

ST RITA'S SCHOOL, SOUTH JOHNSTONE

Weekly Newsletter Term 1, Week 9 2015

24 March 2015



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

We are doing something a little different this week. Attached to the end of this newsletter is Vicki's Principal's Report prepared for last night's P & F Meeting. Please have a read.



There is Assembly this week.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

THE WEEK AHEAD:

As we near the end of Term 1 it is a very busy time. In this second last week we participate in a number of Church and school activities.

Wednesday 25th March - The Annunciation of the Lord

The feast of the Annunciation of the Lord celebrates the angel Gabriel's appearance to the Virgin Mary, his announcement that the Blessed Virgin had been chosen to be the Mother of Our Lord, and Mary's *fiat* – a her willing acceptance of the God's holy plan. **(Luke 1:26-38)**

Originally a feast of our Lord, but now celebrated as a Marian feast, the Annunciation dates back at least to the fifth century. The date of the feast, which is determined by the date of Christmas, was set as March 25th by the seventh century. It is a day of significance as it commemorates not only the Incarnation (*the central mystery of Christianity whereby God took on human nature and became man in the person of Jesus*) but it also highlights the importance of Mary in our faith tradition as the Mother of God and Mother of all Christians.



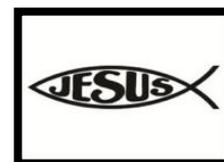
Wednesday 25th March - Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tomorrow the five St. Rita's children who are participating in the Sacramental Program of our parish will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Another name for this sacrament is Confession or the Sacrament of Penance. Regardless of what it is called, it is a special time where each child will individually celebrate with Fr Kerry the fact that they are sorry for their sins and their desire to be reconciled with God. This sacrament is one of the most unique and beautiful aspects of Catholicism. In a way, it '*washes us clean*' and renews us in Christ. Congratulations and best wishes Luke, Jack, Keiran, Kohan and Damien.



Friday 27th March – Fish and Chip Friday (For Project Compassion)

On the menu this Friday is fish and chips. By placing your order through the tuckshop for Big Lunch you will be supporting Project Compassion. Eating fish on Friday, especially during Lent has been a long- standing Catholic tradition. Some Catholics even keep meatless Fridays throughout the rest of the year.



Below are just five suggested reasons for this practice.

1. Fish on Friday is an ancient Jewish custom.
2. Jesus and his disciples spent a lot of time fishing and ate a lot of fish.
3. Fish are not meat.
4. Fish are a reminder of our Baptism (through the image of water)
5. The fish symbol or 'Jesus fish' is one of the earliest Christian symbols.

Sunday 29th March – Palm Sunday

This coming Sunday is Palm Sunday. It is the Sunday before Easter and is now often referred to as Passion Sunday. On this day, palm leaves are blessed and carried in procession into the church to recall the time when Jesus entered Jerusalem and the people welcomed him and called him a king. Passion or Palm Sunday is the beginning of what is known as **Holy Week**, a period of intense preparation for the ceremonies of **Holy Thursday** (Last Supper), **Good Friday** (The Crucifixion of Jesus) and the **Easter Vigil** (The Resurrection of Jesus). The palms used today symbolise Christ's triumph, while the cross is a symbol of the death through which his triumph is achieved. Traditionally, Catholics take the palms and place them in a position of prominence in their homes as a reminder of the passion Christ endured for us. The palm is often attached to a cross uniting these two symbols.

Do you have a cross or crucifix in your home?

Perhaps you could place a small palm frond next to it as a reminder of the events we will celebrate in this coming week.



Wishing you all another wonderful week. May the strength of Christ be with you all.

Regards,

Denise (Acting APRE – Assistant Principal Religious Education)

TUCKSHOP

As outlined in Denise's news, this week tuckshop will be slightly different. Big Lunch will be **Fish and Chip Friday**. By ordering you will be supporting Project Compassion. There will be much the same items for Morning Tea selection. Please ask your child for the menu.

If any parents would like to come and help with the cooking of the fish and chips with their deep fryers, please let us know.

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

We desperately need a new collection point for our batteries!!!

For several years the collection point has been at the LMB Farm, Stockton road. However due to the Panama threat, Gavin has understandably put into place procedures to protect his farm and it means our battery collection point will need to be shifted.

We are hoping another school family might volunteer a location at their residence/property. This involves allowing people to deliver batteries on to pallets (mostly this would be either Paul Calleja or Duncan Plumb, our battery coordinators). When enough batteries are collected, a truck is organized to collect them. It would be ideal if there was a forklift available to load the batteries onto the truck. Please see the P & F Executive or the office if you can volunteer a storage place. The battery collection accounts for a large portion of our P & F fundraising and so it is important for the school to find a new location as a matter of urgency. Thank you.

GO PURPLE FOR EPILEPSY

THIS Friday 27th March we will go purple and help unmask epilepsy.

During the month of March, Epilepsy Queensland is running a campaign to increase awareness about epilepsy. In support of this we are encouraging the children of St. Rita's to wear a purple accessory to school on Friday. Some suggestions might include – purple hats, purple hair ribbons, purple socks, purple glasses or purple masks etc. Normal school sports uniform is to be worn... just add something purple if you can. We have plenty of purple ribbons and sashes at school if you find it difficult to accessorize in this colour.

Purple Day was founded in 2008 by 9 year old Cassidy Megan of Canada. Motivated by her own struggles with epilepsy, she started Purple Day in an effort to get people talking about epilepsy and to inform those with epilepsy that they are not alone. Cassidy named the day Purple Day after the internationally recognised colour for epilepsy – lavender.

DID YOU KNOW ?

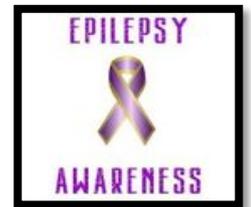
- 10% of Australians will have a seizure during their lifetime, while 3-4% will be diagnosed with epilepsy.
- Anyone at any time can be diagnosed with epilepsy; however the majority are school aged.
- There are many different types of epilepsy associated seizures.
- Stigma, discrimination and misconceptions associated with epilepsy are sometimes worse than the condition itself.
- For over 45 years, Epilepsy Queensland has been providing vital support, services and information to people with epilepsy and their families as well as training and resources for health, disability and education workers.



One of the main reasons that we have chosen to support Epilepsy Queensland in their attempt to raise awareness about this condition is because we have a student in our school who suffers from epilepsy. This is our way of supporting him and his family.

So... remember on Friday to GO PURPLE !!

Thank you.



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.**

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.

"Always chase your dreams instead of running from your fears."
– **Anonymous**

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.



Presents

The Imitation Game (M)

27, 28 & 29 March

7.30pm

Admission \$8.00



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)

27 March Go Purple for Epilepsy

31 March Cross Country

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

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

WEEK 9 - 23RD March 2015

ENROLMENTS:

Enrolments for 2016 are open with 11 names already in the book for Prep next year. I encourage everyone to talk to friends who have a Prep child next year to get their name on the waiting list. I am very aware that the larger schools in town are doing their interviews as early as next term so we do not want children to slip away. At this stage I will be planning for a projected five classes next year instead of six. We were enormously lucky to have an over-allocation of one whole teacher this year, hence being able to have a class as small as 12 children. This is our worst case scenario if we can get the numbers we may still be able to have six classes. Traditionally we have only had five classes.

PARENT WELCOME NIGHT:

Thank you to the parents who attended the welcome night on Friday 13th. Numbers were a little disappointing, but a good time was had by the families that did attend and the children enjoyed the movies and lolly bags.

BUILDING:

I am holding a meeting with Mark Stallman, Capital and Buildings Manager CES Cairns Wednesday morning to go over the plans for our new building before submission next week. I am told that we can if needed, make small changes once the plans have gone in. At the last meeting there were some concerns about the toilets. I asked Mark about this and he sent me photos of a similar layout from a new school in Brisbane.

STAFF:

You will notice in this week's newspapers an advertisement for a teaching position at St

Rita's. Last Tuesday Angela rang to inform me that she had, after much deliberation decided to resign her position here at St Rita's. This decision was not made lightly, however her health and well-being comes first. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all she has done within our community for the past four years. We will take the opportunity to thank her at an assembly early next term. Kate has the opportunity now to apply for this position for the rest of the year as she is in a relieving capacity at this time.

PROJECTS:

- Thank you to Sheryl Cavanagh who courageously put up her hand to become our new grants coordinator. Sheryl has taken on the position with gusto, already helping the school pen two grants, one for an "Agriculture in Schools" grant of \$5000 through the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and one for an Artist in Residence. Sheryl has also put together a proposal for the revamp of the playground.
- We have been successful in obtaining \$1500 on behalf of the P&F for the Parent Education fund. We submitted this to obtain the services of Susan McLean. Susan McLean is Australia's foremost expert in the area of cyber safety and young people and was a member of Victoria Police for 27 years. Susan was the lady who I quoted following the P&F State Conference last year. Susan has worked with the FBI.
- Jenni, Sheryl and myself met with Marina from Big Splash, on site to discuss possibilities to create a play area, that was conducive to all classes. The proposal looked at adding two pieces of large equipment for climbing and some sand play components, as well as addressing the sand problem and

extending fences. We would also incorporate safety messages to tie in with the South Johnstone Mill. The quote returned at \$49 000 dollars which was quite excessive. Having only received the quote at the end of last week we have not had the opportunity to discuss the quote further with Marina or to seek other quotes. It is definitely too much money for the mill to pay as part of their proposal.

- **BATTERIES** – As you all know with the impact of Panama disease we feel it would be appropriate for us to move our collection point to safeguard the Buchanan farm on Stockton Road. We say a huge thank you to Craig and Jade for allowing us to use this collection point for so long, and their help with the venture. We will do a huge drive now and have all the batteries collected and then start anew at a new sight. If anyone can volunteer a new sight please let us know ASAP. If you have, or know of anyone who has batteries please get them to the collection site ASAP.

LEUVEN CATHOLIC IDENTITY PROJECT:

This year we have enrolled in the Leuven Catholic Identity Project. As you all know Religion is our core business and it is what we are all about. The above project allows leaders in Catholic Schools to analyse the religious culture of their schools and how it will affect the future decisions made. The involvement of parents is by way of an online survey which is a little lengthy but does not have to be done in one session. All results are sent back to Leuven or one of their partner organisations in Australia for collation. We then receive, based on information collected, recommendations and commendations. This survey will be open in the next week affording you time over the holidays to sit down and complete

it. All results have to be in by the end of April.

Vicki Conomo
(Principal)



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
- 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.