

ST RITA'S SCHOOL, SOUTH JOHNSTONE

Weekly Newsletter Term 1, Week 1 2015

27 January 2015



Welcome back !!

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the beginning of a new school year, refreshed from Christmas holidays. This morning 102 students started the 2015 school year at St Rita's. Whether they were returning from last year, or coming to St Rita's for the first time, whether it be from another school or beginning their schooling adventure, each and every child has a special place here. Every child is important to us. Sadly over the holidays we also said goodbye to some families whom we wish all the best in the future. This week we welcome to our school family:

PREP:

Boyd Baxter	Eva Bertram
Ashton Cini	Jessie Bullman
Jack Croatto	Neena Curzon
Jackson Eilers	Holly Finch
Kynan Henaway	Zoe Hill
Nate Pensini	Mikayla Marozzi
Nathan Robinson	Stephanie Van Haaren
Dean Stephensen	

YEAR 1:

Declan Sinton	Isabelle Horsford
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Today we also welcome to our staff, Mrs Jess Sinton teaching Year 4/5 (with Mrs Curzon); Miss Kate Watson teaching Year 1 (as Mrs Cristaudo has requested twelve months leave); and Miss Lauren Watkins who will be teaching Prep. Please make them feel welcome.

Just a reminder to parents that school starts at 8.50 am. Children arriving after this time will have to be signed in through the office. Children arriving after 9.00am will be marked absent for the morning session unless prior notice has been given to the office. The morning bell therefore will be ringing at 8.45am to ensure children are ready to start work at 8.50 am.

Our first assembly for the year will be Friday, 13 February (Week 3). Our opening school mass, will be on Friday, 6 February in the church commencing at 11.30am. School leaders will be introduced as part of this mass.

Our website is www.stritascps.qld.edu.au. Please take time to have a look. You will be able to keep abreast of what is happening through the online calendar and newsletters will be posted each week.

If you can give some of your time to devote to tuckshop please contact the office and we will notify Lina (our tuckshop co-ordinator). The more volunteers, the less days each person involved will have to devote. Our tuckshop is one of our P & F initiatives.

In the next couple of weeks the teachers will be holding their class meetings. Please make time to get along to these as the teachers explain their expectations and

curriculum being covered in their room. It is also time for you to have a quick chat with them if you have any concerns. Sessions will be straight after school.

In the upcoming weeks we also have our annual welcoming family night. Watch the newsletter for this date. Monday, 16 February at 7.30pm will be the Annual General Meeting for the P & F. Keep this date in your calendar. Do not stay away because you are frightened of getting a job on the P & F, only those who wish to hold a position do so. Our P & F prides itself on their commitment to our school.

I encourage parents to familiarize themselves with the *Code of Conduct for Parents and Volunteers* as set down by Catholic Education Cairns. This is available on our website underneath the menu item - parents/policies and procedures.

Engaging Minds; Igniting Hearts; Serving Others is the motto for Catholic Education 2015. In keeping with this, we are looking forward to a great year with your continued support.

Have a great week.
God bless.
Vicki

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

WELCOME TO 2015 -

A New Year, A New Beginning



Every new year
is a special time.
Today we
welcome those

who are new to our St. Rita's community
and at the same time reaffirm our
relationship with those who are returning

for another year. As well as this, the new school year also provides us with a wonderful opportunity to renew and re-dedicate our lives to God.

It is often said that the great thing about walking with God in life is that there is always the opportunity to start anew – God always offers us a new day and a new dawn, no matter what has gone before.

So, at the start of this new school year why not take a moment to ***thank Him***, for the last year, ***ask His forgiveness*** for where we have failed, and offer this new year to Him – ***to serve Him*** and to ***love Him*** again.

These are important faith elements within our Religious Education program here at St. Rita's and they underpin our day-to-day encounters with one another. Perhaps as believers, the greatest resolution we can make as we stand at the beginning of a new school year is to grow in our knowledge and understanding of God's love for us. So as we journey together through 2015 let's remember to count our blessings and strive to strengthen our commitment to serve God – the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.



A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

*Lord, You make all things new
You bring hope alive in our hearts
And cause our Spirits to be born again.
Thank you for this new year
For all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us
A mighty flame
So that in our time, many will see the
wonders
of God
And live forever to praise Your glorious
name.
Amen*

CAN YOU SEE GOD?

A small boy once approached his slightly older sister with a question about God, “Susie, can anybody ever really see God?” he asked.

Busy with other things, Susie curtly replied: “No, of course not silly. God is so far up in heaven that nobody can see him.”

Time passed, but his question still lingered so he approached his Mum:

“Mum, can anybody ever really see God?”

“No, not really,” she gently said.

“God is a spirit and he dwells in our hearts, but we can never really see Him.”

Somewhat satisfied but still wondering, the youngster went on his way. Not long afterwards, his saintly old grandfather took the little boy on a fishing trip.

They were having a great time together. The sun was beginning to set with unusual splendour and the grandfather stared silently at the exquisite beauty unfolding before them.

On seeing the face of his grandfather reflecting such deep peace and contentment, the little boy thought for a moment and finally spoke hesitatingly:

“Grandad, I wasn’t going to ask anybody else, but I wonder if you can tell me the answer to something I’ve been wondering about a long time. Can anybody—can anybody ever really see God?”

The old man did not even turn his head. A long moment slipped by before he finally answered.

“Son,” he quietly said. “It’s getting so I can’t see anything else.”



I wish you all a peaceful 2015 and trust that by God’s grace it will be a time of renewal and deepening of our faith.

Regards,
Denise

**BEGINNING OF YEAR
WHOLE SCHOOL MASS**
Friday, 6 February 11.30am
ALL WELCOME



FIRST ASSEMBLY

13 February (Week 3)

In the school hall after the morning bell.

We will welcome all new students, present class awards and birthdays.

BELL TIMES

School officially starts at 8.50am and concludes at 3.05pm. Students will be supervised from 8.20am to 3.30pm. Please note – late arrivals and early departures must come through the school office. The Attendance Book on the office counter must be signed by parents at drop off/pick up.

RE\$OURCE LEVY

Students will begin receiving their books today. The school charges an annual Resource Levy of **\$130 per child in Years 1 – 6 and \$150 per child in Prep.** This covers the purchase of text books, exercise books, class sets, photocopying and some consumables. Payment of the Resource Levy would be appreciated by the **end of February** to enable us to pay our accounts. If you are experiencing difficulties please contact the school office. ***Parents who are direct debiting fees on a weekly/fortnightly basis are asked to please pay the resource levy either by EFT or into the school office, either by cash or cheque made out to the school.***

MOBILE PHONES

NO student needs to use a mobile phone at school. The office phone is available if required. I will take no responsibility for lost or stolen phones at school. Should your child display one at school it will be confiscated.

SCHOOL HATS

Each student requires a school hat at school each day. This will be enforced. If they have **no hat** then it will be **no play**. Ensure you name your child's hat.

LIBRARY

Each student will require a library bag to take books home. We have a very extensive range of books. Please make sure your child borrows each week.

“Life belongs to the living, and he who lives must be prepared for changes.”

- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

OFFICE HOURS

This year Jenni will be working Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. As the office will be unmanned on Wednesday, where possible please delay any enquiries/payments etc for another day.

ICAS Testing Dates Years 3-6 ONLY

Subject	Sitting Date	Closing Date	Price.
Digital Tech	19/05/15	05/05/15	\$8.80
Science	03/06/15	20/05/15	\$8.80
Writing	15/06/15	01/06/15	\$18.70
Spelling	16/06/15	02/06/15	\$12.10
English	28/07/15	14/07/15	\$8.80
Maths	11/08/15	28/07/15	\$8.80

Unfortunately, we are unable to take any late nominations so please have your envelope into the school office by 9am of the closing date. Thank you.

INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM YEARS 3-6 Starts Week 2

If your child wishes to continue with the instrumental program or a student wishes to commence learning an instrument, please collect an agreement form from the office. Lessons this year are **\$15 per week**. Payment will be added to your School Fees Statement, however **MUST** be paid at the beginning of each term. If your child needs to hire an instrument, the hiring cost is **\$20 per term**. This covers ongoing maintenance.

PLEASE NOTE – This service is being provided by an instrumental teacher from Good Counsel College and we are **ONLY AGENTS. IF INSTRUMENTAL ACCOUNTS ARE NOT PROMPTLY PAID WITHIN THE ALLOCATED PERIOD, LESSONS WILL HAVE TO CEASE. NATHAN, THE INSTRUMENTAL TEACHER, WILL BE COMMENCING LESSONS NEXT WEEK.**

HOMework CLUB

(No Homework Club this Wednesday)

St Rita's School
Homework Club will
commence this week.
The facility will
operate from Monday
to Friday. A teacher
will be on duty until
4.30pm Monday to



**Thursday and until 4pm on Friday. Due to
staff meetings, however, it is asked that
Homework Club only be used on
WEDNESDAYS in EMERGENCY cases ONLY.**

A booking sheet will operate through the
school office. Children **MUST** be booked in
to use the facility. If you know ahead of time
that you will not be able to collect your child
by 4.30pm, please let the office know
beforehand.

Students using this facility will need to **bring
their afternoon tea**, (in a separate
container), which is to be put in the
tuckshop fridge in the morning. Please make
sure the container is clearly marked with the
child's name. If you need any further
information please contact the school office
on 4064 2153. **REMEMBER: THIS FACILITY IS
FOR WORKING PARENTS AND
EMERGENCIES. IF IT IS ABUSED IT WILL
CLOSE.**



Presents

Night at the Museum:
Secret of the Tomb (PG)

30, 31 Jan, 1 Feb
7.30pm
Admission \$8.00



STAFF- 2015

Principal

APRE

Prep

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

Year 4/5

Year 5/6

Curriculum

Performing Arts

Learning Support

ICT

Physical Educ

Admin/Finance

Library

School Officers

Mrs Vicki Conomo

Mrs Denise Kenny

Miss Lauren Watkins

Miss Kate Watson

Mrs Beth Haley

Mrs Aileen Bufi &

Mrs Andrea Devaney

Mrs Donna Curzon &

Mrs Jess Sinton

Mr Shane Rossi

Mrs Alicia Magnanini

Mrs Denise Kenny

Mrs Donna Curzon

Mrs Alicia Magnanini

Mr Shane Rossi

Mrs Jenni Taylor

Mrs Judi Kelly

Miss Santina Lizzio

Mrs Maria Clark

Mrs Jo Hunter

Mrs Sandy Jensen

Mrs Beth Jackson

School fees – methods of payment

Please note the following IMPORTANT
INFORMATION -

- If you choose to pay over the internet please
use **YOUR NAME AS YOUR PAYMENT
REFERENCE** eg. JENNI TAYLOR (or a clear
abbreviation if your name has too many
characters to fit).
- Whilst cash payments can be made at the office
any day except Wednesday, EFT payments or
Direct Debits set up through the office are the
two **PREFERED** ways to pay your fees.
- **ALL PAYMENTS SHOULD BE MADE TO –
bsb 084-352
a/c 000005018
a/c name: RCTC St Rita's School Sth
Johnstone.**

Please change any EFT payments that you may
already have set up, so that payments go to this
bank account **before your next payment**.
Obviously, if your Direct Debit was set up by the
school office, then no changes to reference
numbers or bank accounts need to be made by
you.

- Please note that BPay is available, however does cost the school a small amount of money. You will find the biller code on your statement. **IN THIS CASE, YOU WILL NEED TO USE YOUR NUMERIC REFERENCE NUMBER.**

The system will address the fee statement to the primary caregiver which is often the Mother or Female Guardian unless we have other arrangements formalised. Although the fee statement is addressed to an individual, the financial obligations undertaken by parents at the time of enrolment, or any more current fee paying agreement, will still stand. Where there is a change in the relationship between parents/guardians, notification of any change in financial obligations must be provided to the school. The documented change must be signed and acknowledged by all parties involved.

Thank you, Jenni

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

To start the school year can I point out the correct uniform needs to be worn on particular school days. The formal day uniform is to be worn Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Boys:

- Sky blue shirt with badge on pocket
- Navy shorts
- Navy socks
- Black sandshoes or black leather shoes

Girls:

- Sky blue blouse with badge
- Navy skort
- White socks
- Black sandshoes or black leather shoes

The school sports uniform is to be worn on Tuesday and Friday.

Boys:

- School sports shirt
- Navy shorts (available from the office)
- White socks
- Sports joggers

Girls:

- School sports shirt
- Navy skort or navy shorts
- White socks
- Sports joggers

School hats are available from Innisfail Custom Clothing, (legionnaires or wide brim). Girls' school uniforms are available through the school office. If you require non-standard sizes these can be made by Mrs Jan Parsons – 4061 3130.

UNIFORM PRICES

Uniform prices are listed below. Uniforms are available from the school office.

Girl's skort	\$20.00
Girl's blouse	\$30.00
Sports shorts	\$20.00
Sports shirts	\$30.00
Hair Scrunchies	various
School badges	\$4.00

A reminder that the sports uniform is to be worn Tuesdays and Fridays. Black shoes should be worn Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. On sports day last year we had an assortment of colours for sports shoes. I feel white or black coloured shoes complement our uniform best.



FLOOD PLAN

Our procedure if flooding occurs is as follows:

- Parents need to use their judgment with regards to getting their children to and from school safely.
- School will only be closed after consultation with the local police.
- Only if the school routine is changed will an announcement be placed on Radio 4KZ and Kool FM between 7.00am and 7.30am.
- In the event that school is to close once classes have begun, then parents will be notified according to residential location.
- If buses are sent from Innisfail to pick up students who travel home by bus, Trans North will notify the school so that parents are contacted to ensure someone is home to meet the bus. No students will be permitted to travel on the bus if parents have not been contacted.
- If you are ever unsure of safe school travel, contact the school before leaving home.
- Be assured no students will be left at school unattended.
- Extra caution needs to be taken when travelling on wet roads and don't drive through water.
- Parent, student and teacher safety is paramount.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS TERM 1

27 Jan	School Starts – Term 1
3 Feb	Yr 5/6 begin Chinese Online Yr 5/6 MJR Day
4 Feb	Instrumental Music Lessons Begin
14 Feb	St Valentine's Day
18 Feb	Ash Wednesday
11 March	School Performance Tours 'Making Friends'
17 March	St Patrick's Day
2 April	Easter Play End of Term 1
3 April	Good Friday
4 April	Easter Sunday
5 April	Easter Sunday

TERM 2

20 April	Start Term 2
25 April	Anzac Day
10 May	Mother's Day
12-14 May	NAPLAN
19 May	ICAS Digital Technologies
20 May	School Photos
3 June	ICAS Science
8 June	Queen's Birthday Holiday
15-19 June	ICAS Writing
16 June	ICAS Spelling
26 June	End of Term

TERM 3

13 July	Start of Term 3
18 July	ICAS English
3 August	School Performance Tours 'A Slice of Vaudeville'
11 August	ICAS Maths
7 Sept	Starr Production 'Bully is Back'
18 Sept	End of Term

TERM 4

6 Oct	Start of Term 4
3 Nov	Melbourne Cup

9-13 Nov	Swimming – lower school
11 Nov	Remembrance Day
16-20 Nov	Swimming – upper school

Wanted good quality horse riding equipment

Kurrimine Beach District Pony and Horse Sports Association Inc. is a not for profit organisation. They encourage people of all ages to learn the aspects involved with handling, grooming, feeding and riding horses, so they can build confidence to participate in horse sports activities. The association provides horses to individuals who do not have a horse of their own to enable them to learn these skills.

They would love if you could support them by donating any good quality second hand horse riding equipment. They have a broad range of horses, so there are no particular sizes required. Any equipment would be grateful, such as;

- 1) Halters
- 2) Bridles- with or without bits
- 3) Saddles- mounted or unmounted
- 4) Saddle Cloths
- 5) Feed bins
- 6) Grooming Equipment

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Summer Stuart on 0427 639 050 to organise drop off or collection of the items.