

# Weekly Newsletter

WEEK 10 - TERM 1

**ST RITA'S SCHOOL**  
**SOUTH JOHNSTONE**



3<sup>RD</sup> April, 2014

Dear Parents and Caregivers

**STOP PRESS:** I have to advise that the date set for the school fete has been changed to June 7<sup>th</sup>. (This is not a long weekend in Queensland and will be before the cane season starts).

Have you downloaded your Skoolbag App yet? It is most important that you do so. We now have it up and running and last week sent out an alert to the 18 families who have done so. Please do so and if you have can you fill in the tear off section at the end of the newsletter saying you have. Just with the newsletter parents who do not have the app as they do not have a smart phone will receive the email or a phone call in emergencies. The alert comes through as a text on your phone. Newsletters can also be downloaded on Skoolbag. Last weeks is already posted there.

Today is our annual Palmerston/Fitzgerald cross country. The children have been training every morning (weather permitting) for most of this term. Results will be published in the first newsletter next term.

Last Friday, eight of our Year Six and Seven girls participated in the Peninsula Netball trials as part of the Silkwood/Mena Creek Association team, at Bessie Spiller Courts. The girls played extremely well coming fourth in their pool.

Caitlin Spinella and Gemma Doolan were then picked in the possible and probables. Congratulations to all girls on your effort and sportsmanship.

Thank you for your co-operation in relation to parent/teacher interviews. As I mentioned before, make an appointment to talk to your child's teacher more next term if you have concerns. Open communication between school and home is an important factor in your child's education.

Friday morning's assembly will be the retelling of the Easter story. We have a different format this year so please come along and join in. The Easter raffle will be drawn at the end of parade. **I expect all children to be at school on Friday** given Easter is still two weeks away.

Parents (of all years) don't forget to be on the school oval at 2.15p.m. on Friday afternoon for the annual Parents vs Students league tag game. There may even be a surprise referee.

Today we welcomed Ms Pretorius to the school. Ursula will take up the position of Prep teacher next term. She met with staff, students and April acquainting herself with the school. At this stage Ursula is with us until December but this may extend into next year. I assure you all, Ursula is a dedicated professional and the Prep students of St. Rita's will be in very capable hands.

This Friday sees the end of Term One. The children have to be congratulated on their behaviour and work ethic during the term and have earned a well deserved break. For those of you who are travelling over the holidays, travel safe. Please try and attend one of the Easter services. Denise has mass times in the APRE section of the newsletter. First week back next term is a short week with Monday being a holiday for Easter Monday and Friday is Anzac Day. St. Rita's has a long association with the Anzac Day parade and we will be marching again this year.

Our next P&F meeting is set for Easter Monday. It will be Monday April 28<sup>th</sup> so keep this date free. Mother's Day morning tea and the Fete will be major agenda items.

God bless. Have a great week.  
Vicki

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## EASTER IS APPROACHING ! HAPPY HOLIDAYS...

Has Lent begun to seem long? We are now just over half way through the 40 days of Lent, and that is good news. That means we are halfway to Easter. We count the 40 days from the First Sunday of Lent through to Holy Thursday.

**“CHRIST IS RISEN ! ALLELUIA !”**

We will hear these words very shortly as Lent soon gives way to **Easter**.

Then, we will rejoice in the glory of Jesus and the share he has given us in his resurrection. Easter is not just one day though. It is a whole season of 50 days that will last until Pentecost. So, in actual fact we take longer to celebrate Easter than we take during Lent to prepare for it.

**Eastertime is about new life.** It is when we celebrate the new life of Jesus. We rejoice that all of us are nourished by the life of God whenever we share in the Easter sacrament of eucharist. So, in a few weeks Christians around the world will commemorate the three holiest days of the year - the **‘Paschal Triduum’**. Over these three days there will be special celebrations in our parish beginning with the evening mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday, followed by the solemn celebration of the Lord’s Passion on Good Friday and then the high point on Holy Saturday in the Easter Vigil. It concludes with evening prayer on Easter Sunday.

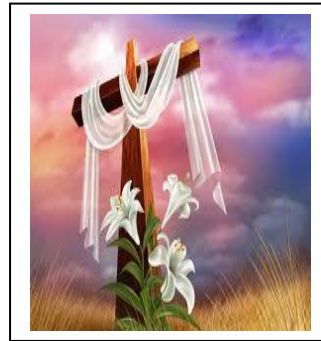
## Triduum



The words, gestures, symbols and music of these celebrations have been carefully chosen to help us remember the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

These days which will occur on the last few days of the school holidays ( April 17<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup>) are an extremely important time in the Church’s liturgical calendar and are special times of prayer and worship for our whole parish – which includes our school.

It would be wonderful if the children of St. Rita’s could attend one or more of these to help make the connection to the real meaning of Easter – Jesus ! A list of times and dates for the various Holy Week celebrations in our parish is included in this newsletter.



## A BLESSING BEFORE THE EASTER BREAK

*Let us put ourselves into the hands of the Lord, and pray that God will bless us and our families during the coming holy days.*

*May each of us help to make our homes places of joy ,love ,peace and safety.*

*May we be generous and considerate helping others keep the celebration of the dying and rising of our Lord and saviour, Jesus Christ.*

*Amen*

## EASTER PRESENTATION : This Friday 9.30am in Little Hall – ALL WELCOME

**As in previous years each class will present a part of the Holy Week Story. Could the children please wear a coloured shirt as indicated by class below.**

**(It does not have to be a plain shirt – ie logos and prints are fine )**

*\* If anyone has difficult sourcing a particular colour please contact me at school as we have some spare shirts.*



PREP – NOT REQUIRED AS WE HAVE A CLASS SET OF COLOURED SHIRTS

YEAR 1 – GREEN

YEAR 2 - WHITE

YEAR 3 - BLUE

YEAR 4 – YELLOW

YEAR 5 - RED

YEAR 6 and 7 – BLACK

### **SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2014**

Yesterday morning seven of our St. Rita's children received the sacrament of Reconciliation.

This was a very special time for each one of them as they continue their faith journey in the Catholic tradition. Congratulations to Kiara Foschi, Sophie Leonardi, Juanita Filby, Dylan Manitto, Bennett Buchanan, Jett Piccolo and William Leoni. Thank you to the parents (and grandparent) who were present to support the students.

Please keep these children in your prayers as they prepare for the upcoming sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist later in the year.

Have a happy and holy Easter. Peace be with you,  
Denise

## **Holy Week**

**HOLY THURSDAY ~ 17 April**

**Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7.30pm**

Mother of Good Counsel Church - Innisfail

**GOOD FRIDAY ~ 18 April**

**Stations of the Cross - 10.30am**

Mother of Good Counsel Church - Innisfail

**Reconciliation - 11.30am**

Mother of Good Counsel Church - Innisfail

**The Lord's Passion - 3.00pm**

Mother of Good Counsel Church - Innisfail

**HOLY SATURDAY ~ 19 April**

**Reconciliation - 11.30am**

Mother of Good Counsel Church - Innisfail

**Easter Vigil Ceremony - 8.00pm**

Mother of Good Counsel Church - Innisfail

**EASTER SUNDAY ~ 20 March**

7.00am (St Rita's Church - South Johnstone)

9.00am (Mother of Good Counsel Church - Innisfail)

## **SCHOOL FEES**

### **& Instrumental Music Fees**



If you have an outstanding balance by end of term and are not making regular payments, be aware that Catholic Education Cairns may take action in accordance with their new fee collection policy.

**Remember, not to pay is not an option.** If you are having difficulty paying please contact Jenni or Vicki.

### **DIRECT DEBITING SCHOOL PAYMENTS**

Please indicate in your description whether the amount is for fees or other. Amounts without a description will automatically go against school fees.

Account Name: RCTC for the Diocese of Cairns - St Rita's School, South Johnstone

Account No: 00000 50 18 BSB: 084352

## **EASTER RAFFLE TICKETS!!**

Raffle tickets must be returned,  
**sold or unsold, to the office by**  
**Thursday 3pm.**

## **STOP PRESS!**

**ST RITA'S FETE**

**SATURDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2014**

**4.00PM – 9.00PM**

**MOTHERS' DAY**

**MORNING TEA**

**FRIDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2014 - 9.30AM**

**NO TUCKSHOP**  
**FIRST WEEK - TERM 2**

# FETE MEETING

A fete meeting will be held after Assembly **this Friday**. Please come along. Lots of volunteers and ideas are needed. We must get things moving as there will only be six weeks left when we return from the Easter break !!

## STALL VOLUNTEERS LIST

An updated stall volunteers list is again attached. There are still LOTS of blank spaces. Please return it to the office if you can add your name anywhere, even if it is for a small amount of time through the night.

## TUG-OF-WAR

### Sponsors are needed.

If you are interested in sponsoring this event, or know of a business that may be interested, please see Jenni Taylor or Jo Spry. It is probably time to get your team organized and build those muscles.

## TUCKSHOP

**THIS FRIDAY 4<sup>th</sup> April**

**BIG LUNCH ONLY!**

**SAUSAGE SIZZLE**

**BRING \$2 ON THE DAY.**

## CENT SALE ITEMS

Just a reminder to be on the lookout for suitable prizes for our Cent Sales coming up on Mother's Day Morning Tea and of course our Fete in May. These can be left at the office. Thank you for your continued support.

## ICAS Testing Dates Years 3-7 ONLY!

Competition	Sitting Date	Closing Date	Price
Computer	20 May	15 April	\$8.80
Science	4 June	30 April	\$8.80
Writing	16 June	12 May	\$18.70
Spelling	17 June	12 May	\$12.10
English	29 July	24 June	\$8.80
Maths	12 Aug	24 June	\$8.80

**Unfortunately, we are unable to take any late nominations so please have your envelope into the school office by 9.00am of the closing date indicated. Thank you.**

## HOMEWORK CLUB

***This facility operates due to the commitment of the St Rita's staff on a volunteer roster and is NOT to be used as a baby-sitting service for beauty appointments and coffee dates. The teachers are giving their precious time and are all parents a well. Abuse of the facility may see your children being disallowed useage.***

The facility operates from Monday to Friday. A teacher will be on duty Monday to Thursday until **4.30pm and 4.00pm on Friday.**

A booking sheet operates through the school office.

Children **MUST** be booked in to use the facility **BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN** as there are days that Homework Club cannot run due to staff responsibilities off campus.

## CANCER COUNCIL QLD LAMINGTON DRIVE

\$12 per dozen

Phone Lydia 40 645 281 / 0424 649 093

**IMPORTANT REMINDER**  
**HOMWORK CLUB**  
**CLOSES AT 4.00PM**  
**EVERY FRIDAY.**



**MUNRO THEATRE BABINDA**  
 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> April  
 Commencing 7.30pm  
 Admission \$8

**“The Monuments Men”**  
 - Rated: M

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS - TERM 1**

APRIL	
<b>WEEK 10 – PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS</b>	
1	Palmy/Fitzy Cross Country
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Easter Assembly</li> <li>Parent –v- Kids League Tag Comp</li> </ul>

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

TERM 2	
21 <sup>st</sup> April	Easter Monday
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Start of Term
25 <sup>th</sup> April	Anzac Day
9 <sup>th</sup> May`	Mother’s Day Morning Tea
11 <sup>th</sup> May	Mother’s Day
13, 14 & 15 May	NAPLAN
19 <sup>th</sup> May	Book Fair
21 <sup>st</sup> May	School Photos
31 <sup>st</sup> May	FETE
9 <sup>th</sup> June	Queen’s Birthday Holiday
27 <sup>th</sup> June	End of Term

TERM 3	
11 <sup>th</sup> July	Innisfail & District Show
14 <sup>th</sup> July	Start of Term
27 <sup>th</sup> July – 1 <sup>st</sup> Aug	Catholic Education Week
18 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Prep/Year 1 Camp
27,28 & 29 Aug	Year 4/5 Camp
14 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Year 6/7 Camp
19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	End of Term

TERM 4	
6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Labour Day Holiday
7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Start of Term
8 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Session – Puberty Talk 2-3
22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Wonder of Living (Years 1-7)
31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	World Teachers Day
4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Melbourne Cup Luncheon
10 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Prep to Year 2 Swimming
17 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 3 to 7 Swimming</li> <li>Christmas Book Fair</li> </ul>
11 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Day
5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	End of Term

**FNQ FC HEAT** APRIL 2014 **SCHOOL HOLIDAY CLINICS**

**4 PLANNED LOCATIONS:** CAIRNS Will also feature Squirts & Girls Only  
 PORT DOUGLAS\*  
 INNISFAIL\*  
 MAREEBA\* \*subject to pre-registration numbers.

**COST: \$145pp (includes FNQ Heat jersey)**

**ALSO AVAILABLE**

**GIRLS ONLY CLINIC**  
**AGE 6-13**

Dates: Mon 7 April – Thursday 10 April  
 Cost: \$145pp (includes FNQ Heat jersey)  
 Venue: Cairns State High School

**SQUIRTS**  
**AGE 3-5**

Dates: Mon 7 April – Thursday 10 April  
 Cost: \$55pp (includes FNQ Heat Squirts tshirt)  
 Venue: Cairns State High School

register online at [www.fnqfc.com.au](http://www.fnqfc.com.au) or via email: [community@fnqfc.com.au](mailto:community@fnqfc.com.au)

**SKOOLBAG APP**

(Please complete (cut out) and return to the school office.

I have downloaded the Skoolbag App.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your assistance.



**Our Neighbourhood**

**Proud 2013 grant recipient**

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Canecutter Way Business Group Inc. presents -

Digital Literacy Workshop - Got one don't know how to use it!!

12 week computer course starting Wednesday the 7th of May – 23rd of July.

Venue – CCRC Disaster Management and Training Centre, Flying Fish Point Road, Innisfail. 500 meters over the Johnston River, next door to the SES Headquarters.

Facilitator – Tracey Chamlin.

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### **Workshops for Beginners & Recreational Users:**

**May 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> (10 am - 12pm)**

#### **Session 1 - Don't Worry, You Won't Break It**

For the novice computer user, this workshop series will familiarise you with the basics of your computer, develop your confidence and help you get the most out of your laptop.

**May 28<sup>th</sup>, June 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> (10 am – 12pm)**

#### **Session 2 - Doing Digital**

For the recreational user, this workshop series is all about using your digital device (smart phone/iPhone, iPad/Tablet or laptop computer) for keeping in touch with family and friends, and for fun and entertainment. We will also discuss online security and what to look out for to avoid hoaxes, spam & scams.

**June 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> & July 2<sup>nd</sup> (10 am - 12pm)**

#### **Session 3 - Word Processing, Spreadsheets & Presentations**

As an introduction series you will learn the basics of each Microsoft Office Suite program (e.g. Word, Excel & Powerpoint) so you can better use these resources in the future. For those interested but that do not have Microsoft Office we will also briefly explore other options available.

**July 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> (10 am - 12pm)**

#### **Session 4 - iPhones & iPads**

Have an iPhone? Have an iPad? Happy using it but know that there's more? In this workshop series you will learn how to get the most out of your iPhone and/or iPad through a hands-on introduction to your device.



Please contact Sheryl Cavanagh, Program Coordinator on 0407 152 145  
[info@canecutterway.com.au](mailto:info@canecutterway.com.au) for more information or to book.

10 spaces available per session.  
Cost - \$15 per Session. (6 hours plus handouts and refreshments)  
Registrations close - 30th of April, 2014.

**Our Neighbourhood is Australia Posts's new community program that helps neighbourhoods thrive.**