

# ST RITA'S SCHOOL, SOUTH JOHNSTONE

Weekly Newsletter Term 2, Week 10 2016

14 June 2016



## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I have attached to this newsletter a paper by Michael Grose, a respected parent educator, who I have quoted on previous occasions. The paper is on "Reading your child's report". I thought this was timely given Semester One reports will be coming home next Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup>. Report time is extremely stressful for some students. Celebrate their successes; remain positive and encouraging when looking at their challenges, considering ways to help them with difficulties. We put in a lot of time building up the children's self-esteem to "have a go" at things they find difficult, so approach from the angle, "What can we do to help you understand this concept better". Your child's teacher will be more than willing to help you with strategies and exercises, to aide in their educational journey. Your child is a unique individual, they are not their sibling, nor are they one of their peers. Comparing results is of no educational benefit for your child, in actual fact it may have an undesirable result.

For those of you who missed Susan MacLean when she came to St Rita's last year please read the attached flyer as Good Counsel Primary have her back next week at the following times:

**FIRST SESSION: WEDNESDAY 22 JUNE  
3:15 - 4:45pm (This is due to Wednesday  
night being State of Origin)**

**REPEAT SESSION: THURSDAY 23 JUNE  
7:00 - 8:30pm**

Susan is Australia's top cyber safety expert consulting to the Australian government. Read the attached flyer.

Next week, starting on Monday afternoon, around 1.15pm will be field rotations for our inter-school sports day between Palmerston and Fitzgerald. Rotations will also occur on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons at the same time. This schedule is subject to change without notice due to weather. The week will culminate with our whole day of competition on Friday, starting in the big hall at 9.00 am. A program for the week's events will be emailed out later in the week.

May I remind parents that our interschool sports is only a school sporting event. It is not the Olympics, and as such my staff run events to the best of their abilities, each child being given the same advantages. Parents must remember that the example they set, re sportsmanship, is how their child will respond on the sporting field. Children do what they see. Teacher's decisions are final and if parents have a problem they are to see me.

Another issue arising on sports day is the uploading of photos onto Facebook. Whilst it is OK for you to put your child's photo on Facebook, it is NOT OK to put a photo of another child without parental permission as we have some families in the school who do not give permission for their child's

photo to appear publicly. Please gain permission from the child's parent before doing so.

Next week we have three of our past pupils returning for work experience. Natasha Burns, Lauren Dalla Vecchia and Hannah Spinella will be helping out in classrooms for the week. They will also attend Read Me Day in Tully, one of the reasons for our not requiring parents, the other being we are not taking the Year Three's this year, therefore only require one bus.

A reminder that next Monday morning is our final P&F meeting for the term, in the staff room just after morning bell. The main agenda item is Strawberries and Cream at the show as that is the first week back next term.

Finally, today's Instrumental Music Concert was wonderful and we thank the children participating and Mr Wiltshire for their efforts.

God bless.

Vicki

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

*Have you ever been made to feel welcome that it is almost embarrassing? Or alternatively, have you ever been made feel very uncomfortable on arrival somewhere through the lack of a warm welcome?*

*How do you welcome people when they come for a meal? How have you been made to feel welcome?*

*Sunday's gospel tells the story of a woman who was thought to be sinful but it was her who ultimately welcomed Jesus and showed her love for him.*



### **THE 11<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: LUKE 7:36-8:3**

Last Sunday's gospel from Luke is really a story of great love and forgiveness. Jesus was at the table at the home of a Pharisee when a woman knelt at his feet weeping. Her tears fell on his feet and she wiped them with her hair. Then she covered his feet with kisses and anointed them with ointment. Jesus said to the others, ***"the one who is forgiven little shows little love."***

#### **Symbols and Images**

The welcome and homage given to Jesus by the sinful woman who recognizes his significance is in direct contrast to the lukewarm reception Jesus received from Simon the Pharisee, his host for the meal. The alabaster jar filled with ointment signifies that this is a gift of great value which the woman lavishes so generously on Jesus. Her faith is rewarded. Jesus said to her, ***"Your faith has saved you; go in peace."***

#### **A Closer Look**

The woman in this story had a bad reputation. The others did not like her, yet Jesus welcomed her. The scandal of love is that it gives people another chance. Love does not hold grudges. Love forgives.

#### **Why do we do that?**

The Catholic approach to reconciliation is deeply community-oriented. For us, sin is never a private affair. We believe that when one member of the Body of Christ hurts, the whole body suffers. We go to Reconciliation to make things right with God and to be healed with the entire Body of Christ too.

#### **Did you know?**

- Pharisees were holy men of Israel who were strict in their observance of ritual purity and Sabbath law.
- The act of anointing had several meanings in Jesus' time. It could signify the consecration of someone for a holy purpose or signify divine sanction or approval.



## Prayer Space

*Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord!*

*We ring out our joy for the Lord forgives!*

**AMEN**

## LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS: SCHOOL ASSEMBLY THIS FRIDAY

This Friday June 17<sup>th</sup>, the Prep class will lead our Prayer Liturgy. This is the very first time that they will do this and the theme for the morning is 'Let's Follow Jesus' based on the gospel reading for next Sunday. Please join us on Friday morning. Everyone is welcome!

Next week in our final week of term, the Yr 4 children will go to Reconciliation with Father Kerry in the church at 10am and then at

11.30 am the Year 5/6 class will acknowledge the action of the Holy Spirit in our lives as believers with a Eucharistic celebration. During this mass at Thanksgiving time the children will present their recent religion projects as a special form of reflection on the Holy Spirit.



## PRAYERS PLEASE: PRAYER HAS THE POWER TO UNITE

**Please keep in your prayers the victims, the families and all who have been touched over the last few days by the terrible tragedy of the massacre in the United States. May they find a way forward in their unimaginable grief and know that we stand with them offering our prayers as a source of comfort and unity.**

Wishing you all a wonderful week. God's richest blessings.  
Regards,

Denise (Acting APRE – Assistant to the Principal, Religious Education)

(Sources – The Summit : Vol 43 No. 2

[www.rc/wcc/readings/luke736.htm](http://www.rc/wcc/readings/luke736.htm)

Images - [www.warrencampdesign.com](http://www.warrencampdesign.com)

[www.brainyquote.com/quotes/topics/topic\\_forgiveness.html](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/topics/topic_forgiveness.html)

[www.crpisx.org](http://www.crpisx.org); [www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com))



## ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

**Approximately 9am in the Little Hall unless otherwise advised. Please note the schedule is subject to change if necessary.**

**Week 10 17 June**

## TUCKSHOP

There is NO tuckshop this week.

## TEXT MESSAGING SERVICE

We have just set up access to a text messaging service which will allow the school to send text messages to the school's parent body (each student's Main Contact as listed in eMinerva).

As this service does cost per usage we will continue to use emails in most circumstances. It gives us an increased opportunity to give parents notification in emergency situations (however, that is obviously dependent upon the type of emergency - upon access/availability of the internet etc during the emergency). We will test this system over the next couple of weeks.

## MILK BOTTLE LIDS NEEDED

Mrs Horsford, our teacher librarian, is in need of plastic milk bottle lids for a marvellous creation she and the children are preparing for the school's Show Display. She is in particular need of GREEN lids but also needs other colours. Can any

contributions be dropped to the office as soon as possible. Thank you.

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY

With school holidays just around the corner, now is the time to learn the ropes and become a junior firefighter. Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) is urging parents across the state to ensure their children are aware of fire safety and risks. Keeping fire safety in mind by involving kids in fire escape plans and smoke alarm checks can be an easy way to ensure they are fire savvy. There are many fun activities you can do together, including playing the Triple Zero game, to communicate safety messages all children should learn. Be sure to check out Blazer's Kids Corner for more information, and to get your very own junior firefighter certificate [www.fire.qld.gov.au/kids/](http://www.fire.qld.gov.au/kids/)

## ICAS TESTING DATES YEARS 3-6 ONLY

Subject	Sitting Date	Closing Date	Price.
Digital Tech	closed		
Science	closed		
Writing	closed		
Spelling	closed		
English	02/08/16	12/07/16	\$8.00
Maths	16/08/16	26/07/16	\$8.00

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NEW DATES IN YELLOW

### TERM 2

20-24 June Interhouse Sports Week Rotations – Monday, Wednesday, Thursday  
21 June Tully Read to Me Day

24 June	End of Term
	<b>TERM 3</b>
11 July	Start of Term 3
14-15 July	Strawberry & Cream Stall Innisfail Show
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
<b>16 August</b>	<b>U8s Day</b>
30 Aug-2 Sept	Yr 6 Camp – Charters Towers
2 Sept	Father's Night
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
<b>Fri 25 Nov</b>	<b>Year 6 Graduation Dinner</b>
<b>30 Nov</b>	<b>Christmas Concert</b>
2 Dec 12.30pm	School Finishes

### TEACHING OUR CHILDREN EMPATHY

Helping our children to develop empathy is one of the most special gifts we can give them.

Learning empathy requires practice and guidance. Regularly considering other people's perspectives and circumstances helps make empathy a natural reflex and helps children get better at understanding other people's feelings and perspectives. So, how can we, as parents, cultivate empathy? Here are some ideas: **Look for good in everyone.** When our children are faced with people they don't like or are at odds with, encourage him/her to try to find something good, however small, in that person.

**Empathize with your child and model empathy for others.** Children learn from watching us and

experiencing our empathy. Tune into their needs, understand and respect them, take a genuine interest in their lives. Children notice how we treat others and often they copy. Demonstrate empathy for others, including those different from you. Consider regularly engaging in community service or model other ways of contributing to the community. Even better, consider doing this with your child.

**Teach basic rules of politeness.** Good manners are a practical way for children to show care and respect for others.

**Make caring for others a top priority.** Consider the daily messages you send to children about the importance of caring. For example, say something like, “The most important thing is that you’re kind and that you’re happy.”

**Help your child understand that the world doesn’t revolve around them.** It’s vital at times for parents to put children’s concern for others above their happiness, for example, insisting at times that children turn off the TV and help around the house. Giving children jobs assists them in becoming more responsible and consequently also learning altruism and caring.

**Provide opportunities for children to practice empathy.** For instance, involve your child in charitable activities. Acts of kindness are a wonderful way to teach your child to have empathy. For instance, if a friend is unwell your child might help with making a special card to give them to help them feel better. Encourage empathy for peers. Ask your child(ren) about their classmates and other peers. Ask children when they’re in conflicts with peers to consider their peers’ perspectives.

**Reflect on empathy and caring.** Notice with your child when you’re together and someone exhibits strong empathy—or shows a lack of empathy, in your daily life, in a book or on television. Discuss why acts of

empathy are important and why lacking empathy can be harmful.

**When your child performs an act of kindness, tell him what they did well and be as specific as possible:** “You were very generous to share your sandwich with Tommy. I saw him smiling and I know he was happy.”

Natalie McKenzie (School Counsellor St Rita’s)



Presents  
**Captain America:  
Civil War 3D (M)**

**17, 18 & 19 June  
7.30pm  
Admission \$8.00**



**Well Women’s Clinics**  
(These clinics are available to Medicare eligible clients)

**Mamu Innisfail – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June – Ph: 4061 5102**  
**Innisfail Hospital – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June – Ph: 4226 4812**

Service includes Pap Smears, Sexual Health Screening, Breast Awareness, also info on Contraception, Continence, Menopause, Lifestyle Issues, Domestic Violence, etc. All services are provided by a specially trained Women’s Health Nurse.



## Reading your child's report

Reports can mean anxious times for children. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children.

*Could try harder ... always does her best ... looks concentrated ... easily distracted ... a pleasure to teach ...*

Do these comments, taken from a batch of student reports sound familiar?

Student reports bring mixed feelings for parents. Pleasure and pride if they are performing well but considerable angst when children are not progressing as you hoped.

Reports can mean anxious times for children too. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children. Kids of all ages take their cues from their parents, so your reaction to their school report can affect the way they see themselves as learners and as people.

Before you rip open the sealed envelope containing the report do a little self-check to see if you are in the right frame of mind.

**1. Are your expectations for your son or daughter realistic and in line with their ability?**

Expectations are tricky. If they are too high then kids can be turned off learning. Too low and there is nothing to strive for. Pick your expectations in line with your child's abilities. A quick check of your child's last report cards may provide you with a good yardstick.

**2. Do you believe that children learn at different rates?**

There are slow learners, late developers and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom, so avoid comparing your child to siblings, your friends' children and even yourself when you were a child. Instead look for individual progress.

**3. Are you willing to safeguard your child's self-esteem rather than deflate it?**

Self-confidence is a pre-requisite for learning, so be prepared to be as positive and encouraging as possible.

School reports come in different formats. Some are prescriptive while some use grading systems such as A, B, C, etc. with room for teacher comments. Regardless of the format school reports should provide you with an idea of your child's progress in all subject areas, their attitude and social development.

Here are some ideas to consider when you open your child's report.



**Focus on strengths.** Do you look for strengths or weaknesses first? The challenge is to focus on strengths even if they are not in the traditional 3Rs or core subjects.

**Take into account your child's effort and attitude to learning.** If the report indicates that effort is below standard, then you have something to work on. If your child is putting in the required effort, then you cannot ask any more than that, regardless of the grading.

**Broaden your focus** away from academic performance to form a picture of your child's progress as a member of a social setting. How your child gets along with his or her peers will influence his happiness and well-being, as well as give an indicator to his future. The skills of independence and co-operation are highly valued by employers so don't dismiss these as unimportant.

**Take note of student self-assessment.** Kids are generally very honest and will give a realistic assessment of their progress. They are generally very perceptive so take note of their opinions.

**Discuss the report with your son or daughter** talking about strengths first before looking at areas that need improvement. Ask for their opinion about how they performed and discuss their concerns.

After reports are read and discussed celebrate your child's efforts with a special activity or treat. In this way you will recognise progress and remind them that the holidays are just around the corner when they can forget about assessment, tests and reports for a while.

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Home Care Resources

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## GOOD COUNSEL PRIMARY THEATRETTE - 96 Rankin Street INNISFAIL

FIRST SESSION: WEDNESDAY 22 JUNE 3:15 - 4:45pm

REPEAT SESSION: THURSDAY 23 JUNE 7:00 - 8:30pm

SESSIONS SUITABLE FOR PARENT/CARERS - PREP TO YEAR 12

cybersafetysolutions

For Parents & Guardians

## Growing up Online:

An informative & entertaining session for Parents and carers is delivered with Susan's famous 'no nonsense' approach & will cover the positive benefits of technology as well as what parents need to be aware of:-

- ❖ What are kids doing online – The popular social networking sites and apps such as Kik, Musical.ly and Instagram. What they are, what are the legal ages to use them & why these rules should be obeyed. The difference between an 'online friend' and a 'stranger'.
- ❖ Online Grooming – What is it and when/how does it occur? What are the warning signs & what to do if you suspect this is happening to your child.
- ❖ Cyberbullying - What it is, where it happens, what it looks like, how to prevent and what to do if it occurs. Also the legal consequences and the possible criminal charges.
- ❖ 'Sexting' – the taking and sending of explicit images...what are the REAL consequences. (Primary school kids to).
- ❖ Potential dangers and safety tips – how to assist the children in your care to stay safe online via parental controls and restriction passcodes.
- ❖ Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner – Role, Resources & Reporting.
- ❖ Be confident in setting rules and boundaries around internet use in the home. It's OK to say NO!
- ❖ The session will conclude with time for Questions.



*Susan McLean is Australia's foremost expert in the area of Cybersafety and young people. She is a mother of three and was the first Victorian Police Officer appointed to a position involving Cybersafety and young people. She took her first report of cyberbullying in 1994 and since then she has conducted extensive research and has completed advanced training in this area in both the USA and UK and is a sought after presenter and advisor to Schools, elite sporting bodies such as the AFL, GP's, and both State and Federal Governments. She is a member of the National Centre Against Bullying (NCAB) Cybersafety Committee and is afforded 'expert' status on the Safer Internet Programme Data Base. She is also a member of the Australian Government's Cybersafety working group and a published author. Her book 'Sext's Texts & Selfies', is the definitive parents' guide to helping their children stay safe online.*

*What Susan doesn't know about Cybersafety is not worth knowing! She is absolutely brilliant and her presentations are dynamic and entertaining. She has the unique ability to connect with each audience from young people to adults.  
(Dr Michael Carr-Gregg Adolescent Psychologist)*

[www.cybersafetysolutions.com.au](http://www.cybersafetysolutions.com.au)



## Triple P

### **4. Managing Misbehaviour (part two)**

#### Back up your instructions with logical consequences

This involves removing an activity or privilege that is **directly related** to the problem behaviour e.g. removing a toy for 5 minutes for siblings who are not sharing it.

#### Use quiet time for misbehaviour

This involves removing your child from the activity in which a problem has occurred and have them sit quietly on the edge of the activity for a short time, **removing all attention** from them. Once your child has remained quiet for the set time, they can re-join the activity. If not proceed to Time Out

#### Use Time-Out for Serious Misbehaviour

Time-out is a positive strategy to use instead of shouting at, threatening or hitting. When used correctly, it is an effective way of helping children learn self-control and gives everyone the chance to calm down. It works in much the same way as quiet time except your child is moved to another room away from everyone else. Short periods in time out are more effective (never any more than 1 minute per age). Some children may continue to misbehave in time-out, if you pay attention to this behaviour (e.g. talking, yelling back etc.), time-out will not work.

Once calm and Time out is over, there is no need to talk about the incident again. Encourage engagement in another activity and watch for them behaving well so you can praise them at the earliest opportunity.

For help/ideas chat to your Parenting Promotion Officer:

Jolene 0488321605 F everyfamilycassowarycoast





# SILKWOOD STATE SCHOOL



1916-2016

## Centenary Celebrations

Join us!

Saturday  
**SEPTEMBER 10th**  
9am - Late



- 9-11am Registrations • Unveiling of Centenary Brick Wall • Local Bus Tours • School Tours • Historical Displays • Memorabilia • Food Stalls and much more!

[silkwoodss.eq.edu.au](http://silkwoodss.eq.edu.au) 40651 333

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