Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome back to Term Three. It is hard to believe that we are in the second half of 2014. If you thought Term Two was hectic Term Three is looking just as full. **Please note that there has been a change to the Silkwood Mena Creek whole school sports day.** The field events are on Wednesday, August 6th and the whole school track day is now on Thursday August 7th. I apologise for any inconvenience but this change could not be avoided to accommodate all schools and teachers.

Thank you to all who helped make the Strawberries and Cream stand such a success at the show last week. A huge thank you to Michelle Mann for all her work co-ordinating the stall this year. Thank you also to SOS Signs, (Steven and Priscilla Wilcox) for the new signage at the stall, and Michelle’s mother and father for the tablecloths and refurbishment of the see through painting easels. A summary of earnings will be given at our next P & F meeting on 4th August. A survey is also attached. Please take the time to complete it and return it to the school office as soon as possible. Thank you.

We have strawberries left over from the show and will be selling these at $2 per punnet. Please see the office to purchase.

It was also encouraging to see, as I walked through the arts and crafts pavilion, the amount of talent in our student body, with children winning prizes in cake baking and decorating, sewing, lego and photography. Well done kids.

Over the next three weeks we ask for your patience in the office as we train for the new administration system and go through its implementation. Jenni will be extremely busy during this time and simple tasks may take longer than normal.

Congratulations to Gemma Doolan who has been selected in the Peninsula Touch team. Gemma was initially selected as a shadow player but has been called up to the team. Congratulations to Coen Stephensen who played in the Innisfail team at the Peninsula Touch trials. The team were the winners of the competition.

Yesterday Denise and I had the privilege of attending a lecture given by Prof. Dr. Didier Pollefeyt, from KU Leuven University in Belgium. The lecture was about ‘Catholic Identity in our Schools’. It was extremely challenging and will be a subject that we will be examining more in the coming months. What makes us a Catholic School? How are we different to the State School up the road? How are our children being introduced to the Catholic traditions?

Please keep in your prayers the Henson family (Mitchell Year 3) following the passing of his grandfather on Sunday night.

Keep next Monday night 21st free as Christine Coop is back at 7p.m. to talk about navigating the way to adolescence. This is being brought to you by your P & F at no cost to you. You can bring along friends if you wish. See the attached flyer.

I look forward to a continued close association with you over the coming term. Take a deep breath, let the term begin. Have a great week. God Bless.

Vicki

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**NO ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK**
JUMPING INTO JULY:
Another busy month!
Welcome back to Term 3. And welcome to July, the seventh month of the year that is named after the Roman emperor Julius Caesar. July is an interesting month – it signals the second half of the year, it is the middle month of winter so is often accompanied by flus and colds and is generally a time of much activity (i.e. school holidays, the show and of course back to school.)

July is also a busy time for the church. It sees a return to Ordinary Time and is the month dedicated to The Precious Blood of Jesus. This feast was established by Pope Pius IX in 1849 and is celebrated each year on the first Sunday of July. Our Lord’s blood poured out on the cross purchased our salvation and gave birth to the Church as it flowed from his wounded side. Christ’s precious Blood is a symbol of his love for all mankind.

As well as this July is also a month in which we celebrate the feast day for several saints: St. Thomas the Apostle (3rd), St. Benedict (11th), St. Bonaventure (15th), Our Lady of Mount Carmel (16th), Mary Magdalene (22nd), St. Bridget (23rd), St. James (25th), St. Joachim and St. Anne – the parents of Mary (26th) and St. Ignatius (31st) just to name a few.....

Focus of the Word in July
The Gospel readings for the four Sundays in July are taken from Matthew – all are from Year A, Cycle 2. In three of these we hear about Jesus using parables. A parable is a simple story with a profound meaning or message. Parables were a familiar way of teaching in the time of Jesus and remain relevant today too.

July 13th – 15th Sunday of Ordinary Time – Jesus tells the parable of the sower

July 20th – 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time – Jesus continues with the parable of the weeds among the wheat

July 27th – 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time – Jesus says the kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field

Perhaps you could take some time to read this passage or even ‘google it’.
www.biblegateway.com/ is an excellent website

SYMBOLS AND IMAGES
Jesus uses the image of the seed to help his followers understand something about the word of God.

First, it is alive and active and capable of growth and productivity.
Second, it requires us to be open to receive it and we must not allow it to be crowded out of our lives by other concerns or stolen away by those indifferent or hostile to Christ.
Finally, we must cultivate the soil of our lives so that the seed can take root and bear rich fruits.

DID YOU KNOW?
- In parables some images have set meanings eg. a vineyard, sons or servants represent Israel, while a master, king or father represent God.
- Matthew’s gospel uses the term ‘kingdom of heaven’ rather than ‘kingdom of God’ because his audience was largely Jewish converts to Christianity and the Jewish people avoid using the holy name.

REFLECTION:
What are the rocks and thorns in our world that may cause the word of God to choke and wither?
In our modern world, what are the things that make it difficult for the word of God to flourish?
How can believers ‘cultivate their soil’ to help the seed of faith grow?
“Lord, may the seed of your word fall into deep soil in me.
May it not return to you without yielding its fruit in me.”

Have a wonderful week. Peace be with you,

Denise

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**CHANGES TO OFFICE PROCEDURES**

During weeks 1 - 3 of this term, (14 July to 1 August), Catholic Education are implementing new Student Information and Finance Systems.

During this period Jenni will not be available for any financial information you may require. Santina will be manning the office from 8.15am to 9.00am from Monday to Thursday of these weeks and from 2.30pm to 3.00pm in the afternoon.

We ask that during this transition period that calls and visits to the office be kept to an absolute minimum. Your co-operation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

**TUCKSHOP THIS WEEK**

Tuckshop for this term will feature a new menu for each week. The ladies in charge each week will decide the menu for the week.

Tuckshop orders were sent home yesterday with each child.

**PLEASE HAVE ORDERS INTO THE CONTAINER IN THE OFFICE BEFORE WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.** 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

**GOOD COUNSEL COLLEGE – INNISFAIL**

**ENROLMENT FOR YEAR 7 & 8 – 2015**

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.

**FARINELLI TENNIS ACADEMY**

Quality coaching at affordable prices for kids aged 4 to 16 and Adults of all ages
Railway Courts, Cassowary Street Innisfail. Phone Travis on 0417 571 929

Free Come and Try days:

- Saturday 19th 2:30 to 4:00pm
- Sunday 20th 10:00 to 4:00pm
FREE Well Women’s Clinics
Innisfail Hospital – Fridays 25th July & 8th Aug
– Ph: 4226 4812 or 0428 781 421
Mamu Health Service – Tuesdays 29th July & 19th Aug – Ph: 4061 4477
Service includes Pap Smears, Sexual Health Screening, Breast Awareness, also info on Contraception, Continence, Menopause, Lifestyle Issues, Domestic Violence, etc. All services are provided by a specially trained Women’s Health Nurse.

INNISFAIL JUNIOR TOUCH SIGN ON
Wednesday, July 16 – 5 – 6 pm
Wangan Sports Ground
Boys and Girls aged 7 – 12
$50 per child
Games start Monday, July 21 5 – 7pm
Contact Deb -0447 777 306 or Brendan 0457 132
392 or Allison – 40 611 492

"Transformers: Age of Extinction" in 3D - Rated: M

MUNRO THEATRE BABINDA
18, 19 & 20 July
Commencing 7.30pm
Admission $8

"Navigating the Change"
ST RITA’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
SOUTH JOHNSTONE
MONDAY, 21 JULY
7.00PM TO 9.00PM
RSVP: 40 64 21 53 by Friday, 17 July.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - TERM 3

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<tr>
<td>14th July</td>
<td>Start of Term</td>
<td>21 July</td>
<td>Christine Coop 7-9pm</td>
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<td>WEEK 3</td>
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<td>27th July – 1st Aug</td>
<td>Catholic Education Week</td>
<td>5 Aug</td>
<td>Yr 7 Enrolment Night - GCC</td>
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<td>28th July</td>
<td>Catholic Education Week Mass at Good Counsel College</td>
<td>6th Aug</td>
<td>SMC – Field Events (selected students)</td>
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<td>• Maggie Dent</td>
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<td>7 Aug</td>
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<td>• SMC – Whole School Sports Day</td>
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<td>• Yr 8 Enrolment Night - GCC</td>
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS - TERM 4

| 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 | Yr 8 Orientation Day - GCC |
| 23rd Oct | Wonder of Living (Yrs 1-7) |
| 31st Oct | World Teachers Day | |
| 4th Nov | Melbourne Cup Luncheon | |
| 5 Nov | Yr 7 Orientation Day - GCC | |
| 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 | |