Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

This Sunday morning at 9am we look forward to our first school parish family Mass for the year. All families are welcome and our St Rita’s staff will be receiving a special blessing during a commissioning ceremony for our work in the care and education of our students for 2015.

**ACU – BCE Partnership in Speech Pathology**

From next Tuesday, our school will be welcoming second year students from Australian Catholic University – Speech Pathology to be fulfilling their practical course requirements within a school setting. This is a highly commendable initiative and St Rita’s has been identified as a desirable setting for best practice in early childhood education. As such, there will be two students working with each of our Prep classes on a weekly basis (Tuesday) under the supervision of Dr Sharon Crosbie. Our progressive work in the importance of oral language to lay the foundation to all learning is being recognised and rewarded through collaborative and professional partnerships such as this.

**New Classroom Furniture – Year 3**

It has arrived! Some new furniture – ordered last year – has duly arrived and we look forward to moving this into the three Year 3 classrooms in the coming days. Providing a contemporary and stimulating physical environment is an essential ingredient to productive and successful learning. We hope the exchange will cause minimal disruption, but well worth the wait. This now completes our learning spaces from Year 6 through to Year 3 and we now have Years 1 – 2 in our plans for an upgrade.

**Library Helpers – Thank you**

We have a great team of parent helpers working together on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings covering a multitude of new books purchased for our library and literacy programs. Thank you!

**As we progress through the Season of Lent, may we continue to find God’s presence in works of mercy and love. Live in Hope, Live with Joy.**

Anne

**Project Compassion**

Thank you to the many families and children who have contributed to Project Compassion this Lenten Season already. Our Mini Vinnie representatives are doing a fine job collecting the money from classrooms each week. The theme for this year is Food for Life and I would encourage you to go onto the website and have a look at the sustainable projects Project Compassion leads. Each week the teachers within their classes introduce the new theme for social justice conversations. [http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion)
Reflection
There is no small act of kindness.
Every compassionate act makes large the world.
Mary Anne Radmacher

Enjoy the week ahead and hope to see you Sunday.

Kevin

We have had a number of new families start at St Rita’s this year in addition to the new Prep families and it has been an inspiring experience watching everyone settle in as we embark on week 5.

This can be an overwhelming experience for families starting out with their first child at school; in a class with a new group of friends or with a teacher they might not know. The start of the year can also be a brilliant opportunity for a new beginning for those who may have struggled last year at school either academically or socially. A clean slate is important for some children and young people. The New Year provides an opportunity for children to grow personally as they need to meet new challenges.

Adapting successfully to change or altered circumstances is a basic life skill that we all learn as children. Some children do struggle in this area but with parental help they can easily succeed.

Here are ten things that you can do to help get your children off to the best start ever and maximise this time of opportunity:

1. **Pump up the positives:** Children react differently to change and new circumstances. The good news is that they tend to take their cues from their parents. So be positive in your language and attitude toward the coming events. If school ‘sucks’ then point their attention towards the positives – different friends, new activities, fun teacher. Find something positive for them to focus on.

2. **Be patient:** It takes some children longer than others to settle, make friends and move into a new routine. If kids are finding things a little tough let them know that things will get better. Resist the temptation to change situations that may not be ideal for your child. Be a supportive parent rather than a rescuer parent. Teach your children the value of patience.

3. **Process what happens:** Help children and teens process their new experiences and be willing to fill in the gaps of what they don’t see. Children can be faulty observers forgetting that there maybe two sides to every story; and that there may be good reasons for schools doing what seem to be dumb things to them. Point out the pieces they don’t see.

4. **Play down blowouts:** School can be tiring for children as they negotiate new relationships, learn new routines and adjust to new adults so they frequently become tired, grumpy and cantankerous at home. It’s hard to be good all day so parents often have to can cop the brunt of their bad stuff for a time.

5. **Work out problems with the school setting:** Work out the right channels and take any settling in issues to the right people at the right time. Don’t be in too much of a hurry though as you need to give children a chance to settle.

6. **Set up communication:** Establish communication early with your child’s teacher, form teacher or carer. Work out the best way to stay in contact with them, being respectful of their time.

7. **Match them with mates:** The big issue for many children is not what they learn, but who they are friendly with. Social success usually precedes school success so make it easy for them to make friends. Make sure you let them invite a friend around or spend after school time at a new friend’s place.

8. **Get them to bed on time:** Children of all ages get tired at the start of the school year so make sure they get plenty of sleep.

9. **Get them to school on time:** Believe it or not many children habitually get to school late. Ten minutes a day soon adds up so make getting to school on time a high priority.

10. **Start your home learning routine:** Establish an after school routine that allows for their recommended learning activities. Be flexible but don’t be fooled into having no time for outside class learning such as reading, projects or other learning tasks.
Psychologically, the way a child starts a process will often determine his or her success. Getting off to a good start does make a difference and parents are very much part of this process. So be prepared to focus more of your energies and attention toward children than usual as they settle in at this important time of the year.

As always please feel very welcome to get involved in your child’s / children’s education this year. The feedback from teachers has been really positive regarding the ‘Parent Teacher Orientation Meetings’ which finish up this week. I hope your experience with these meetings has also been of great value.

All the best
Shane

SPORTS NEWS

Quote of the week
‘Persistence can change failure into extraordinary achievement’. Marv Levy

District Sport Trials
The following district trials have become available:
1. Senior Rugby League (students born in 2003)
2. Junior Rugby League (students born in 2004)

If there are any students interested in trialling for any of these sports – it is suggested that they are involved in regular training with a club and show a high proficiency of skill and knowledge of the game and/or have representative experience. Please see Mr Kenyon if interested.

Cross Country Training
For all those interested – Cross Country Training starts this week (Friday Morning). Training is held on

Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning from 7.50 – 8.25am. Students are asked to meet Mr Kenyon under the covered area outside the tuckshop prior to 7.50am. Training is on offer to all students interested. See you there!

St Rita’s Touch Football
Rounds commence this Friday! Students and families involved will be notified throughout the week of playing times and fields. Looking forward to a great season!

Training for u/12’s teams will be held Mondays from 3.15 – 4.00pm. Training for u/10’s will be on Wed and Thurs 1st Break at school during play.

ASSEMBLY AWARDS

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<tr>
<td>Jackson K</td>
<td>For being an active participant in all lessons. Well Done!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Imani G</td>
<td>For always being a polite and thoughtful student.</td>
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<td>3K</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jamie H</td>
<td>For always making the effort to keep the safe and tidy for others. Well Done!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Georgia M</td>
<td>For always showing respect to other teachers and students at St Rita’s with your great manners.</td>
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<td>3T</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mikayla T</td>
<td>Well Done Mikayla. You work hard and try you best at all times. This INSPIRES OTHERS to do the same. Thanks for showing 3T how to work hard!!!!!</td>
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UNIFORM SHOP

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The Banker of the Week this week is Grace C, congratulations Grace we have deposited $2 into your account.

It’s never too late to start your school banking account and it’s very easy to set up, just drop into BOQ Victoria Point and we’ll set your new account up ready for next Tuesday. If you forget to send your school banking in you can bring it into the branch and still be in the draw for Banker of the Week. We’re even open on Saturday mornings.

BOQ Victoria Point – Ph 3207 6133
Open Monday – Thursday 9.30am to 4.30pm, Friday 9.30am to 5.00pm, Saturday 9am to 12 noon

みなさん、こんにちは (Hello Everyone) To help us learn all the new Japanese words, we also learn gestures (based on Japanese sign language) to go with the words. This helps the words stick in our brains so much faster! Who can share some of the gestures we have learnt in Japanese with their family this week?

Wednesday 25th Feb
Trish McNamara
Leila Winterburn

Thursday 26th Feb
Wendy Bevis
Linda Thorogood
Annie McHerron

Friday 27th Feb
Louise Lowcock
Maggie Helmn
Lisa Bihari
2ND Break
Belinda Kliese

I would like to send out a very big THANK YOU to Louise and Michelle who came in last Friday (even though their children weren’t at school) to help make sure that all students got their tuckshop dry and on time. Renee - rsaleh@bne.catholic.edu.au
Bulimba Women’s Hockey Club are seeking PLAYERS/COACHES for 2015 Hockey Season Aged from 5 years for.....
Senior, Junior and Masters Turf Teams Senior and Junior Grass Teams Modified Teams Training held at State Hockey Centre, Lytton Road, Morningside For further details please contact: Kay Beirne - 0409621033 or Gaye Swaffield - 0408339891
ENROLMENTS - YEAR 7, 2017

Applications for enrolment for Year 7, 2017 are invited from parents of students who are currently in Year 5.

Carmel College’s enrolment process for this year level will begin Term 2, 2015. Applications should be received before Tuesday 31st March, 2015. Enrolment information can be obtained via the Carmel College website www.carmelcollege.qld.edu.au or by contacting Mrs Donna Cook, College Enrolment Secretary on 3488 7791.

Applications are also being accepted for students currently in Year 4. These students will be the intake for Year 7, 2018.

‘LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE’