



Review Date:

Revised:

PRINCIPAL'S END OF YEAR REPORT 2012

2012 started with an enrolment of 130 students, in 6 classes from Prep to Year 7. We started the year with 81 families, farewelled one, (the Smith family) to end with 80 families. We welcomed Miss Beth Yarrow onto staff to teach Year 2 and 3. During the year Lisa took extended leave and we welcomed Jo to our staff.

Our first Parents & Friends Meeting was held on Tuesday 7th February. Projects for 2012 were discussed and Office Bearers for the year were elected.

Special thanks to our Parents & Friends Executive for 2012.

President	Jade Buchanan
Vice president	Sheryl Cavanagh & Erica Swiney
Treasurer	Michelle Zahra
Assistant Treasurer	Sharon Corsi
Secretary	Lina Calleja
Fundraising co-ordinator	Terese Davies & Collette Ross
Grants Co-ordinators	Jenni Taylor

Here at St. Rita's we pride ourselves on being a school with a great community atmosphere. The role of the P&F is to forge the relationship between parents and school. St. Rita's P&F stands as a proud group of parents who work hard for the school and for this I extend my heartfelt thanks. Without your dedication and support many ventures would not be possible. The children and staff thank you for their interactive whiteboards.

Many thanks to all who have worked in any way, on any project, large or small. We are extremely lucky to have people who do not run away when the tough gets going. Special thanks to the willing band of helpers, who have worked very hard behind the scenes co-ordinating, the Mother's Day Morning Tea, the Fete, Strawberries & Cream Stall and the Melbourne Cup Luncheon, ensuring that these major functions ran smoothly and that fundraising efforts were successful. Mother's Day Morning Tea is always a huge hit with the school and the community and I have to thank Denise for her hard work in getting the entertainment organised. The fete was a huge success and I have to thank Jenni for all the hard work she put in, being dragged around the countryside with me visiting other fetes scouring for new ideas. The tug-o-war was definitely the draw-card of the night. I have to admit when I was told that the Melbourne Cup luncheon was going to the shire hall I was slightly skeptical but the day and the profits have been outstanding.

The battery muster continued in 2012 securing approx. \$8000. Thank you to anyone who has helped collect batteries, especially Jade and her family for allowing us to once again store the batteries on their farm. The collection continues and I urge everyone to keep their batteries ready for the start of 2013 or drop them off at the Buchanan farm over the holiday period.

I would like to thank the P&F for all their hard work. I would like to take this time to thank Erica for all her hard work in the P&F over the years she has been at St. Rita's. Her talents will certainly be missed.

I would like to thank Fr Kerry for his attendance and participation at our monthly meetings. Sadly he hasn't been able to make many of recent due to his operations. I would like to thank himself and Fr Tony for their commitment to St. Rita's school. The children have enjoyed their regular visits for liturgies, masses, reconciliation and just class visits. Sadly Fr Tony will not be returning to us in 2013 so we wish him well in all his endeavours.

St. Rita's has continued to grow in 2012. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful with our grant applications however we were able to undertake certain projects.

COMPLETED PROJECTS - 2012

- Fixing the problem of sand disappearing from the big sandpit. (Thank you to Fylost for their generous donation of the edging)
- \$25 000 spent on new desktop, laptop and i-pad computers
- New goal posts in big hall
- Erection of blinds to western side of building damaged in Cyclone Yasi
- Installation of 6 IWB's. One in each classroom
- \$11 000 spent on upgrading reading schemes and home readers
- Large fan in BER hall (\$10 000)
- Blinds in Year 7 room
- Purchase of new mower and gurney (\$14 000)

SOME PROJECTS ARE STILL IN THE PIPELINE

- Erection of covered walkway to the back gate
- Upgrade of phone/internet/lockdown systems

I had notification the other day that we should be able to sign off on the big hall very soon. Vital papers were lost and this has held up the project. I will then be able to erect the plaque in the big hall. The option is still there to have an opening. I have been contacted by CES and will be visited later on this week with regards to the phone system and internet as well as lockdown. I have had some good news as CES is covering the cost of some cabling, as we have to have fibre optic cabling being installed. The project will still be quite expensive I am told in the vicinity of \$35-50,000

Thank you to Anthony and Paul for continuing to carry out maintenance issues for me. Once again I have only had to ask and the jobs have been completed. Boys your assistance is invaluable.

To Les Cavanagh who has each week put the school newsletter onto the school website thank you.

To all the parents in general who have given only a small piece of their time and energy to help out around the school, from Under 8's day, reading, cooking, sports, camps and excursions. Thank you. It is because of your commitment we are able to offer our children a significantly broader range of curriculum experiences.

Homework club has run successfully again in 2012. Working parents have found this service invaluable. It has also helped parents who were having difficulty getting their children to do homework.

To my wonderful staff who have continued to do a fantastic job, I thank you. The students at St Rita's certainly benefit from the extra things they do, mainly in their own time. The children have definitely benefitted this year from having the 6 classes. At this stage I am unable to advise what the class structures will be, however can tell you we are losing no teaching staff. Our numbers will fall slightly to around 121 students (that is not counting any late enrolments over the Christmas vacation)

I would like to thank Peta for the wonderful job she does in supporting me in her role as APRE. Peta this year successfully completed her 5 year appraisal. It is from recommendation in her appraisal that she has successfully applied for 12 months leave from this position to further study. She will still teach Year 7. Angela will be stepping into the acting role of APRE for 12 months.

I would also like to thank the ancillary staff, Santana, Melanie, Leanne, Lisa, Maria, Jo and Sarina for their tireless work behind the scenes to help with the effective running of administration, the library and classrooms. Your efforts are gratefully appreciated. I would also like to extend a huge thank you to grandma Beth who has carried out teacher aide duties and Judy

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Kelly who has volunteered in the library through QITE employment scheme. We also thank Jacque Grima for helping out in Year 7 every Thursday.

Once again Denise has accomplished great things with the children in Performing Arts lessons. They entertained patrons at the St. Patrick's concert and Mother's Day Morning Tea as well as shortly at our annual Christmas concert.

Donna, Andrea and Dot have helped children with areas of learning difficulties throughout the year. Many hours have gone in to tailoring lessons to aid children improve their learning. Thank you to Bec who stepped up when Andrea took maternity leave and has worked tirelessly at work and at home to assist with the smooth implementation of the new Australian curriculum in 2012. The staff has been involved in many planning sessions with her throughout the year, and now for the rollout of the History curriculum in 2013.

Following the release of the 2012 NAPLAN results, plans have been put in place for intervention in the new year. On attending the Naplan analysis day with Dot our children have compared favourably with those in schools across the diocese and state.

- YEAR 3: 100% at or above benchmark in all area
- YEAR 5: 100% at or above benchmark in all areas
- YEAR 7: 100% at or above benchmark in all areas

As well as being a time of celebrating our success and short comings it is always a time when we celebrate the lives of 23 wonderful children who shortly will walk through the gates of St. Rita's as students for the last time. Some of these children have been with us for 9 years some have joined us on the way.

To our Year 7 students –

Cahil Abraham	Dominic Lindsay	Ben Sultana
Fletcher Adams	Zac Morales	Rosaria Burns
Daniel Camuglia	Mason Swiney	Emily Gillespie
Brett Farinelli	Seth Venables	Jordyn Howell
Nathan Guarrera	Thomas Gallagher	Katelyn Jonsson
Jake Humphry	Bradley Keough	Danica O'Brien
William Kenny	Blayke Russo	Macey Smith
Keith Land	Connor Gould	

From the original group of 21 who began Pre-School in 2005 together with myself and Mrs Duncan 13 remain; Cahil, Fletcher, Daniel, Thomas, Connor, Jordyn, Jake, William, Keith, Dominic, Blayke, Mason and Seth. Taylor left for Mundoo at the end of pre-school.

In 2006, Nathan Guarrera joined us in Year 1 with Miss Erbacher. In 2007 with Mrs Devaney, Jay Laird joined us. Abbey left for Cairns, Clancy, Matilda went to GCPS and Lizzy moved to Goondi, Brett and Kaci joined us from Mourilyan, Katelyn from Townsville and Ben from GCPS. In 2008 Jamie left for Cairns. In 2009 the children were split with Miss Stoter teaching Year 3/4 and Mrs Conomo and Mrs Eilers Year 4/5, Zac joined us from East Innisfail. In 2010 the class was back together again as part of the Year 5/6 composite with Mrs Conomo and Mrs Devaney. Emily joined us from Mourilyan. In 2011 they were once again split between Mrs Conomo and Mrs Eilers and Miss Farinelli. During the year Mrs Curzon came to teach them. In 2012 Rosaria joined us from Mena Creek and Macey from Mourilyan.

I am deeply honoured to farewell them from the school when it was me who welcomed them into the school in pre-school. Over the years I have watched them grow into the wonderful children they have become, in partnership with the teachers who have nurtured them over the years.

As well as farewelling the Year Seven students, sadly we have to say goodbye to families. Some have had a long association with St Rita's. This year we farewell from our school fourteen families, who conclude their association with St Rita's. Paul and Kylie Farinelli, Carlo and Sharon Guarrera, Justin and Kim Humphry, Neil and Karen Land, Kyle and Erica Swiney, Darryl and Kathleen Gould, Liam and Denise Kenny, Mark and Pam Russo, Andrew and Carie Gillespie, Fred and Louise Howell, Angelo

and Tina De Maria, Shane and Kirran Jonnson, Dean and Joanne O'Brien and Darren and Linda Smith. Sadly due to circumstances we also farewell John and Stephanie Dallamaras, Trevor and Emma Gorman, and Simon and Nikki Milevskiy. Each and everyone of you will have many stories to tell about your time at St. Rita's. We thank you for being a valued part of our school community. Your footprints will be forever embedded in the history of our school.

Please attempt to join one of the many Christmas celebrations that are offered in all parishes wherever you may be at that time of the season. It is good to remind the children of the true meaning of Christmas and the person who was the ultimate gift to us.

Christmas Mass Times

- **Christmas Eve – Monday 24 December**
Innisfail ~ Vigil 6.30pm; Midnight Mass (Christmas Carols 11.30pm)
- **Christmas Day – Tuesday 25 December**
South Johnstone ~ 7am; Innisfail ~ 9.00am

Once again I would like to give you my heartfelt thanks for all your support of me during 2012. I look forward to working with you and your children in 2013.

I hope you all have a happy, safe and Holy Christmas.

A REMINDER THAT THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL IS TUESDAY, JANUARY 28TH, 2013.

Please take the time to glance over the 2012 Year in Review that is a comprehensive list of school activities.

God bless

Vicki Conomo

(Principal, 2012)