

# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

## WEEK 1 TERM 1



### ST RITA'S SCHOOL SOUTH JOHNSTONE

28th January, 2014

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the beginning of a new school year, refreshed from Christmas holidays. This morning 114 students started the 2014 school year at St. Rita's. Whether they were returning from last year, or coming to St. Rita's for the first time, whether it be from another school or beginning their schooling adventure, each and every child has a special place here. Every child is important to us. Sadly over the holidays we also said goodbye to some families whom we wish all the best in the future. This week we welcome to our school family:

#### PREP:

Jack Calleja	Matthew Venables
Jasper Curzon	Lincoln Wilcox
James Kenny	Lisa Brincat
Edward Leoni	Tahlia Butler
Harry Leoni	Victoria Caltabiano
Mana Mc Cambridge	Sasha Darveniza
Ruben Puccini	Latoya Domaille
Ronan Sultana	Leigha Garozzo
Matthew Urquhart	Storm Thompson
Dylan Van Haaren	Blaze Thompson

YEAR FOUR: William Leoni

YEAR FIVE: Storm Thompson

YEAR SEVEN: Blaze Thompson

Today we also welcomed Mr Shane Rossi to our staff teaching the Year Six/Seven class and Miss Peta McLachlan who will be with us of a Tuesday morning teaching Years Three to Seven Japanese. Please make them feel welcome.

We start the year on cyclone alert. It is a case of watch and wait. Notifications of any interruption to school will be released if and when they are made available. As always I ask parents to use their discretion at these times.

Last week the staff was involved in three days of professional development in preparedness of the new school year, including the introduction of the Information Technology curriculum next year. So

many new technological opportunities available for our students. Mrs Magnanini will be teaching IT two days a week this year. Many hours have been put into getting classes ready for the new year. The children in Years One, Two and Three/Four returned to freshly painted classrooms. Unfortunately the covered walkway was not erected over the holidays due to a hold up in paperwork but Duncan assures me that as soon as everything is ready it will be erected quickly.

Just a reminder to parents that school starts at 8.50 a.m. this year. Children arriving after this time will have to be signed in through the office. Children arriving after 9a.m. will be marked absent for the morning session unless prior notice has been given to the office. The morning bell therefore will be ringing at 8.45a.m. to ensure children are ready to start work at 8.50 a.m.

Our first assembly for the year will be Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup> (Week 2). Next Wednesday is our opening school mass, which will be held in the church commencing at 9.30am. School leaders will be introduced as part of this mass but unfortunately badges will not be presented as we will not know the make-up of positions until voting this Friday, when badges will be made to suit.

Our new website is now live at [www.stritascps.qld.edu.au/](http://www.stritascps.qld.edu.au/). The site has some areas still under construction. Please take time to have a look. You will be able to keep abreast of what is happening through the online calendar and newsletters will be posted each week. One new addition you may notice is that you will now be able to view and order tuckshop on line. More information on the procedure will be made available once a roster has been formulated. If you can give some of your time to devote to tuckshop please contact the office and we will notify Lina (our tuckshop co-ordinator). The more volunteers the less days you may have to devote. Our tuckshop is one of our P & F initiatives.

In the next couple of weeks the teachers will be holding their class meetings. Please make time to get along to these as the teachers explain their expectations and curriculum being covered in their room. It is also time for you to have a quick chat with them if you have any concerns. Sessions will be straight after school.

In the upcoming weeks we also have our annual welcoming family night. Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup> will be the Annual General Meeting for the P & F. I realise this is only the second week of the month but due to a family commitment I have to change the date. Keep this date in your calendar. Do not stay away because you are frightened of getting a job on the P

& F, only those who wish to hold a position do so. Our P & F prides itself on their commitment to our school. Looking forward to a great year with your continued support in 2014.

Have a great week.  
God bless.  
Vicki

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS



**WELCOME TO 2014!** To those who are new to St. Rita's we extend a sincere welcome and trust that your time with us will be a positive and rewarding experience. To those who are returning for another year, it is our genuine hope that we can continue to work collaboratively with you in the education of your child/children and foster a developing understanding of God's love for each and every one of us.

As the holiday period has well and truly drawn to a close and another school year begins some children may feel excited, some a little nervous but hopefully most will be happy to settle back into familiar routines. Going back to school is also a time of hard work and preparation for parents and teachers. There are many people who deserve thanks for this special time. Not the least of these is God. God has provided the wonderful months of summer and the holidays that we have enjoyed and he has protected us over this time. It is good to give God thanks and praise for all the love poured out on us and for all the good days to come.

### **A Reflection for the Coming Year**

What will this year bring? You do not know; I do not know. It will bring its usual quota of work and play, of success and failure....all the things that are a part of school life. It is a new beginning; the planting of a seed that will grow for a year, the seed of fruit that will blossom in time to come. It is a new hope; hope for good work, for successful results, for friendship, for fun, for learning. In this coming year may there be faith and prayer. May no one in this school be lonely; may no one be left out; may no one suffer through the actions of others.

So as we begin this year in hope, prayer and in friendship..... may the Lord begin it with us, be with us during it, and successfully bring it to its conclusion.

May we, this year, together act justly  
Together love tenderly  
And together walk humbly with our God.

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

*A man once watched a butterfly struggling to emerge from its chrysalis and enter the world in its new form. Taking pity upon it in its fight, he took his penknife and slit the case, releasing the insect. He tossed the butterfly into the air and was appalled as it fell helplessly to the ground, unable to fly. By relieving it of the work of forcing its way out of the chrysalis, he had robbed it of the very exercise it needed to enable it to fly.*

***This short anecdote helps us to realize that there are no short-cuts in life. And so for the coming school year we should joyfully commit ourselves to the struggle that is essential to achievement.***

Wishing you all a wonderful 2014.  
Peace be with you,  
Denise Kenny (APRE)

### **BEGINNING OF YEAR**

### **WHOLE SCHOOL MASS**

**Next Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> February at 9.30am  
ALL WELCOME**

### **FIRST ASSEMBLY**

**NEXT FRIDAY, 7<sup>th</sup> Feb IN THE SCHOOL  
HALL**

**We will welcome all new students, present  
class awards and birthdays.**

### **BELL TIMES**

School officially starts at 8.50am and concludes at 3.05pm. Students will be supervised from 8.20am to 3.30pm. Please note - late arrivals and early departures must come through the school office. An attendance book will be left on the office counter for parents to sign.

### **RE\$OURCE LEVY**

Students will begin receiving their books today. The school charges **\$120 per child in Years 1 – 7 and \$150 per child in Prep.** This covers the purchase of text books, exercise books, class sets, photocopying and some consumables. Payment of the Resource Levy would be appreciated by the **end of February** to enable us to pay our accounts. If you are experiencing difficulties please contact the school office. An envelope is attached for your convenience. ***Parents who are direct debiting fees on a weekly/fortnightly basis are asked to please pay the resource levy either by EFT or into the school office, either by cash or cheque made out to the school.***

## MOBILE PHONES

**NO** student needs to use a mobile phone at school. The office phone is available if required. I will take no responsibility for lost or stolen phones at school. Should your child display one at school it will be confiscated.

## FLOOD PLAN

Our procedure if flooding occurs is as follows:

- ☒ Parents need to use their judgment with regards to getting their children to and from school safely.
- ☒ School will only be closed after consultation with the local police.
- ☒ Only if the school routine is changed will an announcement be placed on Radio 4KZ and Kool FM between 7.00am and 7.30am.
- ☒ In the event that school is to close once classes have begun, then parents will be notified according to residential location.
- ☒ If buses are sent from Innisfail to pick up students who travel home by bus, Trans North will notify the school so that parents are contacted to ensure someone is home to meet the bus. No students will be permitted to travel on the bus if parents have not been contacted.
- ☒ If you are ever unsure of safe school travel, contact the school before leaving home.
- ☒ Be assured no students will be left at school unattended.
- ☒ Extra caution needs to be taken when travelling on wet roads and don't drive through water.
- ☒ Parent, student and teacher safety is paramount.

## SCHOOL BANKING

Each Wednesday children are able to do school banking. A basket will be left on the office counter for your convenience. If you wish to start school banking please open an account with our local branch of the Commonwealth Bank. They will issue you with a deposit book for future banking.

## SCHOOL HATS

Each student requires a school hat at school each day. This will be enforced. If they have **no hat** then it will be **no play**. Ensure you name your child's hat.

## LIBRARY

Each student will require a library bag to take books home. We have a very extensive range of books. Please make sure your child borrows each week.

## INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM YRS 3-7

If your child wishes to continue with the instrumental program or a student wishes to commence learning an instrument, please collect an enrolment form from the office counter. Lessons this year are **\$15 per week**. Payment may be made weekly to the office or an account will be issued at the end of each term. If your child needs to hire an instrument, the hiring cost is **\$20 per term**. This **MUST** be paid at the beginning of each term. This covers ongoing maintenance.

**PLEASE NOTE** - This service is being provided by an instrumental teacher from Good Counsel College and we are **ONLY AGENTS**. If instrumental accounts are not promptly paid with the allocated period, lessons will cease. **JENNI, THE INSTRUMENTAL TEACHER, WILL NOT BE COMMENCING LESSONS UNTIL WEEK 5 OF THIS TERM.**

## HOMEWORK CLUB (No Homework Club this Wednesday)

St Rita's School Homework Club will commence this week. The facility will operate from Monday to Friday. A teacher will be on duty each day until **4.30pm**. A booking sheet will operate through the school office. Children **MUST** be booked in to use the facility. If you know ahead of time that you will not be able to collect your child by 4.30pm, please let the office know beforehand.

Students using this facility will need to **bring their afternoon tea**, (in a separate container), which is to be put in the tuckshop fridge in the morning. Please make sure the container is clearly marked with the child's name. If you need any further information please contact the school office on 40 64 21 53.  
**REMEMBER: This facility is for working parents and emergencies. If it is abused it will close.**

## STAFF- 2014

Principal	Mrs Vicki Conomo
Prep	Mrs April Riera
Year 1	Mrs Angela Cristaudo
Year 2	Miss Beth Yarrow
Year 3/4	Mrs Aileen Bufi & Mrs Andrea Devaney
Year 4/5	Mrs Donna Curzon & Mrs Rebecca Eilers

Year 6/7	Mr Shane Rossi
Curriculum	Mrs Andrea Devaney
Performing Arts	Mrs Denise Kenny
Learning Support	Mrs Donna Curzon & Ms Dot Shea
Curriculum	Mrs Andrea Devaney
ICT	Mrs Alicia Magnanini
Physical Education	Miss Hayley Bowie
Japanese	Miss Peta Mac Laughlan
Administration	Miss Santina Lizzio
Finance	Mrs Jenni Taylor
Library	Mrs Sarina Pappalardo & Mrs Judi Kelly
School Officers	Miss Santina Lizzio Mrs Maria Clark Mrs Jo Hunter Mrs Sandy Jensen Mrs Beth Jackson

Girl's skort	-	\$20.00
Girl's blouse	-	\$30.00
Student jumpers	-	\$32.00
Sports shorts	-	\$18.00
Sports shirts	-	\$25.00
Hair Scrunchies	-	\$4.50
School badges	-	\$4.00

*A reminder that the sports uniform is to be worn Tuesdays and Fridays. Black shoes should be worn Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. On sports day last year we had an assortment of colours for sports shoes. I feel white or black coloured shoes complement our uniform best. Please leave fluoro colours for other sports.*

## SCHOOL UNIFORMS

To start the school year can I point out the correct uniform needs to be worn on particular school days. The formal day uniform is to be worn Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

### Boys:

- Sky blue shirt with badge on pocket
- Navy shorts
- Navy socks
- Black sandshoes or black leather shoes

### Girls:

- Sky blue blouse with badge
- Navy skort
- White socks
- Black sandshoes or black leather shoes

The school sports uniform is to be worn on Tuesday and Friday.

### Boys:

- School sports shirt
- Navy shorts (available from the office)
- White socks
- Sports joggers

### Girls:

- School sports shirt
- Navy skort White socks
- Sports joggers

School hats are available from Innisfail Custom Clothing, (legionnaires or wide brim). Girls' school uniforms are available through the school office. If you require non-standard sizes these can be made by Jan Parsons - 40 613 130.

Uniform prices are listed below. Uniforms are available from the school office.

## Boogan Stars Junior Football Club

The club for families Castor Park, Mourilyan 2014 Soccer Season. Enjoy the fun soccer has to offer for all boys and girls. Signing on players. Squirts 3- 5 years - \$45.00. Juniors 5- 14 years - \$125.00. **All registered players receive a free water bottle. All players registering and paying on line receive a free boot bag. On-line registration visit - [myfootballclub.com.au](http://myfootballclub.com.au) Sign on at club house: Thursday, 13th February - 5.15pm-6.00pm Castor Park, Mourilyan. For more information visit our website: [www.booganstars.org.au](http://www.booganstars.org.au) Contact: Moira Sultana (registrar) 0439 485 337**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS - TERM 1

### JANUARY

<b>WEEK 1:</b>	
27	Australia Day Holiday
28	School Starts – Term 1

### FEBRUARY

<b>WEEK 2:</b>	
5	Beginning of Year Whole School Mass
7	First Assembly

<b>WEEK 3:</b>	
14	St Valentine's Day

### MARCH

<b>WEEK 6:</b>	
5	Ash Wednesday

<b>WEEK 8</b>	
17	St Patrick's Day

## DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>TERM 2</b>	
21 <sup>st</sup> April	Easter Monday
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Start of Term
25 <sup>th</sup> April	Anzac Day
11 <sup>th</sup> May	Mother's Day

9 <sup>th</sup> June	Queen's Birthday Holiday
27 <sup>th</sup> June	End of Term
<b>TERM 3</b>	
14 <sup>th</sup> July	Start of Term
19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	End of Term
<b>TERM 4</b>	
6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Labour Day Holiday
7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Start of Term
4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Melbourne Cup
11 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Day
5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	End of Term