

# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

## WEEK 6 - TERM 1



### ST RITA'S SCHOOL SOUTH JOHNSTONE

4<sup>th</sup> March, 2014

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Due to our children being part of the St. Patrick's Day Concert at the shire hall on the night of the 17<sup>th</sup> March, the next P & F meeting will now be **NEXT** Monday night, 10<sup>th</sup> March, in the school library. If you have a major agenda item please come and let me know. More information about St. Patrick's concert will come home in the next week.

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. All are invited to attend mass at 11.30a.m.

Last week the interview process was completed for April's replacement for when she goes on maternity leave. As you will be aware the person has big shoes to fill. Recommendations have been forwarded to Catholic Education and we will hopefully be able to make an announcement next week. We hope to start the new teacher this term, so she can become familiar with the children, parents and school, as well as liaise with April as to the needs of the children.

Some very exciting news: the covered walkway construction will begin this week weather pending. Duncan informed me today that the steel has been delivered across the road and the safety fence will be erected in the coming days. This will mean that the back double gate will have to be unlocked to allow access from the back street.

On the weekend the Prime Minister opened a new wing of the Australian War Memorial, dedicated to animals that have served in war. During the ceremony one of Miss Lizzio's poems, "*Animals of War – We Will Remember Them*", was recited. This poem is going to be engraved on a monument to be unveiled next year in Brisbane. We are extremely lucky to have her working with our children and extending their passion for writing. The pieces of work the children are creating under her guidance are of a very high standard.

This Friday on assembly the school leaders will be presented with their badges. Friday night will also be our first social night of the year with a meet and greet night for parents and a movie for the children.

The children can bring a blanket and pillow along. It would be great to have as many people come along as possible. RSVP's are due tomorrow.

I have some secondhand children's desks for sale. Some have a tub and some don't. Please see me if you are interested in purchasing one. We also have a Dell Computer and printer for sale for \$60 (the lot).

We have been notified that Joshua De Munari, a former student, (Year 7, 2011) has been selected in the Australian Schoolboys Cricket Team to tour Sri Lanka during the year. I have sent him good wishes from everyone at St. Rita's. Whilst he was here he made the Queensland team.

I wish to draw your attention to the attached letter Nationally Consistent Collection of Data- School Student with a disability. This will involve a number of children in our school who do not necessarily have an identifiable disability. The range includes physical, emotional, cognitive, social and sensory disabilities. Children may have little or no education adjustments. Please read the attached letter and if you do have any concerns about your child/children come and see me.

Have a great week. God bless.

Vicki

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

### PANCAKE TUESDAY

Today we celebrated **Pancake Tuesday** (also known as Shrove Tuesday) because it is the last day before the period of **LENT** begins.

As **LENT** is traditionally a time of abstinence, of giving things up or self sacrifice, **Pancake Tuesday** is the last chance to indulge a little. Pancakes are eaten on this day because they are typically rich in fat, butter and eggs which historically were foods forbidden during **LENT**.

**Thank you to all those who helped or supported our 'CARITAS CAFE' – our first fundraiser for Project Compassion.**



### ASH WEDNESDAY

Tomorrow we begin our Lenten journey with **Ash Wednesday** which marks day one of our forty day experience as we prepare to celebrate **Easter**.

Our Whole School and Parish Mass for **Ash Wednesday** is at **11.30** in the **Church** and our celebrant will be Fr Kumaradhas. At this special mass a cross of ashes will be placed on our

foreheads . This is a powerful sign of our belief in God and serves as a reminder of our promise to follow Jesus. Quite simply when we receive the ashes we remember that we are members of God's family and that we are called to be faithful to the gospel through our words and actions.

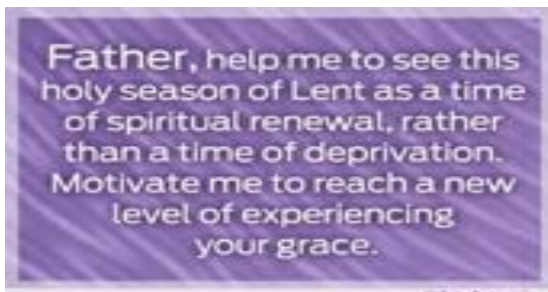
## **SO LENT BEGINS TOMORROW !**



In some ways, **LENT** is the most famous of all the Church's seasons. People generally seem to know a lot about it. Perhaps because it lasts for 40 days and is a fairly serious time as we recall the period that Jesus spent in solitude in the desert before he began his preaching ministry.

For us, **LENT** is a time of self-examination and self-renewal. We are encouraged to think about what the gospel means to us and to think about how well we are living up to God's law of love.

**LENT** is celebrated by Catholics of all ages and is characterised by three main components : *prayer, fasting and almsgiving*. In a nutshell, this means that it is a time for us to try to become more prayerful, to make our lives simpler and to share what we have with those who are in need. Our commitment to Project Compassion is a wonderful way to achieve the latter.



## **FYI : A FEW INTERESTING FACTS.....**

- Last year's palms are burned to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday
- The colour purple is the colour for the season of Lent
- Many people choose to observe a 'no meat on Fridays' rule during Lent
- Lent ends on the evening of Holy Thursday

## **PROJECT COMPASSION NEWS :**

Week One - **MARISTELY FROM BRAZIL**  
Maristely, 18, lives in a favela (slum) in Sao Paulo, Brazil with her family.

*Dark and cramped, favelas are often built on land affected by floods and landslides.*

*Caritas Australia's partner, the Movement for the Defence of Favela Residents ( MDF), is changing*

*lives across 40 favelas in Sao Paulo. MDF understands the difficulties of favela life such as dense population, a lack of available jobs, constant threat of eviction and widespread poverty. Through MDF, Maristely's family along with thousands of others, now has access to clean water, electricity and connected sewerage. They also have a certificate of home ownership which means they can no longer be evicted.*

*Across the favelas, there is a dominant culture of violence. The MDF program promotes peace so young people can attain education and employment; rather than joining local gangs. Through this program, Maristely has become a young leader, while improved living conditions means her family are now enjoying a full life.*

*" Being a part of MDF has given me an awareness of my dignity... I know that to live in a favela is nothing to be ashamed of," said Maristely.*

**View a short film online about life in the favelas of Brazil and the story of change in Maristely's community at :**  
[www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion)



May your Lenten journey be one of personal change and great fulfilment.

Peace be with you,  
Denise

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM  
PARENT MEETING- (TONIGHT)  
TUESDAY, 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH  
7.00PM IN CHURCH.**

**FUNKY HAIR DAY WEEK 8  
FRIDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH.**

## SCHOOL FEES ARE NOW OVERDUE!



Thank you to those families who have paid their school fees. Please make every effort to pay any outstanding fees as a matter of urgency so that the school can meet it's financial obligations. If you are having difficulty paying please contact Jenni or Vicki.

## REMINDER

**MEET AND GREET NIGHT  
PIZZA, PASTA AND MOVIE**

**This Friday**

**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 (due tomorrow), at the end of THIS newsletter and return TOMORROW!! This is essential so that food can be ordered (very few extras will be ordered). Pay for your food on the night. Please try to bring the right money. 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

**WINNERS OF YEAR 6/7  
100 BOARDS FUNDRAISER  
BOARD 1: Michelle Mann  
BOARD 2: M Rivers (Innisfail)**

## DATE CLAIMER – ST RITA'S FETE SATURDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> 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 !!**

## 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**.

## SILKWOOD MENA CREEK HAMPER RAFFLE TICKETS

The eldest student in each family will today bring home a book of hamper raffle tickets. Sorry for the lateness in sending these home but we only received them yesterday.

The raffle will be drawn on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March. Tickets are priced + \$1 each. Prizes are listed on the cover of the ticket books.

**TICKETS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE, (sold or unsold), NO LATER THAN NEXT WEDNESDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH.**

## SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB ISSUE 2

Book Club order forms have been handed to each child today. Please have your order into the school office by **WEDNESDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH.**

Please make cheques payable to the school.



**Thank you to the families that supported the appeal for our farming friends out west. Pictured are some of the items collected at St Rita's.**



## MUNRO THEATRE BABINDA

7<sup>TH</sup>, 8<sup>TH</sup> & 9<sup>TH</sup> March

Commencing 7.30pm  
Admission \$8

**“12 Years a Slave”  
- 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. Abuse of the facility may see your children being disallowed useage.***

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.

## EASTER HOLIDAY DRAMA & ACTING SCHOOL PROGRAMS 5yrs - 18yrs

Spin along to TYC for our Autumn Drama School Holiday Programs with From Here to Eternity: A Time Travel Fable (7/4 – 10/4), or Historically Horrible: Crazy Crusades (14/4 – 17/4) Explore acting, costumes, lighting, sound and multimedia elements, finishing with a creative performance on the final afternoon. Each 4 day program runs from 9am – 3pm and costs \$215 (excl GST) per program. For young people 12yrs+ we have our Autumn Acting School Holiday Program as you audition for your role and perform in our a full-length scripted production of George Orwell's, 1984 in a 2-night performance season at TYC for your friends, family and the general community. The program runs from 930am - 5pm and costs \$270 (excl GST) per program. Please visit [www.theyoungcompany.com.au](http://www.theyoungcompany.com.au) for more information or call TYC on 40 414066. All programs held at TYC Adventure Theatre, 169 Bunda St, Cairns City.

**COME ON A DRAMATIC ADVENTURE WITH**

# THE YOUNG COMPANY

**THEATRE FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & THEIR FAMILIES.**

**AUTUMN HOLIDAY PRAMA PROGRAMS @ TYC THIS EASTER!**

<b>4-DAY DRAMA SCHOOL PROGRAM ONE:</b> <b>FROM HERE TO ETERNITY</b> <b>A TIME TRAVEL FABLE</b> MON 7 APRIL - THURS 10 APRIL 2014 5YRS - 14YRS   9AM - 3PM	<b>4-DAY DRAMA SCHOOL PROGRAM TWO:</b> <b>HISTORICALLY HORRIBLE</b> <b>CRAZY CRUSADES</b> MON 14 APRIL - THURS 17 APRIL 2014 5YRS - 14YRS   9AM - 3PM
<b>4-DAY ACTING SCHOOL PROGRAM THREE:</b> <b>1984</b> BY GEORGE ORWELL MON 7 APRIL - SAT 12 APRIL 2014 12YRS - 18YRS   9AM - 5PM SCRIPTED PERFORMANCE BOOKINGS VIA AUDITIONS	

click here for further information or email [info@theyoungcompany.com.au](mailto:info@theyoungcompany.com.au)

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS - TERM 1

### MARCH

WEEK 6:	
5	Ash Wednesday (School Mass)
7	Meet and Greet Night
WEEK 7	
10	P & F Meeting
14	SMCPSA Netball/Soccer Day
WEEK 8	
17	St Patrick's Day Liturgy
21	Funky Hair Day (New date)

### APRIL

WEEK 10	
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

### MAKE THE ORDINARY EXTRAORDINARY

*We need to see things anew.*

*We need to make the ordinary in our life extraordinary.*

*When we do this, things may remain the same on the outside, but internally, a gentle revolution is taking place.*

*Little by little, we begin to replace the struggle in our lives with a sense of abundant flow.*

### MEET & GREET NIGHT

Family name: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Pizza \$2 a slice:

Hawaiian: \_\_\_\_\_  
slices

Supreme: \_\_\_\_\_  
slices

Meatlovers: \_\_\_\_\_  
slices

Spagetti \$4 a serve: \_\_\_\_\_ serves

## Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on Students with Disability - 2014

All schools in the Cairns Catholic Diocese are participating in the nationally consistent collection of data on students with disabilities during the 2014 year.

### Who is overseeing the data collection?

A national steering committee has been established to collect the data. This committee includes representatives of state and territory education authorities, representatives from the Catholic and Independent school sectors at the national level, the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) and the Standing Council on School Education and early Childhood (SCSEEC).

### What information is collected?

Information includes the type of disability, the level of adjustment provided and the number of students receiving each level of adjustment. A student is only included in the data collection if he/she meets the definition of disability under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the school has evidence of this.

### Why is this happening?

Previously, different states and territories were collecting information on school students with disabilities in different ways. Nationally consistent data informs future planning by governments and education authorities to better support the participation of students with disability in schooling on the same basis as other students, as intended by the Melbourne Declaration (2008) educational goals for all young Australians. A nationally consistent approach for collecting data on school students with disability enables the number of students with disabilities to be collected and reported in a valid and reliable way.

### When is the data being collected?

Data is collected from government and non - government sectors and at both primary and secondary levels from across Australia. Collection is taking place during a ten week period beginning in April and is to be submitted in the August Census, 2014. Catholic Education Services - Cairns Diocese is working with schools to ensure the data is collected in the most efficient way and with minimal impact on schools.

### What will this mean for my child?

The data collection has no direct impact on your child. Students are not involved in any testing process. Trained school staff collate information already available in the school and information provided to the Federal Government will not identify individual students. Parents who do not wish their child to participate in the data collection can notify the school. Further information can be found at the website <http://www.schoolsdisabilitydatapl.edu.au/>