

ST RITA'S SCHOOL, SOUTH JOHNSTONE

Weekly Newsletter Term 4, Week 2 2015

13 October 2015



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

It's great to be back! I would like to thank Denise and the rest of my wonderful staff for keeping the school running efficiently in my absence.

Yesterday the staff spent a day with Adam from *Real Schools Australia* kicking off our partnership and getting everyone on the same page. The staff are very enthused with the information and strategies they worked through with Adam and were keen to get started in their classes with him today.

Thank you to the 30+ parents who came to the information session last night. I am confident that you all took something away from the session and I ask you to share with the rest of the parent community. As Adam stated last night, the information will be on the *Real School* website, to which you now have access. The logon details are as follows:

Login : stritascssj

Password : stritascssj

Take the time to visit the website and read what our partnership will entail.

Just a reminder that next Monday, October 19th is a **pupil free day**. All teachers and school officers will be off site. The teachers will be meeting with staff from the other four schools in the southern deanery as well as the staff from Thursday Island. During the day the teachers will be comparing

work samples at their appropriate year levels to ensure that there is consistency across schools. The school officers will be attending an IT in-service in Silkwood.

Over the holidays Luke Magnanini, Braden Venables, Jessica Magnanini and Mikayla Camuglia played in the Australian National Futsal Championship in Brisbane. Well done. Congratulations to Mikayla who has been selected in the U13 Girls Australian Futsal team to compete in Barcelona in May 2016.

Tomorrow, Denise and I will meet with Mrs Toni Foley, from the Faith and RE team at CES to go over the results of our Catholic Identity Project Survey. I will give you the results in a future newsletter. Once again thank you to the parents who completed this survey.

On the subject of surveys, before I went away last term I sent a link for the Annual Satisfaction Surveys. It is extremely important that these are completed. The survey only takes two minutes and is nothing like the ESCIP survey. The survey is only open for one more week so please complete it as we use results for forward planning:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/StJohnstoneParent2015StRitas>

God bless, Have a great week.

Vicki



**There IS
Assembly
this week.**

Mikayla in action on the court.
Congratulations on your selection.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

**SYNOD OF BISHOPS ON
THE FAMILY:**

4th – 25th OCTOBER 2015

**THEME: The Vocation and
Mission of the Family in the Church and the
Contemporary World**



So what is a Synod of Bishops?

It's a coming together (usually every 3 years) of the Pope with Bishops from around the world to discuss important issues facing the Church.

Why all the attention on this Synod?

It has attracted far more attention than any other Synod in living memory, probably because...

- 1. The topic, that is the family, is where we live our most intimate relationships.*
- 2. There are massive sociological changes that families face.*
- 3. There is wide interest in Pope Francis.*

In preparation for the Synod, the Vatican sent the world's Catholic bishops conferences a list of questions about family, marriage and sexuality. The bishop's conferences were asked to consult with 'academic institutions', organizations, lay movements and other ecclesial associations in preparing their responses that will serve as the basis for the synod's working document. Finally, Pope Francis is expected to publish his conclusions.

THE HIDDEN BEAUTY AND POWER OF THE FAMILY

During this special event within our Universal Church it is appropriate to reflect on Pope Francis' many suggestions for family life. Primarily though he reminds us that, ***“God chose to come into the world in a human family... in a remote village of the Roman Empire”***, and that the first 30 years of his life were spent in the mundane things of family life.

He also comments that, ***“Our society might say, ‘What a waste!’ but what was important there was the family! And this is not a waste. Each Christian family can first of all – as Mary and Joseph did – welcome Jesus, listen to him, speak with him; and in this way improve the world.”***



THE THREE EXPRESSIONS....

Pope Francis recommends that in our family life we say these simple words daily.

1. May I?

Before doing anything in your family, ask “Do you mind if I do this?”

This is full of love and respect for others and does so much good for families.

2. Thank you

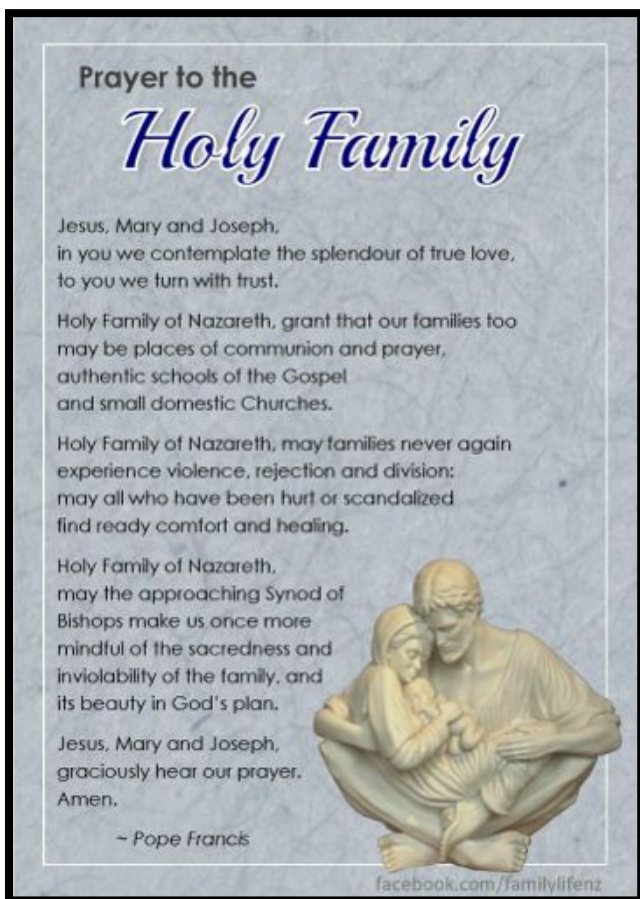
A Christian who does not know how to thank has lost the very 'language' of God. Gratitude stands at the very core of the faith of the believer and this really is something beautiful.

3. Pardon Me

It is not always easy to say but so necessary. So many wounds are the result of a lack of these precious words: "I am sorry". When it is lacking, little cracks begin to open up and can even become sinkholes. Don't let the sun go down without having made peace with your family.

A PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD ON THE FAMILY

As Catholics we are called to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit during this very important time and we especially pray for our two attending Australian Bishops – Archbishop Mark Coleridge of Brisbane and Bishop Eugene Hurley of Darwin.



Prayer to the
Holy Family

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
in you we contemplate the splendour of true love,
to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too
may be places of communion and prayer,
authentic schools of the Gospel
and small domestic Churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again
experience violence, rejection and division;
may all who have been hurt or scandalized
find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
may the approaching Synod of
Bishops make us once more
mindful of the sacredness and
inviolability of the family, and
its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
graciously hear our prayer.
Amen.

~ Pope Francis

facebook.com/familylifenz

The poster features a central image of a white sculpture depicting the Holy Family (Jesus, Mary, and Joseph) in a protective embrace. The background is a light, textured grey.

(Sources – rcav.org/the-synod-on-the-family/ www.catholicnewsagency.com www.ncronline.org/feature-series/synod-family Australian Catholic Marriage and Family Council for the Bishops Commission for Family, Youth and Life 2015)

Wishing you all a wonderful week. May the words of Pope Francis renew in us the sacredness of our family. Peace be with you all.

Regards,
Denise (Acting APRE)

REAL SCHOOLS DOOR PRIZE WINNERS

Davies Family - Cairns Coconuts \$100 voucher
Karla Calleja - One week off homework
Manitto Family - Paronella Park Family Pass
Congratulations to all winners

TUCKSHOP

There is tuckshop this week. Please ask your child for a menu. **Please note there is a change to the menu – the custard comes with fruit, not just strawberries.**

CENT SALE DONATIONS NEEDED!



We are in need of items for our Cent Sale for Melbourne Cup. This is the biggest money raiser on the day. Please keep an eye out for sale items. **Please bring anything in that you would like to donate by 23 October.** Items should be taken to the tuckshop. Melissa Leonardi is coordinating the cent sale again this year. If you have no idea, please don't hesitate to ask Melissa or at the office or any parent who may have been involved in past years.

MELBOURNE CUP

Melbourne Cup is **ONLY THREE WEEKS AWAY**. Seats are filling fast so if you want to book a table/seats please contact – Tanya Pensini tany@plumbbuilding.com.au ph: 0417705498.

A Volunteer helpers form went out today. It would be appreciated if this form could be returned to the office by 19 October. Any bit of help goes a long way and is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(new dates in yellow)

TERM 4

Wks 1-5	Interschool Sport
14 Oct	Billy Slater Cup
19 Oct	PUPIL FREE DAY
29 Oct	Susan McLean – Cyber Safety
3 Nov	Melbourne Cup
9-13 Nov	Swimming – lower school
11 Nov	Remembrance Day
16-20 Nov	Swimming – upper school

2016

25 Jan **First Day of School**

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Is your child interested in learning a musical instrument? Our program is offered to students in Year 1 to Year 6. Should you wish for your child to participate in the program, an agreement can be obtained from the office. The cost is \$15.50 per lesson (one lesson per week) and this fee is added to your school fee statement. Mr Wilshire would like to encourage any child interested. Instruments taught include –
GUITAR/BASS GUITAR
KEYBOARD
WOODWIND – Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone
BRASS – Trumpet, Baritone, Trombone
PERCUSSION - Drums



STUDENT TRAVEL REBATES Semester 2, 2015



Bus Fare Assistance

- Does your child attend a school outside the Brisbane City Council boundary?
- Does your family spend more than \$33/week* on fares to and from school (* \$25/week if you hold a concession card)?
- Does your child travel on a publicly available bus not owned or associated with the school?

Students with Disabilities

- Does your child have a verified disability that requires transport assistance to and from school?
- Has your school's learning support teacher assessed your child's travel capability rating as 'semi-independent' or more dependent?

Visit our website to see if you qualify for financial assistance to help with the cost of transport and

apply at www.schooltransport.com.au by 31 October 2015.

Late applications cannot be accepted.



Presents
Pan (PG)

16, 17 & 18 October

7.30pm

Admission \$8.00



NAB AFL Auskick is running at your school in Term 4!

Where: St Ritas School Oval

When: First session is on Tuesday 20th of October 2015

Time: 3:20pm – 4:20pm

Length of program: 7 weeks*

Cost: \$70

When you participate in Auskick you also receive your very own football, backpack with a hat, pump plus heaps more!

Sign up online at www.aflauskick.com.au

or call Shay Warburton on 4042 3000