

ST RITA'S SCHOOL, SOUTH JOHNSTONE

Weekly Newsletter Term 1, Week 1 2016

27 January 2015



Welcome back!!

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the beginning of a new school year, refreshed from Christmas holidays. This morning 111 students started the 2016 school year at St Rita's. Whether they were returning from last year, or coming to St Rita's for the first time, whether it be from another school or beginning their schooling adventure, each and every child has a special place here. Every child is important to us. Sadly over the holidays we said goodbye to the Kirkman family who moved away from the area. We wish them all the best in the future. This week we welcome to our school family:

PREP:

Zayde Butler	Ashleen Boora
Cooper Cini	Zoe Hill
Quinn Devaney	Abbey Leonardi
Finnley Jensen	Ava Lyons
Lochlan Lansdown	Rachel Mann
Travis Sinton	Amber McCarthy
Bodhi Spry	Koby Price
Dylan Stone	
Ryan Williams	
Brendan Wollschlager	

YEAR 2:

Izaak Murphy

YEAR 4:

Paige Dunne

YEAR 6:

Summer Dunne

Today we also welcome to our staff, Ms Rachel White teaching Year 1. Please make Ms White feel welcome.

Just a reminder to parents that school starts at 8.50 am. Children arriving after this time will have to be signed in through the office. Children arriving after 9.00am will be marked absent for the morning session unless prior notice has been given to the office. The morning bell therefore will be ringing at 8.45am to ensure children are ready to start work at 8.50 am.

This year our school is changing our homework policy in accordance with research data on the effectiveness of different types of homework activities in primary schools. A copy of the new policy has been emailed to you with this newsletter.

Our first assembly for the year will be Friday, 19 February (Week 4). Our opening school mass, will be on Friday, 5 February in the church commencing at 11.30am. School leaders will be introduced as part of this mass.

If you can give some of your time to devote to tuckshop please contact the office. The more volunteers, the less days each person involved will have to devote. Our tuckshop is one of our P & F initiatives.

In the next couple of weeks the teachers will be holding their class meetings. Please make

time to get along to these as the teachers explain their expectations and curriculum being covered in their room. It is also time for you to have a quick chat with them if you have any concerns. Sessions will be straight after school.

In the upcoming weeks we also have our annual welcoming family night. Watch the newsletter for this date. Monday, 16 February at 9am will be the Annual General Meeting for the P & F. Keep this date in your calendar. Do not stay away because you are frightened of getting a job on the P & F, only those who wish to hold a position do so. Our P & F prides itself on their commitment to our school.

I encourage parents to familiarize themselves with the *Code of Conduct for Parents and Volunteers* as set down by Catholic Education Cairns. This is available on our website underneath the menu item - parents/policies and procedures.

Opening Doors of Mercy is the motto for Catholic Education 2016. In keeping with this, we are looking forward to a great year with your continued support.

Going back six years ago the P & F reviewed the costs of grounds maintenance and made the decision to purchase the zero turn mower and our own gurney. With the help of volunteer parents the savings we have made have well and truly paid for this equipment. With Anthony no longer being a parent in the school we are now putting out an SOS for a parent/s to come forward to assist with these tasks. We have sourced quotes from outside agencies and if we have no other alternative than employ one of these companies, our Family Maintenance Levy will have to be increased by approximately \$20 per term. We hope not to go down this line. It may be that you can only commit to volunteering occasionally. If

we can get a group of parents we will then put together a roster based on your availability. We need for you to contact the office asap (before next Tuesday).

Have a great week. God bless.
Vicki

BEGINNING OF YEAR WHOLE SCHOOL MASS

**Friday, 5 February
11.30am
ALL WELCOME**



FIRST ASSEMBLY

19 February (Week 4)

In the school hall after the morning bell.

We will welcome all new students, present class awards and birthdays.

RESOURCE LEVY

Students will begin receiving their books today. The school charges an annual Resource Levy of **\$140 per child in Years 1 – 6 and \$160 per child in Prep.** This covers the purchase of text books, exercise books, class sets, photocopying and some consumables. Payment of the Resource Levy would be appreciated by the **13 February** to enable us to pay our accounts. 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.***

BELL TIMES

School officially starts at 8.50am and concludes at 3.05pm. Students will be supervised from 8.20am to 3.30pm. Please note – late arrivals and early departures must come through the school office. The Attendance Book on the office counter must be signed by parents at drop off/pick up.

MOBILE PHONES

NO student needs to use a mobile phone at school. The office phone is available if required. I will take no responsibility for lost or stolen phones at school. Should your child display one at school it will be confiscated.

SCHOOL HATS

Each student requires a school hat at school each day. This will be enforced. If they have **no hat** then it will be **no play**. Ensure you name your child's hat.

OFFICE HOURS

This year Jenni will be working Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. As the office will be unmanned on Wednesday, where possible please delay any enquiries/payments etc for another day.

ICAS TESTING DATES YEARS 3-6 ONLY

Subject	Sitting Date	Closing Date	Price.
Digital Tech	17/05/16	03/05/16	\$8.00
Science	31/05/16	17/05/16	\$8.00
Writing	13-17/06/16	30/05/16	\$17.00
Spelling	15/06/16	01/06/16	\$11.00
English	02/08/16	19/07/16	\$8.00
Maths	16/08/16	02/08/16	\$8.00

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.

INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM

YEARS 1-6

Starts Week 2

If your child wishes to continue with the instrumental program or a student wishes to commence learning an instrument, please collect an agreement form from the office. Lessons this year are **\$15.50 per week**. Payment will be added to your School Fees Statement, however **MUST** be paid at the beginning of each term. If your child needs to hire an instrument, the hiring cost is **\$20 per term**. This covers ongoing maintenance.

PLEASE NOTE – This service is being provided by a private instrumental teacher whom we pay on a fortnightly basis. **IF INSTRUMENTAL ACCOUNTS ARE NOT PROMPTLY PAID WITHIN THE ALLOCATED PERIOD, LESSONS WILL HAVE TO CEASE. NATHAN, THE INSTRUMENTAL TEACHER, WILL BE COMMENCING LESSONS NEXT WEEK.**

STAFF- 2016

Principal	Mrs Vicki Conomo
APRE	Mrs Denise Kenny
Prep	Miss Lauren Watkins
Year 1	Miss Rachel White
Year 2/3	Mrs Beth Haley & Mrs Donna Curzon
Year 3/4	Mrs Aileen Bufi & Mrs Andrea Devaney
Year 5/6	Mr Shane Rossi
Curriculum	Mrs Donna Curzon
Maths	Mrs Alicia Magnanini
Performing Arts	Mrs Denise Kenny
Learning Support	Mrs Donna Curzon
ICT	Mrs Alicia Magnanini
Physical Educ	Mr Shane Rossi
Admin/Finance	Mrs Jenni Taylor
Library	Mrs Judi Kelly
School Officers	Mrs Maria Clark Mrs Jo Hunter Mrs Sandy Jensen Mrs Beth Jackson Miss Santina Lizzio

HOMWORK CLUB

(No Homework Club this Wednesday)

St Rita's School

Homework Club will commence this week.

The facility will operate from Monday to Friday. A teacher will be on duty until

4.30pm Monday to

Thursday and until 4pm on Friday. Due to staff meetings, however, it is asked that Homework Club only be used on WEDNESDAYS in EMERGENCY cases ONLY.

A booking sheet will operate through the school office. Children **MUST** be booked in to use the facility. If you know ahead of time that you will not be able to collect your child by 4.30pm, please let the office know beforehand.

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 4064 2153. **REMEMBER: THIS FACILITY IS FOR WORKING PARENTS AND EMERGENCIES. IF IT IS ABUSED IT WILL CLOSE.**



a/c 000005018

a/c name: RCTC St Rita's School Sth Johnstone

If you are setting up regular internet payments you must use your REFERENCE NUMBER followed by your Surname as a reference; and please use the following account details –

bsb 084-352

a/c 000017401

a/c name: RCTC St Rita's School Sth Johnstone

Whilst cash payments can be made at the office **any day except Wednesday**, EFT payments or Direct Debits set up through the office are the two **PREFERED** ways to pay your fees.

Please note that BPay is available, however does cost the school a small amount of money. You will find the biller code on your statement. **IN THIS CASE, YOU WILL NEED TO USE YOUR NUMERIC REFERENCE NUMBER.**

The system will address the fee statement to the primary caregiver which is often the Mother or Female Guardian unless we have other arrangements formalised. Although the fee statement is addressed to an individual, the financial obligations undertaken by parents at the time of enrolment, or any more current fee paying agreement, will still stand. Where there is a change in the relationship between parents/guardians, notification of any change in financial obligations must be provided to the school. The documented change must be signed and acknowledged by all parties involved.

Thank you, Jenni

SCHOOL FEES – METHODS OF PAYMENT

Term 1 School Fees will be run next week. These fees will include Instrumental Music.

Please note the following **IMPORTANT INFORMATION** -

**If paying your fees in full over the internet please use your SURNAME, FIRST NAME/S as a reference and use the following account details -
bsb 084-352**

LIBRARY

Each student will require a library bag to take books home. We have a very extensive range of books. Please make sure your child borrows each week.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

To start the school year can I point out the correct uniform needs to be worn on particular school days. The formal day uniform is to be worn Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Boys:

- Sky blue shirt with badge on pocket
- Navy shorts
- Navy socks
- Black sandshoes or black leather shoes

Girls:

- Sky blue blouse with badge
- Navy skort
- White socks
- Black sandshoes or black leather shoes

The school sports uniform is to be worn on Tuesday and Friday.

Boys:

- School sports shirt
- Navy shorts (available from the office)
- White socks
- Sports joggers

Girls:

- School sports shirt
- Navy skort or navy shorts
- White socks
- Sports joggers

School hats are available from Innisfail Custom Clothing, (legionnaires or wide brim). Girls' school uniforms are available through the school office. If you require non-standard sizes these can be made by Mrs Margaret Tinney – 0422 951 862.

UNIFORM PRICES

Uniform prices are listed below. Uniforms are available from the school office.

Girl's skort	\$20.00
Girl's blouse	\$30.00
Sports shorts	\$20.00
Sports shirts	\$30.00
Hair Scrunchies	various
School badges	\$4.50



FLOOD PLAN

Our procedure if flooding occurs is as follows:

- Parents need to use their judgment with regards to getting their children to and from school safely.
- School will only be closed after consultation with the local police.
- Only if the school routine is changed will an announcement be placed on Radio 4KZ and Kool FM between 7.00am and 7.30am.
- In the event that school is to close once classes have begun, then parents will be notified according to residential location.
- If buses are sent from Innisfail to pick up students who travel home by bus, Trans North will notify the school so that parents are contacted to ensure someone is home to meet the bus. No students will be permitted to travel on the bus if parents have not been contacted.
- If you are ever unsure of safe school travel, contact the school before leaving home.
- Be assured no students will be left at school unattended.
- Extra caution needs to be taken when travelling on wet roads and don't drive through water.
- Parent, student and teacher safety is paramount.



Presents
**Alvin and the
Chipmunks: The Road
Chip (PG)**
29, 30 & 31 Jan
7.30pm
Admission \$8.00



ST RITA'S SCALLYWAGS PLAYGROUP

Meets every Tuesday
9am – 11am
Crafts & cooking activities begin at 9.30am
All welcome

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TERM 1

27 Jan	School Starts – Term 1
3 Feb	Yr 5/6 begin Chinese Online Yr 5/6 MJR Day
2 Feb	Instrumental Music Lessons Begin
14 Feb	St Valentine's Day
18 Feb	Ash Wednesday
19 Feb	Parent Workshop 'Helping you Child to Read at Home'
17 March	St Patrick's Day End of Term 1
24 March	School Cross Country
25 March	Good Friday
27 March	Easter Sunday

TERM 2

11 April	Start Term 2
25 April	Anzac Day
2 May	Labour Day public holiday
8 May	Mother's Day
17 May	ICAS Digital Technologies
23-25 May	Yr 4/5 Camp – Eco Creek
31 May	ICAS Science
13-17 June	ICAS Writing
15 June	ICAS Spelling
20-24 June	Interhouse Sports Week
24 June	End of Term

TERM 3

11 July	Start of Term 3
25-29 July	Catholic Education Week
27 July	School Photos
2 Aug	ICAS English
3-4 Aug	Prep/Yr 1 Camp
16 August	ICAS Maths
30 Aug-2 Sept	Yr 6 Camp – Charters Towers
16 Sept	End of Term

TERM 4

3 Oct	Queen's Birthday Holiday
4 Oct	Start of Term 4
2 Nov	Melbourne Cup
11 Nov	Remembrance Day
2 Dec	Last day of school



BOOGAN STARS JUNIOR FOOTBALL

Sign On
Thursday 11 Feb

when: THURSDAY 11 February
time: 5pm - 6.15pm
where: Castor Park, Mourilyan
All interested players must REGISTER ONLINE (www.myfootballclub.com.au) – no manual registrations in accordance with FNQ Zone.
Uniforms on sale
For more information call Charles Manitto ph. 0418 772 381

Children of all ages can join.
Squirts are ages 3 – 5 years.
Come and join the fun.
A great way for children to keep fit and active and make new friends ...
Training is every Thursday at 5pm