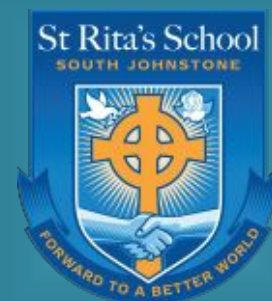


ST RITA'S SCHOOL, SOUTH JOHNSTONE

Weekly Newsletter Term 1, Week 4 2015

17 February 2015



Dear Parents and Carers,

The AGM for our P&F association was held in the school library last night. Thank you to all who attended. It was gratifying to see new faces around the table. Please see later in the newsletter a list of office bearers for 2015. St Rita's P&F is a proud group of hard working parents whose efforts each year in fund raising and giving back to the school is truly amazing, and very much appreciated by the staff and students of the school. In the last three years they have donated approximately \$60 000 towards facilities improvement and resources. I ask you all to assist in any way you can. Keep Friday March 13th in your calendar as this is our first social function of the year – A meet and greet night.

Thank you to all families who have promptly paid their resource levy. This is a huge expense to the school for the beginning of the year and your co-operation means that we can meet our financial commitments.

Today we had a visit from players from the NQ Cowboys. They spoke to the upper classes about sport and the importance of good nutrition.

Tomorrow is Ash Wednesday, a significant event in our Catholic calendar, with the starting of 40 days of Lent leading up to Easter. We will be holding a liturgy tomorrow at 10.30 a.m. and parents are invited to attend.

I ask all parents to assist us in keeping our uniform policy enforced. On the whole I

congratulate the children on their presentation. Boys must have their shirts tucked in on formal uniform days. Children are not to take their shoes off of an afternoon until they leave the school grounds. This is part of our workplace health and safety regulations as well.

Last week we had a visit from the local fire brigade to conduct an inspection of our facilities in the event of a fire and to oversee an evacuation drill. I am pleased to report we passed with flying colours on all aspects.

This afternoon we have the last of our parent/teacher meetings for the beginning of the school year. As I said in my report to the P&F last night, thank you to everyone who has made the effort to attend these meetings. Even if you have had a child in that teacher's room before things are done differently each year. 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.

Have a great week. God bless.

Vicki



No Assembly this week.



Kiara Foschi taking on Ty Williams in a push up competition during the visit from the Cowboys this morning.



We have 28 Complimentary Kids tickets to the Cowboys -v- Gold Coast Titans match THIS WEEKEND to give away!! If you intend to go this weekend, please come to the office to pick up a ticket.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

PANCAKE TUESDAY:

Today we celebrated **Pancake Tuesday** (also known as Shrove Tuesday) because it is the last day before the season of **LENT** begins. In their class groups the children participated in the making and consuming of these sweet treats as historically foods of this nature were forbidden during **LENT**. So today was the last chance to indulge a little. Thank you to the Year six children who were responsible for mixing the pancake batter and to the class teachers who assisted in the preparation of pancakes.



ASH WEDNESDAY:

Tomorrow is **Ash Wednesday**. It is a special day in the life of the Church as it marks the beginning of the **Lent** and is the starting point for our journey to **Easter**



when we commemorate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Our whole school will participate in a prayer liturgy at 10.30am in the church. As Fr Kerry is away on annual leave the staff of St. Rita's will distribute the ashes. These will be blessed at an earlier mass at Mother of Good Counsel, Innisfail. The ashes will be placed on our foreheads in the shape of a cross. This is a powerful sign of our belief in God and serves as a visible reminder of our promise to follow Jesus. **On Ash Wednesday** we are called to turn away from sin and encouraged to live a Christian life well.

Everyone is welcome to attend our Ash Wednesday liturgy.

SO WHAT IS LENT ALL ABOUT?

Lent is the season of 40 days that mirrors our Lord's forty day fast in the desert. For Catholics it is a time of self-reflection and self-renewal. Lent is celebrated by believers of all ages and is characterised by three main components: *prayer, fasting and almsgiving*.

In a nutshell, this means that **Lent** is a time for us to try to become more prayerful, to make our lives simpler and to share what we have with those who are in need.

FYI: A FEW INTERESTING FACTS

- Last year's palms are burned to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday
- The colour purple is the colour for the season of Lent
- Many people choose to observe a 'no meat on Friday' rule during Lent
- Lent ends on the evening of Holy Thursday

PROJECT COMPASSION 2015: FOOD FOR LIFE

Our commitment to **Project Compassion** is an important way that the St. Rita's community serves others during Lent. As a school we have supported this initiative of Caritas Australia for many years. This year's focus is **Food for Life**. *It throws a spotlight on global food issues and how Caritas Australia is empowering the world's poorest people to establish sustainable food sources for life.*



Each class will receive its own donation box and there will also be one in the school office. As well as this, we will be undertaking some

fundraising activities throughout the term to help us to assist this very worthy cause. Even though we are only a fairly small community every little bit counts – and this is a message that resonates with our very generous children and families. Thank you for your support.

THANK YOU:

Thank you to the large group of parents who attended our first school Assembly last Friday morning. It was wonderful to see so many of you and we hope that this gathering time will become a regular event. A special thank you also to Imogen, Braden, Jessica and Lily who facilitated the Assembly. They did an amazing job and have certainly led the way for their cohort this year. Our next Assembly will be Friday 27th February (Week 5).

Have a wonderful week. And may your Lenten journey be one of personal change and great fulfillment. Peace be with you,

Regards,
Denise
(Acting APRE – Assistant to the Principal Religious Education)



Cooking pancakes

TUCKSHOP

There is tuckshop this week

WELCOME NIGHT DATE CLAIMER

This year's Welcome Night will be on Friday, 13 March. Further details will be provided closer to the date.

SCHOOL FEES

A reminder that unless you have a **REGULAR** electronic payment arrangement set up, all payments over the internet or payments made at your bank, must be made to the account below.

SCHOOL BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS –

BSB: 084-352

A/C#: 000005018

**A/C NAME: RCTC St Rita's School South
Johnstone.**

DUE YESTERDAY !

A reminder that School Fees were due yesterday. Most families have not yet made payments. We ask that every effort is made to pay as a matter of urgency. At this time of year the school has an enormous amount of financial commitments that cannot be met without families paying due fees. Please do not hesitate to contact Vicki should there be any difficulties.

Thank you.

ICAS TESTING DATES YEARS 3-6 ONLY

Subject	Sitting Date	Closing Date	Price.
Digital Tech	19/05/15	05/05/15	\$8.80
Science	03/06/15	20/05/15	\$8.80
Writing	15/06/15	01/06/15	\$18.70
Spelling	16/06/15	02/06/15	\$12.10
English	28/07/15	14/07/15	\$8.80
Maths	11/08/15	28/07/15	\$8.80

Unfortunately, we are unable to take any late nominations so please have your envelope into the school office by 9am of the closing date. Thank you.

PREP IS GETTING A BIRD!

"Thank you to one of our Prep families for your kind donation."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TERM 1

27 Jan	School Starts – Term 1
3 Feb	Yr 5/6 begin Chinese Online Yr 5/6 MJR Day
4 Feb	Instrumental Music Lessons Begin
14 Feb	St Valentine's Day
18 Feb	Ash Wednesday
11 March	School Performance Tours 'Making Friends'
13 March	Welcome Night
17 March	St Patrick's Day
2 April	Easter Play End of Term 1
3 April	Good Friday
4 April	Easter Sunday
5 April	Easter Sunday

TERM 2

20 April	Start Term 2
25 April	Anzac Day
1 May	District Cross Country
10 May	Mother's Day
12-14 May	NAPLAN
19 May	ICAS Digital Technologies
20 May	School Photos
3 June	ICAS Science
8 June	Queen's Birthday Holiday
15-19 June	ICAS Writing
16 June	ICAS Spelling
26 June	End of Term

TERM 3

13 July	Start of Term 3
18 July	ICAS English
26 July-1 Aug	Catholic Education Week
3 August	School Performance Tours 'A Slice of Vaudeville'
5&7 Aug	District Athletics
6&7 Aug	Yr 2/3 Camp Darradgee
11 Aug	ICAS Maths
30 Aug-4 Sept	Yr 6 Camp Longreach
7 Sept	Starr Production 'Bully is Back'
9-11 Sept	Yr 4/5 Camp Barrabadeen

18 Sept End of Term

TERM 4

6 Oct	Start of Term 4
3 Nov	Melbourne Cup
9-13 Nov	Swimming – lower school
11 Nov	Remembrance Day
16-20 Nov	Swimming – upper school

*'Education is not the filling of a pail,
but the lighting of a fire.'*
by **William Butler Yeats**



Presents
Paddington (G)

20, 21 & 22 Feb
7.30pm
Admission \$8.00



FREEZER FOR SALE

The school still has a deep freezer for sale. If you are interested in purchasing, please see the office.

Tuckerbox Deep Freezer \$100 ono

LITTLE ATHLETICS

sign on now! IT'S ALL ABOUT FAMILY, FUN & FITNESS!

QUEENSLAND **Little Athletics**
family fun & fitness

CASSOWARY COAST LITTLE ATHLETICS

Sign on day: 27th February, 2015
Where: Castor Park, Mourilyan
When: 5.30pm – 6.30pm

Club nights start on 6th March with a free sausage sizzle.
For more information contact Centre Manager, Cameron on 0409485566

Queensland Little Athletics
ph 1300 559 436
or www.qlaa.asn.au

McDonald's IGA