Dear Parents and Caregivers

If you haven’t as yet had the opportunity to visit Bookfair it will be set up in the little hall all week. Remember this is a great way for us to put new stock into our school library. Thank you Mrs Kelly for your Egyptian props.

Tomorrow is school photo day. Children must be dressed in the correct formal uniform. Black shoes for all and girls are to have only blue, black or white accessories in their hair. I do realize there is a lot of sickness in the school at present but this cannot be helped. If your child is not well you may be able to find what time their photo is and bring them in just for the photo.

Thursday is the feast of St. Rita. St. Rita is the patron saint of impossible causes. She had a very hard life but through it all maintained her love for her God. Children are asked to bring along something for a shared morning tea. Following morning tea we will be celebrating with a liturgy at 11.30 in the church to which everyone is welcome to attend. Following the liturgy the children will be involved in a series of fun activities for the rest of the day. They will be able to wear free dress, once again for a bottle donation for the fete. If you are stuck for ideas pop your head into the office and see what was given last week. We need volunteers to help with our sausage sizzle lunch. Children will not need to bring along lunch unless they do not eat sausages.

Friday is “Walk to School Day”. This will depend on the weather. Children coming to school early can walk up to the park with the teachers, otherwise parents can meet near the playground at the park, leave their cars there and walk to school. Parents will be transported back to the park afterwards to collect their cars. A decision will be made on Thursday afternoon as to the running of this activity.

Please put in your calendars August 7th as this is the date set down for our 2014 session with Maggie Dent. More information will be made available as the day draws closer.

With the introduction of the new Shared Services system in administration, we are asking parents to make sure that your current details are up to date. If you have changed your address or phone number, or have a different emergency contact person, please make sure to contact Jenni so data can be updated. The advantage of the new system is, if you have children at Good Counsel College your details will be automatically updated there, when you do it with us.

A call has gone out again for parents to be involved in the new Catholic Education video. It would be great to have a St Rita’s parent telling everyone how wonderful a Catholic education is, especially our school. If you are interested please email dianne@suasive.com.au for more info.

I have contacted the council through Mark Nolan re parking in Driscoll Street. It would not hurt if we all championed this cause. Hopefully we will have good news in the future. Mark is very concerned about our plight.

With just over three weeks till the fete I ask everyone to get behind this event. Remember if we all work together the job won’t seem so big and it is all our children who benefit. I do realize that families do have other commitments on the night, but may be able to do something before hand.
I leave you with a thought that I heard recently:

**Around the world we all speak in different languages but smile in one.** So this week smile at someone and make their day.

Have a great week. God bless. Vicki

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**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**LET’S CELEBRATE:**

**ST RITA’S FEAST DAY – THIS THURSDAY**

May 22nd is the Feast Day of St. Rita of Casci. St Rita was an Augustinian nun from 14th century Italy. She is the patroness of impossible causes and hopeless circumstances because of her difficult and demanding life. Through her trials God used her in remarkable ways, not only while she lived, but now from heaven she assists those who plead for her intercession for their seemingly impossible and hopeless circumstances.

**History**

From an early age St. Rita desired to become a nun, but her parents insisted that she marry at a young age. St. Rita did so in obedience to them. Adding to her disappointment, the man she married was cruel and harsh, and she spent 18 years in a very difficult marriage. Two sons were born to her whom she loved deeply. After many years it is reported that she eventually won her husband over to greater civility and kindness.

In the 14th century Italy was rampant with families feuding in vicious circles of assassinations and violent vendettas. St. Rita’s family was caught up in this and her husband was murdered as a result. She mourned his death and interceded for his soul with great earnest.

Her two young sons talked of avenging their father’s death. However, St. Rita did all she could to guide her children into forgiveness. Prayer was her only hope. She prayed that God would change the evil swelling up in their hearts or allow them to die before they committed a mortal sin. God granted her prayers. Both her sons died within a year of natural causes and thus were prevented from following the path of their father. After the death of her husband and sons, St. Rita was all alone in the world and sought again to enter the convent. She was turned away because of her family’s association with civil strife. So once again, facing crushing disappointment and yet another impossible situation she turned to prayer and the intercession of the saints.

St. Rita’s sincerity and spirit of charity and forgiveness prevailed and she was eventually granted entry. She became known as a holy and prayerful nun, who often meditated on the sufferings of Jesus Christ.

During the forty years she lived in the convent she enjoyed many mystical experiences with Christ. She died on May 22 at Cascia in 1457 and was canonized in 1900.

**Symbols**

The Forehead wound – One day when she was about 60 and was praying before a crucifix, St. Rita received a visible wound on her forehead. This was a mystical, yet visible mark of Jesus’ wound from the crown of thorns, symbolizing her unity with Christ in his sufferings.

Roses

A story is told that near the end of her life, St. Rita was bed-ridden at the convent. A relative visited her and asked her if she desired anything from her old home. Rita responded by asking for a rose from her garden. The relative did not expect to find one as it was Winter. However, upon arrival at Rita’s home her relative found a single blooming rose in the garden. She took the rose back to Rita in the convent. St. Rita is often depicted holding roses or with roses nearby.

**Our Celebration**

In honour of St. Rita, on Thursday we will celebrate her special day with a variety of activities. It will be a ‘fun’ day at school and the children are permitted to wear free dress. The following is an outline of the day’s events. Parents are most welcome to join us for any or all of these.
11.00 **Shared Morning Tea** (Could each family please bring a plate to share)
11.30 **Liturgy of the Word** (In the Church)
12.00 **Group Activities** (Children will be in mixed age groups and rotate through the different activities)
12.30 **Group Activities**
1.00 **Sausage Sizzle** (Children may like to bring their own lunch if they would prefer)
1.30 - 3.00 **Group Activities Continued**

This should be an enjoyable day and one that will hold great significance for each of our students here at St. Rita’s. Looking forward to seeing some of you on Thursday.

Peace be with you,
Denise

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**SCHOOL PHOTOS TOMORROW!**

Tomorrow is school photo day. Children **MUST** be dressed in the correct formal uniform. Black shoes **FOR ALL** and girls are to have only blue, black or white accessories in their hair.

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**ST RITA’S FEAST DAY**

Thursday is the feast of St. Rita. *Children are asked to bring along something for a shared morning tea.* Following morning tea we will be celebrating with a liturgy at 11.30am in the church to which everyone is welcome to attend. Following the liturgy the children will be involved in a series of fun activities for the rest of the day. They will be able to wear free dress, once again for a bottle donation for the fete. **PLEASE PUT IN A SPARE CHANGE OF CLOTHES FOR EACH CHILD.**

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**NO ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK**

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**PLEASE NOTE:** Due to commitments on Fridays there will only be assemblies on Weeks 7 & 10.

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**SCHOOL FEES ARE NOW OVERDUE**

Term 2 Invoices were due last Monday, 12 May 2014. Thank you to the families who have paid their school fees. Please kindly make every effort to pay any outstanding fees as a matter of urgency. This is particularly important this term as we start to purchase items for fete preparations. If you are having any difficulties paying please contact Jenni or Vicki. Thank you.

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**TERM 2 INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC FEES**

Term 2 Instrumental Music Invoices were issued last week. If your child has not given these to you, please look in their school bag. Thank you.

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**GOOD COUNSEL COLLEGE – INNISFAIL ENROLMENT FOR YEAR 7 & 8 – 2015**

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

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.*
**SCHOOL PHOTOS**
**TOMORROW MORNING**
If you require sibling photos these are available from the counter in the office.

Please note that photos MUST be paid for by TOMORROW. 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.

**FREE DRESS DAY**
**THIS THURSDAY** students are welcome to come to school in free dress. Instead of a monetary donation students are asked to bring in a BOTTLE item to help with the fete. Families with more than two children need only bring in two items. Please make sure that the items will not be out of date by fete day and are not damaged or rusty. Students are asked to bring these items to the office.

**Volunteers to gurney**
There are a lot of areas around the school that need to be gurnied before the fete. If you can spare some time outside of school hours sometime between now and 9 June please come into the office and arrangements can be made.

**TUCKSHOP**
**THIS WEEK**

**Walkway Access**
With the weather we have had it has been wonderful to have our covered walkway. However, it would be appreciated if when parking your vehicle, you could please leave clear access to the gate. Please do not park up on the footpath outside the gate. 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>
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<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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<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
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<td>$8.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>12 Aug 24 June</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
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</tbody>
</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.
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
23, 24 & 25 May
Commencing 7.30pm
Admission $8
“THE LEGO MOVIE”
– IN 3D” - Rated: PG

STUDENT TRAVEL REBATES
Semester 1, 2014 Bus Fare Assistance
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.

Little Athletics Queensland (LAQ) Winter Championships
Sat 28th & Sun 29th June 2014
Townsville Sports Reserve
For children 6 - 16
Nomination fees per child:
LAQ Registered $10.00
Non-LAQ Registered $15.00
For further detail visit the LAQ webpage www.laq.org.au

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
TERM 2

| WEEK 5 | 19th May | Book Fair |
| 20th May | ICAS Computer Skills |
| 21st May | School Photos |
| 22nd May | St Rita’s Feast Day |
| 23rd May | • Peninsula Cross Country  |
|         | • Walk to School Day |

| WEEK 6 | 28th May | - Young Performers Choir Day |
| 29th May | Boys’ Futsal (Yr 6/7) |
| 30th May | Girls’ Futsal (Year 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 3) |
| 26th June | Brave Hearts |
| 27th June | End of Term |

DATES TO REMEMBER
TERM 3

| 11th July | Innisfail & District Show |
| 14th July | Start of Term |
| 27th July – 1st Aug | Catholic Education Week |
| 6th Aug | Maggie Dent |
| 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  |
|         | • Christmas Book Fair |
| 11th | Remembrance Day |
| 5th Dec | End of Term |