

# ST RITA'S SCHOOL, SOUTH JOHNSTONE

Weekly Newsletter Term 1, Week 8 2015

17 March 2015



Dear Parents and Carers,

Well done to all the parents who have booked their appointments for Parent/Teacher interviews. We had a delay yesterday morning but by all reports everything is running smoothly. If you are experiencing difficulties please contact the school office for assistance.

Thank you to the twenty families who attended the Meet and Greet night on Friday night. There were lots of conversations going on amid the parents and the children thoroughly enjoyed the movies. Thank you to the family who supplied the movies.

The school was a wash of green today with St Patrick's Day festivities. Thank you to Mrs Kenny and the mini-Vinnies committee for the yummy green jelly and custard cups.

This Thursday and Friday our annual financial audit will be undertaken. This will mean Jenni will be busy with the auditors, so please be patient if things aren't processed as quickly as they usually are in the office.

This Friday afternoon the Year Four to Six girls will undertake a netball training session with Ms Heather McLaren during Friday sports. Heather is a netball specialist who has trained many a netball champion in the north. We are very lucky to have this session at our school and I would like to thank the Innisfail Netball Association for affording us this wonderful opportunity.

Cyclone Nathan, if nothing but persistent, is still hovering off the Queensland coast. Catholic Education Cairns is closely monitoring its path and we will keep you updated as the week progresses if it is to cause any disruption to every day school procedures. We would hope that the predictions of the Joint Typhoon Warning Centre (American Navy) are accurate and it will form back into a low before the weekend.

As you are aware we have quite a number of children from banana farming families in our school. By way of showing our support for them, in the light of the Panama disease outbreak, I would ask parents not to wear their work boots or drive their farm vehicles on to school grounds.

With Anzac Day falling in the first weekend back at school next term, and it being the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we are slowly turning the library into a memorial. I have secured from the ANZAC Day Commemoration Committee a mini museum that will be set up in the coming days. Please make time to come and visit the display.

In 2015 St Rita's has enrolled in the Leuven Catholic Identity Project, which looks at the Catholicity of our school. How is our school different to the state school up the road? What identifying features set us apart? In the coming weeks parents will be sent a link to an online survey. I would ask all families to take the time to participate and complete the survey so that data received will be more accurate. At the conclusion of the

survey data is collated by an external source and later in the year a report will be sent back to the school on findings, congratulating us on what we are doing well and making recommendations for improvements.

If you know of any families who are intending sending their child to St Rita's for Prep in 2016, please get them to contact the school office and register their names. We have 11 names registered already. I am very aware that some of the town schools are interviewing quite early this year. Remember the best advertising is word of mouth so tell everyone about our wonderful little school.

Thank you, have a great week. God bless.

Vicki



**NO Assembly this week.**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS



**ST. PATRICK: PATRON SAINT OF IRELAND MOST OF US KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT ST. PATRICK AND THE WEARING OF GREEN ON HIS FEAST DAY. THE FOLLOWING FIVE FACTS MAY HELP US BETTER UNDERSTAND THIS AMAZING MAN AND HIS REMARKABLE LIFE STORY.**

**1. March 17<sup>th</sup> is when St. Patrick died.**

St. Patrick is a saint of the Catholic Church, and his holy day is the day of his death, not the day of his physical birth. After spending most of his adult life converting the pagans of Ireland to Christianity he died on March 17, 461 AD.

**2. St. Patrick wasn't Irish.**

St. Patrick was not born in Ireland. His parents were Roman citizens living in Britain (either Scotland or Wales – scholars cannot agree on which).

**3. Patrick was a slave.**

At the age of 16, Patrick had the misfortune of being kidnapped by Irish raiders who took him away and sold him. He spent several years in Ireland herding sheep and learning about the people there.

**4. St. Patrick used the shamrock to preach about the Trinity.**

Many claim that the shamrock represents faith, hope and love. It was used by St. Patrick to teach the mystery of the Holy Trinity – how three beings, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit could be separate entities, yet one in the same.

**5. Legend says that St. Patrick drove all the snakes from Ireland.**

In reality, this probably did not occur, as there is no evidence that snakes ever existed in Ireland, the climate being too cold for them to survive. Scholars suggest that the term 'snakes' may be figurative and refer to pagan religious beliefs and practices rather than actual reptiles.

**6. Patrick's original is blue.**

The original colour associated with St. Patrick is blue, not green as commonly believed.

In several artworks depicting the saint, he is shown wearing blue vestments. King Henry V used the Irish harp in gold on a blue flag to represent the country. Green was associated with the country later, presumably because of the greenness of the countryside, which is so because Ireland receives plentiful rain and is today often referred to as the 'Emerald Isle'.

**ST. PATRICK'S PRAYER FOR THE FAITHFUL**

St. Patrick's prayer for the faithful captures the wonderful spirit that made him Ireland's patron saint and one of the Church's most beloved missionaries. He was so successful in preaching the gospel and organising the Church in Ireland that he is largely credited with converting the Irish to Christianity. St. Patrick's prayer for the faithful, much like the famous Breastplate Prayer also attributed to him, can truly inspire us to ask for divine assistance in living our faith each day.

May the Strength of God pilot us.  
May the Power of God preserve us.  
May the Wisdom of God instruct us.  
May the Hand of God protect us.  
May the Way of God direct us.  
May the Shield of God defend us.  
May the Host of God guard us.  
Against the snares of evil ones.  
Against temptations of the world.



May Christ be with us !  
May Christ be before us !  
May Christ be in us,  
Christ be over all !  
May Thy Salvation, Lord,  
Always be ours,  
This day, O Lord, and evermore.  
Amen



### SACRAMENTAL CHILDREN FOR 2015

Please keep the children who are preparing to receive the sacraments this year in your prayers. As they continue on their faith journey in 2015 they will receive the sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist. It will be a very busy but rewarding year for Luke Magnanini, Jack Lodge, Keiran Caltabiano, Kohan Spry and Damien Davies. Congratulations boys on taking the next steps to becoming full members of the Catholic community.

Happy St. Patrick's Day everyone. Peace be with you all.

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

### **TUCKSHOP**

**There is tuckshop this week. Please ask your child for a menu.**

### **P & F MEETING**

Our next P & F Meeting is on  
**Monday 23 March, 7.30pm.**  
All very welcome to attend.

"Never give up on what you really want to do. The person with big dreams is more powerful than one with all the facts."

– **Albert Einstein**

### **RETURNED SERVICEMEN**

In conjunction with the anniversary of the centenary of World War 1, we are displaying in our school library during Term 2 an honour board to acknowledge those who sacrificed so much during the Great War 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 Jenni with these names. Please indicate where these men and women served. Service to your country is not only in battle as many medical staff and clergy lost their lives. We will remember them.

### **INNISFAIL/DISTRICT NETBALL TRIALS**

Congratulations to Jessica Magnanini who was selected for the Innisfail District Netball Team.

### **MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON**



Mother's Day will be upon us soon enough. Mo Crowley who is coordinating the event is well on her way to making it a wonderful morning again.

**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.**

## HEALTHY OPTION FROZIES

In addition to the normal frozies, a healthy option is now available – Choc/Banana Milk Frozie. Still 50c. There is a lactose free version (pink cups) for those children who are lactose intolerant.

Thank you Dyann De Brincat.

## 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.



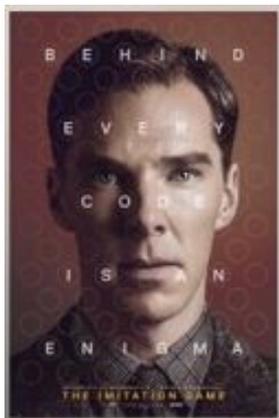
Presents

The Imitation Game (M)

20, 21 & 22 March

7.30pm

Admission \$8.00



## PRINTER GIVEAWAY

We have a Samsung colour laser printer CLP-315 in the office that has been brought in by one of our teaching staff. It is almost unused. Perhaps one of our school families might want it in return for a donation to the school. If interested please see Vicki or Jenni

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### TERM 1 (new dates in yellow)

17 March	St Patrick's Day
<b>31 March</b>	<b>Cross Country</b>
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

# PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS ONLINE



At the time of writing the newsletter 33 families have already booked their Parent/Teacher Interviews. 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).



Yr 4/5 giving to Caritas

## St Rita's Goes Green for St Patrick's Day

