

ST RITA'S SCHOOL, SOUTH JOHNSTONE

Weekly Newsletter Term 4, Week 7 2015

17 November 2015



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As the end of year looms I am now pleased to inform you that staffing has been completed for next year. Classes and teachers are listed below:

Prep	Miss Lauren Watkins
Year One	Miss Rachel White
Year 2/3	Mrs Donna Curzon and Mrs Beth Hayley
Year 3/4	Mrs Aileen Bufi and Mrs Andrea Devaney
Year 5/6	Mr Shane Rossi

After consultation with staff and many hours of discussion I am confident that this class structure is the best fit for our school in 2016. The Year 5/6 composite will be bigger in size than what we have been used to in recent years, however will be assisted by the employment of Mrs Magnanini for extra hours and the allocation of more school officer time. Mrs Magnanini will also be teaching the Year Three and Six classes Maths, as well as assisting with Technology. The current Year Two class is to be split into two multi-age classrooms, 2/3 and 3/4. I realize there is a social stigma attached to "composite" classes but many of these are archaic based on structures of years gone by and perhaps parents experience in their own education. A multi-age classroom has many benefits to the younger children as well as the older ones:

Modeling: One major advantage to children in multiage classrooms is the modeling that takes place. Younger students will imitate academic and social behaviors demonstrated by older children. In addition to this unintended, natural modeling, older students can also provide direct instruction to younger students. When older children 'teach' newly learned skills to younger classmates, they strengthen their own understanding of these skills.

Real Life Setting: Students in a multiage classroom have an environment with increased similarity of the real world. Certainly, grouping students strictly by age does not reflect a naturalistic life-like setting in which people of different ages learn from each other.

Leadership: Every year or two, students in multiage classrooms become the experienced students in the room. This phenomenon leads to the natural assumption of leadership roles in play and classroom activities. Children who would be reluctant to take charge in a graded classroom have a greater sense of responsibility because they are the oldest in the class, and try various leadership roles. The assumption of these responsibilities increases the confidence of the older students as well. Since older students develop their leadership skills, younger students are given opportunities to engage in more complex activities than they could initiate on their own.

Character Building: Multiage classrooms provide older students with the valuable experience of developing their nurturing skills. These skills, crucial to parenting, manifest themselves naturally in a mixed-age setting. Mixed-age grouping can provide older children with the opportunity to be helpful, patient, and tolerant of younger peers' competencies, and thus give them some of the desirable early experiences of being nurturing that underlie parenting and helping others who are different from oneself. The presence of younger children also helps antisocial older children. Younger children are particularly helpful in reducing the isolation of socially withdrawn older children. Also, helping others can help older students' sense of self-confidence. Being needed and admired by less able students improves a student's self-concept.

Community: In a group of children of different ages, competition is reduced and the atmosphere is generally collaborative. The group becomes a supportive family. Competition among students is replaced by a growing sense of community. There is less bullying, more taking turns, and greater social responsibility. Work in cooperative groups also improves because of the varying ages. The children in a multiage classroom form a cohesive parent group and learn to support each other rather than to compete.

I ask parents of the Year 2 children to come sometime this week and see me if they have any requests for their child's placement next year. Class lists will be distributed in the last week of term.

I recently asked if there was anyone within our school community who would like to take over the responsibility of mowing the lawn. At present I have had no interest so

am putting it out there again in case someone missed my first request.

If you have a child who is in Year Four next year who will be receiving their sacraments, please contact the parish office on 40616633 to register your child's name, so that Lisa has an indication of how many children will be involved in the program.

At our final P&F meeting for the year yesterday morning, Fr Kerry informed us that the parish will be going ahead with the construction of a toilet on the side of the church. I urge all parents who are involved in the building trade to keep an eye out for the tenders for the job which also involves the building of toilets at Christ the King, Mourilyan and St Rita's Babinda.

We are hoping this week to take delivery of ten new i-book laptops purchased with the money raised from our Trek for Tech. Once again thank you for your efforts with fundraising to make this possible.

On Wednesday December 2nd I invite all parents, grandparents and friends who have given generously of their time to help in school activities during 2015, to attend a morning tea in their honour, at 9am in the little hall. Your assistance with swimming, tuckshop, P&F activities, classroom helping, trek for tech, under 8's day, to name a few is very much appreciated and helps lighten the load. We hope to see as many people as possible there.

Have a great week. God Bless.

Vicki



There is a special Mini Vinnies assembly this week. Friday morning after the bell.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

ST.VINCENT DE PAUL: CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2015



The Vinnies Christmas Appeal runs annually throughout November to February to support people that will suffer in silence and who will be 'doing it tough' over the Christmas period. This appeal aims to provide much needed help from practical assistance to food hampers, emotional support, toys and gifts for children, individuals and families so they too can experience the joy of the festive season.

As many of you will be aware, our St. Rita's community is committed to assisting this very worthwhile charity organization of the Catholic Church. Our Mini Vinnies team has certainly led the way this year and has worked hard to raise funds for the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Thank you to each and every family who donated food or gift items last Friday. These will be used to make our Christmas hampers. Without your generous support it simply would not be possible to continue to help those in need in our local area.

This Friday, 20th November we will hold a special assembly to present the Christmas hampers to the invited members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Innisfail. On this day the Mini Vinnies group will also hand over a cheque for the total amount of funds that they have raised throughout the year.

DID YOU KNOW VINNIES CHANGES LIVES EVERYDAY? Here's how.....

- Vinnies helps about 1.8 million people each year (over half a million are children)
- There are over 40 000 volunteers Australia wide
- Each year tens of thousands of Australians experience homelessness at Christmas

SO HOW DOES OUR FUNDRAISING HELP?

- \$50 can provide a set of clothes for a teenager experiencing homelessness
- \$210 can provide a bed and meals for one week for a person

- \$500 can provide training for an adult to re-enter the workforce

SOMETHING TO REMEMBER...

"CARING FOR THE POOR IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY"

"PREFERENTIAL CARE SHOULD BE SHOWN TO THE POOR AND VULNERABLE PEOPLE, WHOSE NEEDS AND RIGHTS ARE GIVEN SPECIAL ATTENTION IN GOD'S EYES."



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS:

This Wednesday, 18th November the Year 2 and Year 3 classes will have their class liturgy with Fr Kerry in the church at 11.30am. It will be a Liturgy of the Word that focuses on the theme of 'Generosity'- a very appropriate message at this time of the year. Thank you to Mrs Bufi and Mrs Johnston who have prepared the celebration. Parents are welcome to join us.



MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL PARISH NEWS:

"LAUDATO SI" – Twilight Session on 'Laudato Si' an Encyclical Letter on Ecology and Climate by Pope Francis

Guest Presenter Fr John Chalmers

VENUE: Mother of Good Counsel Parish Centre

DATE: Monday 23rd November

TIME: 6.30pm – 8.30pm

ALL WELCOME

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR 2016

Enrolment forms are now available for the Sacramental Program for 2016. If you have a child who has been baptised Catholic and will be in Year 4 in 2016 (or in an older grade) then please contact Angie at the Parish Office on 40616633 or drop in to collect an enrolment form.

The Sacramental Program includes the Sacraments of Reconciliation, the Sacrament of Confirmation and the Sacrament of Eucharist. Early in the new year, once enrolments have been finalised, a brochure will be posted to you outlining what the Sacraments are about and important dates to take note of. Lisa De Buck is the Sacramental Coordinator.



Wishing you all another wonderful week as our term is quickly drawing to a close.
May the peace of Christ be with you all.
Denise (Acting APRE – Assistant to the Principal, Religious Education)

URGENT !! HELP NEEDED

We need a volunteer to gurney the big hall in preparation for next week's Christmas Concert. Ideally this will need to be done this weekend. If you can help PLEASE contact the office.



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Please mark the following dates in your diaries for our end of year functions –

Friday 27 November

Christmas Concert

Monday 30 November

Yr 6 Grad Dinner

Tuesday 1 December

Instrumental Music Concert 1.30pm

Friday 4 December

Graduation Assembly

Graduation Mass 10.30am

School finishes 12noon

(no homework club)

FEES OVERDUE

A reminder that School Fees were due 27 October. We ask that every effort is made to pay as a matter of urgency. Unless you have a Direct Debit arrangement set up, all fees must be finalized by Week 9. It is at this time of the year CES will begin to look at outstanding accounts and will consider taking further action to recoup debts. Please do not hesitate to contact Vicki should there be any difficulties. Thank you.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

School will be dismissed at 12pm. Please ensure that all children are picked up at this time. Homework Club will not be operating and no staff are available for supervision.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Friday, 27 November

6.30pm for a 7pm start

Children will be required to be at the school no later than 6.30pm so that costumes and props can be organized. Children are to assemble in their classrooms. Mrs Kenny will send out a note soon with more details, however please note that no one will need to purchase any item for their child's concert item. Parents are asked to please bring a plate for a shared supper at the end of the evening. Thank you.

TUCKSHOP

There is NO tuckshop this week

YOUR OPINION NEEDED

We were asked at the last P & F Meeting to get your views on how to spend some of the P & F funds raised this year. Can you please tick or number in importance the following suggested items. Or you could send a return email or pop into the office. Thank you.

- Tuckshop servery
- Home Readers
- Chairs (for classrooms, functions etc)
- Sporting equipment
- Nets for our futsal goals

SCHOOL UNIFORMS FOR 2016

School uniforms will be on sale through the office from Tuesday 19 January to Friday 22 January, 2016 from 9am to 2pm.

Payment can be made by cash or cheque; no credit card facilities available. Sorry we cannot give out change. Please itemize your order on the back of an envelope and fill out your details on the front. This will make things a lot quicker and easier.

Uniform prices are -

Skorts	\$20
Blouses	\$30
Sports shorts	\$20
Sports shirts	\$30
Hair scrunchies	various
School badges	\$4.50

If you have a child that requires an odd size uniform, please contact Margaret Tinney on 0422 951 862. Margaret sews the girl's blouses and skorts for the school.

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASS

6.30PM

Calling for all parts: Joseph, Mary, shepherds, angels and animals.

Come and be part of the real meaning of Christmas. Practice for the Children's Gospel will be on Friday 11 and 18 December, commencing at 3.30pm in Mother of Good Counsel Church, Innisfail. Please contact Maria Clark on 4063 2210 or 0448 716 271 or Angie Sheerans on 0409 871 636.

Posting our letters to Santa





Presents
THE DRESSMAKER (M)
 20, 21 & 22 Nov
 7.30pm
 Admission \$8.00



KIDS' CLUB

SOUTH JOHNSTONE HALL

2pm - 4pm

Saturday 19/12/2015 - 23/01/2016

This summer, SJYACA Inc will host a family circle/kids' club on Saturday afternoons at the S J Hall.

We invite families to attend (children *must* be accompanied by an adult) to share skills and participate in activities over the long holiday break.

Entry: Gold Coin donation per person, or \$5 per family

Afternoon tea provided

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(new dates in yellow)

TERM 4

- 16-20 Nov Swimming – upper school
- 16-20 Nov Book Fair
- 24 Nov Parent/Student League Tag**
2pm
- 27 Nov Christmas Concert
- 30 Nov Grad Dinner
- 1 Dec Instrumental Music Concert**
Parent/Student Soccer 2pm
- 2 Dec Yr 5/6 Warrina Lakes**
- 4 Dec Graduation Assembly**
Graduation Mass 10.30am
End of Term – 12pm
(No homework Club)

2016

- 25 Jan Pupil Free Day**
- 26 Jan Australia Day Public Holiday
- 27 Jan First day of school (9 wks)**
- 24 March Last day Term 1**
- 11 April First day Term 2 (11 wks)**
- 24 June Last day Term 2**
- 11 July First day Term 3 (10 wks)**
- 16 Sept Last day Term 3**
- 4 Oct First day Term 4 (9 wks)**
- 2 Dec Last day of school 2016**

COWBOYS

EXCLUSIVE MEMBERSHIP FOR JRL PLAYERS & FAMILIES

2016 STAMPEDE BLUE+GREY

OPTION TO PURCHASE A CUSTOM FIT MOUTHGUARD FOR \$500
1300 GO COWBOYS

JRL STAR \$35	JRL STAR FAMILY \$120
EXCLUSIVE BENEFITS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child merchandise pack • Option to purchase a custom fit 1300SWILES mouthguard for \$50 • Plus core benefits and digital pack 	EXCLUSIVE BENEFITS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x adult merchandise packs + 2 x child merchandise packs • Option to purchase a custom fit 1300SWILES mouthguard for \$50 for each child member • Family GA pass to a 2016 Cowboys game (excluding Cowboys v Broncos) • Plus core benefits and digital pack

MEMBER BENEFITS

CORE BENEFITS PACK

- Priority booking to NLL finals*
- Entry to Buxby's Members Bar at all home games**
- Cowboys Leagues Club membership**
- 10% off home game tickets for family and friends**
- 10% off merchandise at the Cowboys Team Shop (online and in person)
- Access to exclusive members-only discount offers
- Invitation to Cowboys members-only events
- Voting rights for Members' Player 2016

DIGITAL PACK

- Team announcement email
- Member update email
- Club e-newsletter
- Breaking club news emails
- Member wallpaper for download to your selected device
- Weekly "inside news" content from Dawogo Media
- Members-only live streaming for selected club events***

ADULT

CHILD

JOIN NOW! MEMBERSHIP.COWBOYS.COM.AU / JRLSTAR
1300 GO COWBOYS (1300 462 692)

*Available to JRL players and includes 10% off NLL finals membership only. **Cash address must be supplied to receive notification of service status and booking updates. This includes 10% off home games. ***Live streaming is available for all adult and senior Buxby's Members Bar. ****10% home game discount - maximum purchase of four tickets per member. *** Live streaming availability is subject to availability in address.