

# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WEEK 6 – TERM 4

ST RITA'S SCHOOL- SOUTH JOHNSTONE



11<sup>th</sup> November, 2014

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

As we enter the last few weeks of our final term for 2014 it seems to be getting busier not winding down. Please ensure that your child comes to school with an adequate breakfast and a hearty lunch each day. We have noticed that the children's lunch boxes are beginning to be filled with food that is less nourishing, particularly at a time when children need to be on the ball for assessment tasks. Can you also check that they have enough equipment to finish out the school year.

I ask parents to be vigilant also with school uniform. I do realize that shirts become small and shoes break, but we have seen different coloured earrings to those set out in our school uniform documents sneaking in again and children arriving at school looking like they should at the end of the day. Children should be leaving the school grounds at the end of the day still dressed smartly with their shoes on.

Thank you to the parents helping out with swimming classes. As mentioned before, these would not happen without your assistance. Classes began yesterday with only

a few minor adjustments being made to groups. Please ensure that your child has a pair of thongs or similar footwear to wear to the pool as they must have footwear on their feet, hence no swimming footwear, they have to be sent in their regular shoes.

Keep next Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup> in your diary for the end of year final P & F Meeting in the school library at 7.30p.m. At this meeting we have drinks and nibbles by way of celebrating the efforts of the P & F for 2014. A huge thank-you has to go to the committee for their efforts last Tuesday at our annual Melbourne Cup Luncheon raising approximately \$7500. Well done. I would also like to acknowledge the generous donation by the P & F committee to allow us to purchase a new colour photo-copier. We will be able to use it to produce our new report cards which you will be receiving in the last week of school, as well as saving costs on printing to the small printers.

I would like to announce the employment of Miss Lauren Watkins as our new Prep teacher for the 2015 school year. Lauren will be visiting the school in the next few weeks. Other staff notifications will be announced once Catholic Education Cairns have approved the placements. Thank you to those Year Five parents who have taken the time to come to see me about their concerns for their child's placement in 2015. If you do not talk to me I will take this to mean you will be in agreement with where your child is placed..

This Friday, Mrs Cristaudo will be starting her Long Service Leave preparing her triplets for their Year 12 graduation and then heading off on a family holiday. We wish her and her family safe travel and hope to hear many stories of their adventures.

Mrs Judy O'Farrell, who is no stranger to us having filled in, in the prep class at the beginning of the year, will be teaching the Year One class until the end of 2014. We thank her for taking on this commitment.

Just a reminder that next week Bookfair is in the little hall. Come on in and have a look at the selection of books available perhaps buy a Christmas present or two. All proceeds help to put new and exciting titles back into our library.

Year Three to Seven will be swimming next week. Please make sure they come with the necessary equipment.

Please be aware that as of next year all families will be receiving their newsletters by email only.

Thank you all have a great week. God bless Vicki

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

### REMEMBRANCE DAY:

11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month



Today St. Rita's students commemorated **Remembrance Day**. At our special assembly we paused in silence to remember all those who died in war. We paid tribute to them and said our own special thank you for their great sacrifice. It was also a time to pray for peace and to think about what we are doing as individuals, as a community and as a country to bring God's peace into the world. During this time the children listened to a recital of the war poem, "In Flanders Fields" by Major John McCrae.

In the early days of World War 1, a young Canadian artillery officer, Lieutenant Alexis Helmer was killed on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 1915. He was serving in the same Canadian artillery unit as his friend – the military doctor and artillery commander Major John McCrae. As the brigade doctor, John McCrae was asked to conduct the burial service for Alexis because the chaplain had been called away somewhere else on duty that evening. It is believed that later that night, after the burial, John began the draft for his now famous poem.

It is said that the greatest sin of mankind is to not remember. This short poem does much to keep the memories alive of those who paid the ultimate price of war.

### IN FLANDERS FIELDS

By Major John McCrae

*In Flanders Fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:*

*To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.*



While there has been much discussion today about wartime, conflict and death, there has also been a particular focus on peace. In our modern world, war is not glorified and peaceful solutions should always be our number one preference. This is an ideal that certainly aligns itself well with the Gospel values of Jesus and Remembrance Day is a great reminder of the sanctity of human life. 'Peace' is a concept that we often talk about and it's one that children quite simply interpret as 'getting along'. It would be great if it were as simple as this – but as adults we know it involves a whole more. It takes effort, perseverance, tolerance and a positive mindset. Prayer can help as well.

#### **WORLD PEACE PRAYER**

*Lead me from death to life,  
from falsehood to truth.  
Lead me from despair to hope,  
from fear to trust.  
Lead me from hate to love,  
from war to peace.  
Let peace fill our hearts,  
our world, our universe.  
Amen*



#### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS :**

Tomorrow the Year 4/5 and 6/7 classes will have their Eucharistic Liturgy in the church with Fr Kerry. This will be at 11.30 am and all parents are welcome to join us. For the Year 6/7 children this will be the last time (apart from Graduation Mass) that they will celebrate together as a group before they continue their journey and move into high school.

Have a wonderful week.  
Peace be with you all,  
Denise

## **ASSEMBLY THIS FRIDAY**

### ***CONGRATULATIONS***

Congratulations to Melissa Setter, (Sallywag's Playgroup mum), who won \$500 in the Melbourne Cup Major Raffle sponsored by LMB Farms.

## **SWIMMING STARTS THIS WEEK**

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

## IMPORTANT TUCKSHOP NEWS

Tuckshop for this week will be as follows:

Prep to Year 2 – **Little Lunch Only!**

Year 3 to 7 – Big & Little Lunch

NO TUCKSHOP NEXT FRIDAY, Nov 21 as most of the volunteers will be helping out at swimming.

**LAST TUCKSHOP FOR 2014** will be Friday November 28. Children can bring money and purchase food items on the day. There will also be a sausage sizzle for Big Lunch - \$2 a sausage.

## TERM 4 SCHOOL FEES

Thank you to the families that have promptly paid their fees. This has helped us meet our financial commitments. I would ask that all fees and money owing for various items be finalized **before the end of Week 8.**

Thank you for your cooperation.

## CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASS - 6.30PM

Calling for all parts: Joseph, Mary, shepherds, angels and animals. Come and be part of the real meaning of Christmas. Practice for the Children's Gospel will be on Friday 12 and 19 December, commencing at 3.30pm in Mother of Good Counsel Church, Innisfail.

Please contact Maria Clark on 40 632 210 / 0448 716 271 or Angie Sheerans on 0409 871 636.



### 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.

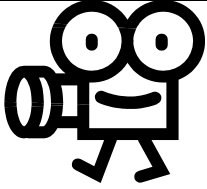
The Catholic community purchases land for school sites and also contributes an average of 23% to the cost of construction of new schools, therefore saving the Queensland Government significant amounts of money.

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](http://www.qcec.catholic.edu.au) or [www.pandf.org.au](http://www.pandf.org.au) and follow the state election links to find out more detail.



**MUNRO THEATRE  
BABINDA  
Admission - \$8**

**14, 15 & 16 November  
Commencing - 7.30pm**

**"The Maze Runner"  
Rated: M**

**CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL  
Christmas eCard Design Comp**

The competition is open to all children aged up to 13 years. To enter children must create a picture of "A Very Cairns Christmas." Entries must be submitted by 5.30pm, Wednesday, November 19. Terms and conditions are available from Cairns Regional Council website [www.cairns.qld.gov.au](http://www.cairns.qld.gov.au)

**St Rita's School Babinda  
Community Fair**

Saturday 22nd Nov 2014 from 4 - 8pm.

Mini Cent Sale, BBQ, Bric-A-Brac, Cakes & Sweets, Coffee Shop, Entertainment, Market Stalls and more. (Market stalls available for \$10 table). Phone 40671467 for more information.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**TERM 4**

WEEK 6	
10 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Prep to Year 2 Swimming
11 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Remembrance Day

WEEK 7	
17 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 3 to 7 Swimming</li> <li>• Christmas Book Fair</li> </ul>

WEEK 9	
1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Year 6/7 Graduation Night
3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	Christmas Concert
5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	End of Term- 12.00pm (No homework club)



**FREE Well Women's  
Clinics—  
Innisfail Hospital  
Fridays 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> 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