

# ST RITA'S SCHOOL, SOUTH JOHNSTONE

Weekly Newsletter Term 4, Week 8 2016

15 March 2016



## ACTING PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

It is great to be back, having thoroughly enjoyed my time in the states. Things are very different over there, everything is big. The conference I attended was absolutely amazing. 30 000 people were in attendance and the heartwarming notion that everyone was there together, young and old, of all races and persuasions for the love of our God. I cannot begin to describe the liturgies, one had to be there to embrace the feeling in the arena. Singing in different languages, even a rapper, rapping out a hymn.

My highlight was attending a session with Sister Helen Prejean. Sr Helen, a Josephite sister, works with inmates on death row. If any of you have read the book or seen the movie "Dead Man Walking" it is an account of her relationship with [Elmo Patrick Sonnier](#), a convicted murderer. Sr Helen was with him when he was executed. Her story was thought provoking. She revealed that she never thought about the victims families until she was challenged at a trial by one of the victim's father. She now works closely with them as well. She is a strong advocate for the abolition of the death penalty in California.

Please keep the Jensen family in your prayers. Sandy's mum, Finn, Tom and Charlie's great grandmother, passed away peacefully yesterday morning. May God

keep her safely in his hands and spread his loving embrace over her family.

I wish to advise that starting day one next term, Homework Club will only be operating until 4p.m. I thank my staff for their dedication to this service. With the change in our homework structure there is no longer the need for the extended service.

It has been brought to my attention that there is some concern amongst the parent body at the amount of time that the teachers are out of the room and a supply teacher has to be brought in. I can assure you that the teachers feel the same way about being out of rooms and away from their classes. Teacher absences at professional development days are beyond our control as days are set down from CES. It has been a subject of recent principal meetings, that First Term should not have as many professional development days scheduled and is being reviewed. On a positive note be assured that the teachers are not "having a day off", they are engaged in professional learning and will return to the classroom invigorated, and armed with new technologies and procedures to aid in student learning.

This Friday night is our Welcome night for 2016. Thank you to Mandy Stone and a small band of helpers for volunteering their time so that the night could go ahead. Pizza orders must be in at the office no later than Thursday 3pm. No late orders will be taken.

It would be great to get as many old and new parents along to the evening.

This Thursday the auditors will be here undertaking our annual audit. This is a very stressful time in the office so we ask your cooperation in leaving any queries unless urgent until Monday.

On Thursday I will be escorting the school leaders to the Caritas leadership day in Tully. Our school leaders have been involved in this day for the last few years now and it gives them a chance to look at their leadership roles and as a team what they can do back in their individual schools.

This Thursday is also St Patrick's Day so to celebrate the children are allowed to wear green.

A huge thank you needs to go out to Michelle and Malinda and their band of helpers who are whipping out a steady flow of lamingtons for the P&F lamington drive. This is the first major fundraiser for the P&F this year and by all accounts will be very successful.

We have had a reported case of scabies in the school. Once treated it is not contagious. If your child develops an itch or rash please see a doctor.

With only just over a week left of Term One thank you all for a successful start to the year. Remember to keep Thursday of next week free firstly for our Easter presentation in the morning and the school cross country in the afternoon.

Have a great week. God bless.

Vicki

## ASSEMBLY

There is **NO** assembly this week.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS



#### **HOW IS LENT GOING? IT'S NOT TOO LATE .....**

*As we move into the fifth week of Lent it is a good time to stop and reflect upon our journey so far.*

*The season of Lent is intended as a time for personal conversion leading up to Easter. The belief is that participating in spiritual practices like prayer, fasting and almsgiving is a form of purification that improves our spiritual well-being, much like exercise improves our physical well-being.*

So by stripping away all that is unnecessary in our lives we become more mindful of our ultimate dependence on God in our lives.

*"Lent is an annual opportunity to grow in faith, which means that it is about more than giving up unhealthy foods or treats, as you may have done when you were a child. It is about abstaining from whatever is unhealthy in our lives – gossip, laziness, lack of social conscience – and most importantly, taking concrete steps to do something more." (Lareau, 2009)*

Now is a great time to initiate change and spiritual growth. Not sure where to start?

Have you ever thought about the practices of fasting, prayer and almsgiving in a broader context? What if these practices involved doing things like:

- Reducing your dependence on electronic devices for 24 hours (**fast**)
- Contemplating the 1.6 billion people in the world who have no access to electricity for a few moments (**pray**)
- Spending the extra time you have saved on personal interaction with someone important to you (**give**)
- Reducing your carbon footprint for a day by using less **energy** (**fast**)

- Reflecting for 2 minutes on the magnificent gift our natural environment is (pray)
- Placing just a \$1 a day in a bowl set aside to collect money for a favourite charity. (give)

These ideas come from the ministry resource –

[www.bustedhalo.com](http://www.bustedhalo.com)

For more great information on ideas for celebrating Lent, search

[www.bustedhalo.com/features/fast-pray-give/](http://www.bustedhalo.com/features/fast-pray-give/))



**ST. PATRICK'S DAY : 17<sup>th</sup> March**



This Thursday is St. Patrick's Day.

St. Patrick is a prominent saint in the Catholic Church and is the patron saint of Ireland. Legend credits St. Patrick with teaching the Irish the doctrine of the Holy Trinity by showing people the shamrock (a three-leaved plant) to illustrate the teaching of the three persons in one God. This story first appears in writing in about about 1726, though it may be older. The shamrock has since become a central symbol for St Patrick.

**As a part of our celebration of St. Patrick's Day the children of St. Rita's are allowed to wear green coloured clothing on Thursday.**

**THIS COMING SUNDAY IS PALM SUNDAY.... The beginning of Holy Week !**

On Palm Sunday we remember Jesus' joyful entry into Jerusalem. The Gospels tell of crowds laying branches on the road for Jesus and proclaiming him as king but he is then betrayed and crucified. Palm Sunday highlights the paradox of Christ's kingship; our palms represent his victory, but a victory that comes only through suffering and sacrifice.



*Praise God.... Praising another helps us focus on their strengths and gives us a positive outlook. When we praise God, we feel blessed and humbled that one so great could love us so much. Praise prayer brings us closer to God.*

**“PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST!  
WE WORSHIP YOU, WE PRAISE YOU,  
WE GIVE YOU THANKS!  
HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!”**



**PROJECT COMPASSION NEWS:**

This Friday is 'Fish and Chip Friday'.

Tuckshop orders were sent home yesterday for this Friday. Please note that there is no Little Lunch tuckshop on Friday – only Big Lunch. The proceeds from 'Fish and Chip Friday' will go towards our fundraising for Project Compassion 2016. Thank you to Malinda Eaves for helping to coordinate this event and the small group of mums that have offered to help out on the day. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

**LEARNING MORE  
CREATING CHANGE**



**This week's Project Compassion feature story – Sreymom from Cambodia**

Education and training have helped Sreymom transform from an inexperienced young midwife into a confident healthcare worker. Now she has the skills to provide vital healthcare, support and information to indigenous mothers and children in remote Northeast Cambodia. Sreymom achieved this through enrolling in the Mondulkiri Community Health Program established by Caritas Cambodia with the support of Caritas Australia. For more information-

[www.caritas.org.au/projectcomapssion/weekly-stories/week-5-sreymom](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcomapssion/weekly-stories/week-5-sreymom)

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM: SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

On the weekend six of our Year 4 children participated in the Reconciliation Retreat in Innisfail as members of the Mother of Good Counsel Parish. During the day they participated in a variety of activities as part of their preparation to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In a nutshell, reconciliation is the special way that we ask for forgiveness from God for some of the poor choices we have made in our lives and from which we are able to start again.



Please pray for *Genevieve Lindsay, Hannah Foschi, Jorja Buchanan, Tiarne Eilers, Megan Calleja, Ted Kenny and Matthew Brincat* as they will soon receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation .

Wishing you all a wonderful week. May the peace of Christ be with you all.  
Regards,  
Denise ( Acting Principal/APRE)

**TUCKSHOP**

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

**IGAS TESTING DATES  
YEARS 3-6 ONLY**

Subject	Sitting Date	Closing Date	Price.
Digital Tech	17/05/16	03/05/16	\$8.00
Science	31/05/16	17/05/16	\$8.00
Writing	13-17/06/16	30/05/16	\$17.00
Spelling	15/06/16	01/06/16	\$11.00
English	02/08/16	19/07/16	\$8.00
Maths	16/08/16	02/08/16	\$8.00

Unfortunately, we are unable to take any late nominations so please have your payment in prior to the closing date. Thank you.



Presents

The Finest Hours in 3D (M)

11, 12 & 13 March  
7.30pm  
Admission \$8.00



**PARENT TEACHER  
INTERVIEWS  
ONLINE**



Don't forget to book your parent teacher interview online. Instructions have been emailed out. If you are having trouble please ring the office.



13-17 June	ICAS Writing
15 June	ICAS Spelling
20-24 June	Interhouse Sports Week
24 June	End of Term
<b>TERM 3</b>	
11 July	Start of Term 3
25-29 July	Catholic Education Week
27, 29 July	District Field & Athletics
27 July	School Photos
2 Aug	ICAS English
3-4 Aug	Prep/Yr 1 Camp
16 August	ICAS Maths
30 Aug-2 Sept	Yr 6 Camp – Charters Towers
16 Sept	End of Term
<b>TERM 4</b>	
3 Oct	Queen's Birthday Holiday
4 Oct	Start of Term 4
25 Oct	Wonder of Living Afternoon Parent Session
26 Oct	Good Counsel College Year 7 Orientation Day
27 Oct	Wonder of Living Class Sessions
2 Nov	Melbourne Cup
11 Nov	Remembrance Day

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NEW DATES IN YELLOW

### TERM 1

17 March	St Patrick's Day
24 March	School Cross Country
	End of Term 1
25 March	Good Friday
27 March	Easter Sunday

### TERM 2

11 April	Start Term 2
18 April	Real Schools – Adam Voigt
25 April	Anzac Day
29 April	District Cross Country
2 May	Labour Day public holiday
8 May	Mother's Day
16-20 May	Book Fair
17 May	ICAS Digital Technologies
20 May	Peninsula Cross Country
23-25 May	Yr 4/5 Camp – Eco Creek
31 May	ICAS Science

### Generating Happiness

Happiness is a wish most parents have for their children. While there is no magic ingredient, happy families tend to generate happy children. The Family Strengths Research Project has shown happy families have the following commonalities:

- **Commitment:** Trust each other and keep promises. Dedication and loyalty can emerge from a shared family mission statement
- **Togetherness:** have an understanding of family history / past and future goals
- **Shared Activities:** play together, share and do things together, e.g. sports, games, stories, meals, holidays
- **Communication:** listen to each other, have an equal say and contribution e.g. regular family meetings
- **Support:** look out and take an interest in each other, as well as yourself. Parents need to take time out for themselves and have their own needs met too e.g. pursuing own hobbies and interests
- **Acceptance:** respect and appreciate each other's differences and points of view. Forgive each other, discourage competition and allow each other their own space
- **Resilience:** adapt to changing circumstances, talk things through, pull together and learn as a family
- **Affection:** sharing of feelings through hugs, cuddles and kisses

For help/ideas chat to your Parenting Promotion Officer:  
Jolene 0488321605 F everyfamilycassowarycoast



Carved out by Stan Terry



You and your guests are cordially invited to the

**Innisfail Art Society Inc**

**2016 ART**

**Awards & Exhibition**

**OFFICIAL OPENING 7.30pm, Saturday 19 MARCH 2016**

by Mr Andrew Cripps MP,  
Member for Hinchinbrook  
**DOORS OPEN AT 7PM**

**INNISFAIL SHIRE HALL, Rankin Street, Innisfail**

**\$10 ENTRY FEE on opening night**

**Finger food & drink ticket provided, cash bar**

**Exhibition open on Feast of the Senses MARKET DAY  
until 7pm 23 March**



Mr Andrew Cripps MP  
Mr Herb Layt  
MSF Sugar  
Paronella Park  
Bohnie's Pharmacy  
Brothers Leagues Club  
Schmidt Family in memory Mr G&H Schmidt  
Innisfail Dentists  
Mr Kunobert Schmidt  
Mr Mark & Marsha Nolan  
JoJo's Epicurian Emporium  
Mr Jeff Beales  
Mr Scott Doherty  
Hendler Family  
High Scan  
ECU  
North Coast Machinery  
Flowerpots Innisfail  
The Picture Frame  
Oxlokes (formerly The Art Barn)  
Carns Create It (formerly Carns Craft Centre)