

Weekly Newsletter

WEEK 3 - TERM 2

ST RITA'S SCHOOL

SOUTH JOHNSTONE



6th May, 2014

Dear Parents and Caregivers

I would like to share a story with you today:

A Mother's Job

A mother was asked by an officious clerk, 'What is your occupation?' She had dedicated herself to the raising of her children and felt that, though she was not financially compensated for her labour, her 'job' was of utmost importance. Besides, she resented it when people said she was 'Just a housewife.'

So she told the clerk that she was a 'Research Associate in the field of Child Development and Human Relations.'

Duly impressed, the clerk asked her what she did in her field.

This is how the mother replied:

'I have a continuing program of research (what mother doesn't?) in the laboratory and in the field. (Normally I would have said indoors and out.)

I'm working for my Masters (the whole darned family) and already have four credits (all daughters). Of course, the job is one of the most demanding in the humanities (any mother

care to disagree?) and I often work 14 hours a day (24 is more like it).

But the job is more challenging than most run-of-the-mill careers and the rewards are in satisfaction rather than just money.'

Who can argue? Though my own work has required years of study and training, the job that I feel is the most demanding (and rewarding), is that of parenting my children. The job is one of the most difficult there is, it doesn't come with a manual, but still remains popular. I think that may be because, though many jobs are important, none is more so.

This Friday you can come and be spoiled and entertained at our annual Mothers' Day Morning Tea. If you haven't as yet sent in that you will be attending or be able to help out in any way please do so as soon as possible.

For those of you like me who have a mum in Heaven here is a thought:

God has made a place for you
At His home in Heaven above
But you are always in my heart
And have my undivided love.

To all our wonderful mothers out there: "Happy Mothers' Day" for this Sunday. We thank you for your hours of devotion and hard work. We hope you will be given the day off and be spoiled by your family.

God bless you all.

Vicki



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

THE SEASON OF EASTER CONTINUES...

Last Sunday was the 3rd Sunday of Easter. The Gospel story told of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. This particular reading from Luke's gospel is fairly well known and very significant in terms of its message for each of us.

As the disciples were heading home in sadness and disbelief after Jesus died on the cross all they can see is the confusion and disappointment of their failed hopes and expectations. They had heard the claim that Jesus had risen, but they did not believe it. It seemed too good to be true.

Then Jesus met them on the road. He walked with them. Even though they did not recognize him, he does not abandon them. Instead, as they walked along together he explained the meaning of the Scriptures.

When they drew close to the town to which they were going, Jesus made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. While he was with them at the table, he took bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. Their eyes were opened and they recognized him at last; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?"

After this they told their story of what had happened and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of the bread.



Reflection

What sense do you have of Jesus walking by your side ?

'Did not our hearts burn within us?' What resonance does this phrase have with how you feel ?

Do you feel the demands of following Jesus will be too much for you ?

DID YOU KNOW?

- The exact site of the town of Emmaus is not known to archaeologists
- The early Church referred to the Eucharist as 'breaking of bread' (Acts 2:42)
- This Gospel text reflects the structure of the Mass: Jesus first opened the Scriptures (the Liturgy of the Word) and then broke bread (the Liturgy of the Eucharist)



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM NEWS

Please keep in your prayers the year four children of St. Rita's who at the various masses on the weekend committed to prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation. This is a very special time in the lives of these young people and their families.

Getting ready to receive the Holy Spirit are Kiara Foschi, Dylan Manitto, Juanita Filby, William Leoni, Jett Piccolo, Bennett Buchanan and Rylee Leonardi. We wish them well as they continue on their faith journey.

Wishing you the peace and joy of the risen Christ.

Regards,
Denise

NO ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK

PLEASE NOTE: Due to commitments on Fridays there will only be assemblies on Weeks 4, 7 & 10.

GOOD COUNSEL COLLEGE – INNISFAIL ENROLMENT FOR YEAR 7 & 8 – 2015

Enrolments have opened for those parents wishing to place their children in Year 7 and/or Year at Good Counsel College.

Applications for enrolment may be obtained from the College office at 66 Owen Street, Innisfail or by phoning 40 635 300.

The first round of offers will be made to applicants who have returned their completed applications forms, and who have attended an enrolment interview by Friday, 29th August, 2014.

Orientation Days for incoming students are as follows:

- Year 8 - Orientation Day, Wednesday, 22nd October
- Year 7 - Orientation Day, Wednesday, 5th November.

MOTHER'S DAY MORNING TEA HELPERS

A flyer for helpers for the Mother's Day Morning Tea to be held THIS FRIDAY, 9th May, was handed out last week. Please take the time to read it, complete it and return to the school office by TOMORROW MORNING.

A book of raffle tickets was attached to the flyer. Please sell as many tickets as possible.

SCHOOL FEES



Term 2 School Fees were sent home last week with the eldest child in the family. If your child has not passed them to you, you will find them in their school bag. Please kindly make every effort to pay these fees by the due date. If you are having difficulty paying please contact Jenni or Vicki.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Today each student will be given an envelope for school photos. These will be taken on Wednesday, 21st May. If you require sibling photos these are available from the counter in the office.

Please note that photos **MUST** be paid for by photo day. We act as agents for Advancedlife Photographers. Please enclose the correct money as we cannot give change. The envelopes are handed directly to the company on the day.

TUCKSHOP

will recommence

NEXT WEEK

ACTIVITIES LEVY

You will see on your Term 2 Fees Invoice that we have now included an Activity Levy, billed per student per term. As advised previously this includes all the little payments that are usually requested from you throughout the year eg. Performing Arts Productions, transport to activities, swimming etc. This levy does not include fees for camps or some payments for some sporting activities where only certain students attend. These fees will be requested separately as they occur throughout the year.

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.

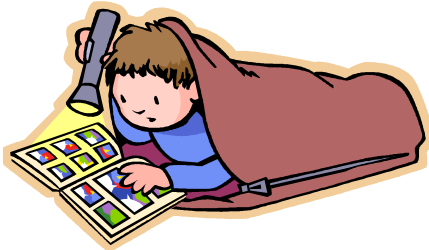
Account Name: RCTC for the Diocese of Cairns -
St Rita's School, South Johnstone

Account No: 00000 50 18 BSB: 084352

STOP PRESS!

ST RITA'S FETE
SATURDAY 14TH JUNE 2014
4.00PM – 9.00PM

MOTHERS' DAY
MORNING TEA
THIS FRIDAY
9TH MAY, 2014 - 9.30AM



BOOK CLUB - ISSUE 3

If you wish to order from this issue please have your order into the school office no later than TOMORROW MORNING, 7th May. If paying by cheque, please make it payable to the school.

ICAS Testing Dates Years 3-7 ONLY!

Competition	Sitting Date	Closing Date	Price
Science		CLOSED	
Writing	16 June	12 May	\$18.70
Spelling	17 June	12 May	\$12.10
English	29 July	24 June	\$8.80
Maths	12 Aug	24 June	\$8.80

Unfortunately, we are unable to take any late nominations so please have your envelope into the school office by 9.00am of the closing date indicated. Thank you.

IMPORTANT REMINDER
HOMEWORK CLUB
CLOSES AT 4.00PM
EVERY FRIDAY.

HOMEWORK CLUB

The facility operates from Monday to Friday. A teacher will be on duty Monday to Thursday until **4.30pm and 4.00pm on Friday**.

A booking sheet operates through the school office.

Children **MUST** be booked in to use the facility **BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN** as there are days that Homework Club cannot run due to staff responsibilities off campus.

STUDENT TRAVEL REBATES

Semester 1, 2014 Bus Fare Assistance

- Does your child attend a **school outside the Brisbane City Council** boundary?
- Does your family spend more than **\$25/week*** on fares to and from school (* \$20/week if you hold a concession card)?
- Does your child travel on a **publicly available bus** not owned or associated with the school?

Students with Disabilities

- Does your child have a **verified disability** that requires **transport assistance** to and from school?
 - Has your school's learning support teacher assessed your child's **travel capability rating** as 'semi-independent' or more dependent?
- Visit our website to see if you qualify for financial assistance to

help with the cost of transport and apply at www.schooltransport.com.au

by **31 May 2014**.

Late applications cannot be accepted.

WEEK 6	
28 th May	- Young Performers Choir Day - Girl's Futsal (Yr 6/7)
29 th May	Boys' Futsal (Yr 6/7)
WEEK 7	
1 st June	Sunday - Peninsula Soccer
4 th June	ICAS Science
WEEK 8	
9 th June	Queen's Birthday Holiday
14th June	SCHOOL FETE
WEEK 9	
16 th June	ICAS Writing
17 th June	ICAS Spelling
20 th June	Fitzgerald -v- Palmerston Day
WEEK 10	
22 nd June	Peninsula Touch & Softball
24 th June	Reading Day - Tully (P-Yr 3)
26 th June	Brave Hearts
27 th June	End of Term

DATES TO REMEMBER

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
9 th – 10 th Oct	Year 2/3 Cam0p
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



MUNRO THEATRE BABINDA

9, 10 & 11 May

Commencing 7.30pm
Admission \$8

“The Other Woman”
- Rated: M

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - TERM 2

WEEK 3	
7 th May	Book Club closes
9 th May`	Mother's Day Morning Tea
11 th May	Mother's Day
WEEK 4	
13, 14 & 15 May	NAPLAN
WEEK 5	
19 th May	Book Fair
20 th May	ICAS Computer Skills
21 st May	School Photos
22nd May	St Rita's Feast Day
23 rd May	Peninsula Cross Country

MINUTES OF AGM - ST RITA'S SCHOOL - GENERAL MEETING MONDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2014 -7.30PM

PRESENT: V CONOMO, M CROWLEY, J TAYLOR, T PENSINI, M LEONARDI, A STEPHENSEN, M MANN, J BUCHANAN, P WILCOX.

APOLOGIES: B CINI, J SPRY, FATHER KERRY

OPENING PRAYER - read by all

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

Read by M Leonardi, moved by M Crowley and seconded by J Taylor as being true and correct.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

- The committee talked about the pedestrian crossing in Green Street, which crosses to the church and one at the rear of the school and about the possibility of some kind of flashing light system being installed for the purpose of flooding, to help the large trucks, making them aware of the bridge being flooded before they come up the hill and are unable to turn around. We have a split campus with access to the school from Green Street and from down the bottom end of the school as well. We will contact main roads in regards to these matters. Mo to chase this up.
- Roller blinds have been installed in the small hall to block out the sunlight during a presentation, the cost of this was approximately \$250. The committee inspected these blinds and were very happy. A huge thank you to Paul Taylor for installing them. Thanks Paul.

CORRESPONDENCE IN: -

- Quote from Col's Upholstery for the blinds in the small hall - \$1982.20
- P & F Queensland regarding the conference in Cairns from 25 to 27 April
- Fundraising Directory 2014
- Glow Products

CORRESPONDENCE OUT:- NIL

TREASURER'S REPORT:-

- Blaise was absent from the meeting so report was presented by Moara - Balance as at 10 March 2014 \$20573.82
Running at a loss of \$2144.46
Total expenses paid were \$2137.75

PRINCIPALS REPORT - attached

GENERAL BUSINESS:-

- Michelle asked if a mulcher can be attached to the mower
- Easter raffle needs to be organised
- Strawberries and cream signs are organised
- Tuckshop menu - a discussion took place regarding the menu - parents asked if a meeting could be arranged with Lina to discuss this.
- It was asked if a cold water bubbler could be installed at school for the kids and adults. We will obtain quotes.

There being no further business our meeting closed at 9.05pm. The next meeting will be held on 28th April 2014

V Conomo (Principal) M Crowley (Secretary)



ST RITA'S SCHOOL - SOUTH JOHNSTONE

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Monday, 10th February, 2014

ENROLMENTS:

2014 began with an enrolment of 114 students, which is down 7 from last year. We had some students leave unexpectedly over the holidays and picked up 2 new students in the last week of the break. Positively we have had 3 new families enrol their children in Prep next year.

PARENT MEETINGS:

Parent meetings have begun positively and it has been encouraging to see the great roll up of parents. Positive relationships between parents and teachers are a great catalyst towards children's needs being met. The teachers at St Rita's as you know go above and beyond their role statement.

BUILDING:

I am pleased to advise that we finally have council approval for our overed walkway and Duncan has assured me that work will begin as soon as the steel is back from being gal dipped. Hold ups over the holidays were disappointing.

STAFF:

The Year 6/7 class have settled back into 2014 in the care of Mr Shane Rossi. Shane has already instigated the running of a sporting club of a Thursday after school. The 20 positions available to be part of this club were quickly filled. Grandmas Beth and Judy Kelly has now been employed as part of our staff in 2014.

You would have seen April's position advertised recently as she takes maternity leave following the next set of school holidays. Applications close this Friday and given a suitable applicant the position may be filled as early as next week. The position was advertised early to give the new teacher time to transition with the class.

Peta is now on the count down with her due date February 20.

PROJECTS:

- Painting of the Western classrooms and demountable classrooms.
- New built ins installed in the Prep and Year 1 rooms.
- New lunch tables to the Prep classes to accommodate Dylan

P&f executive meeting

P&F meeting with Carmel Nash Queensland Executive Director of P&F Associations, next Wednesday 19th at 4p.m. at GCPS to listen to Carmel in promoting roles /responsibilities at both State and Diocesan levels in order to encourage greater local representation. There is a concern at the fall in numbers at the Diocesan meetings.

SKOOLBAG APP

I am pleased to announce the introduction of a new App on your phones that allows the school to send messages to you in time of critical incidences. The school has to undergo training as to the proper utilization of this App but you can download it in anticipation by searching Rita skoolbag

As 2014 is a Fete year I am looking forward to some fresh ideas. Hopefully a fete committee can be formed as planning has to begin shortly. I do know one thing that people came looking for last fete was art and craft.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing P&F committee as well as active members. Resources available around our school are a testimony of your tireless efforts and I look forward to your commitment and that of the incoming committee again in 2014.

Vicki Conomo
(Principal)

MINUTES OF P & F ASSOCIATION ST RITA'S SCHOOL - SOUTH JOHNSTONE

GENERAL MEETING MONDAY 28 APRIL 2014 -7.30PM

PRESENT : Vicki Conomo, Jenni Taylor, Terese Davies, Michelle Mann, Priscilla Wilcox, Karen Lodge, Jade Buchanan, Melissa Leonardi, Paul Calleja, Blaise Cini, Ann Stephensen

APOLOGIES: Les & Cheryl Cavanagh, Moara Crowley, Jo Spry, Tania Pensini, Father Crowley

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Read by M Leonardi, moved by M Leonardi and seconded by J Taylor as being true and correct.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

- Pedestrian Crossing
- Jade will be attending a meeting and there may be an opportunity to discuss the increased trucks (40 per day) going past school daily with the iron ore contract.
- This may give us an opportunity to look for support regarding options with our pedestrian crossing becoming more dangerous.
- With this increased risk at the entrance to our school we need to look for support to our request for flashing lights warning of school zone. The bottom access though a safer option for parents has issues in wet conditions with muddy edges to road and no curbing etc. We require decent parking access to encourage parents away from the increased traffic on main road.

CORRESPONDENCE IN: -

- Fundraising material

CORRESPONDENCE OUT :

- Fete and Tug of War letters sent.
- Parent Education Fund Application sent.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Presented by Blaise Cini balance as of today is \$22 284.73
- We are currently running at a \$270 loss.
- \$1500 profit for tuckshop so far this year.
- \$228 profit from Easter Raffle.

PRINCIPALS REPORT : attached

GENERAL BUSINESS:-

- Batteries: The collector for our bulk battery pile will be coming shortly, so if anyone had batteries to bring in, now would be a good time to arrange it.
- Mother's Day Morning Tea:
- Moara has got the raffles organised and intends taking them up to Eisteddford to sell. Anyone able to help this Friday would be appreciated.
- Melissa volunteered to sew school name tag on tablecloths as they tend to go missing. We need to check with Colette to see if she has any more still to sew, so we can label all of them.
- With the Cent Sale we are hoping to have 25-30 prizes with about \$50 value if we have enough items come in.
- Therese will check Thursday afternoon if any cakes have come in that need icing etc for Friday's cake stall that she will run.

- Car Park:

It was agreed that the bottom parking section needs council input. Parents need decent safe street parking like the town schools. Possibly making a petition as a starting point, then any parents who would like to lobby council ie through Mark Nolan regarding this issue could take the matter further.

- Parent Session Puberty Talk:

An enquiry was made about the 'parents session puberty talk' later this year, this gives parents an opportunity to listen to the information prior to the children.

- Mulcher: Anthony is looking at trialling different blades before looking at the purchase of a mulcher as there is a fair cost involved going that way.

- Fundraising:

It was asked if we could have goals for our fundraising so when we are selling raffle tickets etc we could say we are raising funds for(something specific) which seems to inspire people more.

- Fete: It was decided to get past Mother's Day Morning Tea before we start on the upcoming fete, though any ideas for large businesses interested in sponsoring the Tug Of War would be welcome.

- Library Assistance Day: On Thursday 15th May we are hosting the Library Assistance Day, we have an allowance of \$7.50 per head and are hoping for volunteers to prepare some wraps etc, this will go in tomorrow's newsletter.

- Town sport: A letter has once again gone to the town schools regarding St Rita's being part of the town sport rotations. We eagerly await their reply.

There being no further business our meeting closed at 9.15pm.

The next meeting will be held on 19th May 2014

V Conomo (Principal)

M Crowley (Secretary)



ST RITA'S SCHOOL - SOUTH JOHNSTONE

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Monday, 28th April, 2014

PARENT MEETINGS:

Parent/Teacher meetings ran smoothly at the end of last term with hopefully all parents having a meeting with their child's teacher. As mentioned in the newsletter if you have any other areas of concern please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher for another meeting.

PROJECTS:

- Completion of the covered walkway. Once again I would like to thank the benefactors of this project for their generous donation.
- Painting of the demountable and railings to the upstairs classrooms.
- Fence along eastern carpark.
- Relocation of port rack from outside music room to outside prep room including some refurbishments
- Beginning to relocate gates in big hall ready for fete

Parent Education fund application for grant – Maggie Dent and Christine Coop

P & F Conference

Thank you Moara and Jenni for attending the Qld P&F conference in Cairns on the weekend. Carmel was most impressed as we were the only school from the southern deanery represented and the only school in the Cairns diocese with a principal registered as well.

MOTHERS DAY MORNING TEA

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in the organization of the Mother's Day Morning tea. Sadly I will not be able to attend this year as it clashes with a set principal's meeting. I am however more than certain the day will be as highly successful as it has in the past.

TUCKSHOP

As there were only a few tuckshops this term it was decided to keep the same format as last term. Some parents had discussions with Lina and some adjustments have been made.

FETE

Fete preparation are well under way and once again I thank anyone who has been working behind the scenes. This will get into full swing once Mother's Day MT is completed.

ACTIVITY LEVY

This term with the school fees there will be an activity levy attached. Jenni and I have made every effort to try and incorporate all the activity that we are aware of for the rest of the year and annualize the fees. There will still be incidental expenses relating to individual activities as well as camps.

Thank you to all the parents who came along and participated in the Parents versus Kids League Tag game on the last day of term one. Everyone had a great time and we got a wonderful spread in the local paper. We are hoping to incorporate some parent/student games on St Rita's Day on May 22nd.

Vicki Conomo
(Principal)