



## FROM THE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

I extend a warm welcome back to our returning and new families. It is great to be able to see our students return relaxed and happy and ready to start a year of learning. Friendships have been rekindled and class teachers met and the new groupings formed.

We welcome the following new staff to our community:

Ms Anita Thomas to Prep K,  
Ms Katie Davis to 2L,  
Mrs Melissa Devisser to 2K sharing with Mrs Trappett  
Mrs Christina Drakogiannakis to 3L  
Ms Gemma Lovell to 3J  
Ms Aoife Condrón to 6L  
Ms Maria O'Donnell to 6K  
Mrs Toni Schmalkuche - School Officer  
Mrs Geraldine Harper - School Officer

Joining us this year are our 74 "first timers" preppies and 22 new families in Years 1 to 6. I am sure you will join us in extending a wonderful St Rita's hospitality to them all.

### Grounds and Facilities

Our grounds are looking fabulous thanks to the hard work and efforts of our grounds staff, Eric Robertson, James Penglis and Connor Martin. As you know, given the heat of our summer and the work required to keep everything in shape it is wonderful that they were able to maintain the grounds – thank you Eric, James and Connor.

The toilet refurbishment project is well on the way with the amenities at the end of Block E being the first block to be worked on. Year 3, 4 and 6 students will

# Around Our School

Term 1 Week 1

23 January 2018

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need to use the amenities at the end of Block D and the Year 4, 2, and 1 students will use the Early Years amenities block near Year 1.

Block E should be completed in about 3 weeks and then will be opened up for use while the Block D and Early Years ones are refurbished.

### Theme for 2018

Our theme for 2018 is 'Open Minds and Joyful Hearts – in the Year of Youth 2018'. This picks up on the 'Year of Youth', as declared by the Australian Council of Bishops, for the 10th anniversary of World Youth Day in Sydney in 2008. Their theme is *Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy: Young People Faith and Vocational Discernment*. With a focus on engaging with youth in new ways to encounter God and Jesus Christ with open hearts.

Of course we will also pick up on the educational elements of our theme too. In order to learn new things and adapt to change we need to have open minds, joyful hearts helps us celebrate our successes and be proud of everyone's achievements.



### School Hours and Outside Hours School Care

Classes commence at 8.30am and conclude at 3pm. As class rolls are completed by 8.40am, any student arriving after 8.40 must be accompanied to the office by parent or carer to be signed in and receive a late slip to give to the teacher when they arrive at class. This is an important way to ensure we have accurate



records of who is at school, I ask you to support us in keeping our students safe by following these procedures.

Before school, a bell will ring at 8.10am for supervised play for students who arrive early. The Prep to Year 2 students remain in the Admin play area and students in Year 3 – 6 are escorted up to the oval seat area.

It is expected that students arrive from 8am onwards and not earlier. At this time, the toilets will be opened. The only supervision for students arriving prior to 8am is via the Outside School Hours morning program. You are asked to enroll your children into this program if they must be on site before 8.00am. The contact number for OHSC is 0477 550 700. The OSHC staff are currently applying for a license to take extra numbers on some days of the week.

#### **Tuckshop – change of days**

This year we will be trialing a change of hours for the Tuckshop service. Tuckshop will be open all day on Thursdays and Fridays for both breaks. Ms Schafer is sending home menus and information about rosters with this week's newsletter.

With best wishes for a wonderful start to the school year.

Carolyn

#### **FROM APA**

Welcome to the 2018 school year. It was great to see the children's smiling faces today – thank you for sending them back so ready for learning.

#### **Safety First! Drop Off and Pick Up of Students**

Thank you to all our parents who used the street parking, car park or Drive Thru system correctly, safely and patiently today. We encourage all families to do so every day, both in the morning for drop off as well as the afternoon for pick-up. When using the Drive-Thru, please proceed through the main carpark (Benfer Road entrance), staying under the **speed limit of 5km per hour** and using the left- hand lane to move around to the pick-up zone. **Drivers are to remain in their vehicles at all times** when using the Drive-Thru.

It is dangerous for children to be exiting or entering cars in the carpark lanes and it impacts upon traffic flow. We also ask that you not drive into the school grounds in front of the church. If you wish to leave your vehicle to speak to staff or collect your child(ren), please park in one of the spaces in the main carpark. **Our Disabled Parking spaces are only to be used by people displaying the appropriate permit please.** The Red Gum Drive entrance is for staff only to enter the staff carpark or for parents to use when accessing the early morning or late afternoon Outside School Hours Care service.

A **staggered approach is ideal** in the afternoon, rather than everyone trying to pick up at 3:00pm. Staff are on duty in the Drive-Thru until at least 3.30pm. Parents / Carers arriving at 3.15 onwards usually have a clear run through. We understand that at times, you may be caught in a traffic jam somewhere. Please be assured that your children will not be left unattended. At 3:30pm the staff on duty in the Drive-Thru lock the gates and bring any students who have not been collected to the school office.

Brian Mason

#### **FROM APRE**

Welcome to 2018, I hope that everyone had a restful break and the Christmas period was spent with loved ones. As Australia celebrates Australia Day this week, let us pray for all Australians.

O God, the wonders of our vast and rugged land reflect your beauty, ever ancient, ever new. May your blessings flow upon us as a stream in the desert, and may your spirit prompt us to use your gifts for the good of all.

May all Australian people live in peace.

Be with us God.

May all Australian people have access to food and shelter.

Be with us God

May all Australians be caretakers of creation and the land that we call home,

Be with us God

Amen



## FROM PLL

### Reading to Young Children: A Head-Start in Life

The research sets out to explore the connections between parents reading to their young children and their child's later reading and other cognitive skills.

#### Key Findings

The frequency of reading to children at a young age has a direct causal effect on their schooling outcomes regardless of their family background and home environment.

- Reading to children at age 4-5 every day has a significant positive effect on their reading skills and cognitive skills (i.e., language and literacy, numeracy and cognition) later in life.
- Reading to children 3-5 days per week (compared to 2 or less) has the same effect on the child's reading skills at age 4-5 as being six months older.
- Reading to them 6-7 days per week has the same effect as being almost 12 months older.
- Children read to more frequently at age 4-5 achieve higher scores on the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests for both Reading and Numeracy in Year 3 (age 8 to 9).
- These differences in reading and cognitive skills are not related to the child's family background or home environment but are the direct result of how frequently they have been read to prior to starting school.

At the end of last year I shared current research findings about the importance of reading to young children. The direct causal effect between the frequency of reading to young children and positive schooling outcomes is very strong. As teachers in the Early Years at St Rita's we acknowledge and support this research and highly value the home reading partnership between parents, students and us.

To support this partnership, parents are invited to gather in Unitas on Wednesday 31 January 5:00pm for an introduction to home reading with Mrs Watson and I. For those who are unable to attend at this time the meeting will be live streamed and also available on the parent portal following the meeting. Following this, parents are invited to meet with your child's teacher in the respective classrooms for a short information session.

Childminding will be available in the library if required, please email me if you would like to book your child/ren in. [smaclean@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:smaclean@bne.catholic.edu.au).

Sue Maclean

## SPORTS NEWS



### Quote of the week

*'Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world.'*

**Joel a Barker**

### District Swimming

Students will be notified shortly if they have been selected to represent St Rita's at the upcoming District and Bayside Swimming Carnivals. Selections are based on performance and times gained at the School Swimming Carnival from Term 4 last year. The district carnival is scheduled for 15 February at Chandler Aquatic Centre followed by the Bayside carnival 23 March.

### Cross Country Training

For all those interested – Cross Country Training will commence Wednesday morning 31 January next week. Training will be held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 7.40 – 8.10am. Students are asked to meet Mr Kenyon under the covered area outside the tuckshop prior to 7.40am. Training is on offer to all students interested. See you there!

## MUSIC NEWS

Welcome to St Rita's 2018! Hope our St Rita's community have had a lovely break. I have returned from long-service leave and I am looking forward to some exciting performances and activities in the creative arts this year.

All students will receive a note this week regarding arts activities they can participate in if they wish. Creative Arts activities that will be offered in 2018 are:

- Senior Choir (Year 4-5-6)
- Junior Choir (Year 2-3)
- Senior Drama (Year 5-6)
- Junior Drama (Year 3-4)
- Junior Dance
- Senior Dance
- Ukulele Club (Lv 1, 2 or 3)



A separate enrolment form will be sent out at a later date for students who would like to enrol in concert band lessons.

If you would like your child to participate in any of these groups, please fill out and return the form given to your child.

Have a great first week,

Paul Tyrrell  
Arts Teacher

## UNIFORM SHOP

### HOURS

Thursday	8.00 to 10.00am
Friday	8.00 to 10.00am



## TUCKSHOP NEWS

Welcome back St Rita's Families.

Following are a few important things that you need to know about Tuckshop for 2018.



- Operating days for Tuckshop have been changed to Thursday and Friday all day for both.
- **Tuckshop will not open until Thursday 1st February.**
- We have a new menu, you should be receiving a paper copy shortly as well as find it on St Rita's website.
- **You will be receiving a paper copy of the volunteer form for those of you who wish to volunteer. Due to the change of days could new and current volunteers please fill it out and have it back to school asap.**
- Everyone on Flexischools has received an email on how to make the changes necessary for class change. Please do not put the words Miss or Mr in front of your child's name as it comes out alphabetically and can be overlooked with this in front of their name.

If you have any questions at all, big or small please feel free to email me, text me or even pop in for a chat.

Email: [renee.schafer@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:renee.schafer@bne.catholic.edu.au) or 0411 523 969

Renee

