

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WEEK 4 - TERM 1



ST RITA'S SCHOOL SOUTH JOHNSTONE

18TH February, 2014

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Dominic (Dom) Bryan was welcomed into the world by his doting parents Peta and Nayan yesterday afternoon at 4p.m weighing 7lb 4oz. I haven't had a chance to talk to Peta yet but she left a message saying things were "busy".

Please keep in your prayers Miss Bowie and her family as Hayley's grandmother passed away yesterday.

Last week we had a visit from the NRL Blitz team. Robbie Moore and representatives from the Northern Pride came to talk to the children about joining a local club. They presented the school with some rugby equipment.

Tomorrow afternoon the P & F executive and myself are going to a meeting with Carmel Nash, Executive Director of the P&F Associations of Catholic Schools in Queensland. She is in the north talking to P & F's. Although groups are strong in schools this is not filtering through to the Diocesan level here in the north and Carmel is addressing executives to discuss with them how they can become actively involved. The Diocesan P&F representative does not have to be an executive member, they can be an interested person whose responsibility is to attend one meeting a term and report back to your local P&F.

Fees went out last week. If you have not received yours as yet please check your child's port. Resource levies **MUST BE PAID** by the end of this month so we can fulfill our commitments. If you are experiencing any difficulty please come and see me. In accordance with the new Diocesan policy of fee

payment, to not pay is not an option. Systems must be put in place for fee payment. Failure to do so will result in referral to a fee recovery agency in accordance with the new policy. Repayment options are available and if you wish to set up a direct debit please come in and see Jenni. An example is, if you have one child in the school if you set up a weekly repayment to the end of the calendar year, you would pay approximately \$29 per week and the debt would be repaid by 31st December. This does not include our new activity levy.

This Friday we will have Soccer FNQ in the school as part of the IGA Grass Roots program. They will work with all classes.

Have a great week.
God bless
Vicki

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

P C - 2014

With the beginning of Lent only a couple of weeks away it is an important time to start thinking about/preparing for how we as Catholics can use this special season to 'practise what we preach', so to speak. Traditionally, Lent is a time when we basically are encouraged to think less of ourselves and more of others. It is a time to be more 'Jesus-like'. With this in mind, St. Rita's will once again make a commitment to assist Caritas Australia with its annual appeal known as **Project Compassion**.



FYI: Caritas Australia is the international aid and development organization of the Catholic Church in Australia. Through its long-term programs Caritas Australia helps people help themselves regardless of ethnicity, religion or political beliefs.

The word 'caritas' is Latin for love and compassion. These two qualities are central to the agency's work as they strive for the creation of a just world.

Caritas Australia works with the poorest of the poor, in over 30 countries around the world.

Many of you will be familiar with the work of Caritas Australia and in particular their Project Compassion campaign as our school has participated in many associated activities in previous years. Generally, the aim of the program is twofold. Firstly, it seeks to raise an awareness of the poor and the situations in which they live and secondly, it encourages the action of fundraising as a response. Both elements are essential if we are to be agents of change in our world.

(More information in regard to Project Compassion will follow in next week's newsletter.)



JUST LEADERSHIP DAY

Last Thursday our year 6 and 7 leaders attended a 'Just Leadership Day' at Good Counsel Primary School. This day was an initiative of Caritas

Australia that sought to foster an awareness and empathy for social justice in our world. While it was an opportunity to meet school leaders from the other Catholic primary schools in the Southern Deanery, more importantly, it was a chance to reflect on the ways in which they could be effective leaders who could build a more just and fair world.

After many group activities, much discussion and several very compelling multimedia presentations the children decided that supporting the work of Caritas Australia would certainly be a worthy cause and they promptly began writing a list of possible fundraising activities. Upon their return to school that afternoon the 11 students very eagerly shared the experience with their classmates and it was quite amazing to hear the information that they recalled and what they believed the overall message of the day was.

The most startling statistic recalled was that :

75% of the world's population live on less than \$1.25 a day

Many remembered that the work of Caritas Australia was described as :

A 'hand up' and not a 'hand out'

All were unanimous in proclaiming that they themselves :

Live a very fortunate life.

And as a whole they agreed that:

As followers of Jesus we are called to help those in need.

EAMON SHARKEY VISIT

This Wednesday (19th February) Eamon Sharkey will present a talk to our year 3 to 7 children about the work of Caritas Australia and in particular the program for **Project Compassion** this year. Eamon is the Appeals Coordinator and manages all direct mail fundraising campaigns to supporters across the country. Having travelled through much of South America, Eamon has seen the impact of deeply entrenched poverty, and was inspired by the strength and resilience he witnessed in so many vulnerable communities.

This talk will be held in the little school hall at 1.30-2.30 pm. Parents are very welcome to attend. It is sure to be an engaging and informative presentation.

OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY PLEDGE :

'Hands Up' for Poverty As part of our commitment to **Project Compassion** during this Lenten season each student will be given the outline of a hand to decorate and write their name on.

These will then be placed altogether under the heading 'Hands Up' for Poverty. This simple gesture is a representation of the helping hand that we, as a concerned group, will give through our fundraising efforts to those who are in desperate need of basic necessities. It also ties in with the Caritas concept that the recipients of aid are being Given a 'hand up' to help themselves and not Simply a 'handout'.

I look forward to the activities in the coming weeks and thank you for your support and cooperation.

Until next week. Peace be with you,
Denise

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2014

Enrolment Forms are now available for the Sacramental Program for 2014. If you have a child who has been baptised Catholic and will be in Year 4 this year, (or an older grade), then please **contact Angie at the Parish Office** on **4061 6633** or drop in and collect an enrolment form. ***All enrolment forms must be in no later than Wednesday 26 February.***

P & F Event Coordinators NEEDED!

We are looking for volunteers to COORDINATE the P & F fundraising events throughout the year. Old hands will work with the coordinator if you have not been involved in organizing the event before. This does not mean that all the work will fall to the volunteer - they are the coordinator and will delegate tasks to all helpers involved. We also need a coordinator for the collection of batteries.

Welcome Night (February)

Mother's Day Morning Tea (May)

Strawberry & Cream (July) - *Michelle Mann and Priscilla Wilcox*

Father's Night (September)

Melbourne Cup (November) - *Tania Pensini and Jo Spry*

Christmas Concert - drinks & supper - *Lina Calleja and Liz Lindsay*

Fete Committee (May)

Batteries - *Gavin Eilers*

If you are interested in volunteering to coordinate any of the events, please contact Melissa Leonardi, Jenni Taylor, Mo Crowley or Blaise Cini, or of course Vicki.

Thank you - all the help we can get to help raise much needed funds for our children's resources is greatly appreciated. Many hands make light work.

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

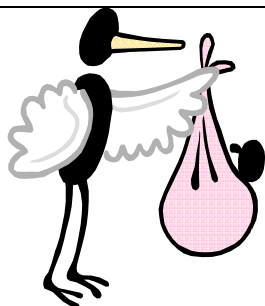
NEW TUCKSHOP PROCEDURES

This year each term's tuckshop menu can be located on the school's website

<http://www.stritascps.qld.edu.au/>. The menu is a menu for the whole term. Please visit the site and print out the menus as you need them.

Orders need to be in by **Wednesdays at 3pm**. You will receive notification in the newsletter if there is to be no tuckshop due to school events.

**PLEASE NOTE
NEW DATE FOR
FUNKY HAIR DAY
WEEK 8
FRIDAY 21ST MARCH.**



CONGRATULATIONS

Peta and Nayan Bryan, at 4.00pm yesterday welcomed their little son, Dominic into the world. Dominic weighed 7lb 4oz.

RE\$OURCE LEVY & SCHOOL FEES

Just a reminder school fees are due THIS FRIDAY, **21st February**. If you have not already paid, please make arrangements to pay by Friday. If you are experiencing difficulties please see Jenni or Vicki. Direct Debit particulars are below.



**MUNRO THEATRE
BABINDA
21, 22 & 23 Feb**

**Commencing 7.30pm
Admission \$8**

**"THE BOOK THIEF"
- Rated: M**

HOMWORK CLUB

The facility operates 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 **BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN** as there are days that Homework Club cannot run due to staff responsibilities off campus.

FOSTER CARERS NEEDED

At IFYS Foster Care we need your support to care for children and young people who are in foster care. Just as children and young people come in all shapes and sizes and with different needs, we know that it is important to have all sorts of carers that are able to provide quality care - that's why you may be the person we are looking for. So if you have ever thought about helping a child reach their full potential, this may just be the opportunity you have been looking for. So why not contact us today for further information on how you can help us to change a life. Together we can make a difference. For more information on how to become a Foster Carer please phone IFYS Foster Care Cairns on 4032 9000 or email fostercarecairns@ifys.com.au

Use your **Child Dental Benefit Scheme** dollars at

Riverside Family Dental

- Bulk Billing with no gap
- After school & Saturday appointments available
- Gulia Goebel (Dental Therapist) is on staff with many Years of experience in treating the younger age group

Riverside Family Dental is located at 8 Fitzgerald Esplanade Innisfail, next to 4KZ, Phone 40 611 588



FREE Well Women's Clinics

Mamu Health Service - Tuesdays
4th & 18th March – Ph: 4061 4477

Innisfail Hospital – Friday 21st March – Ph: 4226 4812 or 0428 781 421

Service includes Pap Smears, Sexual Health Screening, Breast Awareness, also info on Contraception, Continence, Menopause, Lifestyle Issues, Domestic Violence, etc. All services are provided by a specially trained Women's Health Nurse.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS TERM 1

MARCH

WEEK 6:	
5	Ash Wednesday (School Mass)
WEEK 7	
14	SMCPSA Netball/Soccer Day
WEEK 8	
17	St Patrick's Day Mass
21	Funky Hair Day (New date)

APRIL

WEEK 10	
4	Easter Assembly

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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

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