

# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WEEK 2 – TERM 4

## ST RITA'S SCHOOL

SOUTH JOHNSTONE



Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Last week was our last camp for the year. I would like to thank the Year Two and Three children on their excellent behavior. We also thank Mrs Mallon, the principal of Mother of Good Counsel School, for allowing us to stay in their hall. This helped to keep costs down.

As we progress into the final term of the school year, planning for the 2015 school year becomes more pressing. Goal setting, budget development, staffing and implications of enrolments on classes are all considerations. Once again I ask families who may be aware of possible movements, either to or from the school, to please let us know as soon as possible so a more accurate picture can be determined. I thank the families who have taken the time to talk to me. While a very busy time of year, I am also mindful that for some the uncertainty of classes and teachers can sometimes be unsettling. I will be keeping you all informed of 2015 developments as they come to light in the upcoming weeks.

Accompanying today's newsletter is a request for help during swimming lessons this year. Lessons will be held in week six and seven. The Preps to Year 2's will be going in week six and Years 3 to 7 in week seven.

This year we are trialling a new program. As you are aware, as in past years, parental help is crucial for these lessons to be a success. We look forward to your continued support.

Last Wednesday we welcomed our new Prep children for 2015 for their first orientation morning. The children settled in quickly and became involved in the activities of the morning. The children and their families will certainly be an asset to our school community.

Tonight at 7.00pm there will be a special Melbourne Cup Luncheon meeting. This will also double as our P & F meeting for the month as this is our major agenda item. I hope to see as many people there as possible. Melbourne Cup is one of our biggest fundraisers each year and everyone is needed in some capacity, big or small, to make it the success it has been over the last fifteen years.

***Don't forget that next Monday is a pupil free day.*** Our staff will be networking with similar year level teachers from the other four Southern Deanery schools, at Good Counsel Primary. The aim of the day is to help teachers affirm that what they are doing in their classes, in the way of assessment, aligns with what other teachers are doing in their classes. These days are very beneficial particularly to the teachers in the smaller schools.

On Friday the Year 4 to 7 classes will be travelling to Silkwood Soccer grounds for the annual Kanga Cricket Day. Thank you to the people who have returned their permission forms and who will be helping out with tuckshop.

Have a great week, God bless.  
Vicki

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

### GOSPEL CONNECTIONS:

#### **THE WEDDING FEAST AT CANA**

Last Sunday's gospel story was from John (2 : 1-11). Here, Jesus took time out to attend a wedding feast in the village of Cana with his mother, Mary and his first few disciples.

*Jewish weddings were steeped in tradition and ritual. One of the customs was providing an extravagant feast for guests.)*

However, something went wrong at this wedding and they ran out of wine. In Jewish culture, such a mistake would have been a great humiliation for the bride and groom. At Mary's request Jesus turns six stone jars filled with water into wine. This miracle shows Jesus' supernatural control over physical elements like water and marked the beginning of his public ministry. Like his other miracles, it benefitted people in need.

What is of great significance here is the symbolism in this first miracle of Jesus. The water that Jesus transformed came from jars used for ceremonial washing. The water signified the Jewish system of purification, and Jesus replaced it with pure wine - representing his blood that would wash away our sins.

While running out of wine is far from a life-or-death situation, Jesus intervened with a miracle to solve the problem. It is believed that this is a reflection of God's interest in every aspect of our lives. So, in other words what matters to you - matters to him.



( Sources – [www.biblegateway.com/passage/](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/)  
[www.christianity.about.com](http://www.christianity.about.com) )

### MINI VINNIES AT ST. RITA'S

As mentioned last week, this term we will be making a conscious effort to '*put our faith into action*' by supporting our local conference of St. Vincent de Paul. As a part of this initiative we have now established a Mini Vinnies group here at school.

A Mini Vinnies group is a structured and active body of students and teachers within a school community who aim to *make a difference* to those who are poor, disadvantaged and marginalised. This group of students are volunteers, who with the guidance of staff meet to discuss and organise ways to help others in need within the school and the community and beyond.

A Mini Vinnies group is a great introduction to the St. Vincent de Paul Society and is a wonderful way of experiencing the Catholic ethos of this amazing charitable organisation.

Congratulations and thank you to the following six children who make up St. Rita's Mini Vinnies for 2014. No doubt we will be hearing from them throughout the term and wish them well in their endeavours.

**PRESIDENT - Michala Spry**

**VICE PRESIDENT – Hannah Sultana**

**SECRETARY – Jorjah Karamaena**

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY – Coen Stephensen**

**TREASURER - Zane Leonardi**

**ASSISTANT TREASURER – Jared Betts**

## **SYNOD ON THE FAMILY: Rome 2014**

At present, the two- week synod is half way through. For a week now, bishops, family representatives and the Pope himself, have been meeting to discuss some of the challenges faced by modern day families and what the Church can do to help.

In the words of Pope Francis this important gathering is, '*a precious treasure to enrich the Church.*' His hope is that through the synod the Church can, '*undertake a true journey of discernment and adopt the necessary pastoral means to help families face their present challenges with the light and strength that comes from the Gospel.*'

### **A Prayer for Families**

Holy Family of Nazareth,  
In you we contemplate the splendour of  
true love  
and the model of family life.  
Grant that our own families may remain  
united  
in deep mutual love and be places of  
communication and prayer,  
authentic schools of the Gospel and small  
domestic churches.  
Guard the members of our family from all  
physical harm  
and spiritual danger and keep us faithful  
to the Lord.  
Grant healing to all families who  
experience rejection and division.  
Keep us attentive to their needs.  
May our families be living witnesses of  
the love and presence  
of Jesus in the world.  
AMEN



**NO ASSEMBLY  
THIS FRIDAY**

**NO TUCKSHOP  
THIS WEEK  
(Kanga Cricket Carnival)**

**PUPIL FREE DAY  
NEXT MONDAY, 20 OCTOBER  
WEEK 3**

**LOST PROPERTY!!!**

There are quite a number of unclaimed lost property items, (mainly jumpers), that need to be collected before the end of the week. If these are not claimed they will be sent to a charity.

### **MELBOURNE CUP NEWS**

**We desperately need prizes for our Melbourne Cup "Cent Sale" as we have not received many at this stage. We need prizes into the school office by FRIDAY, 25 OCTOBER because these have to be sorted and wrapped.**

**If you are planning to attend the luncheon on Tuesday, 4 November, please contact Jade on 0427 042 391.**

**TABLES FILLING FAST!**

## **GOOD COUNSEL COLLEGE - 2015**

The College would like to thank parents who have been engaged in the enrolment process for Year 7 and 8 for next year. Paperwork from our enrolment office is due out to you after your child's orientation day.

Year 7 Orientation Day: 22nd October - 9am to 1pm

Year 8 Orientation Day: 5<sup>th</sup> November - 9am to 1pm

There are a number of building projects under way for the start of 2015 with the old library being refurbished, a Year 7 locker area being built, the removal of the demountable buildings and re-establishment of green space and play area. Each of these builds on our commitment to providing a safe and caring environment.

- The new rooms will provide quality and modern facilities for all students at the school.
- The Year 7 and 8 lockers (to be located in Mary's Place) give students a place to safely store their property. It enables them to only take what is needed to class.
- The return of green space and oval area will enhance the school both visually and give extra area for lunchtime activities.

There are other projects in the planning that I will update in later newsletters. When complete we believe our facilities will rival any school in our region.

In saying that, we aim to have a limit on student numbers so we can provide the best possible experience for students in comfortable and modern facility.

We presently have vacancies in some grades and encourage anybody considering enrolling to do so as soon as possible. Should you want further information please feel free to contact me at the College or visit the College web page at [www.gcc.qld.edu.au](http://www.gcc.qld.edu.au)

Just in – On the weekend both of Good Counsel College Opti-mind teams at the State finals received 2<sup>nd</sup> place honours. Excellent results in a very competitive environment.

Paul Keenan  
Principal

### **WONDER OF LIVING PROGRAM**

Thursday 23 October - Years 1 to 7

Thursday 23 October

Years 5, 6 & 7 Puberty Talks

### **DENTAL VAN**

In a case of emergency please contact the Dental Clinic on 40 160 518.

### **MUNRO THEATRE BABINDA**

**17, 18 & 19 OCTOBER**

**Commencing 7.30pm**

**Admission \$8**

**"Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles"**

**Rated: M**

### 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: 00001 7401 BSB: 084352

## INVITATION

Local artist, Lou Micallef is holding a "Shirt Exhibition" on Saturday, 25 October at "Tin Fork", Hynes Street, South Johnstone, from 2.00 to 6.00pm. Great time to organize Christmas shopping. For further information phone Lou on 40 644 121.

### TERM 4 SCHOOL FEES

School fees for this term were emailed last week. Please keep an eye out for them. Payment of fees would be greatly appreciated ***as soon as possible*** to enable us to meet our financial commitments before the end of the school year. Thank you for your assistance with this.

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

Orientation Days for incoming students are as follows:

- Year 8 - Orientation Day, Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October
- Year 7 - Orientation Day, Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> November.

### INNISFAIL LIONESS CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> October commencing at 9.00am until 3.00pm - at the See Poy's Pavilion, Innisfail Showgrounds. Entry is \$2 and all monies raised go to local charities. There will be lots of stalls, prizes, cent sale, 200 board and raffles galore plus food and entertainment. For more information phone Elaine Edwards on 0488 067 935.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### TERM 4

WEEK 2	
17 Oct	Kanga Cricket
WEEK 3	
20 <sup>TH</sup> Oct	PUPIL FREE DAY
22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Yr 8 Orientation Day - GCC
23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	Wonder of Living (Yrs 1-7)
WEEK 4	
31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	World Teachers' Day
WEEK 5	
4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Melbourne Cup Luncheon
5 Nov	Yr 7 Orientation Day - GCC
WEEK 6	
10 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Prep to Year 2 Swimming
11 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Remembrance Day
WEEK 7	
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>
WEEK 9	
1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Year 6/7 Graduation Night
5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	End of Term