

# NEWSLETTER

*"TO LIVE, TO LOVE, TO GROW IN CHRIST"*



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### *Prayer for St Mary of the Cross MacKillop*

*God of all people. We thank you for Mary MacKillop who like your Son Jesus reached out to the poor, the isolated, the rejected and all in need with a compassionate and loving heart.*

*As we walk in her footsteps may we see her eyes, listen with her ears and love with her heart.*

*May we respond in practical ways wherever we see a need. We ask this in Jesus' name, the One who shows us the way of compassion and love.*

*Amen*

Dear Families,

Welcome back everyone to our new term together. We have new staff and students who have started with us and already they have settled in beautifully.

Welcome Bree Henderson, Sinead McDonnell, Putu Wati and Hannah Hoang as new teachers at Holy Spirit. Welcome Helen Maragkos and Michael Blair as two of new Inclusion Support Assistants. We are truly blessed to have our new staff join us for this semester. I know you will make them feel very welcome.

We have a few new families joining us this term. We welcome Buddy Dwyer, Daniel Joseph and Jaymie Johnson to our school. Please join me in welcoming our new students, staff and their families to our school.



# Welcome!

Last week we farewelled the Jackson family. They have moved for the short term to WA but will be back in January. We wish Bethany, Kyle, Harper, Audrey, Estelle, Poppy and Edie well in WA and look forward to their return. Beth will be coming back to us as one of our new teachers next year.

Term newsletters from our classroom teachers have been sent to you all through Class Dojo with a snapshot of what your children will be learning this term, including additional calendar events. Please take the time to read and mark in your calendars important dates.

[Transition](#)

[Year 1/2](#)

[Year 3/4](#)

[Year 5/6](#)

Today is Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) Educators Day where we recognise and acknowledge the important work of our OSHC educators. The theme is Recognition and Appreciation. Thanks Michelle Donnelly, Sabrina Ciubal, Cassandra Kirby, Leigh Devlin, Abdul Salam, Raquel Caldwell, Neeli Myneni, Grace Beard, Hannah Garland, Ava Hurley, Helen Magakos, and Eli Picolli-Aukram for your work and care of our students.

Registration for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion is still open. It is not too late to register. Follow the [link](#) to register. You must provide to Fr Dave a copy of your child's baptismal certificate when completing the online form. We already have a few of our students who will be participating in this important sacramental program. We keep in our prayers Jim and Fiona Begley, Declan Lynam, Rosie Seivers, Camilla Curley, Kruse Driscoll, Harriet Chan, Alma Chimenton and Opi'Aza Adakpoku.

Next Friday 8th August is the Feast of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Mary MacKillop accomplished remarkable things throughout her life and through this inspired many people still today to become better and assist those less fortunate than themselves. Her quote by which she worked and lived, 'Never see a need without doing something about it'. This is a wonderful quote and one that we at Holy Spirit continue to live and work by. Our school motto is reflective of this, 'To Live, To Love, To Grow in Christ'. Please come along and join us next Friday morning assembly where our Year 5 Youth Ministers will be sharing a beautiful reflection of Saint Mary MacKillop and her work. Following this we shall then share and celebrate the success and achievements of our students through awards assembly.



We welcomed back our campers on Thursday afternoon after three fun filled days in Katherine. They had the most wonderful time and participated in a variety of team building activities. To our staff and all the work behind the scenes in preparing for this day we say thanks – big shout out to Joshua Hodgson, Siobhan Webb, Nikita Jason, Abby Caldwell, and Heidi van Bodegraven. We also had the short return of Connor Schiller who came along too.



Our newsletter will be sent home in Weeks 3, 6 and 9 of each term. Through Class Dojo, Operoo and Toddle we continue to provide to you what is occurring at school on a regular basis. Our newsletter is to share with you what we have been doing and upcoming events and activities. A reminder that where our students are to receive weekly awards, our classroom and specialist teachers shall inform you of this through communication platforms so that you are aware and can plan to come along.

Tomorrow afternoon is our first AFL After School Primary Challenge. Our first game is here at 3:30pm. Please contact [Abby Caldwell](#) or [Josh Hodgson](#) for more details. We have a proud sporting history here at Holy Spirit and I am sure that this year will be no exception.

Our Athletics Carnival was a great success for all involved at the end of last term. Congratulations to McAuley (Yellow) on your win this year and to Strele (Green) on being awarded the Spirit Cup. Thank you, Abby Caldwell as our PE teacher and coordinator, in training and preparing our students for the day. To our House Captains – Seiarrah Knott, Yongo Adakpoku, Aria Palu, Mackenzie Gillon, Eliana Arellano and Lito Neto – thank you for leading your teams so well.

Please remember to book a time to meet with our teachers for Parent/Teacher Interviews which take place on Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th August to discuss student achievement, as well as areas for growth or focus. Details have been

sent to you through Operoo so that you are able to nominate an interview time. If you do not receive Operoo notifications and would like to book a time on these days, please contact the front office.

We continue to take enrolments for 2026 across all year levels, including Community of Learners (3-5 years). Over the past few weeks, I have been meeting with many new families coming to our school. If you know of anyone who is looking at enrolling their child for next year, please be sure to let them know that we are available for an interview and a school tour. All information about our school can be located on our [school website](#).

All details for Term 3 have been provided in our newsletter. A few dates to lock into your calendar for the beginning of term:

- Monday 4th August - Picnic Day Holiday
- Friday 8th August - Feast of Mary MacKillop
- Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th August - Parent/Teacher Interviews
- Friday 15th August - Assumption of Mary mass from 8:30am in our Church
- Friday 29th August - Book Week Parade

With thanks,








Mrs Paula Sellars  
Principal

# SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Regular school attendance is very important for all our children.

## Every day at school counts!

Please refer to the table below as an indicator of how repeated absences can have an impact on student learning.

	<b>Your child's attendance is above 95%</b> They are likely to be a 'Star Performer' as well as an excellent attendee. They will almost certainly achieve the best grades for their ability and have real opportunity in further education, or in the world of work.
	<b>Your child's attendance is 90 – 94%</b> 'GREEN for Go' for good attendance, they are likely to achieve grades that will give them real opportunities to continue their studies, or in the world of work.
10 days missed = 2 weeks absence	
	<b>Your child's attendance is 85 – 89%</b> 'AMBER – Take care' as students will be missing up to 20 days each year and this will make it very difficult for them to achieve their best.
	<b>Your child's attendance is 80 – 84%</b> 'RED light – Be alert' as students are missing so much school that it will be very difficult for them to keep in touch with lessons or with work.
	<b>Your child's attendance is below 80%</b> 'AT RISK – Immediate Action Needed' as students are missing so much time from school that it will be almost impossible for them to keep in touch with lessons or work.





### *Jubilee Prayer of Hope*

*God, our loving Father*

*In this Jubilee year, you remind us of our call to love creation.*

*Help us to work together to replant, repair and renew.*

*Guide us on our journey as pilgrims of hope.*

**Amen**

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion**

Sacrament of Reconciliation is taking place Thursday 11th September followed by First Holy Communion on Sunday 14th September. We keep in our prayers Jim and Fiona Begley, Declan Lynam, Rosie Seivers, Camilla Curley, Kruse Driscoll, Harriet Chan, Alma Chimenton and Opi'Aza Adakpoku who are currently preparing these important sacraments with their family.

I have included the [parent information booklet](#) with our newsletter to assist those families who may have missed out, along with the audio of our first parent meeting. [Sacrament Introduction.mp3](#)  
Please check in with Fr Dave or I should you require clarification or assistance.

### **Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop**

Next Friday 8th August we shall hold a short prayer service to acknowledge the tireless work of St Mary MacKillop. This will be led by our Year 5 Youth Ministers and will take place in our Multipurpose Room. We hope you can come along.

### **Cultural Fusion**

Congratulations to so many from our parish for their work in preparing what can only be described as a huge success at the Cultural Fusion event last Friday evening. There were so many in attendance and the feedback has been fantastic. Congratulations to our very own Marina Gomez who performed on the night also. After the great success of this there is talk about another one before the wet season. We shall keep you informed.

### **Children's Mass**

These continue to take place on the last Sunday of each month at 9:30am where our children lead the singing, do the readings and altar serve. It would be lovely to have more of our families at these beautiful masses.

### **Australian Catholics Magazine**

Please do not forget about this free subscription. This is published quarterly and is a great resource offering reflections, stories, and updates from the Church in Australia and beyond, helping families feel connected to the wider Catholic community.

Log-in details: <https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/acmagazine>

Username: [parents@nt.catholic.edu.au](mailto:parents@nt.catholic.edu.au)

Password: acparents

### **Appointment of an Assistant Principal-Religious Education/Religious Education Coordinator at Holy Spirit we still await**

We continue to look at filling the position of an APRE/REC at our school who would join the leadership team at our school. The appointment of this comes from our office as it is a leadership position, endorsed by our Bishop. I have been carrying this position since July last year and am doing my best in overseeing and delivering our RE program to staff, students and families. I continue to keep in close contact with Catholic Education NT about the urgency in filling this position. As a Catholic School, it is imperative we have a member of staff to oversee our Catholic Identity and also ensure that we are supporting our students and families through Religious Education. If you know of anyone who may be looking at a great opportunity to join our leadership team, please contact me.

As always, your support and work is greatly appreciated through Religious Education.

*Paula Sellars*

Mrs Sellars

## Welcome Back to Term Three!

I'm thrilled to welcome everyone back for an exciting Term Three! We warmly welcomed Mr. Michael and Miss Helen the newest ISAs to our Inclusion team. They're building wonderful connections with our staff and students, proving to be assets already! Our team has been busy, with some members completing LEGO social-emotional learning training, and we're eager to restart our LEGO programs soon—families will be contacted shortly.

The teaching and ISA teams have worked tirelessly to meet compliance requirements for the upcoming NCCD Census deadline. We're incredibly proud of our strengths-based, neuro-affirming approach to supporting our diverse learners, who continue to inspire us daily.

Educational Adjustment Plan review meetings will be held in Weeks 7 and 8, with families contacted over the coming fortnight for further details.

We also encourage families to explore upcoming programs with Positive Partnerships, a fantastic organisation fostering collaboration for our neurodivergent students—see the attached flyer for details.

Finally, mark your calendars for The Christmas Party, a free, invitation-only event for children with disabilities or complex needs, featuring rides, a petting zoo, stage shows, delicious treats, and a special visit from Santa with three carefully chosen gifts per child. Contact me by September 10th to register eligible children. For more information about the Darwin Party, reach out at [darwin@sccpau.com.au](mailto:darwin@sccpau.com.au) or call 1300 88 77 36, and check our Facebook page for photos.

As always, I am happy to help—reach out anytime!



Miss Claire  
Inclusion Support Coordinator



## 2 Day Autism Workshop for Parents and Carers

Darwin, NT



Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to register

## Free workshop



This workshop is for parents, full time carers and grandparents.



Wednesday & Thursday  
13 & 14 August, 2025  
9:30am - 2:30pm



Novotel Darwin Airport  
2 Sir Norman Brearley Drive  
MARRARA NT 0812

Morning tea and a light lunch will be provided





Interpreters available upon request

## During the workshop you will learn about:

- The diversity of autism
- Sensory processing
- Understanding behaviour
- Working together with your child's school.

Learn more about autism and ways to strengthen the partnership between home and school.

For more information or to register visit:

 <https://www.positivepartnerships.com.au/PC>  
 [jcousins@positivepartnerships.com.au](mailto:jcousins@positivepartnerships.com.au)



0473 004 024

Positive Partnerships is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education. The views expressed within this program do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government or the Australian Government Department of Education.

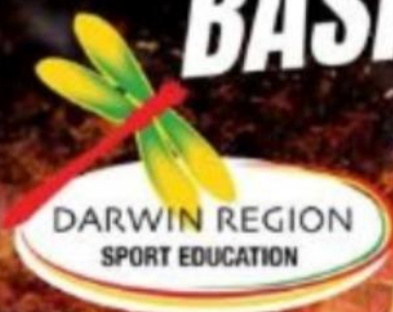
# TERM THREE CALENDAR, 2025

WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	ASSEMBLY
<b>Week 3</b> July/August 17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time	28	29	30	31  AFL After School Primary Challenge	1 National Primary Principal's Day  Year 1/2 Excursion  Basketball Gala	<b>No Friday Assembly</b>
<b>Week 4</b> August 18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time	4  PICNIC DAY	5	6	7 P&F Meeting @ 2:00pm  AFL Primary Challenge	8 Awards Assembly  (Feast of Mary MacKillop)	<b>Year 5 Youth Ministers</b>
<b>Week 5</b> August 19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time	11	12	13	14 AFL after school Primary Challenge  Sophie Sparks - Assembly	15 Assumption of Mary Mass Bullying, No way!  REWARD AFTERNOON  Cross Country Gala	<b>No Friday Assembly</b>
	Parent/ Teacher Meetings					
<b>Week 6</b> August 20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time	18	19	20 Year 6 speeches @ 1:30pm	21 AFL after school Primary Challenge	22 Awards Assembly  Defence Gathering @ 1:30pm	<b>Yr 5/6 Rm 10 Rm 12 Rm 13</b>
<b>Week 7</b> August 21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time	25	26	27	28 AFL after school Primary Challenge	29 Book Parade @ 8:10am  Orienteering Gala	<b>No Friday Assembly</b>
	Book Week - Book an Adventure					
<b>Week 8</b> September 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time	1	2	3 Early Childhood Educators Day & ISA Appreciation Day	4 Awards Assembly National Health & PE Day P&F Meeting @ 2:00pm	5 Father's Day liturgy  AFL Gala	<b>Yr 3/4 Rm 14 Rm 15 Rm 17</b>
<b>Week 9</b> September 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time	8	9	10	11 RU Okay Day?  Reconciliation @ 6:00pm	12 Catholic Schools Public Speaking @ Holy Family School  Golf Gala	<b>No Friday Assembly</b>



DARWIN REGION SPORT EDUCATION

# 12 YEARS & UNDER BASKETBALL TRIALS 2025



For Girls & Boys born between  
1st July 2012 – 31st December 2015  
Age dispensation applies for students  
born from 1/7/2012 – 31/12/2012

Please bring appropriate clothing,  
footwear & water bottle

To be eligible for selection students must  
be the correct age, attend at least 2 out of  
the 3 trial days and be enrolled in a Darwin  
Region School.

**TUESDAY 12TH, WEDNESDAY  
13TH & THURSDAY 14TH  
AUGUST**

**3:30 PM – 5:00 PM**

**Holy Spirit Catholic  
Primary School**

For more information please contact Darwin Region Sport Education  
Office or your school to receive a permission form

Amanda – Pathways Co-ordinator

M: 0460 037 976 E: darwinsport.doe@education.nt.gov.au

Hannah – Sport Education Co-ordinator

M: 0437 001 735 E: hannah.doust@education.nt.gov.au

## OTHER NOTICES

[City of Darwin Youth Territory Author Awards](#)

[Waratah Juniors AFL—Registration Open](#)