

# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

## WEEK 2 - TERM 1



### ST RITA'S SCHOOL SOUTH JOHNSTONE

4<sup>th</sup> February, 2014

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Thank you all for your patience yesterday. I have a feeling there is more bad weather to come. Basically I ask parents to use their discretion when assessing flooding conditions. At no stage do I want families endangering themselves by coming through flood water. If children have to arrive late so be it. We had trouble yesterday morning sending out the group email, informing parents what was going on. An announcement was put over 4KZ and this is a continuing practice during times of flood.

On Sunday, I had the pleasure of attending a performance of "The Phantom of the Opera" at the Civic Centre in Cairns. More pleasurable was the fact that one of the lead performers was an ex St. Rita's student, Daniel Darveniza (brother of Isaac and Lily) who played Raoul. What a fantastic performance. With only a few performances left in the season I highly recommend getting along to the show.

Teachers have completed an audit of their home reading books and to their dismay many are missing. Can you please take time to check your child's bedroom to see if there are any there. We had one family return about 20 books last week. A considerable outlay has been made on these books, which cost between \$6 and \$15 each.

This Wednesday morning is our opening school mass at 9.30a.m. Parents are invited to drop their children off to school, enjoy a cuppa in the school library and then attend mass. Our new school leaders will be commissioned at the mass, however, badges will have not arrived. Congratulation to the following students on their election to roles as leaders. :

**SCHOOL CAPTAINS:** Rebecca Piccolo / Jordan Lindsay  
Kaitlyn Spinella / Brodie Manitto

**FITZGERALD CAPTAINS:**  
Miki Buchanan / Eamonn Ross  
Natasja Crowley / Jordon Davies

**PALMERSTON CAPTAINS:**  
Bonnie Hunter / Lily Hunter  
Travis Calleja / Gemma Doolan

Please keep in your prayers the Mears family, as Cassie's brother passed away last week after a battle with cancer.

Next Monday night, 10<sup>th</sup> February, is the P & F Annual General Meeting at 7.30p.m. in the school library. Remember this is our fete year. If you have any fresh ideas let me know. Start training that tug-of-war team. Just a reminder that the P & F are still collecting batteries. To all of our new families if you have any or know of anyone who has batteries please let me know.

Please take time to read the tuckshop procedure for this year later in the newsletter. Below is a link to our new website, where you will find this term's menu:  
[www.stritascps@eq.edu.au](http://www.stritascps@eq.edu.au)

Below are the dates for class meetings. As mentioned in last week's newsletter it is important that you make time to get along to these.

Prep	-	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Year 1	-	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Year 2	-	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Year 3/4	-	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Year 4/5	-	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Year 6/7	-	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb

Thank you all, have a great week.  
God bless  
Vicki

**BEGINNING OF YEAR  
WHOLE SCHOOL MASS  
TOMORROW at 9.30am  
ALL WELCOME**

**FIRST ASSEMBLY  
THIS FRIDAY, 7<sup>th</sup> Feb IN THE SCHOOL HALL  
We will welcome all new students, present  
class awards and birthdays.**

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

## LOOKING AHEAD: February 2014

*Just as our world has special times and seasons, so too does the Church. In our liturgical calendar we remember important parts of the Christian story and wait for the time when Christ will come again.*

During February, there is still a feeling of ‘New Year’ in the air. The Church’s ‘New Year’ began in Advent last year. The season of Christmas followed and closed on January 12. Until Lent begins with Ash Wednesday ( 5<sup>th</sup> March) we are in the first part of **Ordinary Time**. This does not mean that the season is ‘ordinary’ but simply that each week will be counted in order.

As Sunday is the weekly commemoration of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, it stands as the focus of our week. Therefore, the Sundays are counted and called ‘First Sunday in Ordinary Time’, ‘Second Sunday in Ordinary Time’ etc. Last Sunday marked the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time.



**NOTE:** *The liturgical colour for Ordinary Time is green - the colour of life and hope. ( You will notice Fr Kerry’s vestments at mass during this time are green as are the banners and decorations in the Church.)*

Throughout the weeks of Ordinary Time, we also keep holy the memory of Mary (Mother of God), the apostles, the martyrs and all the saints. Our liturgical traditions present these women and men as intercessors or models. In children’s terms saints in particular, are kind of like ‘big brothers and sisters’ in faith. They were canonized not because they were perfect, but because they displayed specific virtues that the Church recognizes as important to fulfill its mission.

As we gather to celebrate our **Opening School Mass** this **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February** we will also celebrate the memorial of **St. Agatha**. Venerated in Rome as a virgin martyr, on this day she is remembered for her great faith and for remaining resolute under torture. Agatha’s story is certainly no fairytale.

It is rather, a story of tragedy and brutality. It is believed that she was a beautiful young woman from a distinguished family, who instead of marrying, chose to remain pure as a sign of her complete devotion to Jesus Christ. In the midst of the cruelty she suffered before being put to death, Agatha demonstrated the outstanding virtues of fidelity to the body of Christ and courage under pressure. It is her courage that is an excellent example for us today. So whether it is the courage to stand up for what we believe in, the courage to try something new or the courage to try again after disappointment we can certainly learn from the life of St. Agatha.

**WHAT DOES COURAGE MEAN TO YOU ?** *Here are some interesting quotes.....*

*“ Courage is rightly esteemed the first of human qualities... because it is the quality which guarantees all others.”*  
( Winston Churchill – British Prime Minister)

*“ Come to the edge, He said. They said: We are afraid. “ Courage means being scared to death - Come to the edge, He said. They came. He pushed them, And they flew .....*  
( Guillaume Apollinaire – French Poet )

*“Courage means being scared to death – and saddling up anyway.”*  
(John Wayne – Actor )

Have a great week.  
Peace be with you,  
Denise

## **BOOK CLUB – ISSUE 1**

Book Club order sheets will be handed out this week. If you wish to order from this issue please have orders and money into the school office **no later than Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> February.** Payment by cheque is to be made out to the school.

## **CLASSROOM MEETING TIMES**

Prep	-	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Year 1	-	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Year 2	-	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Year 3/4	-	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Year 4/5	-	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Year 6/7	-	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb

## RE\$OURCE LEVY

All students received their books last week. The school charges \$120 per child in Years 1 – 7 and \$150 per child in Prep.

Payment of the Resource Levy must be paid by the end of February to enable us to pay our accounts. If you are experiencing difficulties please contact the school office.

*Parents who are direct debiting fees on a weekly/fortnightly basis are asked to please pay the resource levy either by EFT or into the school office, either by cash or cheque made out to the school.*

## ACTIVITY LEVY

In 2014 the Activity Levy will only be charged in Terms 2, 3 and 4. From Term 2 you will have the Activity Levy included on your School Fees Invoice. This levy will cover the cost of all activities such as concerts, sport, swimming etc. There may be occasion that an activity becomes available to the students that was not a planned activity; this cost will be added to the following term's levy, with the exception of Term 4, in which case separate payment will be requested.

## INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM YRS 3-7

If your child wishes to continue with the instrumental program or a student wishes to commence learning an instrument, please collect an enrolment form from the office counter.

Lessons this year are \$15 per week. Payment may be made weekly to the office or an account will be issued at the end of each term. If your child needs to hire an instrument, the hiring cost is \$20 per term. This **MUST** be paid at the beginning of each term. This covers ongoing maintenance. **INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS WILL NOT BE COMMENCING UNTIL WEEK 5 OF THIS TERM.**

**PLEASE NOTE** - This service is being provided by an instrumental teacher from Good Counsel College and we are **ONLY AGENTS**. ***If instrumental accounts are not promptly paid with the allocated period, lessons will cease.***

## NEW TUCKSHOP PROCEDURES

This year each term's tuckshop menu can be located on the school's website <http://www.stritascps.qld.edu.au/>. The menu is a menu for the whole term. It will not change from week to week. You will see that there is a greater selection of food items available. Please visit the site and print out the menu as you need them. Your child will not be sent home with a form each week, however there will be forms available in the classrooms for your child to take. Other than this, the procedures to order and pay for the tuckshop have not changed. Orders still need to be in by Wednesdays at 3pm. You will still receive notifications in the newsletter if there is to be no tuckshop due to school events. Please watch out for these notifications.

Please inform the school if your child has any allergies – gluten or lactose

We definitely need more helpers to assist with the preparation of tuckshop orders. If you can assist please contact Lina.



## MUNRO THEATRE BABINDA

7, 8 & 9 Feb

Commencing 7.30pm

Admission \$8

**"The Hobbit: The  
Desolation of Smaug"**  
**In 3D - Rated: M**

## HOMWORK CLUB

The facility operates from Monday to Friday. A teacher will be on duty each day until **4.30pm**. A booking sheet will operate through the school office.

Children **MUST** be booked in to use the facility **BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN**.

Students using this facility will need to **bring their afternoon tea**, (in a separate container), which is to be put in the tuckshop fridge in the morning. Please make sure the container is clearly marked with the child's name. If you need any further information please contact the school office on 40 64 21 53.

**REMEMBER: This facility is for working parents and emergencies. If it is abused it will close.**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

TERM 2	
21 <sup>st</sup> April	Easter Monday
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Start of Term
25 <sup>th</sup> April	Anzac Day
9 <sup>th</sup> May	Mother's Day Morning Tea
11 <sup>th</sup> May	Mother's Day
13, 14 & 15 May	NAPLAN
19 <sup>th</sup> May	Book Fair
21 <sup>st</sup> May	School Photos
9 <sup>th</sup> June	Queen's Birthday Holiday
27 <sup>th</sup> June	End of Term

TERM 3	
11 <sup>th</sup> July	Innisfail & District Show
14 <sup>th</sup> July	Start of Term
27 <sup>th</sup> July – 1 <sup>st</sup> Aug	Catholic Education Week
18 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Prep/Year 1 Camp
27,28 & 29 Aug	Year 4/5 Camp
14 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Year 6/7 Camp
19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	End of Term

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS TERM 1

FEBRUARY	
<b>WEEK 2:</b>	
5	Beginning of Year Whole School Mass
7	First Assembly
<b>WEEK 3:</b>	
14	St Valentine's Day

MARCH	
<b>WEEK 6:</b>	
5	Ash Wednesday (School Mass)
<b>WEEK 7</b>	
14	Funky Hair Day
<b>WEEK 8</b>	
17	St Patrick's Day Mass

APRIL	
<b>WEEK 10</b>	
4	Easter Assembly

TERM 4	
6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Labour Day Holiday
7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Start of Term
22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Wonder of Living (Years 1-7)
31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	World Teachers Day
4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Melbourne Cup Luncheon
10 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Prep to Year 2 Swimming
17 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 3 to 7 Swimming</li> <li>• Christmas Book Fair</li> </ul>
11 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Day
5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	End of Term