

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WEEK 9 – TERM 4

ST RITA'S SCHOOL- SOUTH JOHNSTONE



2nd December, 2014

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

As we enter the final week of the school year I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for a wonderful 2014. Without the support from home, a school is just an institution. St Rita's is a family and this is what makes us special.

Last night we celebrated the achievements of 23 wonderful young children, who will walk through St Rita's gates, this Friday, as students for the last time. May all their dreams come true and all their problems, be little ones. As part of this celebration awards are given in the categories.

Academic Awards - Year 7 Jordan Lindsay,
Year 6 Gemma Doolan

Christian Leadership - Year 7 Rebecca Piccolo,
Year 6 Hannah Sultana

Citizenship Awards - Year 7 Bonnie Hunter,
Year 6 George Burns

Sporting Awards - Year 7 Rebecca Piccolo,
Year 6 Eamonn Ross

Report cards will be going home tomorrow along with portfolios. Please take the time to look at these as a lot of time and effort goes into their production. In the back of your child's portfolio will be their class requirements for 2015. Class list for 2015 is attached to this newsletter.

As parents we have high expectations of our children, however in reality, if your child is achieving to their full potential, and is happy at school, this is all that really matters. It is important to remember that we all achieve at different levels through our life's journey. Many people who achieve high academically do not necessarily achieve throughout life. As the old saying goes *slow and steady wins the race*.

This Thursday the children can bring spare clothes/togs, towel and a scrubbing brush for our annual cleaning of the desks and chairs.

On Friday we have a special graduation assembly in the morning followed by *Graduation Mass* at 10.30am. Everyone is welcome to attend. Following mass we come back across to school, cut the end of year cake. School will be dismissed at 12.00pm. ***Please ensure that all children are picked up at this time.***

Please take the time to attend one of the Christmas masses and remember the true meaning of Christmas. For everyone travelling, have a safe journey. School resumes on Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at 8.50am.

God bless, have a well earned rest
Vicki

GRADUATION ASSEMBLY

THIS Friday 5th December.

9.30am to 10.15am

GRADUATION MASS

10.30am

ALL WELCOME

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

ADVENT IS HERE : TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE COMING OF JESUS

Advent is traditionally a time for preparing for Christmas. At assembly on Friday we placed the Advent wreath on our sacred space and spoke about its significance during this important time. The **Advent wreath** is an evergreen circular garland that represents our continuous life with Christ. Four candles are placed inside the wreath. Three of these are purple and one is pink. The purple represents hope, peace and love; while the pink represents joy. One candle is lit for each of the four weeks of Advent. A white candle known as the Christ candle stands in the centre. This is lit on Christmas Eve and reminds us that Christ is the light of the world.

In the parish bulletin on Sunday it was noted that Advent is not only a time for preparing for the Church's celebration of Christ's birth.... but also a time for preparing ourselves for Christ's return in glory at the end of time. Mark's gospel pointed to the concept of watchfulness and the need for staying alert. This is something that we easily overlook in our busy everyday lives. It suggested that our faithfulness to God through the good times as well as the difficult times, shows us to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man.

(<http://www.loyolapress.com/first-Sunday-of-advent-cycle-b-Sunday-connection.htm>)



In a way, Advent is a special time to stir-up our faith in the Lord. The wreath and its prayers provide us with a way to expand our preparation for Christmas. Additionally, this long-standing Catholic tradition helps us to remain vigilant in our homes and not lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas.

Christmas Wishes For You All:



ST. RITA'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT :

Come Join in the Celebration

At the end of every school year the children participate in a Christmas Presentation. This year our performance is titled – A Midwife Crisis !

The year 6/7 class will lead us as we follow the antics of a very important midwife and her trusty side-kick Steve (the donkey). Each class will perform a musical item within the play as we meet census-takers and Roman guards, kings, shepherds and gospel-singing angels (just to name a few). Eventually, the midwife is led to a humble stable to find the very special baby.

Every child is involved in this presentation and we look forward to seeing you and your family tomorrow night.

Below are the details.

DATE – Wednesday 3rd December

TIME - 6.30PM ARRIVAL FOR 7.00PM START

WHERE - Big Hall

WHAT TO BRING – A plate to share for supper

- **BYO chair if you would like to sit outside on the grass**

WHO – Parents, extended family and friends

WHAT TO WEAR - normal day uniform for skort/shorts, socks and shoes. (School will provide shirts)



IT'S CHRISTMAS DAY

Christmas magic, food and cheer
Special gifts from those so dear.

Carols sung by candle light
"Halls of Holly" and "Silent Night".

Children dancing round a tree
Hearts of joy, they laugh with glee.

Child in manger, filled with straw
Holly hangs on my front door.

Praise to Jesus, stop and pray.
Bow your heads, its Christmas Day.
(Santina Lizzio)

THANK YOU

On behalf of the staff and myself, I would like to thank the entire parent body for their continued support of Religious Education activities and events that we have conducted during the year. Your cooperation and generosity is very much appreciated. May the spirit of Christ be with you all and may you enjoy every blessing of the festive season.

See you in 2015,
Denise



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES



Christmas Eve – Wednesday, Dec 24

- Children's Mass - Innisfail - 6.30pm
- Midnight Carols - Innisfail - 11.30pm

Christmas Day – Thursday, Dec 25

- South Johnstone - 7.00am
- Innisfail - 9.00am



**DATE CLAIMER
CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

**TOMORROW NIGHT!
WEDNESDAY, DEC 3**

6.30pm for a 7.00pm start

Children will be required to be at the school no later than 6.30pm so that costumes and props can be organized. Children are to assemble in their classrooms. Parents are asked to please bring a plate for a shared supper at the end of the evening.

DENTAL VAN

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

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

School uniforms will be on sale through the office from Tuesday January 20 to Friday, 23 January, 2015 from 9.00am to 2.00pm.

Payment can be made by cash or cheque; no credit card facilities available. Sorry we cannot give out **CHANGE** but hopefully it can be given out by the end of the first week back. Please itemize your order on the back of an envelope, fill out your details on the front. This will make our finance officer very happy.

Uniform prices are listed below.

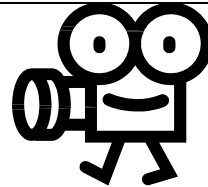
- Skorts - \$20
- Blouses - \$30
- Sports Shorts - \$20
- Sports Shirts - \$30
- Hair Scrunchies - \$4.50
- School Badges - \$4.00

If you have a child that requires an odd size uniform, please contact **Jan Parsons on 40 613 130**. Jan sews the girl's blouses and skorts for the school.

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASS - 6.30PM

Calling for all parts: Joseph, Mary, shepherds, angels and animals.

Come and be part of the real meaning of Christmas. Practice for the Children's Gospel will be on Friday 12 and 19 December, commencing at 3.30pm in Mother of Good Counsel Church, Innisfail. Please contact Maria Clark on 40 632 210 / 0448 716 271 or Angie Sheerans on 0409 871 636.



**MUNRO THEATRE
BABINDA
Admission - \$8**

5, 6 & 7 Dec

Commencing - 7.30pm

"LETS BE COPS"

Rated: M15+

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

2015 - TERM DATES

Terms	Start	Finish
1	Tuesday 27 Jan	Thursday 2 April
2	Monday 20 April	Friday 26 June
3	Monday 13 July	Friday 18 Sept
4	Tuesday 6 Oct	Friday 4 Dec

TERM 4 SCHOOL FEES

I would ask that all fees and money owing for various items be finalized **before the end of THIS WEEK.**

Thank you for your cooperation.



Want to do something this Christmas holiday?

Make a Book with Jacque Duffy, author and illustrator of 'The Bear Said Please' and the 'That's not a...' series.

- Make a Book - high-school students
- Make a book - primary school students
- Prep + Mum drawing group
- Materials supplied
- One morning a week (2hr) four weeks
- Morning tea provided.
- Adult art group (BYO materials)

ADOPT-A-COP

With an absence of almost twelve months, St Rita's South Johnstone recently adopted their new cop, with Constable Sam Baxter taking a placement at the South Johnstone Police Station. Sam has taken the place of the school's long standing Adopt-a-Cop Bob Trainor after his retirement last year. Sam and his family have been welcomed into the community with Boyd starting Prep at St. Rita's in 2015. The community of St Rita's looks forward to a long association with the Baxter family.



Photo L to R: Principal Mrs Vicki Conomo, Rebecca Piccolo, Caitlin Spinella, Constable Sam, Jordan Lindsay and Brody Mannito

MINNIE VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Below is a photo of St Rita's School, South Johnstone, Mini Vinnies Committee donating to the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. The children fundraised, holding a Halloween Disco, selling frozies through the term on a Thursday and a free dress day with children bringing in a donation of a non-perishable food item. The staff at the school as well as St Vinnies representative sare extremely proud of the students' efforts, donating \$300 cash and eight hamper baskets brimming with Christmas goodies.



Back Row: L - R Mr Frank Cazzulino, Zane Leonardi, Micala Spry, Mr Jos Van Slooten, Mr Jim Arnell

Front Row: L - R Jorja Karamaena, Hannah Sultana, Jarod Betts, Ella Keough, Coen Stephensen

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - TERM 4

WEEK 9	
1 st Dec	Year 6/7 Graduation Night
3 rd Dec	Christmas Concert
4 th Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yr 6/7 to Warrina Lakes • Desk cleaning
5 th Dec	End of Term- 12.00pm (No homework club)