

Reflecting on school savvy 2024



Now that we're three months into the year, it's safe to say that our local kids should be well and truly settled into their new school routines.

Whether it's a lesson in reading, writing, maths or science, we hope that every child is heading into their daily lessons with the right books, pencils, and uniforms to feel good about learning alongside their classmates.

If you weren't already aware, **every January CatholicCare runs a special back-to-school program called School Savvy.**

School Savvy is all about providing kids and families with access to essential school resources at very low cost, to reduce financial barriers that can prevent kids from engaging in their education.

For one week every January, our CatholicCare teams open pop-up shops across our regions to make sure that every child has the opportunity to get what they need to succeed.

To say that our School Savvy pop-up shops for 2024 were busy would be an understatement!

Our shops saw a **huge increase** in demand this year, with **over 1000 more people** attending than in 2023.

www.schoolsavvycq.com

While we long for a day where programs like School Savvy aren't needed by so many, we're proud to provide such necessary support to people where we can.

School Savvy 2024 by the numbers:

9 pop-up shop locations

5,300+ visitors

3,100+ children assisted

240 free haircuts

Countless smiles, happy tears and words of appreciation

A very, very special thanks and shout-out must go to our incredible **Platinum Sponsors, Champ Group and Stanwell.** We appreciate your support!

"I wouldn't have been able to afford uniforms otherwise."

School Savvy Pop-up Shop Patron



Pop-up shop in: Bundaberg | Childers | Gin Gin | Gladstone | Gracemere | Mackay | Mt Morgan | Rockhampton | Yeppoon



Giving thanks to those who sacrifice this Easter

Welcome to the March issue of Chat.

Having read through this month's newsletter and with Easter coming at the end of the month, my mind can't help but think about the theme of sacrifice.

Easter is an important time of year in the Christian Calendar, where we commemorate the literal sacrifice of Jesus upon a cross on Good Friday and celebrate his resurrection on Easter Sunday.

But sacrifice takes many forms...

Take our back-to-school initiative, School Savvy, for example, which saw businesses and members of our community sacrifice **both time and money for a great cause**, helping kids and families be school ready for the start of term.

These sacrifices of time and money are essential to the success of many community and volunteer run programs, just like School Savvy, and I would like to pass on my sincere gratitude to all those who give and help.

Across the country, thousands of staff and volunteers work tirelessly everyday to provide much needed services to communities. The sacrifices these incredible people make to fulfill their duties should not go unnoticed, and this Easter I ask that you take a moment to acknowledge and give thanks to these people who keep our communities running.

Enjoy Easter, everyone!

Until next time.



Robert Sims

CatholicCare Executive Director



Introducing... **Dementia together:** a Staying at Home Program by CatholicCare

**Our new service integrating
Connection & Care to help navigate
the early dementia journey**

Dementia Together is a wellness retreat and education based program that provides dual-care to individuals with a recent diagnosis of dementia (*within the past 1-2 years*) and their carer.

Providing information, advice, and practical training, CatholicCare's Dementia Together empowers people to remain in the comfort of their own home for as long as possible.

Developed as a two night retreat held on the Capricorn Coast, our first Dementia Together program was held in January. Participants came together with other carers and other people living with a recent dementia diagnosis in a supportive peer environment.

We're so pleased to share some wonderful feedback from Dementia Together's first round of participants with you.

If you or someone you know is currently navigating the early dementia journey and would benefit from attending CatholicCare's Dementia Together program, **don't hesitate to enquire today.**

"Fantastic, can't fault it. We have such a laugh with the staff." George – Recently diagnosed with dementia

"The view is beautiful, the staff are beautiful. I've learnt many things; I've learnt to ask for help." Dot – Wife & carer

The retreat & education program focuses on:

- Understanding and managing dementia
- Accessing community care services
- Looking after oneself
- Planning for the future
- Managing dementia-related behaviour changes
- Transition into respite care
- Continuing to participate in enjoyable activities
- Managing physical changes in mobility, continence, and communication

To register your interest or to find out more...
Call **1300 523 985** or visit www.catholiccarecq.com/dmt





Decorative Salt Dough Easter Eggs

You will need...

- 4 cups all purpose flour (NOT self-rising)
- 1 cup salt
- 1.5 cups warm water
- Egg shaped cutter or knife
- Paint
- Glue, glitter and coloured paper (optional)
- Ribbon or coloured wool to hang

Source: **Best Ideas**

www.bit.ly/30lmZ7J

Just four simple steps...

1. Mix the flour, salt and water together and knead the dough for 10 minutes.
2. Roll out the dough to about 1/2 cm in thickness and using an Easter egg cookie cutter or knife make your ornaments and place them on a baking sheet. Don't forget to add a hole so you can hang them.
3. Once completely dry, paint your Easter eggs. Get creative here and paint them however you like! You can even add glitter or glue on coloured paper for extra texture.
4. Attach the ribbon or coloured wool and hang your decorations.



BOY WONDERWORD

Riddle me this...

"Holy list of bad guys, Batman!" Can you 'Pow', 'Zap' & 'Bam' your way through these 1960's Batman Villains...

MAD HATTER
SIREN
CLOCK KING
CHANDELL
PENGUIN
KING TUT

PUZZLER
MARSHA
RIDDLER
MR. FREEZE
JOKER
LOLA LASAGNA

SHAME
ARCHER
CATWOMAN
BOOKWORM
MINSTREL
EGGHEAD

N	A	E	H	B	M	K	I	N	G	T	U	T	Z
C	H	E	E	G	G	H	E	A	D	I	K	M	L
L	E	M	R	P	E	N	G	U	I	N	E	A	O
O	R	E	L	Z	Z	U	P	R	L	K	S	P	L
C	M	R	F	R	E	E	Z	E	E	N	H	A	A
K	H	E	S	I	R	E	N	L	S	H	A	R	L
K	C	M	I	N	S	T	R	E	L	R	M	K	A
I	A	O	L	L	E	D	N	A	H	C	E	E	S
N	T	A	R	E	T	T	A	H	D	A	M	R	A
G	W	M	A	R	S	H	A	R	M	G	O	N	G
R	O	A	R	I	D	D	L	E	R	A	R	E	N
P	M	N	E	J	O	K	E	R	E	T	C	D	A
E	A	R	B	O	O	K	W	O	R	M	O	K	E
C	N	R	A	R	C	H	E	R	Z	M	D	C	I



Need a hint or looking for the solution?

Scan the QR code or visit:

www.catholiccarecq.com/wonderword

Source: thewordsearch.com