

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WEEK 4 – TERM 4

ST RITA'S SCHOOL- SOUTH JOHNSTONE



28 October, 2014

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

There is a lot happening in and around the school this week. The Mini Vinnies' committee is holding a Halloween Disco this Friday night in the little hall. Cost of admission is only \$1 which will get the children a drink. Children are asked to bring along a plate of spooky food to share. The night will start at 7.00 p.m. and conclude at 9.00p.m. Children can come along dressed in their best Halloween costumes, though it is not a necessity.

This Friday the children have been asked to wear a red shirt to school in support of the "Day for Daniel". Each and every one of us is aware of the Moorcombe Foundation. The school will make a donation to the foundation on the children's behalf. The children have been told to wear their normal uniform if they do not have a red shirt.

The Prep children will celebrate Grandparents' Day with their grandparents this week. Pope Francis reminds us to love and respect not only our grandparents but all elderly people as it is due to their efforts we can enjoy what we do today. We want to say thank you and send our love to all our grandparents where ever they are.

With only one week to go to our Melbourne Cup Luncheon, if you have not already volunteered to help out please contact the office or the co-ordinators to do so. Thank you to the families who responded to the call for cent sale prizes. If you still have one at home please get it into the office as soon as possible.

At the final sports meeting for the year of the Silkwood Mena Creek Sports Association last week, I informed them of St. Rita's plan to join the Innisfail Sports Association in 2015 once protocols have been finalized. This decision was not made lightly. I would like to thank all the parents who expressed their opinions on this subject. They certainly were taken into consideration whilst making the final decision to move. The Peninsula Sporting Association is making moves to consolidate the smaller sporting associations with the bigger ones so a move in the future of the whole association may be inevitable.

This Friday, October 31st, is World Teachers Day. The day acknowledges the efforts of teachers in an increasingly complex, multicultural and technological society. It's a day students, parents and community members can demonstrate their appreciation for the contributions that teachers have made to their community. Remember if it wasn't for a teacher there would be no other jobs. As principal of St. Rita's I would like to thank my teaching staff for the important work they do, for the support they give to our school community as well as the extra mile they go each day, to make sure the children of St Rita's are afforded the opportunities they are.

As promised last week, I would like to inform you that next year we have been afforded the opportunity to offer six classes once again. After much deliberation, taking into consideration the growth of the school, and what will be the best fit for all, the following class configurations will be effective in 2015:

Prep
Year One
Year Two
Year Three
Year Four/Five
Year Five/Six

Once again I add, this decision has not been made lightly. I am very much aware that next year's Year Fives have already been split but this was the best conclusion. I would ask parents of these children to see me if they have concerns about the placement of their children. Final staffing has not yet been finalized. I will be away at training sessions for the rest of this week in relation to the new e-minerva system.

To the parents who have volunteered their services to the swimming program this year there will be a meeting next Friday morning, November 7th, at 9.00a.m. to briefly outline the new program. Given the extra content to be covered this will ensure that on the first Monday, classes can start immediately.

Thank you for your continued support. God bless, have a great week. Let's pray for some rain.

Vicki

ASSEMBLY THIS FRIDAY

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS



NOVEMBER : A Month to 'Remember'

November is the last month in Spring. It holds the promise of summer, although during the last few weeks one could be forgiven for thinking that Summer is already here.

In earlier times when the calendar began in March, November was the ninth month of the year. This meant that September, October and December were the seventh, eighth and tenth months of the year. The Latin words for seven, eight and nine were used to name these months. When two more months were added to the calendar, these names were retained.

November is the last month of **Ordinary Time**. November 23rd is the Feast of Christ the King, the last Sunday of the Church year. The new year for the church begins with the First Sunday of Advent, which will be Sunday November 30th. November begins with a double feast in remembrance of those who have died. The feast of **All Saints** is celebrated on November 1st. On that day we celebrate all the known and unknown saints and martyrs of the Christian faith.

Many members of our own families have died and are now with God. WE pray for them on November 2nd, **All Souls Day**. On both of these days, we are reminded of all who have loved as faithful Christians. They encourage us to grow

in our own faith. Our Christian faith tells us that one day, we will all be reunited with God in heaven, because we share in the resurrection of Jesus.

Also in November, we will stop to remember and reflect on the great sacrifice made by all those who fought for our country and lost their lives in doing so. On November 11th, at 10:45am we will have a short assembly in honour of **Remembrance Day** and will participate in the keeping of a minute silence to pay our respect and demonstrate our gratitude.

All through the month of November we offer prayers dedicated to those who have died and to thank God for the gift of their lives.



SOCKTOBER: 'Hip Hop Dance Off' Lots of Fun

Thank you to all the wonderful children of St. Rita's who last Friday supported **Socktober** by wearing bright and colourful socks to school and making a gold coin donation to help 'Sock it to Poverty'. They all looked fantastic. As well as this, the kids very happily showed off their best 'hip hop' moves in a grade by grade dance off which required talent, skill, rhythm and a whole lot of showmanship! A lot of fun was had by all – even the teachers busted out some moves... Below is a list of the class winners – although **Catholic Mission** was the real winner on the day.



Prep – Jack Calleja
Year 1 – Jarred Spinella
Year 2 - Kayden Crowley
Year 3- Luke Magnanini
Year 4- Blake Taylor
Year 5- Jessica Magnanini
Year 6 - Eammon Ross
Year 7 - Jordan Lindsay

MINI VINNIES REMINDER :
FROZZIES FOR SALE THIS THURSDAY
(Big Lunch and after school – 50c)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION : **What's On This Week**
Yesterday the children in Years 4 and 5 went to Reconciliation in the church with Father Kerry. Tomorrow, Wednesday 29th October, Year 2 and 3 / 4 will have their class liturgy for the term and on Friday there will be Assembly for All Saints / All Souls Day and World Teachers Day. Another very busy week! Please feel free to join us.

Have a wonderful week.
Peace be with you all,

Denise

MELBOURNE CUP NEWS

If you are planning to attend the luncheon on Tuesday, 4 November, please contact Jade urgently on 0427 042 391.

Monster Goose raffle tickets need to be returned to the school office by this Friday.

Helpers urgently needed. Please contact Tanya Pensini or Jo Spry if you can help on the day.

TUCKSHOP THIS WEEK

URGENT CALL

SWIMMING HELPERS

Swimming dates are from Monday 10th to Friday 21st November.

To date we haven't received many responses. Please return the slip accompanying the newsletter and return to the school office as soon as possible.

WE NEED TO COLLATE HELPERS ASAP.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE.

- **GROUP 1 (Week 6) – Prep to Year 2 (Monday 10th to Friday 14th November), will be swimming from 1.15pm to 2.15pm**
- **GROUP 2 (Week 7) – Year 3 to 7 (Monday 17th to Friday 21st November), will be swimming from 1.15pm to 2.15pm**

DENTAL VAN

In a case of emergency please contact the Dental Clinic on 40 160 518.

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: 00001 7401 BSB: 084352

TERM 4 SCHOOL FEES

Payment of fees would be greatly appreciated as soon as possible to enable us to meet our financial commitments before the end of the school year. Thank you for your assistance with this.

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

Orientation Days for incoming students are as follows:

- **Year 7 - Orientation Day, Wednesday, 5th Nov.**

MUNRO THEATRE BABINDA

31 OCT, 1 & 2 NOV

Commencing 7.30pm

Admission \$8

"The Expendables" Rated: M

THANK YOU

St Rita's Year 6/7 students would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank the following business for their support and contribution towards their school camp to Canberra.

- *Innisfail RSL*
- *Brothers League Club*
- *Chemist Warehouse*
- *GF Rural*
- *Heliservices*
- *Liddles Aerial*
- *Frank Lowe & Sons*
- *Soils First*
- *QPI Bananas*
- *NESA*
- *Merici College, Canberra*



Towards the State Election 2015

The next state election is likely to be held in March 2015. Catholic schools depend on strong support from the Queensland Government and it is vital that political representatives are made aware of the needs of Catholic schools as they formulate policies over the coming months.

The Queensland Catholic Education Commission (QCEC) and the Federation of Parents and Friends Associations (P&F) have developed a suite of materials providing information about some of the key issues for Catholic schools.

These issues will be highlighted in school newsletters over the coming weeks and more information can be found on the [QCEC](#) and [P & F](#) websites.

Parents are encouraged to become familiar with the issues and raise them, along with any others of particular importance to Catholic schools locally, with political representatives at any opportunity.

As part of this advocacy process, the QCEC and the P&F will also seek formal responses to the issues raised from the major parties, and these will be provided for publication in school newsletters in the weeks leading up to the election.



**FREE Well Women's Clinics–
Innisfail Hospital
Fridays 14th & 28th Nov**

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. For appointments please phone 4226 4812 or 0428 781 421

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - TERM 4

WEEK 4	
31 st Oct	World Teachers' Day
WEEK 5	
1 st Nov	All Saints Day
2 nd Nov	All Souls Day
4 th Nov	Melbourne Cup Luncheon
5 Nov	Yr 7 Orientation Day – Good Counsel College
WEEK 6	
10 th – 14 th Nov	Prep to Year 2 Swimming
11 th Nov	Remembrance Day
WEEK 7	
17 th – 21 st Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 3 to 7 Swimming • Christmas Book Fair
WEEK 9	
1 st Dec	Year 6/7 Graduation Night
5th Dec	End of Term

NEWSLETTER INSERT 1



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NEWSLETTER INSERT 2



Towards the State Election 2015 - Key Issue 1

Annual per student funding that keeps pace with the rising costs of education

Catholic schools in Queensland, on average, receive only about 81% of the government funding per student received by state schools.

According to the latest figures available, Catholic schools, on average, receive \$9,238 per student in government funding while state schools receive \$11,440 per student (MySchool website 2012).

Any additional government funding for Catholic schools helps relieve pressure on school fees and assists more families to choose a Catholic school. This also relieves pressure on state schools and also saves government money.

Catholic education is seeking to work with the next Queensland Government to achieve consistent budget outcomes that will:

- assist Catholic schools to keep pace with rising operating costs
- ensure that the gap in resourcing between Catholic schools and state schools does not widen.

[Click here to read more information about the annual recurrent funding of Catholic schools](#)

or visit www.qcec.catholic.edu.au or www.pandf.org.au and follow the state election links to find out more detail.

NEWSLETTER INSERT 3



Towards the State Election 2015 - Key Issue 2

Increased capital funding to help meet the schooling needs of Queensland's growing population

Demand for places in Queensland Catholic schools is projected to increase by around 60,000 students between 2011 and 2031.

This will require the development of 2-3 new schools every year and the expansion of many others.

The Catholic sector cannot keep pace with this level of growth under current capital funding arrangements.

The Catholic community purchases land for school sites and also contributes an average of 23% to the cost of construction of new schools, therefore saving the Queensland Government significant amounts of money.

Catholic education also has a strong track record of delivering new school facilities successfully and efficiently.

Catholic education is therefore seeking a commitment from the next Queensland Government to:

- develop partnership plans to help deliver all of the school infrastructure required
- provide a capital grants program that reflects the real cost of delivering the additional school places, including an appropriate share of the planned \$1 billion *Future Schools Fund* under the *Strong Choices Investment Program*.

[Click here to read more information about capital funding for Catholic education including the location of high enrolment growth areas of the state.](#)

or visit www.qcec.catholic.edu.au or www.pandf.org.au and follow the state election links to find out more detail.