

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WEEK 3 - TERM 1



ST RITA'S SCHOOL SOUTH JOHNSTONE

11th February, 2014

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Last night was our annual general meeting with fourteen people in attendance. I take this opportunity to thank the outgoing committee members along with their willing band of helpers for their efforts. The energy of this group is amazing, and the amount of money they raise to help with resources for this school each year is simply outstanding. St. Rita's P & F has a long history of dedication to the school. Our incoming committee members for 2014 are:

President:	Melissa Leonardi
Vice President:	Jenni Taylor
Secretary:	Moara Crowley
Treasurer:	Blaise Cini
Tuckshop Convenor:	Lina Calleja

One issue raised at last night's meeting was maintenance. If anyone can give some of their time towards maintenance issues in the school that arise from time to time can you please put your name down to be contacted.

If you have a child that is about to sign onto a sporting club I would like to bring your attention to a sporting grant, 'Get in the game' that is available to help with costs. Go to the following link:

www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/getinthegame

One voucher for \$150 is allowed per child per calendar year.

Our School now has our own Skoolbag iPhone and Android App to help us communicate more effectively with our parent community. We are asking parents to install our Skoolbag School App.

To install it, just search Rita Skoolbag in either the Apple App Store, or Google Play Store. Staff are still in training so when applications within the app are activated we will notify you.

I would like to ask all parents if they have an issue to bring it to the school office. We need to work together to create a positive environment in which our children can learn and thrive. Your concerns do matter to us, but if we do not know about them we cannot address them.

Hopefully we have our first full week of school ahead of us. Thank you to the parents who have taken the time to get along to your child's class meetings. I do know for families that have more than one child, this is a challenge, but your involvement can greatly enhance your child's education. Parent's enthusiasm, involvement and support will inspire your children to do their best.

Thank you, have a great week.

God bless.

Vicki

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

EXPERIENCING AND EXPRESSING OUR FAITH

Last week saw two wonderful celebrations of our faith within the St. Rita's community. Firstly, our Opening Mass on Wednesday morning was well attended and was a very positive and uplifting way to begin our school year. The children were exceptionally well behaved, sang beautifully and responded respectfully to the various parts of the liturgy. For this they should be commended. Then, on Friday morning our first School Assembly was held which saw our new school leaders facilitate a reverent and welcoming gathering. Listening to the Gospel story was again a simple way to remind us of the special part our beliefs play in our day-to-day life here at St. Rita's. A highlight of the morning was, as always, the introduction of the prep students to the school community. Thank you to the parents who attended these occasions, it is always wonderful to have you join with us. For those of you who may have missed these two celebrations there will be plenty more opportunities in the coming weeks.

We will endeavour to hold assemblies every fortnight and we will come together again for mass on Ash Wednesday (5th March).

In helping the children prepare for last week's liturgy the question was asked as to whether or not it would be alright to wear a cross to mass. Of course, the reply was a resounding 'yes'. In fact, a cross can be worn anytime.

For Christians around the world the cross is an important and powerful symbol. It is a universal identifier of one's faith. It is a sign that reminds us of suffering and defeat but also triumph and salvation. While there are many different types/styles of crosses and each have their own special meaning or significance, the message is basically the same. This simple geometric shape has been in existence for 2000 years and is still 'going strong'. On this point, the question has been raised : *What would Coca-Cola or McDonald's give to own a symbol that countless millions of people wear around their necks everyday?*

With this in mind and especially as we are approaching the season of Easter, the following reflection seems rather appropriate.

THE CROSS IN MY POCKET

*I carry a cross in my pocket
A simple reminder to me
Of the fact that I am a Christian
No matter where I may be.*

*This little cross is not magic
Nor is it a good luck charm.
It isn't meant to protect me
From every physical harm.*

*It's not for identification
For all the world to see.
It's simply an understanding
Between my Saviour and me.*

*When I put my hand in my pocket
To bring out a coin or key
The cross is there to remind me
Of the price He paid for me.*

*It reminds me, too, to be thankful
For my blessings day to day
And to strive to serve Him better
In all that I do and say.*



*It's also a daily reminder
Of the peace and comfort I share
With all who know my master
And give themselves to His care.*

*So, I carry a cross in my pocket
Reminding no one but me
That Jesus Christ is Lord of my life
If only I'll let Him be.*

Have a great week and peace be with you.
Denise Kenny (APRE)

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2014

Enrolment Forms are now available for the Sacramental Program for 2014. If you have a child who has been baptised Catholic and will be in Year 4 this year, (or an older grade), then please **contact Angie at the Parish Office** on **4061 6633** or drop in and collect an enrolment form. ***All enrolment forms must be in no later than Wednesday 26 February.***

P & F Event Coordinators NEEDED!

We are looking for volunteers to COORDINATE the P & F fundraising events throughout the year. Old hands will work with the coordinator if you have not been involved in organizing the event before. This does not mean that all the work will fall to the volunteer - they are the coordinator and will delegate tasks to all helpers involved. We also need a coordinator for the collection of batteries.

Welcome Night (February)
Mother's Day Morning Tea (May)
Strawberry & Cream (July) - Michelle Mann and Priscilla Wilcox
Father's Night (September)
Melbourne Cup (November)
Christmas Concert - drinks & supper
Fete Committee (May)

If you are interested in volunteering to coordinate any of the events, please contact Melissa Leonardi, Jenni Taylor, Mo Crowley or Blaise Cini, or of course Vicki.

Thank you - all the help we can get to help raise much needed funds for our children's resources is greatly appreciated. Many hands make light work.

ASSEMBLY AWARDS Week 2

The following children received awards on our assembly.

Prep	Star – Lisa Brincat Happy Venables, Jasper Curzon, Matthew Urquhart, Mana McCambridge, Ruben Puccini, James Kenny, Eddie Leoni, Harry Leoni, Ronan Sultana, Lincoln Wilcox, Dylan Van Haaren, Jack Calleja, Victoria Caltabiano, Leigha Garozzo, Tahlia Butler and Sasha Darveniza
Year 1	Jack Bertram, Katerina Vaclavik, Tiarah Maund, Milli Mayocchi
Year 2	Megan Calleja, Selina Wilcox, Nevaeh Galea, Ryley Scarlet and Tiarne Eilers
Year 3/4	Jack Lodge, Ghislaine Ross, Erin Darveniza, Luke Magnanini and Rachel Urquhart
Year 4/5	Braden Venables, Blake Taylor, Tyla Plumb and Isaac Darveniza
Year 6/7	George Burns, Lilly Hunter, Hannah Sultana and Natasja Crowley.

St Rita's is a 'You Can Do It' School!

YCDI Awards Term 1 Week 3

This term our YCDI award focus is for the skills of organisation. The following children have been nominated by a teacher or staff member for a chance to win a movie voucher at the end of the term. Well done to the following children.

Prep	
Year 1	
Year 2	
Year 3/4	Jorja Adams
Year 4/5	Bree Jensen
Year 6/7	Zane leonardi, Coen Stephensen, William Macgillivray and Balze Thompson

BOOK CLUB - ISSUE 1

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

CLASSROOM MEETING TIMES 3.15pm

Year 3/4 - Wednesday 12th Feb

Year 4/5 - Tuesday 11th Feb

RE\$OURCE LEVY & SCHOOL FEES

To enable the school to pay its outstanding accounts for the purchase of your child's resources, payment of the Resource Levy must be made as a matter of urgency. (Prep \$150; Yr 1-7 \$140)

School Fees were issued last Friday. These are due by Friday **21st February**. 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. Direct Debit particulars are below.

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 50 18 BSB: 084352

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. Please visit the site and print out the menus as you need them.

Orders need to be in by **Wednesdays at 3pm**. You will receive notification in the newsletter if there is to be no tuckshop due to school events.



MUNRO THEATRE BABINDA

14, 15 & 16 Feb

Commencing 7.30pm
Admission \$8

**“Walking with
Dinosaurs”
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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS TERM 1

FEBRUARY

WEEK 3:

14

- St Valentine's Day
- **BOOK CLUB CLOSSES**

MARCH

WEEK 6:

5

Ash Wednesday (School Mass)

WEEK 7

14

Funky Hair Day

WEEK 8

17

St Patrick's Day Mass

APRIL

WEEK 10

4

Easter Assembly

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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

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