Dear Parents and Caregivers

Today our thoughts are with the Dean family and our colleagues at Good Counsel College. Difficult times avail with Sophie’s passing last week and I am sure that all of our thoughts and prayers are with them at this time. Life is precious, let your children know you love them and take time in your busy schedules to have quality time with them.

On Thursday the children were engaged in activities to celebrate St. Rita’s Feast Day. A huge thank you to teachers and parents who helped make the day the success it was.

Last Friday I accompanied students to the Peninsula Cross Country in Cairns. All of our students should be proud of their efforts. Eamonn has been picked in the Peninsula team and we wish him well at the upcoming state titles.

Next Thursday, June 5th, Good Counsel College will be holding an open night, showcasing the school’s facilities and students’ work. The night is open to all, not just Year Six and Seven students who will attend there next year.

With under three weeks to go to the Fete we still need lots more hands on deck. If you have not yet offered some of your time please come forward and do so. We URGENTLY need ticket sellers.

We have had some wonderful sponsors come forward and the prizes for our major raffle are rolling in. ($1000 First Prize for Tug-of-War / $1000 holiday package as major raffle prize.)

We need to put in a concerted effort to sell raffle tickets. Just remember our next free dress day is this Wednesday. Children are to bring along another bottle or chocolate. Children in Years Two and Four/Five must come in school uniform due to Young Performers. Children will be permitted to change into free dress on returning to school.

Our thought for this week is all about emotions: “Emotions spread faster than any disease. A smile or a panic will spread through a group of people far quicker than any virus could.” (Seth Godin)

Godin was referring to the workplace when he wrote this sentence, but he may as well have been talking about families. Family tone is usually impacted by the emotions and mood of parents.

**Anger** creates tension especially when it simmers just below the surface. Kids go into their shells when anger is near, because they feel unsafe. Fear accompanies parent anger.

*Grumpiness* makes kids switch off parents. It’s also contagious, spreading around a family like wild-fire.

*Scepticism* (suspicion, doubt) leads to cynicism and a hardening of the empathy arteries. Scepticism is sneezed, spreading germs everywhere.

**Gratitude** spreads quickly, lifting everyone who receives it. Family tone quickly lightens when gratitude is expressed.

**Calm** falls on a family like blanket instantly increasing family security and contentment. It too spreads but quietly.

**Enthusiasm** lifts the spirit, making everything seem possible. Most children are naturally attracted to enthusiasm, as it offers hope and inspiration.

Good luck to our boys and girls teams attending the NQ Futsal championships this Thursday and Friday at Redlynch Sports Stadium in Cairns. Thank you to Mr Rossi for preparing these teams. Also, best wishes to the boys and girls competing in the SMC Soccer teams this Sunday at the Peninsula championships.

God bless, Have a great week.
Vicki
NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK : ‘Let’s Walk the Talk’

National Reconciliation Week celebrates the relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and all other Australians. Every year, the week is held between the same dates – 27th May to 3rd June. The dates draw attention to significant historical events.

The 27th May marks the day in 1967 when the referendum was passed for the Australian Government to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and to allow them to be recognised in the census. The 3rd June marks the day in 1992 that led the Australian Government to recognize native title and acknowledge Indigenous Australians as the original occupants of Australia.

In 2014, the theme for National Reconciliation Week is ‘Let’s Walk the Talk’, which focuses on turning past conversations into actions. In order to create positive change we need more people not only talking about the issues but getting involved. There are many ways to celebrate National Reconciliation Week and to ‘walk the talk’.

What will you do this week? It might mean that you attend an organized NRW activity, read an Aboriginal Dreamtime story with your child/children or it might be something as simple as praying the prayer below as a family.

Whatever you choose will contribute to the wider effort to build a reconciled Australia for it is strongly believed that whenever people come together to share conversations and participate in common activities the process of reconciliation takes another step forward – so be part of the action!

Did You Know …

• Only 31% of Australians say they know a lot about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, but 82% of us want to know more

• About 60% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people live in cities and major regional areas

• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians excel in numerous areas, not just sport.

( People such as Professor Helen Milroy, Australia’s first Aboriginal psychiatrist and ACT Minister Chris Bourke, who was the also the first Aboriginal dentist are just some of those who make outstanding and highly influential contributions to Australia in diverse areas.)

National Reconciliation Week started as the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation in 1993 and was supported by Australia’s major religious groups. Under the guidance of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation (now Reconciliation Australia), it has evolved into the week-long celebration that it is today.

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO www.reconciliation.org.au/nrw/

Reflection : by Bob Randall Songman

What ripples do I create through my words, thoughts and actions?

Spirituality is the ultimate answer to reconciliation in Australia and everywhere else in the world. Loving ourselves, our families, our neighbours, our countrymen and every other living thing is the is the reason we are here on earth. If we follow the ripple in the pond when a stone hits the water, we can easily see that the entire pond is affected by that one little stone. If the stone represents love, and it drops somewhere in our universe, that love will send its ripple throughout the entire universe.
All the people, birds, animals, insects, plants, trees and rocks will in some way be affected by it. It is the same with anger and hate. We must choose which ripples we wish to send into our universe.

**A Prayer for Unity**

Creator God,  
May the power of Your grace transform us;  
Christ give us courage and hope  
To manifest the unity we have in you,  
And to share our life with each other and the world.  
Holy Spirit, empower us to work for justice for all people and the earth.  
God in your grace, transform the world. Amen

Have a wonderful week. Peace be with you,

Denise

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**SCHOOL FEES ARE NOW OVERDUE**

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**

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**

Limited vacancies are still available for 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, 22\textsuperscript{nd} October
- Year 7 - Orientation Day, Wednesday, 5\textsuperscript{th} November.

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

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**GOOD COUNSEL COLLEGE INNISFAIL Invites the Cassowary Coast Community To an OPEN EVENING**

Thursday, 5\textsuperscript{th} June, 5pm – 7pm
- College ‘live’  
- Displays  
- Performances  
- Information Desk  
- Presentations  
- Tours

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**NO ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK**

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

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**PROUD PARENTS RAISE YOUR HANDS**

Catholic Education Services are creating a corporate video to promote Catholic Education and we’re looking for proud parents to interview. Production will commence in late May / early June, 2014. Previous applicants will still be considered without the need to reapply. If you’d like to help other parents make the right decision for their child, please email dianne@suasive.com.au for more information.

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Proud Moment for Karla Calleja

Last Wednesday Karla travelled to Ayr to compete in the Burdekin Eisteddfod which attracts competitors from Townsville, Charters Towers, Mackay, Ayr, Bundaberg and Proserpine districts. Karla was one of two local children who competed in this competition.

Results for Karla were:
- 1st Tap Solo
- 1st Song & Dance Solo
- 3rd National Solo
- HC Jazz Solo

The extra excitement was Karla competed against the main child actress who starred in “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang” in Brisbane last year. Karla won this section and this girl came second. Congratulations Karla. Well done!

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

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.

ICAS Testing Dates
Years 3-7 ONLY!

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<tr>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>12 Aug</td>
<td>24 June</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
30th, 31st May & 1st June
Commencing 7.30pm
Admission $8
“NOAH” - Rated: M

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
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE

If you wish to report an incident relating to sick, injured or orphaned wildlife please phone 1300 264 625 (RSPCA).

If you wish to report an incident involving crocodiles or cassowaries please phone the wildlife hotline 1300 130 372.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - TERM 2

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

Fun with science.

Celebrating St Rita’s Day
A huge thank you to teachers and parents who helped make the day the success it was.