

# Principal's Report

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

If you went down to Chap Chappa today it was a sea of red and green for the running of our annual Palmerston/Fitzgerald cross country. The children have trained hard every morning for a number of weeks now. Some keen parents have also participated. Results will be published in the first newsletter next term, along with the names of the children in each class that ran the most laps. Last year, after combining our laps we ran the equivalent of South Johnstone to Miriamvale. We are hoping to better that this year even though we have less children participating.

Thank you for your co-operation in relation to parent/teacher interviews, especially those who have been unable to make their time due to unforeseen circumstances, ringing and making a new appointment. For those of you who as yet have not made time for an interview please go on line and do so. Open communication between school and home is an important factor in your child's education.

This Thursday morning's assembly will be the retelling of the Easter story. Each class will be portraying a scene from Holy Week. Please take the time to attend. Over the weekend make time to get along to one of the Easter services. Denise has mass times in the APRE section of the newsletter. It is important that the children understand the real reason for celebrating Easter.

Parents (of all years) don't forget to be on the school oval at 1.30p.m. this Thursday afternoon for the Parents vs students (Year 5&6) cricket game. The children have worked very hard on Tuesday's in Mr Rossi's cricket clinics and are keen to use their new skills. The game will be played using modified rules.

This Thursday sees the end of Term One. The children have to be congratulated on their behaviour and work ethic during the term and have earned a well deserved break. For those who are travelling

over the holidays, travel safe. Mrs Clark will be having the first few weeks of next term off holidaying overseas, we wish her safe travel.

First week back next term culminates with the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Anzac Day. St. Rita's has a long association with the Anzac Day parade and we will be marching again this year. Please keep this in your diary as we would like to see as many children as possible at the parade. Friday of Week One we will hold a special Anzac Day Assembly. Wednesday of Week One the Year Six class will be going to Cairns with Mrs Conomo and Mrs Kenny to attend a special Anzac presentation at St. Monica's Cathedral.

Our next P&F meeting falls on the first Monday of next term. We have decided to hold it the **Monday of Week Two, Monday April 27<sup>th</sup>** please make note of this and keep this date free. Mother's Day morning tea will be the main agenda item. Over the holidays keep your eye out for suitable Cent Sale prizes for the morning tea. These can be left at the school office. Start inviting friends and relatives along to the event, which will be held on Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.

God bless. Have a great week. See you all rested on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Vicki



**Easter Presentation this week during Assembly will be in the little hall at 9:15. Everyone welcome!**



**Goodbye and Best Wishes to Sarina Pappalardo and Angela Cristaudo**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

### WHY DO WE HAVE SO MANY CEREMONIES AT EASTER?

The *Easter Triduum* refers to three days in the Church's calendar which express the central mystery of our Christian faith. It begins on *Holy Thursday* as we focus on Jesus' farewell words and deeds at the Last Supper. *Good Friday* is when we ponder the events of his suffering and death. It finishes with the *Easter Vigil* when we celebrate the liberation of humankind through Christ's resurrection.

This three-stage sequence of worship allows us to take in an enormous mystery in small parts and to relate it to our own lives – the sorrows, joys, successes and failures.

Of all of the Church's celebrations throughout the year, the *Easter Triduum* is considered the high-point. The following is a list of the Church ceremonies that will take place during this special time of remembrance.

#### HOLY THURSDAY - 2<sup>nd</sup> April

*Mass of the Lord's Supper* ( 7:30 pm –Innisfail)

#### GOOD FRIDAY- 3<sup>rd</sup> April

*Stations of the Cross* ( 10.30 am – Innisfail )

*Reconciliation* ( 11.30 am – Innisfail)

*The Lord's Passion* ( 3.00 pm - Innisfail)

#### HOLY SATURDAY – 4<sup>th</sup> April

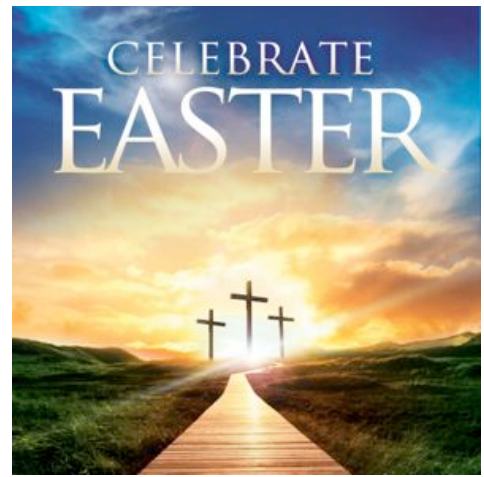
*Reconciliation* ( 11.30 am - Innisfail)

*Easter Vigil* ( 8.00 pm – Innisfail)

#### EASTER SUNDAY – 5<sup>th</sup> April

*Easter Celebration* ( 7.00 am – South Johnstone )  
( 9.00 am – Innisfail )

It would be wonderful if the children of our school could attend one or some of these significant ceremonies of our faith. Understanding and embracing the real message of Easter, Jesus' death



and resurrection, is a very special and very important part of what it means to be a Christian.

### FAITH

**One of the great Christian virtues is faith. Faith leads us beyond our doubts and hesitations and gives us direction and purpose.**

### OUR JEWISH CONNECTION

The *Passover* is the highlight of the Jewish calendar. It celebrates God's victory over the Egyptians who had enslaved the Israelites. When the Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites leave, the Lord sent an angel of death over the land killing the first born of every animal and family. But it passed over Israelites as they had faithfully celebrated the meal and marked their door posts with the blood of the slaughtered lamb.

Understanding the rich meaning of the *Passover* as a message of deliverance, Jesus used this meal to reveal to his disciples his willingness to be put to death in order that they too would be delivered from sin and evil.



( [www.cathfamily.org](http://www.cathfamily.org) )

### NEWS FROM THE PARISH

*Easter Blessing of Homes* – Holy water for the blessing of homes will be available with a blessing sheet at the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday Masses.

*Gifts for St. Vincent de Paul Pantry* – This week the parish is asking for gifts of food items (non-perishable) to be taken up with the bread and wine at the **Mass of the Lord's Supper** on Holy Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Gifts for the needy presented with the bread and wine is an old tradition of the Church. Food items can be left at the School office, Parish office or you could bring them along on Holy Thursday night.

## **THANK YOU**

Last Friday was certainly a very busy day at St. Rita's. Thank you to the parents who came along to our final School Assembly for the term and thank you to all the children who came dressed in purple to support Epilepsy. It was wonderful to see such sea of colour and to talk about this condition that can affect anyone at any stage of life. 'Looking out' for one another was a strong message that came across during the day. This is something that our children do very well and is one of the features of our school that is so endearing.

And finally, a huge thank you to Melissa Leonardi, Jo Spry, Tanya Pensini and Malinda Eaves, the four wonderful tuckshop ladies who helped make our 'Fish and Chip Friday' a great success! The children certainly enjoyed their lunch and many stayed behind at play time simply to soak up the 'café-style' atmosphere. This was quite a big undertaking which would not have been possible without the generosity of these mums. Thank you also to the Year 5/6 children who assisted with the set up and packing away of tables and chairs and to Mrs Conomo for her help in organizing the day and for contributing to the cost of ingredients. All money raised goes into our Project Compassion Fund which is our way of helping Caritas Australia to develop programs which will ultimately assist people in developing countries to help themselves through many long-term, self-sustaining projects.



On behalf of the staff of St. Rita's, I wish you all a very happy and holy Easter. May it be a time of rest, relaxation and reflection for you and your family. May this Easter inspire you to new hope and happiness all possible through God's divine grace.

We look forward to your safe return next term.

Regards,  
Denise (Acting APRE – Assistant Principal  
Religious Education)

Please keep in your prayers the Henson family. Mitchell's (Year 4/5) uncle passed away last week.

## **Tuckshop**

There will be NO tuckshop this week.

## **Returned servicemen**

We are slowly gathering names on the Honour Board in the library in to acknowledge those who sacrificed so much to protect our shores.

I am sure there are many families in our St Rita's School community who have loved ones who made the sacrifice to serve our country. We ask that you honour these people by placing their names on our honor board. Could you please provide the office with these names. Service to your country is not only in battle as many medical staff and clergy lost their lives. We will remember them.

## **Battery collection point**

A HUGE thank you to the Plumb family who have very kindly volunteered a spot on their property for the battery collection point.

## **House to rent?**

Do you know of a house available for rent? Ms Watkins and Ms Watson are looking for a house to rent together somewhere around the local area. If you know of anything that might be suitable could you please kindly let either of them know.

## **Mother's day luncheon**



Mother's Day will creep up on us soon (Week 3 Term 2). Mo Crowley is coordinating the event and is well on her way to making it a wonderful morning again. If you have any questions please ask Mo.

**It is time to start thinking about bringing in donations for the CENT SALE – which is the major money raiser for the day. Items can be brought in at any time. Please take them to the tuckshop.**

## 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.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## TERM 1 (new dates in yellow)

2 April Easter Presentation  
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

1 May District Cross Country

8 May Mother's Day Luncheon

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 Fitzy –v- Palmy Day

26 June End of Term

## TERM 3

13 July Start of Term 3

18 July ICAS English

26 July-1 Aug Catholic Education Week

3 August School Performance Tours  
'A Slice of Vaudeville'

5&7 Aug District Athletics

11 Aug ICAS Maths

20&21 Aug Yr 2/3 Camp Darradgee

30 Aug-4 Sept Yr 6 Camp Longreach

7 Sept Starr Production 'Bully is Back'

9-11 Sept Yr 4/5 Camp Barrabadeen

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

## Year 1s in their masks made for Epilepsy Awareness Day (unmasking epilepsy)



## Fish and chip friday

It was hard work, but the students enjoyed it. A big thank you to the all who helped.



## Easter raffle tickets

All Easter raffle tickets need to be returned to the school office by Wednesday!



Queensland  
Government

### **Well Women's Clinics**

**(These clinics are available to Medicare eligible clients)**

**Innisfail Hospital – Fridays 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> April –  
Ph: 4226 4812**

**Mamu Health Service – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April –  
Ph: 4061 5102**

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.

## Parent teacher interviews online




There are still approximately 20 parents who have yet to book an interview. It is important to book and attend an interview with your child's teacher.

Interviews are only 15 minutes in length, which is a very valuable 15 minutes for your child's education. An opportunity to discuss your child's progress and any areas of issue.

It only takes a minute or two to book. The instructions appear later in the newsletter for those yet to book.

It only takes a minute or two to book. Here are the instructions again for those who have yet to book –


- Go to the school's home page: [www.stritascps.qld.edu.au](http://www.stritascps.qld.edu.au)
- Click on the 'Links & Logins' button at the bottom right corner of the home page
- Click on the 'Parent/Teacher Interviews Online' link
  - Enter your surname and PIN, provided on the attached slip
  - IF YOU CAN'T FIND YOUR PIN** - Click "Obtain PIN/Password" and enter your email address. Your PIN will be emailed to you. The email you receive will include a link that can be clicked on to log straight into PTO, bypassing the login screen.
  - When you have made all the bookings you require, you can download or email a report of your bookings. Simply click on the printer symbol at the top of the page. You can log in and *change bookings* any time **up to 7.00pm on the day prior to your interview.**

If you see this symbol  displayed along side your child's name, it means this teacher recommends that you book an interview.

Other parents may be making bookings at the same time that you are using the system. It is possible, though unlikely, that a time slot is displayed to you as available, but

is then booked by another parent shortly afterwards. If you then attempt to book this time slot it will not be available and a message will be displayed to indicate this. If you encounter any problems using PTO please contact the school office by phone on 4064 2153, or by email to [secretary.johnstone@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:secretary.johnstone@cns.catholic.edu.au).

Why don't you try this great school holiday activity for your children



**JEMIMA WYMAN  
PATTERN  
BANDITS  
- ON TOUR -**

13<sup>TH</sup> - 18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2015.

Any time between 9 am & 4pm

Cassowary Coast Region  
Art Gallery,  
Australian Sugar Heritage  
Centre,  
Bruce Highway, Mourilyan.

Ph: 4063 2477  
for more details

**FREE  
FAMILY  
FUN!**

HELP BY YOUR  
TRUSTED SUPPORTER

**IKEA**

**VAGAMA  
TOURING**

Queensland  
Government

The Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art provides a range of touring exhibitions and events for schools and community groups.

