



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Columba Parents and Friends,

There has been much activity at the College in the past fortnight. The many clubs and activities on offer have started to demonstrate outcomes and progress across the College, interschool sport is well underway and the senior inter school swimming carnival was held, where Columba had a strong showing. More information about that in the sports shorts article in this newsletter.

The CSPA held its AGM on Monday and I am delighted to announce the 2020 CSPA Executive.

**President - Fiona Murray**  
**Vice President - Kate Scharf**  
**Vice President (Special Projects) - Toni Cullen**  
**Secretary - Mick Kingham**

It was wonderful to see some new faces at the CSPA meeting as well. There is much energy in this team of people who work for the common good of all students. It is vital for us to play a part, when we can, to support these initiatives. All future CSPA meetings will have the ability for parents to phone in or link in to be part of the meeting. Further details to come.

The College Board was invited to a Board Formation Day in Townsville last Saturday, and I thank Board members: Rohan Dixon (Chair), Sonia Bennetto and Sandra McCabe (College Business Manager) for their attendance on the topic of 'College Boards and their role in understanding and furthering the Mission and Vision of the Catholic School'.

My visit to Cloncurry, Julia Creek and Richmond last week, was a great way to catch up with families, and to meet new families and prospective students. I thank the Principal of Julia Creek State School Kane Jardine for his warm welcome. We already have enrolments for 2021 and 2022 coming in, from day and residential students across the region!

The Positive Behaviour Framework and the College 'Big 5' values are being taken up in a proactive and supported way by students and staff. Our Campus student awards are centred around these 5 values, as well as them being the 'language of change' when students require a restorative talk about actions that misalign from these Big 5. Please do ask your son or daughter about the 'Big 5' and check in their student diary for an explanation of what this looks like. It will be a great support for them to have your knowledge of the College's expectations as we embed this framework across the College.

Student voice sessions have begun across the College, with the SRC at St Mary's and the SRC and its committees at Mt Carmel, meeting to discuss initiatives and issues. Residential pastoral councils have begun across girls and boys residences. I look forward to the feedback and initiatives to support progress of our College from the people who matter most - the students.

Attached to this newsletter is an important Pastoral message from Bishop Timothy Harris, regarding precautionary measures taking place in the mass to safeguard against Coronavirus. It is important to read this, in light of the precautionary nature of these actions, rather than one of escalation of anxieties or panic.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our annual Pink Stumps cricket match against BTC on Friday at 4pm at Mt Carmel Campus.

Best wishes for the fortnight ahead.



*Candi*

**Candi Dempster**  
**PRINCIPAL**

**Courage Commitment Compassion**

# MEET OUR STAFF



Name: Alexandra Benedetto  
Hometown: Ingham  
Year Level Taught: Year 6.2  
Favourite Foods: Anything Italian  
Hobbies: Travel, Craft and Shopping

## SM CAMPUS AWARDS

### WEEK 4

#### SETTING GOALS AND PUTTING IN MY BEST EFFORT

Prep	Charlotte Jepson
Year 1	Lucy O'Connor
Year 2	Ned Webb
Year 3	Holly Power
Year 4	Mikaela Geaney
Year 5	Bella Casella
Year 6A	Tayne Hermann
Year 6B	Andrew Scharf

### WEEK 5

#### STAYING POSITIVE WHEN CHALLENGED

Prep	Lochlan Grant
Year 1	Flynn Bailey
Year 2	Reece Taylor
Year 3	Rejina Pedracini
Year 4	Bridget Pedracini
Year 5	Harlee Ivanov
Year 6A	Cooper Hoare
Year 6B	Cooper Jeffries

## SCHOOL PHOTOS

College Photos will be taken on the Mt Carmel Campus on Wednesday 18th March and St Mary's Campus on Thursday 19th March.

Uniform requirements are as follows:

Mt Carmel Campus – All students are to wear their formal uniform to school. They will need to change into their sports uniform if they are in sports photos (secondary interschool swim team, cricket and girls tennis). Please ensure you remember to bring your sports shoes and socks for the photos.

St Mary's Campus – All students are to wear their usual uniform to school (Prep sports and Yrs 1-6 day). Only students who are in the Rugby League and Netball teams are to bring their sports uniform. Please remember to bring your sports shoes and socks.

You can order photos online or by using the envelope.

Online ordering details: [www.advancedlife.com.au](http://www.advancedlife.com.au) and enter the code GBQ DYW 9M6

## MC CAMPUS NOTABLE MENTIONS

### WEEK 5

#### RESPECT FOR COLLEGE TRADITIONS

Year 7 - Samson McHugh  
Year 8 - Matthew Hewlett  
Year 9 - Beau Lavery  
Year 10 - Riley Taylor  
Year 11 - Davauntay Peters  
Year 12 - Bridie White

*Shine at Columba*

# FROM THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRINCIPAL - RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, ST. MARY'S CAMPUS

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Last week we were fortunate to have Father Mobin lead Ash Wednesday liturgies on both campuses as we focussed on three tenets of Lent: Fasting, Almsgiving and Prayer. Father Mobin also visited our swimmers at the Interschool Swimming Carnival to distribute ashes, making a statement to all about the importance of our faith.

The ashes on our forehead are a symbol for all that we are believers and it is a recognition of the mistakes we have made. During the time of Lent, we make the commitment to focus on these shortcomings as we work towards living the life that all Christians are called to live. This is where the fasting, almsgiving and prayer becomes our focus. Last Saturday, Rice House led our first College supported mass for the year. Caitlyn, James and Edward shared with us the Gospel story of Jesus being tempted in the desert. Year 3 and Year 6 students both asked the questions, "Did Jesus really see the Devil?" and "What did he look like?" when studying this reading. They were encouraged to think about where Jesus' temptations were coming from. Where do their own temptations come from? We won't see a thorned creature in red, but our temptations are often those decisions we need to make between what we know is right and wrong. Sometimes the wrong may be easier, or it may give us some short term plus, but these are the temptations we need to address with the guidance of the scriptures. It is this trip to the wilderness that we are called to take during Lent. The fasting helps us live in solidarity with others and makes us uncomfortable enough to stop and take head of where we are. Then it is through prayer that we seek to make right choices and ensure we are on the right path. Finally, as Bishop Tim mentioned in his Lenten Pastoral Letter, "No matter how much time you spend fasting, ... if you do no good to others, you do nothing great."

Each student last week was given a Project Compassion box for donations throughout Lent. This money is the opportunity to do good to others. Our sacrifice means so much to the people around the world that live in poverty so we again call for your generosity to make a real difference in the lives of others around the world.

We will have our St Patrick's Day fundraiser and again, all money raised will go to Project Compassion. One of the greatest things about our college is the constant willingness to give. The community spirit and engagement adds so much richness to our College life and the development of our children as compassionate people, prepared to live their faith.

God bless,



Ryan O'Connor  
ASSISTANT TO THE PRINCIPAL -  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ST. MARY'S CAMPUS



## YEAR 1 NEWS

Year 1 has had a 'ONEderful' start to the year. We have been so busy that the weeks have just flown by, and it is hard to believe that we are halfway through the term.

Our focus in R.E lessons has been learning about the symbols of Baptism and Eucharist. We will also be exploring some different ways to pray in the weeks to come. We are learning that music is another wonderful way to worship and have used songs such as 'Jesus Is My Super Hero', 'Into My Heart' and 'Tell the World' for our morning and afternoon prayers.

In English, we have been writing recounts and have just completed our first Writing Task. The class has already demonstrated great progress in this area of English. Each day, we select a new 'King and Queen Writer' and we have found this to be a great motivation for our young writers. Our Reading Groups commenced in Week 4, and the students are becoming much better acquainted with PM Online. The school has purchased a subscription to this online resource and we strongly encourage parents to take advantage of this invaluable learning app if you have not already done so. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful parents who have volunteered their time to assist with our Reading Groups. Volunteers are always welcome and most appreciated!

Mathematics lessons are always a 'hive of activity' as we build on our number recognition and writing, counting skills and identification of 2D and 3D Shape properties. Year 1 has begun Maths Rotations each week; which allows for plenty of small group work and 'hands on' learning.

HASS lessons have seen Year 1 constructing timelines of important milestones in their lives and building their understandings of Past, Present and Future. We loved looking at the students' baby photos!

We have been investigating physical change in Science through the heating and cooling of a variety of substances. The students have loved the practical component of lessons, cooking popcorn and eggs and melting ice and chocolate and noting reversible changes. Our Technology lessons have provided an opportunity for us to learn how to log on and off our Chromebooks, and create our very own Google documents complete with text and images.

Year 1 have been assigned their Year 6 Buddies and they meet with them each week. We thank Miss Allison and 6A for visiting each week to assist with Sight Word Testing. We know it's a highlight of the week for Year 1!

There really is never a dull moment in Year 1. We are enjoying watching the progress our students are making in so many areas.

Mrs Geaney and Mrs O'Connor  
**YEAR ONE TEACHERS**



## YEAR 5 NEWS

This year, Year 5 class is buddied up with the Preps. We have taught them to sing and dance to the Butterfly Song. We have visited them several times now and the vibe has been excellent.

The general theme this year is future leaders. It has been wonderful to see our students putting their hands up to show their leadership skills. We have many who have joined Mini Vinnies with Mr O'Connor and 10 students applied to be on the SRC. In the Opening Mass for 2020, 6 Year 5 students performed the Gospel reading for the whole campus. Our Pancake Sale for Shrove Tuesday was a roaring success. We raised \$153.60. A big thank you goes out to those wonderful parents who helped their children cook pancakes.

In Science, we have busted the myth of Macca's cheese burgers not growing mould. That myth is rubbish. It took two weeks, which was quite incredible, but once it developed mould, it deteriorated rapidly. We had a special guest in the form of a 2 metre python called Ollie. His proud owner Kadam Ramm, brother of Ava, brought this reptile to our class. Bella and Mrs Crowley performed their own method of adaptation by turning white and blending into the classroom wall.

In Religion, we have been learning to recognise what life was like for Catholics in Australia throughout the 19th Century. We are beginning to understand how the wisdom and actions of significant Australians preserved the faith of their communities. We are currently researching Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop's teachings and achievements.

We have been using oil pastels to create wonderful pieces. We have painted hearts that look like they are on fire and fish that gleam underwater. I am looking forward to our firebird paintings.

Congratulations to Billy Shun, James Uren, Aaron and Zander Murray and Connor King on making the school football team and good luck for their first game this week.

Scott Williamson  
YEAR FIVE TEACHER



*Shine at Columba*

## APPLICATION FOR EXTENSIONS

### YEAR 7-12 APPLICATION FOR EXTENSIONS / CHANGE OF DATE OF AN ASSESSMENT ITEM

Year 7-12 drafts and assessment items are due **on or before the due date**. If a student knows they will be absent on the day that an assessment item is due, then they must organise themselves to submit it on or before the due date. Extensions will not be granted for planned absences such as family holidays, attending rodeos, social events, leaving early at the end of term etc. If a student is absent on the day that an assessment item is due it must be emailed to the teacher of the subject by 3.00pm.

**YEAR 7-10 STUDENTS** who need to apply for an extension or change of date for an assessment item due to illness, misadventure or unforeseen circumstances must collect a green 'Application for Extension / Change of Date of an Assessment Item' form from the office. This form needs to be completed and signed by the students and parents / caregivers. The form must be submitted to the class teacher for consideration. Documentary evidence such as a doctor's certificate or detailed letter must be attached to the application detailing why the student is applying for an extension or change of date. Where possible this application should be submitted prior to the due date of the assessment item. The classroom teacher will inform the student if their application has been successful.

**YEAR 10 RELIGION & ETHICS STUDENTS AND YEAR 11 AND 12 STUDENTS** who need to apply for an extension or change of date for an assessment item due to illness, misadventure or unforeseen circumstances need to collect a pink 'Access Arrangements & Reasonable Adjustments' (AARA) form from the office. This form needs to be completed, signed by your parents / caregivers and submitted to your class teacher for consideration. A Confidential Medical Report / detailed Medical Certificate or other suitable documentation must be attached to the application. The Confidential Medical Form template is available from the office. Where possible this application should be submitted prior to the due date of the assessment item or on the day that you return to school. The classroom teacher will inform the student if their application has been successful.

Year 10, 11 and 12 students, please note that the QCAA has stipulated that the medical certificate cannot just state 'medical condition'. The medical report or certificate must contain the following information:

- diagnosis of disability/medical condition
- date of diagnosis
- date of occurrence or onset of the disability/medical condition
- symptoms, treatment or course of action related to the disability/medical condition
- information about how the diagnosed disability, impairment or medical condition affects the student participating in assessment, particularly timed assessment when considering external assessment
- professional recommendations regarding AARA

A copy of the Medical Report Template is available from the office.

Maria Peck

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL - ADMINISTRATION

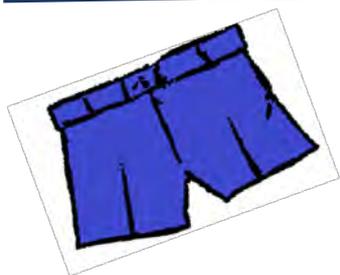
## PASSING EXAMS SEMINAR

On Friday 28 February, Year 11 and 12 students attended the 'Passing Exams' seminar facilitated by Patrick Sherratt from Innervate Education. The seminar provided students with tips and techniques to prepare for exams set out in a 5 step framework. The techniques that Patrick shared with students can be used in preparation for exams completed by students at school as well for preparing for external assessment.

The five step approach involves:

- **Releasing your potential** – students realise they have the potential to improve their current academic standard by gaining an understanding of brain psychology (how their brain, mind and thinking operates);
- **Relaxation** to access a more distraction-free mind and cope with stress;
- **Reviewing and rewriting** notes - review, reading and note-taking techniques to condense class-notes into revision notes;
- **Remembering** with pictures and patterns - memory techniques to save time with content retention;
- **Rehearsing** for recall, understanding and performance.

*Shine at Columba*



## Where you'll find all the secondary sports news in short.

### CT AND NQ REPRESENTATIVES

Week 5 was host to under 15s and Opens Charters Towers trials for both netball and rugby league. All of our students represented the College with pride. Congratulations are in order for the following selections; under 15s netball: Ikanau Conway and Tanika Hedges. Opens netball: Naveah Ambrym, Daisy Pickering and Savanna Beale. Under 15s rugby league: Leslie Patterson, Jake Richards, Raymond Wosomo, Nathaniel Armstrong and Blake Campbell. Open boys: Blake Heitmann, Ben Morris, Bailey Bliss, Jaidyn Osborne, Brock Fleming and Sam Wilson. We wish all of our students luck at the upcoming Northern Trials.

Our congratulations once again go out to Sam Wilson for his selection in the Northern Swimming team. He will be travelling down south to compete at the State Championships on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March. His inclusion into the team is a result of his hard work and dedication to training. Best of luck at States Sam!

### AFL - TOWNSVILLE REPRESENTATIVE TRAINING ACADEMY

At the end of last year, high schools in the Charters Towers region were approached by AFL Townsville to invite any students who might be interested in playing AFL to attend a testing day. Columba offered to host the day and a number of keen and eager students came down and put their skills to the test. The following students were highlighted to have potential and were offered a position with the Townsville Representative training and Gold Coast Suns academy: Lawsen Ford, Bailey Bliss, Bryson Steele, Angus Ford and Boesha Moore-Reid. Their selection alone is worthy of accolade, well done all! After much deliberation Lawsen, Bryson and Angus decided to take up the offer and started training every Tuesday afternoon (in Charters Towers) and Wednesday afternoon (in Townsville). We are incredibly proud of our students for giving something new a try and doing so well. So well in fact that both Lawsen and Bryson have been selected to represent the U16 Townsville Eagle team at the upcoming NQ Championships. Best of luck to you both!

### GIRLS' TENNIS V CTSHS, BTC, ASSG

Our interschool sport season has had a sporadic start with extreme heat and wet weather effecting most of our games in the first two rounds. The only tennis game we were able to play in the first two rounds was against BTC. Our Seconds girls were able to come out on top in a team effort, 23 – 18. **Round 3** against All Souls was more successful and all of our teams were able to get their game in except our U13s who had to forfeit due to low numbers. Our U14s girls were dominant in the doubles coming out on top 10 – 5, we managed to get three singles games completed before a late afternoon storm put an end to the preceding. In the end we come out on top 20 – 9. Our 15s, 2nds and Firsts sides didn't fare so well, all going down to the

dominant Souls sides. Over the next couple of rounds our girls will be playing catch up games to make up for the games missed in the first two rounds.

### CRICKET V CTSHS

The 2020 format which was adopted last year is going ahead again this year. Each school can enter three teams (U13, U15 and 1sts) with each team playing each other once. The two highest ranked schools in each division will play in a grand final on Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> of March. **Round 1 v CTSHS:** Our U13s played an unofficial scratch match against State High as they were unable to field the numbers required. Columba still came out on top, posting 3/64 with Cooper Hedges retiring on 18 off 25. Adam Brandis, Harry Pickering and Frank Sproat put on the remaining 31 runs. Jesse Lavery was the pick of the bowlers, taking 2/0 after two overs, while Harry Pickering starred in the field with two run outs at the bowlers end. The U15s didn't have a game as State High were unable to field a team in this age group. The First boys were eager to play their first match for the season but a late afternoon thunder storm was threatening the area. After deliberation between both schools the game was postponed until Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March. This means our first side will play two games in week 6, with their second game being against BTC for our annual Pink Stumps night on Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> March.

### SCRAMBLED LEGS AND CROSS COUNTRY

Our running club continues to leave the Saint Mary's boarding gate at 6am sharp every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday morning. At this point, we are averaging over 15 runners a session, which is a great turnout. If you know that your child has some talent in this area, encourage them to come along. Our interhouse carnival is fast approaching (Tuesday 24 March) and preparation aids success.

### INTERSCHOOL SWIMMING

Columba once again experienced success at the interschool swimming carnival with a number of students earning runner up or age championship for their division. We were also able to bring home some silverware again this year. More information will follow in the upcoming interschool swimming article.

### CLUB NETBALL AND TOUCH FOOTBALL

Due to fantastic numbers Columba has fielded seven club netball teams this year. We have an array of new coaches this year who are bringing plenty of enthusiasm to the Columba sides. Training has begun and the girls are eager to improve their skills and enjoy their season. Touch Football trials and training are underway in preparation for the touch season! The first round is set to take place on Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> of March. If your child is playing club netball or club touch please ensure they have registered and paid. Money does not come to the school but is instead either paid online or at the clubhouse.

Jordan Marty  
**SPORTS MIDDLE LEADER**

# SECONDARY INTERSCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

After the success of last year's day time carnival the same format was followed this year. With every school in full voice for a majority of the day it turned the normally tranquil Town pool into an electric and vibrant arena. Columba had some of the top performances of the day with individual and school rivalries exceeding expectations with some great races throughout the day.

In both the male and female division, Age Champions enjoyed individual success: Riley Amos (14 years), Blake Jackson (14 years multiclass), Isaac Neilson (15 years), Conner Smith (15 years multiclass), Charlie Kruger (16 years), Jasmine Thompson (Open Girls) and Jemima Neilson (Open Girls multiclass). We also had a number of athletes awarded with runner up for their age group: Stevie Williamson (12 years), Will Fuller (12 years) and Sam Wilson (Open Boys).

Despite not breaking any interschool records this year, Jasmine Thompson (Open Girls) was able to break the Columba records she set at interhouse for the 50m backstroke (34.91), freestyle (28.69), butterfly (32.33) and the 100m freestyle (1.04.07). In addition to these four events she also set a new Columba record for the 200m freestyle (2.24.99). Congratulations to Jasmine for a wonderful individual achievement.

The Don Doyle Memorial Shield (12, 13, 14 and 15 years' Girls Aggregate) saw Columba finish in second on 157 points, behind winners All Souls Saint Gabriel's (ASSG) (303). The Rattray Shield (16 and Open Girls Aggregate) saw Columba get narrowly defeated by ASSG by just 9 points. In another close contest ASSG were able to steal the win from CCC by 2 points in the Morton Cup (Girls' relays). Overall, bested by the opposition, Columba went down to ASSG in the Coleman Cup (Girls aggregate).

Don Doyle Memorial Shield	Rattray Shield	Morton Cup	Coleman Cup
ASSG 303	ASSG 124	ASSG 76	ASSG 427
CCC 157	CCC 115	CCC 74	CCC 272
BTC 93	BTC 67	BTC 30	BTC 160
CTSHS 13	CTSHS 13	CTSHS 15	CTSHS 89

The boys have considerably less trophies on offer than the girls, but traditionally age group winners are announced however this wasn't the case this year. The Griffiths Memorial Relay Trophy for Boys' Relays and the A & R Duckworth Trophy for Boys' Aggregate both went to Columba.

Griffiths Memorial Relay Trophy	A & R Duckworth Trophy
CCC 79	CCC 376.5
ASSG 62	ASSG 271
BTC 50	BTC 232.5
CTSHS 9	CTSHS 120

At the end of the day the Althea Norton Combined Aggregate trophy was awarded to All Souls Saint Gabriels (698) followed closely by Columba Catholic College (648.5). This was a fantastic result for our athletes who once again managed to close the gap between our competitors this year.

## Aggregate: Althea Norton Shield

ASSG 698  
CCC 648.5  
BTC 392.5  
CTSHS 209

Jordan Marty  
SPORTS MIDDLE LEADER



*Shine at Columba*

[www.columba.catholic.edu.au](http://www.columba.catholic.edu.au)





**PASTORAL STATEMENT ON TEMPORARY LITURGICAL CHANGES  
AS A RESULT OF THE CORONAVIRUS**

4 March 2020

My dear Brothers and Sisters

As you would be aware, the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is presenting many serious challenges to people, authorities and Governments around the world, including here in Australia. It is therefore beholden on me as Bishop of Townsville to act in the best interests of our Mass going population to ensure that we are all playing our part in supporting the health and safety of parishioners and people of the region.

Our other Agencies such as Townsville Catholic Education Office, Centacare, Mary MacKillop Childcare Service and Saints Catholic College have met with me today to plan a coordinated response across the Diocese. Communication from these entities will be forthcoming. In terms of parishes, clergy and lay faithful however, I issue the following directives effective immediately:

- In those parishes (schools) where Communion is distributed under both kinds, the practice of distributing the precious blood will cease except for the celebrant only.
- Given that one of the easiest ways to transmit a virus is by the transmission of saliva, Communion will be received only in the hand.
- Holy water should be removed from stoops at the doors of Churches.
- Clergy and parishioners should not touch each other by shaking hands at the kiss of peace. A nod or a smile is appropriate with the words "Peace be with you".
- All ministers of Holy Communion (both ordinary and extraordinary) are to wash their hands with soap and hot water before distribution of Holy Communion commences.
- People who are sick with flu like symptoms are to stay at home and not come to Mass until their sickness passes.

I will be monitoring the situation on a daily basis and please God we can return to our usual practices when the threat is judged to be non-existent or low. Of course, ongoing vigilance is essential, threat or no threat.

We pray for the victims of this virus around the world (Australia included). May we play our part in doing what we can to stop the spread of COVID-19. I present these directives after communications with other Bishops including a local doctor who is a Director of the Public Health Unit, and other advisers. Similar directives have already been issued around the world.

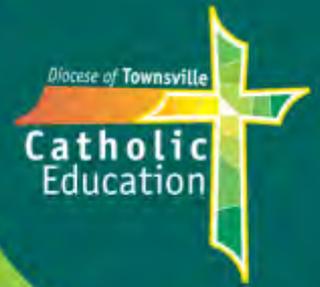
Thank you in anticipation of your understanding and cooperation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Timothy Harris', is written over a light blue circular watermark.

**MOST REV TIMOTHY J HARRIS**  
Bishop of Townsville

# WORKING TOGETHER

## A Code of Conduct for Parents and Volunteers of systemic Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Townsville



### *“Teach Me Your Ways O Lord” (Psalm 86)*

This Code of Conduct applies to all parents, volunteers and visitors who interact with our systemic schools and Catholic Education in the Diocese of Townsville. It also applies to all parents, volunteers and visitors who are present at school and school sponsored activities/meetings/functions within and outside of school hours. As parents, volunteers and visitors there is an expectation of support for the Vision and Mission of Catholic Education in the Diocese of Townsville.

**The school is a complex organisation comprising a diversity of populations that have different relationships to one another.**

Relationships are at the very core of our Christian belief in our Triune (three persons in one) God. The Holy Trinity is God in relationship! This beautiful theology inspires all of us in Catholic schools to endeavour to be a living Christian community in relationship with God and others. It is essential in such a community that all members recognise and respect their own rights and responsibilities, as well as those of other members of the community and of the school itself.

The responsibility for promoting and upholding these core values of the school community must fall on those with the greatest capacity to reason and control their actions. Therefore, it is the expectation of the school that all parents/guardians/caregivers/volunteers model acceptable behaviour at all times within the school and at school sponsored activities.

As a parent, celebrate that you play a formative role in the development of your child's sense of justice, equity and worth. You are one of the most influential role models within your child's life. Let us all strive to build a harmonious community where students can flourish.

This Code is designed to guide parents, caregivers, guardians and volunteers in their dealings with staff, other parents, students and the wider school community. All staff and students at our Catholic schools are guided by similar codes. The Code is written in line with the school's values and expectations. The Code stands beside but does not exclude or replace the rights and obligations of individuals under common law. It is also supported by State laws and regulations ensuring good order on school sites such as the *Australian Education Act 2013*. All systemic Catholic schools are private property owned by the Roman Catholic Trust Corporation for the Diocese of Townsville.

This Code applies to all Catholic Schools, Colleges and other facilities/programs under the guidance of the Townsville Catholic Education Office.

### **OUR GOSPEL VALUES**

We are called to emulate Jesus' call to love God and to love each other. We look to the values taught to us in scripture and the Christian tradition to guide us:

- Love (1 John 4:7-19)
- Promoting Life in Abundance (John 10:10)
- Inclusion (Luke 19:1-10)

- Reconciliation (Luke 15:11-32)
- Compassion (Luke 10:30-37)
- Justice (Matthew 25:31-46)
- Liberation (Luke 4:16-21)
- Community (John 15)
- Hope (Luke 24:13-35)

In living out these Gospel values we strive to develop:

- An inclusive approach including a non-judgemental and welcoming attitude towards all people
- An ability to understand the situation of others
- A co-operative attitude in working with others
- Open, positive and honest communication
- The ability to work respectfully with other people
- Reverence for Creation
- Trusting relationships
- Responsible actions.

**As a parent/guardian/caregiver/volunteer we ask that you:**

- Support in words and actions the philosophy of Catholic Education
- Work in partnership with the school for the common goal of achieving what is best for all
- Support your child in all educational endeavours by giving praise and showing interest in school activities
- Help your child to discover it is more the process that is experienced, rather than the end product, that makes it all worthwhile
- Model resilience – encourage healthy problem solving
- Help your child to understand that ‘giving of your very best’ is what matters rather than always comparing yourself against the capabilities or achievements of others
- Listen to your child, but remember that a different version of the event may be interpreted by others
- Understand the importance of a healthy parent/teacher/child relationship and communicate any concerns to your school in a constructive and appropriate manner
- Demonstrate that both parents and teachers work together for the benefit of the child
- Adhere to the school’s policies, as outlined on the school website and/or the school’s parent handbook and endeavour to support them in the home

- Co-operate where your child’s behaviour has overstepped accepted school standards, as outlined in Student Code of Conduct, Student Diary or similar documents and follow specified protocol for communication with staff members
- Support the school in its efforts to maintain a positive teaching and learning environment
- Discourage gossip and hearsay by communicating with the school and always model good manners for your child
- Maintain a positive and co-operative attitude and interact positively with other parents and members of the school community
- Encourage community building with other parents in your year level and across the school
- Value the school community and its reputation especially when engaging with social media
- Do not smoke on school premises in accordance with Queensland legislation.

**Parent/guardian/caregiver/volunteer rights:**

- To be treated with respect and courtesy by staff, students and other parents
- To be listened to, and clearly communicated with by the school, in regard to your child’s education and development
- To have confidentiality over sensitive issues respected by staff
- To be treated in a caring and polite manner
- To have a timely response to concerns raised
- To be treated with professionalism by all staff members.

**Parent/guardian/caregiver/volunteer responsibilities:**

- Value and champion your school and its reputation. Be mindful of the hurt and damage social media may cause to staff members and other parents
- Respect the reputation of teachers and be mindful of communications especially social media. e.g. tone of emails
- Under no circumstances approach another child whilst in the care of the school to address, discuss or chastise them because of actions towards your own child
- Respect the rights of staff members and other individuals
- Follow the correct procedures to resolve a conflict or make a complaint

- Respect teachers' preparation time before school and make an appointment for long discussions at a mutually convenient time. If you wish to speak to a teacher, please do not expect a meeting before school unless pre-arranged
- To protect our children, do not discuss any grievances or perceived failings in front them regarding the school
- On excursions, helping in class or on camps, follow the instructions and directions of the teacher. A parent may remind students of the rules but at no time issue consequences and refer them to the teacher if the behaviour continues
- As valued members of the school community, attend and participate appropriately in school liturgies or special events including sporting carnivals, interschool sport, academic and cultural events

### COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Townsville Catholic Education will adopt the principles of procedural fairness and natural justice throughout the complaint management process. This requires a fair and proper procedure to be used, which involves disclosure, a reasonable opportunity to respond and impartiality to reach a fair and correct decision. It is important that all complaints:

- Are handled in a positive and transparent way

- Are recorded at every level, properly documented and reported to the Principal or delegated person as soon as practicable
- Documents related to the complaint are kept and stored in accordance with Townsville Catholic Education Office procedures
- Can be made directly to the Principal or their delegate of the school/college or to Townsville Catholic Education Office if the complaint involves a Principal
- Are resolved with mutual respect and clear communication
- Where possible, are resolved at the first point of contact. If this does not occur, the receipt of the complaint will be acknowledged within five working days by telephone, in person, by email, or in writing.

Complaints management in schools is also underpinned by Section 7 of the *Education Accreditation (Non-State Schools) Act Qld, and Regulations 2017*.

The Townsville Catholic Education Procedure for Management of Complaints can be found on all school websites and at [www.tsv.catholic.edu.au](http://www.tsv.catholic.edu.au). It outlines the procedures to make a complaint and how to manage complaints for schools, colleges, and other facilities/programs under the guidance of the Townsville Catholic Education Office.

**Deliberate breaches and inability to respect the Townsville Catholic Education Code of Conduct for Parents & Volunteers or vexatious complaints may result in exclusion of a parent/guardian/caregiver from a school and/or possible termination of enrolment of their child/children.**

**Parents accept this Code of Conduct when signing and accepting the school's policies in the Enrolment Application Form and by the act of accepting enrolment at a systemic Townsville Catholic School.**

Reference	ED_C035/02/20	Date approved	February 2020
Approved by	Executive Director	Date for review	February 2022