills so that we have the best teachers for your child/ren.

Look forward to seeing you this afternoon at the Parent Information session.

This week’s quote is “The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.” Helen Keller.

Yours in God’s courage and strength
Paula
**Tuckshop Volunteers:**

23rd February:
- Workers— Sara Price
  - Sonja Cover
- Home Cooking— Lee Garland

2nd March:
- Workers— Carla Trevisiol
  - Megan Blandthorn
- Home Cooking— Sara Price

9th March:
- Workers— Sara Price
  - Jade Marrinan
- Home Cooking— Mandy Mead

**Birthdays:**

**NO BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

MacIntyre Zone Touch Trial 2018

**Venue:** Texas P-10 School

**Date:** Friday, 9\(^{th}\) of March

**Time:** 9.30am – 12.30pm

**Age Eligibility:** Boys/Girls born 2006, 2007 and 2008

**Cost:** $3

Nomination and permission forms available from the office. Must be returned by Monday 5th March.

Congratulations to these students on their Mathletics certificates!

This morning on assembly, the Prep—3 class gave us a very entertaining rendition of Vowel Bat!
# NAPLAN Online update

Our students in Years 3 and 5 will be undertaking NAPLAN testing online on **15th, 16th and 17th May** this year for the first time. Moving NAPLAN online brings many advantages, including a test design that offers test items tailored to students’ knowledge and ability.

We will also be participating in a national coordinated practice test on 22 March. This is an excellent opportunity to fine tune any technical and logistical needs, as well as familiarise students and teachers with the online testing process.

Parents and caregivers of students in these NAPLAN year levels will need to be aware of important information relating to privacy, which can be found on the NAPLAN Online Queensland website’s parent information page (https://naplanonline.qld.edu.au/getting-ready/parent-information).

## Key events and activities

The overarching key events and activities for NAPLAN Online 2018 are provided below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Readiness activities for schools, staff and students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 February – 1 March</td>
<td>Refresher training (Toowoomba Catholic Schools)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 February</td>
<td>QCAA closing date for disability adjustment alternative formats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 March – 27 April</td>
<td>Practice Test window</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 March</td>
<td>Coordinated Practice Test 9:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 – 25 May</td>
<td>NAPLAN Online test delivery window</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 June</td>
<td>NAPLAN Online test security window concludes*</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* NAPLAN online test materials must remain secure from the time they are delivered to the school, generated or accessible via the platform, to the end of the test security period. Further detail on activities is provided in the national high-level operational planning timeline which is for CSA staff involved in NAPLAN Online planning for their school/s and is not for distribution.
Lent is a season of preparation for the celebration of Easter. In the early Church the annual feast of Easter was the time when new members were initiated into the Christian community. Those preparing for baptism, known as ‘catechumens’, fasted for two days beforehand. Gradually this time of preparation lengthened until, by the fourth century, it had become set at forty days. Today the season begins when we are marked with the cross on Ash Wednesday and concludes at the commencement of the Easter Triduum on Holy Thursday.

As we are signed with ashes at the beginning of Lent, we ask for conversion from anything that keeps us away from the light of Christ in our lives. We remember also that we are Easter people – that good can come out of evil, that death gives way to new life, that there is hope in the midst of despair, out of ashes will come the Easter dawn.

The use of ashes stems from our Jewish heritage. The Hebrew scriptures refer to ashes in a number of different ways. Abraham says of himself: ‘I am dust and ashes’ (Genesis 18:27). Job tells his friends: ‘Your maxims are proverbs of ashes’ (Job 13:12). Ashes here suggest humility and human insignificance, as in the familiar ‘ashes to ashes, dust to dust’. In the book of Numbers, we read that the ashes of a red heifer were used as a purification offering to ritually cleanse the unclean (Numbers 19:9). Ashes were also used in scripture to express mourning and sorrow. When the city of Nineveh was confronted with its sin the king ‘covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes’ (Jonah 3:6).

The ritual use of ashes was carried over into Christian liturgy. The foreheads of public sinners, who entered the ‘order of penitents’ at the beginning of Lent, were marked with ashes. By the Middle Ages this practice extended to the entire community in acknowledgment of the fact that we are all sinners in need of God’s forgiveness. Today we continue the Jewish understanding of ashes as a symbol of humility, purification and sorrow when we are marked with ashes on the first day of Lent as a sign of our willingness to cleanse our heart through prayer, fasting and self-denial.

The ritual incorporates three symbols: the ashes, sign of death and repentance; the cross, the paradox of life through death; the water, reminder of our baptism into Christ. These three together signify our willingness to embrace a way of life that will lead to Easter glory, to which we are committed through our baptism, and which demands dying to ourselves over and over again in order to live more deeply the new life offered by Christ.
Parent Information Afternoon

with teachers.

Thursday 22nd February

3:15 – Meet and greet under the school

3:30 – Prep to Year 3 room

3:45 – Year 4-6 room (this session has been cancelled)
Reptile Workshop

Tuesday 27th February
2pm

REPTILE AND INVERTEBRATE WORKSHOP

Did you know Australia is home to an impressive 140 different types of snakes?

Get up close and personal with our interactive workshops, featuring a range of venomous and non-venomous snakes and pythons, lizards, crocodiles and all your favourite creepy crawlies.

You’ll learn how to identify different types of reptiles and invertebrates, discover their life-cycles, habitat and how they survive in the wild; and most importantly, learn what to do if you ever come face-to-face with a venomous one!

SAVE THE DATE!
Tuesday 27th February
2pm

P: (07) 4157 2948  E: admin@resta.com.au  W: www.resta.com.au
Please be sure to complete name and emergency contact details on event bib.

Entry and payment will only be accepted with signature and date below.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

Where: Stirs of Peak Park, Seabrook, GA

When: First Sunday of March & July

www.peak2park.org

Questions about Peak2Park?

WHERE CHRISTIAN VALUES ARE AN EVERYDAY LIVED EXPERIENCE

**Peek to Park — For Schools**

FROM A REGISTERED PEAK2PARK PARTICIPATING SCHOOL

THIS ENTRY FORM ONLY APPLIES TO SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

WHERE: Starts at Park Point and finishes at Lake Hamilton

www.peak2park.org

Peak2Park good information

Peek2Park — For Schools
Upcoming events:
Friday 23rd Feb — Catering for Stud Sheep Ram Sale
Wednesday 7th March — PPF Meeting 3:30pm
Thursday 29th March — Easter Raffle drawn
Friday 25th May — Catering for Blue Light Disco

PPF Meeting: Wednesday 7th March at 3:30pm