

# ST RITA'S SCHOOL, SOUTH JOHNSTONE

Weekly Newsletter Term 1, Week 2 2015

3 February 2015



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As we enter the second week of the term and the second month of the year, we have to reflect how fast time goes by.

Remember, now is the present and that is what it should be, a special gift. Take the time to look at what your child has done. Spend that extra minute with them no matter how busy you are, as they grow up all too quickly.

Last week all the children settled quickly into their classes and the routine of the school. We still have a few preppies who are unsure, but it is gratifying to see the older children in the school take them under their wing and help them out.

This Friday morning is our opening school mass and commissioning ceremony at 11.30am. We celebrate the start of another school year and welcome all newcomers to our school community. We invite all to attend. Our new school leaders will be commissioned at the mass. Congratulations to the following students on their election last Friday, to roles as leaders for the 2015 school year.

**SCHOOL CAPTAINS:**

Imogen Stanley  
Braden Venables

**FITZGERALD CAPTAINS:**

Jessica Magnanini  
Storm Thompson

**PALMERSTON CAPTAINS:**

Lily Darveniza  
Billy Lamperd

Today the children enjoyed skill sessions during their normal P.E. time with a visitor from Queensland cricket. Although hot and sweaty fun was had by all.

I am in need of someone who can sew to undertake a small job for me before Friday. I need to shorten our new banner. It requires cutting off and re-stitching. If you are willing and able can you please see me.

Please note at the back of the newsletter the calendar for the year. I have tried to include as many dates as possible. Remember that these dates are subject to change if unforeseen factors arise, and history has shown this is very possible. Keep Monday night, February 16<sup>th</sup> in your diaries for our first P&F meeting for the year, which is the AGM. We have a very active P&F and would love to see new faces getting involved. Do not be frightened of getting a job, only people who volunteer are designated positions. This year if you have an agenda item for the P&F meeting it must be submitted to the school office by 3.30p.m. of the afternoon of the meeting.

Listed below are the dates for class meetings. As mentioned in last week's newsletter it is important that you make time to get along to these. These meetings are an excellent opportunity for you to meet with your child/ren's class teacher(s) to talk about the year ahead. Open communication and positive partnerships between home and school is what we strive for. If you cannot, get to the meeting, make a time to come in and talk to your child's/children's

teachers. Children whose parents are not in attendance at the meeting will be given any paperwork handed out.

Prep - Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> Feb  
Year 1 - Monday 16<sup>th</sup> Feb  
Year 2 - Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> Feb  
Year 3 – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> Feb  
Year 4/5 - Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> Feb  
Year 5/6 - Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb

Check your child's bag if you have not as yet received your tuckshop menu for this week. Tuckshop starts this Friday and menus should be in by tomorrow morning to the school office.

Thank you for a great start to the year. God bless, have a great week.

Vicki



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

### LET'S CELEBRATE : OPENING SCHOOL MASS THIS FRIDAY (11.30 am)

We extend an open invitation to all the St. Rita's community to join us this Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2015 as we celebrate the beginning of our school year. On this day we will come together as a group to give thanks to God for the gift of his Son and the

gift of one another and to ask his blessing for the year ahead.

The **Mass** or **Eucharistic Liturgy**, as it is also known, is the sacred rite – the formal, official worship service of Catholicism. It incorporates the Bible (*Sacred Scripture*), prayer, sacrifice, hymns, symbols, gestures, sacred food for the soul, and directions on how to live a Catholic life... all in one ceremony. Our Opening School Mass is also a special time as we will welcome all new students and staff to our school and will also acknowledge our school leaders for 2015. Throughout the year we will celebrate **Mass** on a number of important Church occasions such as feast days and holy days of obligation. In addition to this, each term the children will participate in class **Liturgies**, with or without eucharist (holy communion) depending on their year level.

Each time we gather to celebrate **Mass** it is more than just a re-enactment of the Last Supper, when Jesus took the bread and wine and said the words, " *This is my body*" and " *This is my blood*". We believe that the **Mass**, combines past, present and future at the same time.



St. Thomas Aquinas sums this up well when he states, " *Mass reminds the faithful of what Jesus did for humankind in the past, makes Him present in the Real Presence ( the consecrated bread and wine), and promises the faithful the future glory of heaven by giving food for eternal life.*

## FEAST DAY OF ST PAUL MIKI AND COMPANIONS : FEBRUARY 6TH

This Friday is also the feast day of St. Paul Miki and Companions.

In 1597, Fr Paul Miki, twenty-two other men and three boys were martyred for their faith on a hill in Nagasaki, Japan. Paul was a Jesuit priest who was born in Japan. He was known as a famous preacher. His companions were two other Jesuits priests, six Franciscan priests, seventeen lay people, including catechists, a doctor, cook, carpenter, and a translator and three altar boys.

Nine years before, the Emperor had ordered all Christians out of Japan. He feared that they would take over the country. Paul and his friends stayed behind and continued to do God's work. They were arrested and sentenced to death in December, 1596. Paul and his friends were crucified. Before he died, Paul forgave those who persecuted him. He said, "Ask Christ to help you become happy."

Nearly three hundred years later, missionaries returned to Japan. They saw no sign of the Christian faith when they began their work. However, they quickly learned that many people had kept the Catholic faith alive in secret over the years.

***The Church honours Paul Miki and his companions as saints.***

*Their example helps us to remember that making God part of our lives is the only way to true happiness.*  
(Source – rclweb.com)



Have a wonderful week.

Peace be with you all.

Regards,

Denise

(Acting APRE – Assistant to the Principal Religious Education)

## **BEGINNING OF YEAR WHOLE SCHOOL MASS**

**Friday, 6 February 11.30am  
ALL WELCOME**



## **MAKING JESUS REAL LEADERSHIP DAY**

Today, the Year 5/6 class participated in a 'Making Jesus Real Leadership Day' with Mrs Bryan. The Making Jesus Real program is centered around the belief that we are the image of Jesus to people we meet. We are His representatives and our actions should reflect His values. How we choose to act defines who we are and tells people what type of person we want to be. The program is aligned with Religious Education and Values Education throughout Australia.



Some helpful attitudes to life:

- Believe in yourself
- Make life happen
- Take the good with the bad
- Happiness comes from giving of yourself
- Be a Grinner & Winner – Not a Moaner & Groaner
- Search for the Hero inside yourself
- Problems are a normal part of life
- Problems are opportunities with prickles on them

May Jesus be with you in all that you do,  
Peta Bryan

## 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.

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON SPORT

This term South Johnstone SS will be joining us here for informal Interschool Sport. On Friday afternoons, students from Years 4-7 will participate in soccer and volleyball in mixed ability teams. It is important that your child brings a water bottle on these days. These sessions will run during the terms that we are not participating in town sport. Vicki is attending the Innisfail District Sporting Association meeting this Thursday.

## STAFFROOM ACCESS

As we have very limited meeting rooms available at this school, it is often necessary for staff to work and hold meetings in our staffroom. This work and topics discussed are obviously highly confidential. As such we ask that parents and students do not use the staffroom to access the tuckshop wherever possible. The tuckshop should be accessed through the little hall.

## SCHOOL FEES

Term 1 School Fees were run yesterday. For those who have made payments during January, you will notice that these payments did not show on the statement. As the accountant could not come to the school until Thursday last week to help Jenni 'roll' the system into 2015, January's receipting could not be done. Receipting will be done this week and new statements showing balances will be emailed.

*'Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere'*

Chinese proverb

## RESOURCE LEVY

We asked last week if the Annual Resource Levy for your children's school books and resources could be kindly paid by the end of February. However to enable us to pay our accounts for these resources it would be appreciated if you could pay them with your Term 1 School Fees which were issued yesterday. 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.**

## JEWELLERY

Could our parents please be vigilant. Our school policy with regards to jewellery is one pair of sleepers or studs and one religious medallion. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated as unfortunately in Week 1 our uniform policy in this regard has not been met.

## FREEZERS FOR SALE

The school has two freezers for sale. If you are interested in purchasing one of them, please see the office.

Tuckerbox Deep Freezer	\$100
170ltr Upright Deep Freezer	\$100

## TUCKSHOP – CHANGE TO MENU

A small change to the menu for Prep and Year 1 students. If you like you can order a half hot dog for \$1.70. So if you don't think your little one can eat a full hot dog, please note the order form to indicate that you want to order a 'half hot dog'.

## TUCKSHOP SYSTEM

Our tuckshop is run by the parents of the school through the P & F. Tuckshop is generally on each Friday, however this does depend upon what is happening around the school. There will be a notice in each weekly newsletter to advise whether tuckshop is on or not.

The tuckshop menu changes each week. Generally, one parent coordinates the week's menu. We generally try to keep the menu healthy. Each student will be given a tuckshop menu on Monday morning if tuckshop is on for that week. You will need to select the items, paste onto a paper bag and have your child bring the paper bag with the money inside to the office BY WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON. Unfortunately, late orders cannot be accepted. A separate bag is required for morning tea and big lunch.

**If you child suffers Lactose/Gluten allergies YOU MUST LET THE OFFICE OR LINA CALLEJA (our tuckshop coordinator), KNOW. Lactose/Gluten Free items on the menu are only available for these children, so you need to let us know.**

## 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



### Starts TOMORROW

**IF YOUR CHILD WISHES TO CONTINUE WITH THE INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM OR A STUDENT WISHES TO COMMENCE LEARNING AN INSTRUMENT YOU NEED TO FILL OUT AN AGREEMENT FORM AT THE OFFICE URGENTLY.** The agreements must be returned completed before your child begins lessons.

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.**



Presents  
**Taken 3 (M)**

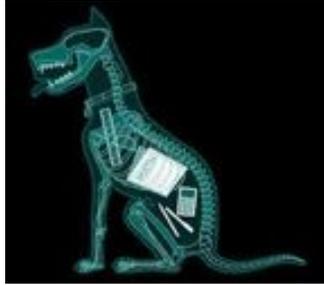
**6, 7& 8 Feb**  
**7.30pm**  
**Admission \$8.00**



## HOMWORK CLUB

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.**

## HELP NEEDED

As we are a Parish School, as a good will gesture, and as our students use the church on a weekly basis, we are responsible for cleaning the church. This cleaning, either twice or three times a month, involves simply vacuuming and wiping the seats. This works out to be only approx 27 times left this year. In the past we have had one family take on this job, and at other times we have had a number of families step up and help out on a roster system.

If you can help out, please drop into the office. Thank you.

## SCHOOL FEES – METHODS OF PAYMENT A REMINDER

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 costs 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.**

Thank you, Jenni



## PARENTING TIPS



The involvement of parents helps break down the mystique about school that can exist for some children. Their chances of success are better when they see school as an extension of home rather than merely an institution for learning.

Taking part in school activities is one valuable way of participating in your children's learning. But, **participating as a parent can be much broader than helping out in the classroom.** There is a range of simple things you can do at home that will assist teachers to maximise the learning of your child.

These include: talking with your child about their day, hearing young learners read, helping with homework and making sure kids go off to school happy, healthy and having had plenty of sleep.



*Here are some more ideas to help you participate in your child's education in positive ways:*

- Find out what your school is trying to achieve for your child and show your support for its aims. Discover what sets your child's school apart from others.

- Support a broad, balanced curriculum that offers children a variety of educational experiences rather than a program that focuses narrowly on the traditional 3 R's.

- Direct conversations through the correct channels such as your child's teacher, or the principal. Gossip or thoughtless criticism within the general community can easily tarnish a school's reputation.

- Become an advocate for your child's school and promote its positive features throughout the wider community. Encourage your child to take pride in their school through your example.

- Attend school activities such as open days, concerts, sports events and celebrations. Invite other members of the community along as well.

- Consult with your child's teacher about practical ways that you can assist both at home and at school.

## WOMEN'S HEALTH CLINICS

**Well Women's Clinics**  
(These clinics are available to Medicare eligible clients)



**Mamu Health Service – Tuesday**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> February – Ph: 4061 4477**

**Innisfail Hospital – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February – Ph:**  
**4226 4812 or 0428 781 421**

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.

## SWIMMING SCHOOL

**INNISFAIL SWIMMING POOL**



All squads and learn to swim have recommended.

Anyone interested in lessons or squads please contact the pool to organise a free assessment.

40611267

# DYNAMIC KIDS

BOYS & GIRLS AGED 6 -12 YEARS  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays of each month  
Christian Outreach Centre  
191-193 Mourilyan Road

## FEBRUARY DATES

**13<sup>th</sup> Slip n Slide**  
(Wear old clothes)

**27<sup>th</sup> Wet n Wild Pool Night**  
(Permission slip require)

Phone Karen 40642480 A/H  
For more info

**sign on now!**  
IT'S ALL ABOUT FAMILY, FUN & FITNESS!  
Queensland Little Athletics  
Family fun & fitness

**CASSOWARY COAST LITTLE ATHLETICS**

Sign on day: 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2015  
Where: Castor Park, Mourilyan  
When: 5.30pm – 6.30pm

Club nights start on 6<sup>th</sup> March with a free sausage sizzle.  
For more information contact Centre Manager, Cameron on 0409485566

Queensland Little Athletics  
ph 1300 559 436  
or www.qlaa.asn.au

**BOOGAN STARS Junior Football Club**

**Sign On and Fun Days**  
**Free FUN and FITNESS**

when: SATURDAY 14 Feb & SATURDAY 21 Feb  
time: 10am to 1pm  
where: Castor Park, Caster Street, Mourilyan  
COME TO ONE, OR COME TO BOTH  
COME TO TRY OUT THE FUN

**Games, instruction, sausage sizzle and more ...**

Training commences Thursday 26 February, 5.15pm

# 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