

WEEK 7 - TERM 4

ST RITA'S SCHOOL

SOUTH JOHNSTONE



19[™] November, 2013

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

With only three weeks of the school year left, thoughts turn to tying up loose ends. Please check at home for any outstanding library and home reading books. Considerable expense is involved in purchasing these and we need to start to reorganize resources ready for 2014.

Last night we held our final P&F meeting for the year. Once again I thank the committee for 2013 and anyone who has helped in anyway. Our P&F has a proud tradition of working hard for the school, affording our children high quality resources and experiences. Please take time to read my attached report.

Last Friday the children travelled to Silkwood to compete in the Kanga Cricket carnival. A great day was had by all, even though it was probably the hottest day of the year. Thank you to Lina, Tania Martin and Melissa Leonardi for holding the fort at the tuckshop.

This morning Good Samaritan Sisters, Patty and Pam came to speak to the Year Five, Six and Seven classes. Sister Patty talked to the Year Five and Sixes about Good Samaritan tradition and their role as leaders of the school in 2014. Sister Pam held a workshop with the Year Seven class. We are striving to connect with our rich Good Samaritan history.

Swimming is well underway with very positive comments about the Prep to Year Two session held last week. Thank you once again to any parents who have helped out, some of you over a two-week period. Without your

dedication these lessons simply would not be able to be run.

Class structures for next year will be the same as this year. I am pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Shane Rossi as Year Six/Seven teacher next year to replace Peta while she is on maternity leave. Mrs Bufi and Mrs Devaney will be share teaching Year Three/Four, with Mrs Bufi working four days per week and Mrs Devaney working one day per week. All other classes remain the same. At this time of the year all class teachers and myself are working very hard and engaging with a rigorous process to help allocate students to class grouping for 2014. Many variables come into play when forming these groups. The complexities of placing students in classes that meet the needs of the individual and the school are significant. From time to time there may be some information that the school is unaware of that can be important in any decision making process. If your child is in Year 4 next year and has a particular need or there is some information that we need be aware of when considering class placement it will be important that these are made known to me no later than Monday, November 25th. Only information pertaining to educational outcomes will be considered and no guarantees are made.

Congratulations to Eamonn Ross who participated in the Peninsula Aquathon Trials at Lake Tinaroo on the weekend. Eamonn won his age group and now heads off the Hervey Bay in February with the Peninsula Team. Well done.

There will be no assembly this Friday, as next Friday we have a special assembly for St. Vincent De Paul. This will be the last academic assembly for the year.

Next Friday we will also be holding our NAIDOC celebrations. We were not able to hold them earlier in the year and thought that this would be a great way to finish the year. During the day the children will be put into groups and partake in a series of activities. Thank you to Lorraine Maund who has been assisting me with the day.

This week we will also be interviewing a candidate for a LOTE teacher for 2014. This teacher will service the 5 southern deanery schools each week. St. Rita's will receive 90-120 minutes a week with Years Three to Seven partaking in a 40 minute lesson. The children will be learning an Asian language.

Book Fair is in the small hall all this week. Thank you to Mrs Judi Kelly for the excellent display. Great work to all the families who built a robot, we were amazed by your creations! All of these families will be receiving a voucher to spend at Book Fair. A picture appears later in the newsletter. Please get behind this event, as it is an excellent means of our restocking the library.

Thank you for your patience at this chaotic time of year. Have a great week! God bless.

Vicki

NO ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK

(Next assembly will be Friday, 29th Nov to present St Vinnie's Hamper.)

TUCKSHOP THIS FRIDAY

(Please note, because of swimming tuckshop will be for BIG LUNCH ONLY.)

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass 6.30pm

Calling for all parts: Joseph, Mary, shepherds, angels, animals! Come and be part of the real meaning of Christmas. Practice for the Children's Gospel will be Friday 13th and 20th December commencing at 3.30pm in Mother of Good Counsel Church, Innisfail. Contact – Maria on 40632210/0448 716 271, or Angie Sheerans ' 0409 871 636

PARENTING FOR RESILIENCE IN YOUR KIDS

PRESENTER – CHRISTINE COOP ST RITA'S SCHOOL, SOUTH JOHNSTONE

TOMORROW in the music room, 20TH NOVEMBER 9.30 AM TO 2.30 PM.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS Keeping the Gospel Alive...



The Challenge to live fully the teachings of Jesus and to bear the consequences of such a life continues to confront us today. Difficulties in life are only difficulties if they are seen as such. We can instead look on them as opportunities to show that we can persevere. No matter what the difficulty might be we can be comforted to know that we are not alone but rather lovingly supported. Christ is here and now. He is Alive in all of us.

"I will hold in the palm of my hand"

<u>St Vinnie's Christmas Appeal</u>

Keep bringing in those food items (non perishable) for the food hampers. The more we have the more people we can reach out to and help this Christmas.

We have a few weeks to collect. Each child can take their food into their own class. We will present our hampers at an assembly. How many baskets/boxes can we fill??

Socktober Fundraising total - \$346.95. Well done everybody. We will send this money off to help the homeless in Mongolia.

Yours in the risen Christ

Angela Cristaudo APRE



OVERDUE!

THIS MUST BE COMPLETED (both sides), AND INTO THE OFFICE BEFORE THE END OF THIS WEEK.

If you can't find your form please <u>collect</u> <u>another from the school office</u>. Thank you.

NEW HAIR TIES & HEAD BANDS.

We have received a new selection of head dress in school colours to choose from. These are displayed on the notice board in the office. The items are coded **1 to 7** for ordering purposes.

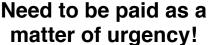
If you wish to order please <u>print</u> your name and the <u>number</u> you require, on the relevant page.

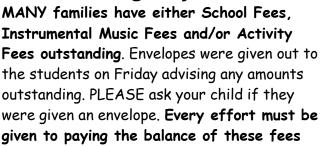
Kanga Cricket Raffle Winners

The winners of the SMCSA Kanga Cricket Raffle were –

- Travis Rosendahl
- Brett and Linda Ridolfi
- Chris Doak
- Sheryl Roberts

SCHOOL FEES





PRIOR TO THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR as these monies are needed to help the school meet the financial obligations associated with these activities. There is only three weeks left to pay your account. If you are having difficulties please contact Jenni or Vicki. Thank you to those who may have already spoken to us.

DIRECT DEBITING SCHOOL PAYMENTS

Please indicate in your description whether the amount is for fees or other. Amounts without a description will automatically go against school fees.

Account Name: RCTC for the Diocese of

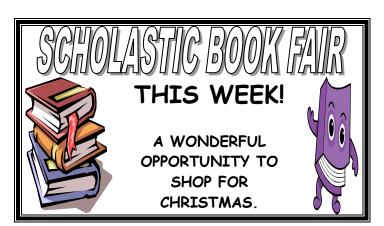
Cairns - St Rita's School.

South Johnstone

Account No: 00000 5018 BSB: 084352

WATER CONFIDENCE CLASSES Weeks 7

Week 7 18th to 22nd November - Year 3 to 7 - (10.15am to 11.15am)



FOR SALE

4 tickets to see Leonard Cohen at the Cairns Convention Centre on Tuesday, 26th November. Tickets are \$120 each. Contact Collette Ross on - 0407 132 509.

FREE Well Women's Clinics
Mamu Health Service
Tuesday 3rd December—
Ph: 4061 4477
Innisfail Hospital
Wednesday 4th December
Ph: 4226 4812 or 0428 781 421

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.

Calendar of Events Term 4

	1
WEEK 7	
18 - 22 Nov	Swimming Yr 3 - 7 (10.15 - 11.15am)
18 Nov	BOOK FAIR WEEK
WEEK 8	
26 Nov	Yr 7 Graduation Dinner - Wangan Hall
	- 6.30pm
27 Nov	Yr 4 & 5 Reconciliation
	Yr 6/7 League Tag Day -
	Callendar Park
WEEK 9	
4 Dec	CHRISTMAS CONCERT
6 Dec	End of Year Mass 10.30am
	End of School Year 12.00pm

2014 SCHOOL CALENDAR		
Term 1	Tues 28 Jan - Fri 4 April	10 weeks
Term 2	Tues 22 April - Fri 27 June	10 weeks
Term 3	Mon 14 July - Fri 19 Sept	10 weeks
Term 4	Tues 7 Oct - Fri 5 Dec	9 weeks



MUNRO THEATRE BABINDA

22, 23 & 24 November Commencing 7.30pm Admission \$8

"Thor: The Dark World"
Rated: M



MELBOURNE CUP MONSTER GOOSE WINNERS

MONDICK GOODE WINNERS	
Prize	Winner
1	Amanda Tait - Sunlover Reef Trip
2	Macauley-Kelly-Knowles family - Tandem
	Parachute Jump
3	Cathy Hampson - Il Palazzo Boutique Hotel
	Accommodation
4	Bernadette Murdoch - Kuranda Scenic
	Railway Family Fare
5	Linda Ridolfi - Skyrail Rainforest
6	Cherril Spina - Raging Thunder Fitzroy
	Island
7	James Kenny - Bicycle & whip
8	Karen Lodge - Bicycle & whip
9	Wendy Taifalos - Cairns Hardware Voucher
10	Lara Blanckensee - PartyLite Pack
11	Marilyn Pensini - Captain Cook Coffee
	Cruise
12	Anna Bertei – Deborah's Massage & Urban
	Edge Salon Pack
13	Mary Magnanini - TravelWorld Voucher
14	Linda Phillips - Mellick's Centre Pack
15	Ann Stpehensen – Etching by Jenni Taylor
16	Ailsa Oosen – Brother Leagues Club &
	Innisfail Stockfeed Vouchers



Great work to all the families who built a robot. We were amazed by your creations! All of these families will be receiving a voucher to spend at Book Fair.



PRINCIPAL'S END OF YEAR REPORT 2013

2013 started with an enrolment of 121 students, in 6 classes from Prep to Year 7. We started the year with 67 families. We farewelled the Tyson and Abberdan families and welcomed the Kenny and Maund families to end with 67 families. Staff remained constant with Leanne leaving just after Easter to give birth to Noah. Sandy joined us in Leanne's place. It has been a year of celebration with the birth of a baby and two weddings of staff members. We also welcomed Grayson Mueller into our school family.

Our first Parents & Friends Meeting was held on February 18th. Projects for 2013 were discussed and Office Bearers for the year were elected.

Special thanks to our Parents & Friends Executive for 2013.

President
 Vice president
 Treasurer
 Secretary
 Jade Buchanan
 Jenni Taylor
 Blaise Cini
 Moara Crowley

Fundraising committee
 Jo Spry, Collette Ross, Liz Keough

Grants co-ordinator
 Tuckshop Convenor
 Lina Calleja

o Grounds and Maintenance Paul Taylor & Anthony Calleja

St. Rita's prides itself 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 has a lengthy history of working hard for the school and for this I extend my heartfelt thanks. Your involvement, dedication and support allows us to afford our students the high quality of resources they have available.

Many thanks to all who have worked in any way. The old adage "When the going gets tough the tough get going," sits well with our P&F. People are not afraid to get their hands dirty, and the bank balance of the P&F from the beginning of the year when your generously donated \$22 000 for the cabling upgrade, to now is testimony to this. The quality of events co-ordinated by the P&F, have patrons talking about them for some time particularly Mother's Day Morning Tea and Melbourne Cup. I often hear the comment from ex St Rita's parents that Mother's Day Morning Tea is never the same anywhere else.

Although the battery muster has had it hiccups this year it has continued to be a very profitable, effortless fundraiser securing approx. \$7000 again in 2013. The collection continues and I urge everyone to keep their batteries ready for the start of 2014 or drop them off at the Buchanan farm over the holiday period. Thanks Craig and Jade for once again allowing us to use their farm as a drop off point.

I would like to thank the P&F for all their hard work. It has been extremely gratifying to see so many new parents become involved this year and others who have stepped up to take up various behind the scenes rolls.

Although Fr Kerry has not been able to attend all of our meetings, we appreciate how busy he is and I thank him for his involvement and commitment to our school, and his hands on approach. The children have enjoyed his regular visits for liturgies, masses, reconciliation and just class visits.

St. Rita's has continued to grow in 2013. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful with our block grant application and have not heard about the gambling benefit grant, however, we were able to undertake certain projects.

COMPLETED PROJECTS - 2013

- Internet upgrade
- Library refurbishment
- Car park line marking
- Remodelling learning support room
- New printers

- BGA application
- BOA application
- Server upgradePainting upstairs
- Office re-structure
- Reconfiguration of Prep shed

SOME PROJECTS ARE STILL IN THE PIPELINE

- Erection of covered walkway to the back gate, the plans of which should be decided on in the next week or so to enable us have construction completed over the school holidays
- Painting of the demountable now that it seems it will be staying with us and also the western classrooms.
- The announcement of a \$37 000 school support grant in 2104 to which we have to decide priorities as the money must be expended in 2014.
- New school website

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. Paul has recently installed curtain rods in the western classrooms to help with our lockdown procedure. He reconfigured and cleaned the prep shed. A priority now is to clean the front of the big hall which has become very mouldy in recent months. Many thanks to Mear's Construction, who have donated the use of their cherry picker to assist in this job.

To Les Cavanagh who has each week put the school newsletter onto the school website thank you. With only just a few finishing touches I am hoping that our website will be launched before the end of school. If not it will be all systems go for next year. This has been an enormous task. I thank Andrea Devaney, our Curriculum Support Teacher and Andrea Gregory from CES for their assistance.

Thank you to Lina and her willing band of helpers who have run a very profitable tuckshop this year. I know the service is truly appreciated by the parents. Next year let's see if we can have more volunteers to run this valuable service.

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, walk-a-thon, 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 2013. Working parents have found this service invaluable. It has also helped parents who were having difficulty getting their children to do homework. Negotiations are still under way re kindergarten. Kevin Malone only emailed this morning saying it will be back on the table early 2014. Part of this arrangement for viability would be the re-opening of OSHC

To the wonderful staff of St Rita's, 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. The children have benefitted once again from having the 6 classes and this will also continue in 2014. Class structures for 2014 will be the same as 2013. Mrs Bufi and Mrs Devaney will be teaching the Year 3/4 class in a shared position, Mrs Bufi for four days a week and Mrs Devaney for one. I am pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Shane Rossi as Peta's replacement whilst she is on maternity leave. Shane is a local boy who has been living in England for the last 6 years and mid year returned with his young family to live in Australia. He is currently employed at Goondi State School on a contract. Our enrolment numbers for 2014 will be approximately the same as 2013.

I would like to thank Angela for stepping into the role of APRE in 2013, following Peta's request for a year's break to continue study and plan her wedding. Angela will not be continuing in the position next year, with Mrs Kenny taking on the role in a part-time position. Denise in her performing art role will bring a wealth of knowledge to the position.

I would also like to thank the ancillary staff, Santina, Jenni, Sandy, Maria, Jo, Sarina, Grandma Beth and Judy for their tireless work behind the scenes to help with the effective running of administration, the library and classrooms. Your efforts are gratefully appreciated.

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

Donna 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 Andrea who has ensured that curriculum standards are maintained and to the high standard we are used to. The staff has been involved in many planning sessions with her throughout the year, and now for the rollout of the Geography curriculum in 2014.

Following the release of the 2013 NAPLAN results, plans have been put in place for intervention in the new year. On attending the Naplan analysis day with Andrea our children have compared favourably with those 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 except Maths where there were 98%

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 15 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 8 years some have joined us on the way.

To our Year 7 students -

Esen Abraham

Marc Camuglia

Ethan DarvenizaNicholas Henson

Declan Ross

Logan Buchanan

Jade Schroeter

Natasha Burns

Jacquelyn Macauley-Knowles

Lauren Dalla Vecchia

Hannah Spinella

Connor Van Haaren

Tyarne Stanley

Olivia Zahra

Tashana Morales

From the original group of 13 who began Pre-School in 2006 together with myself and Mrs Duncan, Miss Gangi and Miss Jeanette 7 remain; Marc, Ethan, Esen, Nicholas (who left and came back), Logan who joined us during preschool, Lauren, Tyarne (who left and came back).

In 2007, Tayah Hopkins-Masina left for Mt Surprise and Nicholas went touring Australia. In 2008 Kate Boevink and Hannah Spinella joined us from GCPS, Eli Hunter came from Weipa and James Stephensen moved to Yungaburra. In 2009 Jadzia Dalamaras joined us from Mourilyan, , Tashana Morales came from East Innisfail and Olivia Zahra from Goondi, Drew Milevskiy joined us from Weipa and Jade Schroeter joined us from TAS, Keanu Tuart left for Gladstone and Jamie George left for TAS. In 2010 Aiden Cini left for Townsville and Samuel Sciacca went to Smithfield. In 2011 Declan Ross and Connor Van Haaren came from Mundoo, Kate Boevink went to Charters Towers, Lachlan Ah Shay went to GCPS and Eli Hunter went to Darwin. 2012 Drew Milevskiy went back to Weipa and Jadzia Dalamaras went to GCPS. Natasha Burns and Jacquelyn Macauley-Knowles joined us from Mena Creek. In 2013 Nicholas Henson re-joined the group.

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. I recently wrote in their Graduation Book:

To the graduating class of 2013: You are part of St. Rita's history being the last ever Pre-school class. You hold a special place in my heart in that you were also the Cyclone Larry kids who wanted to take me home because my house was destroyed. I will always remember you for that. I wish you all the success in the world for the future. Remember the lessons and values you were taught whilst at St. Rita's and do not be a stranger.

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, three families who conclude their association with St Rita's. Paul and Tanya Dalla Vecchia, (12 years) occasions will not be the same without Tanya's sense of fun, I am told though she has planned a fitting hurrah. Jade Schroeter's parents Andrew and Sarah. (5years) Steve and Stasia Abraham, (10 years) Stasia has been the driving force over the past few years behind our big wins at the Peninsula Rugby Union trials. She is also the artist of the mural on the front stairs of the building Sadly due to circumstances we also farewell Rob and Michelle Zahra (Michelle having given time as treasurer of the P&F, Matthew Morales and Celeste Richard. I wish all these families the best for the future. 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 - Tuesday, 24 December

Innisfail ~ Vigil 6.30pm (family mass); Midnight Mass (Christmas Carols 11.30pm)

Christmas Day - Wednesday, 25 December

South Johnstone ~ 7am; Innisfail ~ 9.00am

Once again I would like to give you my heartfelt thanks for all your support during 2013. I look forward to working with you and your children in 2014. I hope you all have a happy, safe and Holy Christmas.

A REMINDER THAT THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL IS TUESDAY, JANUARY, 28TH, 2014.

Please take the time to glance over the 2013 Year in Review that is a comprehensive list of school activities. New parents to the school are amazed at the vast range of activities accomplished by such a small school.

God bless

Vicki Conomo - (Principal, 2013)



2013 IN REVIEW

TERM ONE

- Numerous class visits and liturgies with Fr Kerry and Fr Tony
- Maria & Jo trained in Integrated Thinking with Chris Payard and then training Year 1
- M Opening School Mass
- M Ash Wednesday Parish Mass
- M April to SEL co-ordinators day
- M Angela APRE in-services
- Southern Deanery Caritas Leaders
 Day

- School Performance Tours "My Friends & I"

- M Donna NLIP in-service
- □ Curriculum conference
- Angela and Bec RE curriculum inservice
- School Admin officers day Babinda
- Peninsula Netball trials
- SMCDPSSA soccer/netball day
- Netball clinic Heather Cairns Netball
- Year of Grace Retreat Staff
- Mandatory training
- M ABC Reading Eggs
- Parent Meetings
- Red Day
- ∀ Valentine's Day

- Easter Bunny Visit

TERM TWO

- M The Kilometre Club
- M Anzac Day Assembly
- M Anzac Day Parade
- W Whole School Photos
- □ Dance Fever

- Mother's Day Morning Tea
- NAPLAN
- M Andrew Chinn Concert
- BGA meeting to replace demountable
- Feast of St Rita TRIP TO ETTY BAY WITH NET TEAM
- Year 4 Confirmation
- You Can Do It
- W Woolworths "Earn & Learn"
- Cairns Shop for Kids
- Book Fair
- ☑ Under 8's Day

- Yellow Day − Prep
- ▼ Teddy Bear Picnic Prep
- Betty Johnstone Author Talk
- M April in Cairns Literacy Solutions
- Young Performers competition Poetry Years 4/5 and 6/7
- Parents computer in-service (RREAP)



TERM THREE

- Year 2/3 camp Daradgee
- Strawberries and Cream
- Morcombe Foundation visit

- Peninsula Athletics
- M Catholic Education Week celebrations

- Maggie Dent PD
- Feast of the Assumption Mass
- Barlow Park Peninsula Athletics
- Year 6/7 camp to Townsville/Charters
 Towers

- Bully No More
- Walk-a-thon
- ☑ Prep/Year One camp Possum Magic Cairns Wildlife Dome
- Mary Mills Cup

- Prep & Yr 1 Fruit Cup Party



- M CTJ Day for Teachers
- All Saints Day Whole School Mass
- School Performance "It's a Mad World"
- Melbourne Cup Luncheon

- Christine Coop "Resilience Proof your children"

- Year 8 GCC 2014 Orientation Day
- Water Confidence Classes
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Build a Robot Competition

- M End of Year Mass
- St John's e-conference
- Maths in-services with Dot
- W World Teacher's Day
- M All Saints Mass
- I-pad in-service with Danielle Purdy
- Rainbow Day Prep
- St. Vinnies collection boxes
- NAIDOC celebrations
- M Peninsula Triathlon



TERM FOUR