Dear Parents and Caregivers

On the weekend we were informed that Fr Miah McSweeney passed away. Fr McSweeney was parish priest here at St Rita’s for a number of years during the 1960’s. Many older parishioners will remember him and I ask you to keep him in your prayers. Miss Lizzio fondly remembers his input into the Catholic Youth Movement in this area, as well as his dog ‘Phantom’ who was a regular visitor to the school. May he rest peacefully in God’s care.

On a lighter note, thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make Friday’s Mothers’ day morning tea the success it was. From all reports everyone had a great time and thoroughly enjoyed the entertainment. Congratulations to the children and to Denise on her excellent coaching. Raffle winners are published later in this newsletter.

This week the Year Three, Five and Seven classes will be involved with NAPLAN testing. These tests are only a preview of assessment that happens in schools. Do not allow your children to be stressed due to the media hype into their importance. We all know the strengths and weaknesses of our children and need to look at the big picture. Make sure your child has a nutritious breakfast and lunch and plenty of sleep.

This Thursday May 15th, the six Librarians from the southern deanery schools will be here at St Rita’s for a Library assistants’ day. At last month’s P&F meeting I asked for assistance in providing morning tea and lunch for these ladies. If you can help in any way can you please let me know ASAP.

Next week is shaping up to be a big week with Book Fair in the small hall all week, School photos on Wednesday, St Rita’s day on Thursday and Walk to School day on Friday. More information will be coming home on these events over the next week.

This Friday we will hold our first free dress day for the Fete. Children are to bring in a bottle for the bottle stall. This can be a bottle of product purchased from a shop or a bottle filled with small toys, lollies or other goodies. To lessen the burden on our larger families there will be a limit of 2 bottles per family.

The Year Six and Seven class would like to thank everyone who supported their Mothers’ Day raffle and sausage sizzle on the weekend. They are presently raffling $100 worth of scratchies for $2 a ticket. Tickets are available at the school office.

Congratulations to Miss Lizzio who was notified over the weekend that her poem ‘I am a War Dog’ will be printed on the inside cover of a boxed set of five coins being released in July. The set will sell at $150 and commemorate Australian dogs that have served in various wars throughout the world. We are very proud of her efforts and lucky to have her mentoring the writing skills of our students.

Congratulations to Miss Thomas, who will be returning home this weekend to attend her graduation on Monday night. Mrs Kenny will take the Prep class, next Monday and Tuesday in her absence.

God bless, have a great week.

Vicki

Gospel Connections: The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Each year at this time the church reads a gospel in which Jesus speaks of himself as the shepherd of God’s people. A good shepherd stays close to his sheep and pays attention to them.
This way the shepherd can protect his flock from being attacked by wild animals or from falling down rock hillsides. The shepherd knows where the best pastures are and where there is clean water to drink. The sheep could not survive without the shepherd’s care and so they learn to recognise the special sound of their own shepherd’s call.

This is a time to rejoice that God has given us Jesus as our saviour and shepherd. We are his sheep and he is our protector who cares for us and will lead us on a safe path.

‘I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD, SAYS THE LORD: I KNOW MY SHEEP AND MINE KNOW ME.’
(John 10: 1-14)

Reflection
What could possibly snatch us away from Jesus?
How well do we know Jesus, our shepherd?
Is there something that you think Jesus does not know about you?

DID YOU KNOW?
• In ancient times, shepherds and their sheep wandered in search of pasture, often travelling many miles. At night the shepherd would build an enclosure to keep his sheep together and safe from predators. Often he would form a human gate by sleeping at the entry to the enclosure.
• The words ‘pastor’ and ‘pastoral’ come from the Latin word for shepherd.
• This is one of seven ‘I am’ sayings of Jesus in John’s Gospel.

PRAYER: Psalm 23
This is one of the most loved and most well known psalms. The commentary in bold type just adds to its significance.

Psalm 23
The Lord is my Shepherd - That’s Relationship!
I shall not want - That’s Supply!
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures - That’s Rest!
He leadeth me beside the still waters - That’s Refreshment!
He restoreth my soul - That’s Healing!
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness - That’s Guidance!
For His name sake - That’s Purpose!
Yes, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death - That’s Testing!
I will fear no evil - That’s Protection!
For Thou art with me - That’s Faithfulness!
Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me - That’s Discipline!
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies - That’s Hope!
Thou anointest my head with oil - That’s Commendation!
My cup runneth over - That’s Abundance!
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life - That’s Blessing!
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord - That’s Security!
Forever - That’s Eternity!

To God be the Glory...

Until next week.
Peace be with you, Denise

ASSEMBLY
THIS WEEK
PLEASE NOTE: Due to commitments on Fridays there will only be assemblies on Weeks 4, 7 & 10.

FREE DRESS DAY
THIS FRIDAY students are welcome to come to school in free dress. Instead of a monetary donation students are asked to bring a bottled item for the Fete Bottle Stall. Families with more than two children need only bring two bottles. Please make sure that the items will not be out of date by fete day, are not damaged or rusty.

Students are to take these items to their respective classrooms where they will be packed into boxes. Any bottles containing alcohol should be brought to the office and handed to a staff member.
GOOD COUNSEL COLLEGE – INNISFAIL
ENROLMENT FOR YEAR 7 & 8 – 2015
Enrolments have opened for those parents
wishing to place their children in Year 7 and/or
Year at Good Counsel College.

Applications for enrolment may be obtained from
the College office at 66 Owen Street, Innisfail or
by phoning 40 635 300.

The first round of offers will be made to
applicants who have returned their completed
applications forms, and who have attended an
enrolment interview by Friday, 29th August, 2014.

Orientation Days for incoming students are as
follows:

- Year 8 - Orientation Day, Wednesday, 22nd
  October
- Year 7 - Orientation Day, Wednesday, 5th
  November.

Enrolment packages are available
from St Rita’s school office.

MOTHER’S DAY RAFFLE
First – Heather Spinella
Second – Kellie Thompson
Third – Maureen Atkinson

YEAR 6/7 CAMP MOTHER’S DAY RAFFLE
First – Melissa Todd
Second – Brittany Ots
Third – Macey Smith
Fourth – Caitlan O’Reilly

ST. RITA’S STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED PLACES AT
INNISFAIL DANCE COMPETITION LAST WEEK.

BRYDEE SPRY
1st Classical Solo
3rd Jazz Solo
Encouragement Award 7 years & Under

RYLEE LEONARDI
HC Tap Solo
2nd Jazz Solo

TYLA PLUMB
2nd Waltz Tap Solo

TYLA PLUMB & KIARA FOSCHI
1st Tap Duo
1st Song & Dance Duo

LILY DARVENIZA
3rd Lyrical Solo
3rd Song & Soft Shoe Solo

GHISLANE ROSS
Special Mention – All Abilities Solo

MICHALA SPRY
HC Waltz Tap Solo

KARLA CALLEJA
1st Cabaret/Musical Solo
1st Song & Tap Solo
1st Waltz Tap Solo
1st Speed Tap Solo
1st Song & Soft Shoe Solo
2nd Tap Solo
3rd National Solo
HC Jazz Solo
HC Lyrical Solo
3rd Tap Championship
3rd Song & Dance Championship
Aggregate Winner 8-10 years
Age Champion 8-10 years
Junior Cassowary Coast Dancer Award

SCHOOL PHOTOS
Last week each student was given an envelope
for school photos. These will be taken on
Wednesday, 21st May. If you require sibling
photos these are available from the counter in
the office.

Please note that photos MUST be paid for by
photo day. We act as agents for Advancedlife
Photographers. Please enclose the correct
money as we cannot give change. The envelopes
are handed directly to the company on the day.
**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.

**CAN ANYONE HELP?**

If anyone is travelling to Townsville over the next three weeks can they see Jenni. We have been donated a Fete prize that needs collecting from Cowboys. Thank you.

**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

**STOP PRESS!**

**ST RITA’S FETE**

**SATURDAY 14TH JUNE 2014**

4.00PM – 9.00PM

**IMPORTANT REMINDER**

Girls’ Futsal date has been changed from Wednesday, 28th May to Friday, 30th May, due to the unexpected number of nominations.

**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>
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<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>29 July</td>
<td>24 June</td>
<td>$8.80</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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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**

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.

**MUNRO THEATRE BABINDA**

16, 17 & 18 May

Commencing 7.30pm

Admission $8

“The Amazing Spider Man 2 – IN 3D”

- Rated: M
**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](http://www.schooltransport.com.au) by 31 May 2014. Late applications cannot be accepted.

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**TERM 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13, 14 &amp; 15 May</td>
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<tr>
<th>WEEK 5</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>22nd May</td>
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<td>23rd May</td>
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<tr>
<th>WEEK 6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28th May</td>
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<td>29th May</td>
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<td>30th May</td>
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**WEEK 7**

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

**WEEK 8**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 9</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16th June</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th June</td>
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<tr>
<td>20th June</td>
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</tbody>
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**WEEK 10**

| 22nd June | Peninsula Touch & Softball |
| 24th June | Reading Day - Tully (P-Yr 3) |
| 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 Years 2-3 |
| 9th – 10th Oct | Year 2/3 Camp |
| 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 | Christmas Book Fair |
| 11th | Remembrance Day |
| 5th Dec | End of Term |