

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WEEK 5 - TERM 1



ST RITA'S SCHOOL SOUTH JOHNSTONE

25TH February, 2014

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

It is hard to believe that at the end of the week we will be half way through the term. Thank you all for your co-operation in getting the children to school earlier this year. All children seem to be ready for class even with the bell ringing ten minutes earlier. Last week we welcomed Mia and Xavier Horwood to the school. Mia and Xavier have a connection to the school as their grandmother taught here in the 80's, their father attended the school and their aunty taught here approximately 10 years ago. Welcome to the children and the rest of their family Naomi, Paul and Mahli.

Last Wednesday, Melissa Leonardi, Jenni Taylor and myself joined with the P & F members of Good Counsel Primary to meet with Mrs Carmel Nash, executive director of the P&F association of Queensland. She spoke about the importance of a link to the state and Diocesan councils of P & F in order to voice views and concerns. She also spoke about the upcoming P&F Federations conference this year in Cairns, the theme being "Relationships, Relationships, Relationships". If anyone is interested in attending there are two free spaces available for parents from our school to attend and then other spaces at a reduced rate. Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to attend. It is the first weekend back at school next term April 25-27. Please take the time to visit the website

<http://www.pandf.org.au> and sign up for their newsletter. There is some interesting reading on the site.

Last Thursday afternoon it was wonderful to see so many of the children being involved in Mr Rossi's league tag club after school. Despite the heat the children all came away commenting how great it was. Parents get your boots dusted off as we will have a Parents vs kids match at the end of term and yes there is a trophy in the cabinet to be won.

Well done to the school leaders for initiating the running sessions of a morning. Yes they may be helping to get us fit for cross-country but they are also part of our being healthy. Points will go towards the total for the Palmerston/Fitzgerald Cross Country trophy, so if your children are nagging you to get to school early this is the reason.

The IGA Grass roots sessions did not go ahead last Friday due to the funeral of a team member of the FNQ heat. They will be attending for the day this Friday. These sessions are made possible by IGA and I am told that not a lot of schools in the district have taken up the offer. We are lucky to have them at St Rita's.

Please note the change of date for our Funky Hair Day to raise money for the leukemia foundation. Due to a clash in dates with the Silkwood/Mena Creek Netball/ Soccer day it will now be held the week later on March 21ST.

I have been contacted by Mrs Christine Pascoe the new principal of South Johnstone State School, who informs me they have a collection box for the struggling farmers out west and wanted to know if we would like to donate to the cause. If anyone would like to help out in any way please let me know as donations will be collected this Friday.

Last week we received news that Simran was elected school captain of her new school in Bundaberg. We have sent best wishes on behalf of the school.

This Saturday the Year Six/Seven class are having a sausage sizzle outside Chemist Warehouse in town. It is the first of many fundraising activities for their camp to Canberra.

Have a great week. God bless.

Vicki

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

As we will commence our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday next week our support of the Caritas appeal known as Project Compassion is an ideal way to act upon the gospel values that Jesus taught and to work towards being more generous and less self centered as we prepare for the Easter celebration.



Through our commitment to **Project Compassion** we stand in solidarity with the world's poor to help end poverty, to promote justice and to uphold dignity. Running through the six weeks of Lent each year, **Project Compassion** is an extraordinary ongoing demonstration of faith, love and generosity of caring supporters in all the name of justice and peace. Without it Caritas could not do the important work they do.

Project Compassion 2014 carries Jesus' commitment for all for a life of abundance: "I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full."

When reflecting on this verse, Pope Francis said: "Men and women of all times and all places desire a full and beautiful life ... a life that is not threatened by death but that can mature and grow to its fullness."

The **Project Compassion 2014** stories reflect on Caritas Australia's work towards making this desire for a full and beautiful life within the surroundings of a home, a reality.

As we travel through each week of Lent and simultaneously each week of the appeal we will be introduced to a person whose real life story is one not only of poverty, but also one of partnership with Caritas.



So in the coming weeks we will be introduced to Maristely from Brazil, Deng from South Sudan, Archie from the Phillipines, Martina from the Solomon Islands, Lorraine from Australia and Nirangini from Sri Lanka. Each of these real life stories clearly highlights the need for action against poverty in our world and reflects the vital work that Caritas carries out as a result of appeals like **Project Compassion**.

St Rita's Fundraising Plan

In discussion with the school leaders it was decided to host a small fundraising activity in each of the weeks of Project Compassion. So to begin, next week we will celebrate **Shrove Tuesday**, (4th March), the day before **Ash Wednesday**, with a Pancake Day at our Caritas Café. We would appreciate any parental assistance on the morning. So if you would like to help please leave a message at the office. Or if you would like further details feel free to contact me on, 0408633991. More information will follow later in the week.



As well as this, each class will be given a Project Compassion box. Any monetary donations made by the students, (and their families), would be very much appreciated. Every little bit helps, so let's see if 2014 can be our best effort yet! Whilst there will be a significant focus on fundraising during the upcoming weeks, the basic aim is also to raise awareness of the poverty that exists in our world and indeed here in Australia.

As Eamon Sharkey, our Caritas guest speaker suggested, both are essential components of any successful appeal or program.

Thank you for your cooperation, Peace be with you, Denise.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

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 TOMORROW.**

P & F EVENT COORDINATORS

So far volunteers to fill the positions below are as follows:

Welcome Night (February) - *Lina Calleja*
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 - *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*.

DATE CLAIMER

The first fundraiser for the Years 6/7 camp will be held this Saturday, 1st March, outside Chemist Warehouse, (next to the Book Centre in Edith Street). Please come and buy a sausage.

MEET AND GREET NIGHT PIZZA, PASTA AND MOVIE

Friday 7 March

6.15pm for a 6.45 dinner

We would love to see many families attend our first social of the year. It is a chance to welcome and get to know our new families, and continue conversations with the old.

Come along for pizza or spaghetti and the kids can enjoy a movie. The kids should bring along sleeping bag/rug and pillow/s to get comfy.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE RSVP at the end of this newsletter and return by Wednesday 5th March. This is essential so that food can be ordered (very few extras will be ordered). Or you can come along for just the fun without eating if you like.

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

TUCKSHOP

The 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.**

DATE CLAIMER – ST RITA’S FETE SATURDAY 31ST MAY, 2014

This year we will be having our fete, which again will be a 'Country Fair'. It has been scheduled for **Saturday 31 May** from 4pm to 9pm.

LOTS of help is needed to organise such a big event, but it is very worthwhile as all monies raised goes towards paying for extra resources and bettering the facilities for our children.

Fetes have proven to need a 'whole of school' effort. Any help, no matter how small, all counts towards making this event successful.

Its time to start thinking about - potting plants for the Plant Stall; gathering/making items for the Arts & Craft Stall (maybe Nonna/Grandma can be of help here); gathering Cent Sale prizes; approaching any business contacts you may have to gather sponsors for Monster Goose or Tug-of-War prizes;

You may have an idea for another stall or game, or contacts in a relevant business.
Please don't hold any ideas back !!

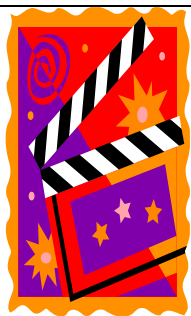


*The kids enjoying their first
League Tag Club with Mr Rossi*



Week 4 - Assembly Awards

FUNKY HAIR DAY WEEK 8 FRIDAY 21ST MARCH.



**MUNRO THEATRE
BABINDA**
28 Feb, 1 & 2 March

Commencing 7.30pm
Admission \$8

**“PHILOMENA”
- Rated: M**

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.*

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.

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

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



Queensland Government

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

MEET & GREET NIGHT

Family name: _____

Pizza \$2 a slice:

Hawaiian: _____
slices

Supreme: _____
slices

Meatlovers: _____
slices

Spagetti \$4 a serve: _____ serves

MINUTES OF AGM ST RITA'S SCHOOL - SOUTH JOHNSTONE

GENERAL MEETING MONDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2014 -7.30PM

PRESENT: V CONOMO, M CROWLEY, M MAGNANINNI, J BUCHANAN, A STEPHENSEN, J TAYLOR, A CALLEJA, M MANN, D KENNY, M LEONARDI, B CINI, J SPRY, P WILCOX, P CALLEJA

APOLOGIES: . FATHER KERRY, L & C CAVANAGH, G BRINCAT

OPENING PRAYER - read by all

MINUTES OF LAST YEARS AGM: (HELD FEBRUARY 2013)

Read by M Crowley, moved by J Taylor and seconded by M Mann as being true and correct.

PRINCIPALS REPORT -

ENROLMENTS:2014 began with an enrolment of 114 students, which is down 7 from last year. We had some students leave unexpectedly over the holidays and picked up 2 new students in the last week of the break. Positively we have had 3 new families enrol their children in Prep next year.

PARENT MEETINGS:Parent meetings have begun positively and it has been encouraging to see the great roll up of parents. Positive relationships between parents and teachers are a great catalyst towards children's needs being met. The teachers at St Rita's as you know go above and beyond their role statement.

BUILDING:I am pleased to advise that we finally have council approval for our overed walkway and Duncan has assured me that work will begin as soon as the steel is back from being gal dipped. Hold ups over the holidays were disappointing.

STAFF:The Year 6/7 class have settled back into 2014 in the care of Mr Shane Rossi. Shane has already instigated the running of a sporting club of a Thursday after school. The 20 positions available to be part of this club were quickly filled. Grandmas Beth and Judy Kelly has now been employed as part of our staff in 2014.

You would have seen April's position advertised recently as she takes maternity leave following the next set of school holidays. Applications close this Friday and given a suitable applicant the position may be filled as early as next week. The position was advertised early to give the new teacher time to transition with the class.

Peta is now on the count down with her due date February 20.

PROJECTS:

- Painting of the Western classrooms and demountable classrooms.
- New built ins installed in the Prep and Year 1 rooms.
- New lunch tables to the Prep classes to accommodate Dylan

P & F Executive Meeting:P & F meeting with Carmel Nash Queensland Executive Director of P&F Associations, next Wednesday 19th at 4p.m. at GCPS to listen to Carmel in promoting roles /responsibilities at both State and Diocesan levels in order to encourage greater local representation. There is a concern at the fall in numbers at the Diocesan meetings.

SKOOLBAG APP

I am pleased to announce the introduction of a new App on your phones that allows the school to send messages to you in time of critical incidences. The school has to undergo training as to the proper utilization of this App but you can download it in anticipation by searching Rita skoolbag

As 2014 is a Fete year I am looking forward to some fresh ideas. Hopefully a fete committee can be formed as planning has to begin shortly. I do know one thing that people came looking for last fete was art and craft.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing P&F committee as well as active members. Resources available around our school are a testimony of your tireless efforts and I look forward to your commitment and that of the incoming committee again in 2014.

Vicki Conomo (Principal)

PRESIDENTS REPORT: Read by Jade Buchanan - copy supplied

TREASURER'S REPORT:- Presented by B Cini - the balance as at 1 February 2014 \$22762.13 . Blaze advised the committee that the auditors still have all other paper work at present.

ELECTION OF P & F COMMITTEE:

Current committee members stepped down and all positions became vacant. V Conomo chaired the meeting.

PRESIDENT -: MELLISSA LEONARDI , NOMINATED BY: JENNY TAYLOR,
SECONDED BY : JADE BUCHANAN

MELLISSA - ACCEPTED THIS POSITION

VICE PRESIDENT-: MARK MAGNANINNI, NOMINATED BY : JADE BUCHANAN, MARK - DECLINED
THIS POSITION

JENNY TAYLOR, NOMINATED BY : JO SPRY, SECONDED BY : MICHELLE
MANN

JENNY- ACCEPTED THIS POSITION

SECRETARY: MOARA CROWLEY, NOMINATED BY : JENNY TAYLOR, SECONDED BY : ANN
STEPHENSEN

MOARA - ACCEPTED THIS POSITION

TREASURER BLAZE CINI, NOMITATED BY : JADE BUCHANAN, SECONDED BY: MOARA
CROWLEY

BLAZE - ACCEPTED THIS POSITION

TUCKSHOP CONVEYNOR LINA CALLEJA (VIA HER HUSBAND ANTHONY), NOMINATED BY :
VICKI CONOMO,

SECONDED BY: JADE BUCHANAN. ANTHONY CALLEJA ACCEPTED THIS
POSITION ON BEHALF OF LINA (LINA WAS NOT PRESENT AT THE MEETING
BUT IS HAPPY TO CONTINUE)

NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE AGM MEETING CLOSED AT 8.10 PM

COMMENCEMENT OF GENERAL MEETING IMMEDIATELY AFTER AGM:

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Read by M Leonardi, moved by M Crowley and seconded by J Spry as
being true and correct.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

- Mortimer constructions attended to the rust spots in the new big hall. They ground the rust spots off and repainted sections affected. Vicki will keep an eye on this in the future.
- The constitution was accepted by the P & F

CORRESPONDENCE IN: -

Ashmore Palms Caravan Park in Brisbane - they kindly donated 5 x \$200 Vouchers and 10 x \$50 Vouchers - these will be used for various events throughout the year as prizes.

Fundraising brochures received from various organisations

CORRESPONDENCE OUT:- NIL

TREASURER'S REPORT:-

- Read by B Cini in AGM

GENERAL BUSINESS:-

- Priscilla has been asked by some new parents to the school about the pedestrian crossing near the church, this crossing needs to be repainted. Vicki advised that this is a main roads issue and Vicki will chase this up.

A crossing down the back pick up area is also a good idea

- A question was raised about staffing for special needs children, and whether there are enough staff officers available. Vicki advised that we are allocated a certain number of hours for the children identified with special needs, and because of these children in our school, it enables the staff officers to help other children with difficulties as well.

- Jenny has made up a list for social night events co-ordinators. This list will be sent out in the newsletter to try and get new event coordinators to take over these roles.

- Anthony Calleja and Paul Taylor are our two volunteers that always attend to maintenance and mowing etc within our school. Anthony asked if a notice can be put in the newsletter just prior to an event, calling for other male helpers, so that it makes it easier for him and Paul.

- Vicki advised that the crusher dust near the big hall has been attended to

- Paul asked if lunch boxes can be put back into the fridge after big lunch, as some children still have food left over that needs to stay cold. Vicki advised that she will talk to the teacher at the next staff meeting.

- Moara asked the P & F if they would consider donating the proceeds from the strawberries and cream sales at the show to the 6/7 school camp, as long as the year 6/7 parents were willing to solely run the event. Everyone voted - and the majority voted against this request.

- Ann suggested that she could contact the main roads department to install a n orange flashing light at the bottom of the hill to advise the traffic when the bridge is flooded.

- Denise asked if the P & F could install some roller blinds in the small hall. When the school children and parents watch presentations, the glare is often bad and this would help stop this. Denise also asked if some sort of sound system could be installed in the big hall as well. P & F agreed to these requests and we will source quotes from Unique Shades 40613104 and Col's Upholstry 40613606.

At the end of each year Denise puts together an amazing Christmas concert, Denise asked if the P & F could fund the T-Shirts purchased for each class, so they can be re-used each year. Everyone was in favour of this.

- Jenny advised that when Maggi Dent visited last year she unexpectedly had to stay in a Motel in Innisfail, the cost of this was \$130, Jenny asked if P & F could cover this cost. Everyone was in favour of this.

Jenny is in the process of submitting a grant for a new playground near the prep/big hall grassed area, Jenny asked if P & F would contribute around \$10000 to this project so she is able to apply for the maximum grant .

Mark made a suggestion to this idea and suggested to approach the South Johnstone Mill for funding. By approaching the Mill we could incorporate a safety issue project to help educate the kids with stop signs, don't ride on train signs, etc, this could be blended into the play ground as a fun learning activity. The P & F were undecided about the amount of money to donate at this stage. We would like to hear back from the Mill and obtain approximate costs for a playground first.

There being no further business our meeting closed 9.15pm

The next meeting will be held on Monday 17 March 2014

V Conomo (Principal)

M Crowley (Secretary)