Dear Parents and Caregivers

Let me ask you a question - “Would you let a stranger into your child’s bedroom?” Last weekend I was fortunate to attend the Queensland Parent and Friends Conference in Cairns. As part of the conference Susan McLean, Australia’s foremost expert in the area of cyber-safety and young people, spoke to the parents about this very question. She suggested getting technology out of children’s bedrooms and into an area of the house where parents can monitor their usage.

Susan talked about popular sites for kids. Sites such as Facebook, Instagram, kids games such as Club Penguin & Minecraft, Twitter and the dangers of online games such as World of Warcraft. I am told that some of our senior children have an app called KiK. Legally a person has to be 17 to have this app. Susan was adamant that younger children should not have access to this app as it has a number of adult only aspects embedded in it.

Susan wanted to make people aware of privacy settings and location services in relation to these networking sites. Make sure that information is for friends only and that location services were turned off so that predators could not easily locate where the device was being used from. A predator can gain all they need to know in as little as five questions. Parents should be parents and say “NO!” Go into the restriction settings and set them to what you want.

She was not suggesting that we punish our children by taking technology away from them as this is the world in which they live. She did however want us to make our children tech savvy and aware of their “digital footprint”. Snapchat photos do not get lost after fifteen seconds, they are easily retrieved off the device if need be by different agencies. The internet and the various applications are a lot of fun and a wonderful tool ... maximize the benefits and surf safely together.

It was wonderful to see so many of our littlies out there and taking part in the Football Club. There are still seven spots left for anyone who is interested.

At last night’s P & F meeting the issue was raised of extra traffic starting to pass the school with the introduction of at least 40 iron ore trucks on the way to the harbor each day. We are going to pen a petition to the local council to see if they will do something with the parking in Driscoll Street as a safe alternative, now that we have the covered walkway, to parking at the front of the school in Green Street. I will notify parents and interested community members when it is ready to come in and sign.

With just over a week till our annual Mother’s Day Morning Tea we are still calling for Cent Sale Prizes and helpers for the event. Please complete the form sent home the other day for
planning purposes. This is always a great morning so let’s get behind it.

Have a great week. God bless.

Vicki

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

EASTER 101:
A Fifty Day Celebration

As you know Easter is the commemoration of Jesus’ resurrection from the dead, three days after his crucifixion. This event, that was foreshadowed in the Old Testament and by Jesus himself, is the cornerstone of our Catholic faith. By remembering Christ’s resurrection, we become aware that we too will rise again.

In his first Easter message last March, Pope Francis said that Easter means that, “the love of God is stronger than evil and death itself; it means that the love of God can transform our lives and let those desert places in our hearts bloom. Easter is the exodus, the passage of human beings from the slavery of sin and evil to the freedom of love and goodness.”

It is little wonder then why we celebrate this important season for 50 days. On this note theologian Nathan Mitchell writes, “the great fifty days are not an unwelcome, unrealistic obligation to ‘party on’ even if we don’t feel like it, but an invitation to explore more deeply the ‘weather of the heart’ to awaken our memory of God’s presence and power in our lives.”

So while Easter does not really have the commercial impact of Christmas and we don’t really get an extra day holiday as it always falls on a Sunday, it is nonetheless an extremely important time for all Catholics because it is an opportunity for listening and for learning.

During this season many stories in the gospels tell of Jesus appearing to the disciples after his resurrection. Each visit strengthened the disciples faith that Jesus had truly risen, and that he was truly the Messiah. Jesus also hands on to them his own mission. This mission to be messengers that the first disciples received, is also given to us. So when we hear the gospel words of Jesus today, they are being spoken to us.

Reflection
How can we ‘see and touch’ Jesus today?
What helps me to understand the Scriptures?
How can I bring the message of Jesus to others?

A Prayer After Easter by Erin M Cline
O God of the Last Supper
God of the Cross
And God of the Empty Tomb
We come before you now and we pause.

We inhale the scent of snow white Easter lilies.
We see rain as it falls in veils and sheets of April showers.
And we listen.

Holy Week has passed.
But how we long to live by the marvellous story we have heard.

Let us remain ever beside you at the table of the Last Supper.
Show us who is hungry.
And give us the courage to offer them bread from your table.
Show us who is thirsty.
And give us strength to lift up the cup of your love.
Most of all, show us how tho linger at the table, serving others-
Doing ALL that we do
In remembrance of You,
And the way You were when You walked this earth.

We lift these simple, limited words
Up to you, O God.
Amen

Have a wonderful week. And may the peace of the risen Christ be with you as we journey together through this special time of Easter.

Regards,
Denise

NO ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK
PLEASE NOTE: Due to commitments on Fridays there will only be assemblies on Weeks 4, 7 & 10.

MOTHER’S DAY MORNING TEA HELPERS
A flyer for helpers for the Mother’s Day Morning Tea to be held on Friday, 9th May, was handed out last week. Please take the time to read it, complete it and return to the school office by next Wednesday, 30th April.

A book of raffle tickets was attached to the flyer. Please sell as many tickets as possible.

WE URGENTLY NEED CENT SALE PRIZES. THESE CAN BE LEFT AT THE SCHOOL OFFICE.

SCHOOL FEES
Term 2 School Fees were sent home yesterday with the eldest child in the family. If your child has not passed them to you, you will find them in their school bag. Please kindly make every effort to pay these fees by the due date. If you are having difficulty paying please contact Jenni or Vicki.

TUCKSHOP will recommence in Week 4.
**ACTIVITIES LEVY**

You will see on your Term 2 Fees Invoice that we have now included an Activity Levy, billed per student per term. As advised previously this includes all the little payments that are usually requested from you throughout the year eg. Performing Arts Productions, transport to activities, swimming etc. This levy does not include fees for camps or some payments for some sporting activities where only certain students attend. These fees will be requested separately as they occur throughout the year.

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**EASTER RAFFLE WINNERS**

1st - William Macgillivray
2nd Eden Cini
3rd Heidi Piccolo
4th Coen Stephensen

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**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

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**STOP PRESS!**

**ST RITA’S FETE**

**SATURDAY 14TH JUNE 2014**

4.00PM – 9.00PM

**MOTHERS’ DAY MORNING TEA**

**FRIDAY 9TH MAY, 2014 - 9.30AM**

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**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.

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**BOOK CLUB - ISSUE 3**

Book Club order forms were sent home last week. If you wish to order from this issue please have your order into the school office no later than 7th May. If paying by cheque, please make it payable to the school.

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**ICAS Testing Dates**

**Years 3-7 ONLY!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition</th>
<th>Sitting Date</th>
<th>Closing Date</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>4 June</td>
<td>30 April</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>16 June</td>
<td>12 May</td>
<td>$18.70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>17 June</td>
<td>12 May</td>
<td>$12.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>29 July</td>
<td>24 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>12 Aug</td>
<td>24 June</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
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</table>

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.

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Condolences to the Foschi Family on the passing of their Great-Grandmother in Ayr. Our prayers are with you at this sad time. (Janita’s Grandmother).
IMPORTANT REMINDER
HOMEWORK CLUB
CLOSES AT 4.00PM EVERY FRIDAY.

HOMEWORK CLUB
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.

INNISFAIL LIBRARY ON THE MOVE
The Innisfail Library will close at 49 Rankin Street on Saturday 3 May at 12.00 noon to allow the move to 57-59 Rankin Street (cnr of Grace Street) where the library will re-open on Monday 12 May at 0.00am. We look forward to seeing you in our new temporary site from 12 May.

ETTY BAY SURF LIFE SAVING SIGN ON
WHERE: Etty Bay Surf Life Saving Club
WHEN: Sunday 4th May, 2014
TIME: 9.00 -11.00 am
WHO: Children 7 years of age to Masters New & past members all welcome.

(NOTE – Children aged 5 years of age can also join if a parent or older sibling is an active member). Age is determined as at midnight 30th September.

ALL WELCOME
HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE BEACH

STUDENT TRAVEL REBATES
Semester 1, 2014 Bus Fare Assistance
• Does your child attend a school outside the Brisbane City Council boundary?
• Does your family spend more than $25/week* on fares to and from school (* $20/week if you hold a concession card)?
• Does your child travel on a publicly available bus not owned or associated with the school?

Students with Disabilities
• Does your child have a verified disability that requires transport assistance to and from school?
• Has your school’s learning support teacher assessed your child’s travel capability rating as ‘semi-independent’ or more dependent?

Visit our website to see if you qualify for financial assistance to help with the cost of transport and apply at www.schooltransport.com.au by 31 May 2014.

Late applications cannot be accepted.

MUNRO THEATRE BABINDA
2, 3 & 4 May
Commencing 7.30pm
Admission $8

“American Hustle”
- Rated: M

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - TERM 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd May</td>
<td>SMCSA Cross Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7th May</td>
<td>Book Club closes</td>
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<tr>
<td>9th May</td>
<td>Mother’s Day Morning Tea</td>
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<td>11th May</td>
<td>Mother’s Day</td>
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<td>WEEK 4</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>13, 14 &amp; 15 May</td>
<td>NAPLAN</td>
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<td>WEEK 5</td>
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<td>19th May</td>
<td>Book Fair</td>
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<td>20th May</td>
<td>ICAS Computer Skills</td>
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<td>21st May</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>22nd May</td>
<td>St Rita’s Feast Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>23rd May</td>
<td>Peninsula Cross Country</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**WEEK 6**

| 28th May     | - Young Performers Choir Day  
|             | - Girl's Futsal (Yr 6/7)  
| 29th May    | Boys' Futsal (Yr 6/7)  

**WEEK 7**

| 1st June | Sunday - Peninsula Soccer  
| 4th June | ICAS Science  

**WEEK 8**

| 9th June | Queen's Birthday Holiday  
| 14th June | SCHOOL FETE  

**WEEK 9**

| 16th June | ICAS Writing  
| 17th June | ICAS Spelling  
| 20th June | Fitzgerald v Palmerston Day  

**WEEK 10**

| 22nd June | Peninsula Touch & Softball  
| 24th June | Reading Day - Tully (P-Yr 2)  
| 26th June | Brave Hearts  
| 27th June | End of Term  

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**DATES TO REMEMBER**

### TERM 3

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

### TERM 4

| 6th Oct | Labour Day Holiday  
| 7th Oct | Start of Term  
| 8th Oct | Parent Session – Puberty Talk 2-3  
| 22nd Oct | Wonder of Living (Years 1-7)  
| 31st Oct | World Teachers Day  
| 4th Nov | Melbourne Cup Luncheon  
| 10th – 14th Nov | Prep to Year 2 Swimming  
| 17th – 21st Nov | Year 3 to 7 Swimming  
| 11th Nov | Christmas Book Fair  
| 11th | Remembrance Day  
| 5th Dec | End of Term  

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**BOOGAN STARS JUNIOR SOCCER CLUB ALEX SMITH COACHING CLINIC**

You won't want to miss this!!

Registered Boogan Players are invited to attend a training Clinic with Heat Player and Accredited Coach Alex Smith. This Clinic will be held at Boogan Club Grounds, Castor Park Mourilyan, Wednesdays afternoons commencing 30th April, Castor Park, Mourilyan.

- 4.00pm - 5.00pm - u6, u7 and u8
- 5.00pm - 6 pm - u9, u10, u11, u12, u13, u14.

Cost $6.00/player/session = $30.00 for the five week program.

*Please register your interest with Moira Sultana email: janabuilding@bigpond.com*
Read Up. Read Up. the CIRCUS is in town!

P-3 Reading Day. Tue 24 June
Read up....Read up....the circus is coming to town!

Hello! My name is Carmen Pedroni and I am the Arts teacher at Feluga, El Arish and Mission Beach State schools.

This year I am the contact person (for schools) for the P-3 Reading Day in Tully on Tuesday the 24 June.

Yes folks, the time is drawing near. The theme for this year’s reading day is “Circus”..... so start thinking creatively about how you can incorporate some ‘Circus’ elements into your curriculum for next term.

Holly from El Arish will address her technology KLA by having her students make various circus equipment/costumes. Go Holly!

If you know of some fantastic ‘Circus’ books or music please let me know so I can share it with others.

I will be back in touch closer to the time. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need more information about the day.

Happy reading.

Carmen Pedroni

Email: cpedr10@eq.edu.au

Phone: (home) 40689589 (mobile) 0428354470