

ST RITA'S SCHOOL, SOUTH JOHNSTONE

Weekly Newsletter Term 4, Week 3 2016

9 February 2016



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Thank you to the parents who have taken time out of their busy schedules to attend Parent/Teacher meetings this week. If you are unable to attend please contact the class teacher who will provide you with a handout of items discussed at the various meetings. Parents just be reminded that if you have a personal matter to discuss, do so after the meeting. During the meeting is not the time to do this.

As a matter of urgency and child safety, parents who are insisting on parking outside the designated parking bays behind parked cars in the staff carpark (which is utilised by Prep parents) are asked to stop this activity, or the area will be closed to parental parking for the safety of our young students. The other issue that has been raised is parents parking illegally (too close to the carpark exits on Green Street). This greatly restricts visibility of oncoming traffic. Unfortunately this almost ended in disaster yesterday with a parent narrowly missing an oncoming car. In school drop off times Green Street is actually a no-standing zone. Considerable expense was outlaid to erect the walkway to the back gate to have a safer parking option. I would also bring to your attention that the carpark near the post office will be decommissioned during the building project as it will be part of the building site. Therefore it is probably a good idea to begin getting used to parking in Driscoll Street and walking in.

Tomorrow at 11.30 am we will be holding a short liturgy in the church, for Ash Wednesday. Everyone is welcome to attend. Talk with your children about Lent and what they can do at home. Lent is a time to get ready for Easter and with young children we emphasise the performing of good deeds rather than giving something up. This is very pertinent this year with the special "Year of Mercy" announced by Pope Francis.

Just a reminder to keep next Monday morning free for our P&F AGM. Thank you to the parents who have already been in contact with the office notifying us that they are unable to attend.

Over the coming few weeks, teachers will be attending several professional development days. Unfortunately they are during term time but all effort is made for the smooth running of the classroom. Teachers inform the students of their absence so that the children know they will have someone different teaching them the following day.

Next Friday is our first assembly for the year. Everyone is welcome to attend. Assembly usually goes for around 40 minutes. Don't forget the "Helping my child with reading at home" workshop following assembly.

I am hoping you have all made arrangements so you can attend the Mark Davidson behaviour management PD on

Monday, 22nd February at 7pm. If you have absolutely no baby sitters and are keen to attend, please notify the office.

School fees were issued last Friday. Parents are encouraged to pay these as soon as possible, as you can imagine there are a lot of expenses to start the new year. Thank you to the parents who have paid their Resource Levy. Just a reminder that this levy must be paid by the end of this week.

Congratulations to our school leaders who were inducted last Friday at our opening school mass. The leaders' badges will be issued next Friday at our first assembly. I would like to congratulate all the children on their behaviour during mass given that it was possibly the hottest day of the year to date.

Congratulation to the Henaway family on the birth of their new baby boy this morning. A brother for Kynan (year 1) and Oliver. At this stage we do not have any further information other than he arrived, surprising his parents a few weeks early and that all is well.

Thank you for a great start to the new year.

God bless, have a great week.

Vicki



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS



LENT

BEGINS THIS WEEK:

LENT is the Christian season of preparation before Easter. It is a special time in the Church calendar when followers of Christ observe a period of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Put simply, the purpose is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ – his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial and resurrection. LENT is celebrated by Catholics of all ages and 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.

LENT lasts for 40 days and is a fairly serious time as we recall the period that Jesus spent in solitude in the desert before he began his preaching ministry.

LENT is an occasion for us to participate in self-examination and self-renewal. We are encouraged to think about what the gospel means to us and to think about how well we are living up to God's law of love. For many it can be a time of great change.



CELEBRATING 'PANCAKE TUESDAY':

Today we celebrated **Pancake Tuesday** or **Shrove Tuesday** as it is the last day before the period of **LENT** begins. As **LENT** is traditionally a time of abstinence, of giving up things or self-sacrifice, this day is the last chance to indulge a little.

Pancakes and other sweets are often eaten on this day because they are typically rich in fat, butter and eggs which historically were foods restricted during Lent. The Tuesday before Ash Wednesday has become known as the last day of celebration and feasting before the period of fasting begins.

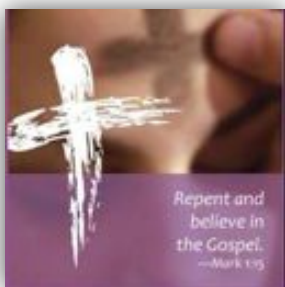


CELEBRATING ASH WEDNESDAY:

Tomorrow we will begin our Lenten journey with **Ash Wednesday**. This marks Day One of our forty day experience as we prepare to celebrate Easter. Our Whole School celebration will be in the Church at 11.30 am

As Fr Kerry began his annual holiday period this week and Fr Nathan is unavailable, this will be a Liturgy of the Word during which the class teachers will distribute the blessed ashes among the members of their class.

During this time a cross of ashes will be placed on each child's forehead. This is a powerful sign of our belief in God and serves as a reminder of our promise to follow Jesus. Basically, when we receive the ashes we remember that we are members of God's family and that we are called to be faithful to the gospel through our words and actions. Parents are most welcome to join us.



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**
- **Purple is often associated with mourning, which anticipates Christ's pain and suffering on the cross; and royalty which celebrates his resurrection**
- **Many people choose to observe a 'no meat on Friday' rule during Lent**
- **Lent ends on Easter Sunday**
- **Lent is derived from an Old English word which means 'lengthen'**
- **The last week of Lent is called Holy Week**
- **The number 40 is significant in Jewish-Christian scripture**

Wishing you all a wonderful week and an inspiring and refreshing Lenten season.

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

Regards,

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

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.

SCHOOL FEES – METHODS OF PAYMENT

Term 1 School Fees were run last Friday afternoon. Please carefully check your statement. If you have any questions or if you did not receive a statement by email, please contact the office. Fees are due on 19 February. Thank you, Jenni

Sacramental Program 2016

REMINDER - Enrolments forms are now available for the Sacramental Program for 2016. If you have a child who has been baptised Catholic and will be in Year 4 this year (or an older grade) then please contact Angie at the Parish Office on 40616633 or drop in to collect your enrolment form.

The Sacramental Program includes the Sacraments of Reconciliation, the Sacrament of Confirmation and the Sacrament of Eucharist.

Lisa DeBuck

Sacramental Coordinator

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 payment in prior to the closing date. Thank you.

Some of the Preps enjoying a lunch time during a storm in the library with Ms Horsford our new Teacher Librarian – Jump into a good book.



St Rita's Church built by Travis, Quinn, Ryan and Bodhi



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NEW DATES IN YELLOW

TERM 1

- 14 Feb St Valentine's Day
- 18 Feb Ash Wednesday
- 19 Feb Parent Workshop 'Helping you Child to Read at Home'
- 22 Feb 7-9pm Mark Davidson Child Behaviour Consultant
- 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
- 18 April Real Schools – Adam Voigt
- 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



Presents
Hotel Transylvania 2 (PG)
 12, 13 & 14 Feb
 7.30pm
 Admission \$8.00



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

Sign On Day

13 February 2016
 Time: 8:30am to 12:00pm
 Goondi Bend Combined Sports Field

All are Welcome

Contact: Scott Davies - 0428 773 481



Goondi Scout Group

Goondi Scout is open to new members aged 6years – 15years. Scouting offers and educational program for all ages. Scouting is the largest youth organisation in world teaching life skills and survival skills. With outdoor activities e.g.; abseiling, canoeing, bushwalking and camping. See you at the Goondi Scout den in Wattle Street, Friday nights 6pm for 6-10yrs 7pm for 10yers and over, closed in shoes to be worn.

More info call GL. Elizabeth Seymour. 40616220



BOYS & GIRLS AGED 5 -12 YEARS

Meeting once a month

FEBRUARY

12th SUPER WATER FUN NIGHT

Slip & Slide plus loads of games

Wear old clothes and bring a towel & change of clothes.

4:30 – 6:30 pm (NEW TIME)

Harvest Church

191-193 Mourilyan Road

Cost \$4 – food & drinks supplied

Phone Kareen 40642480 A/H

For more info