FROM THE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

Live in Hope – Live with Joy!
Our first school and parish family Mass was a beautiful celebration of our community of faith and it was lovely to share this with so many of our families and staff of St Rita’s. Fr Paul’s homily highlighting the privilege and trust bestowed upon us by parents as to what it is to teach and transform lives was inspiring. The blessing of staff and the gift of the cards made by our children was very special to all.

Year 6 Student Leadership Liturgy
We look forward to welcoming as many parents and families members as possible for our Leadership Liturgy for our Year 6 student leaders. This will be held at 2.30pm on Wednesday 11 March in the Unitas Centre. The students will be presented with their Leadership Badges at this ceremony. At St Rita’s we believe in shared leadership and hold expectations that all of our Year 6 students can demonstrate and develop leadership qualities. They are currently working with their class teachers and our volunteer teachers, Mr Roy David and Mrs Pat David to develop their skills in public speaking and communication. Leadership through effective communication will promote greater self-confidence and self-actualisation enabling our students to recognise their successes in our vision to Know More, Do More and Be More.

Uniform Shop – Re-located to E Block
We are pleased to announce that our school Uniform Shop is re-locating to the first room in E Block – across from the Year 1 and 2 playground area. This will be operational from this coming Thursday morning.

School Fees
This term’s school fees have been sent to your email address and are due for payment this week. Please contact our school office if you have not received your statement. We know from last years’ experience that the change to email notification resulted in slower payments and greater need for reminders. We are more hopeful that parents will be better accustomed to this process in 2015 and thank you for your commitment. As always, if you experience difficulty in meeting these payments, please contact our school Finance Officer for assistance.

Prep Open Morning – Tuesday 24 March
With the success of our open afternoons in 2014, we are continuing with this initiative each term. We will be hosting an open morning on Tuesday 24 March for any new families and will be advertising this in the local paper and local kindy and pre-school centres.
Please let any neighbours or friends who may be interested in a Catholic Education experience at St Rita’s know of this.

May you know God’s presence in the coming week as we Live in Hope and Live with Joy.

Anne

Project Compassion
This week’s project compassion story takes us to NSW to hear about Karen, a First Australian, living in a remote rural community. Like many there she can’t always afford or access healthy food. At the Centacare Wilcannia-Forbes Manage Your Income, Manage Your Life Program, supported by Caritas Australia, Karen gained the skills she needed to budget and choose healthy food for her family. Please view the link to see how important our dollars are in bringing joy and hope to others.

http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion/weekly-stories/week-3-karen

World Day of Prayer: 6 March
The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement which brings Christians of many traditions together to observe a common day of prayer each year. The motto of the World Day of Prayer movement is Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action. Through our participation in the World Day of Prayer, we affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence on the world. More information can be found at http://www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org/

Reflection
The meaning of life is to find your gift.
The purpose of life is to give it to others.

Pablo Picasso

Have a wonderful week
Kevin

This Friday our year 4 students are off to Ngutana-Lui Aboriginal centre and our year 5 students are off to St Helena Island on the 19th of March. Teachers and students alike are very excited about the excursions along with the rich experiences and learnings that will arise as a result. As the pace continues for this Term, sometimes a change of routine or environment may be unsettling for some students. Together in partnership, teachers and parents have a responsibility to help students cope when life throws a curve ball. Providing students with strategies is essential if they are to maintain mental health in this ever changing secular world that we live in.

Here are five strategies from Michael Grose to assist parents and teachers in assisting students with their “Coping Skills”.

1. See the funny side of a situation: Humour is THE great coping strategy. It reduces stress and heightens feelings of control.
2. Park their bad thoughts somewhere: The ability to compartmentalise your life and keep bad events from impacting on all areas is a powerful
coping skill. “Don’t let this wreck your day” is an important message to get across to kids.

3. Let’s talk about it: A problem shared is a problem halved. Resilient kids seek solace in the company of others, when they experience difficulty. That’s why social connection is so important for kids.

4. Keep your perspective: Some kids catastrophise (‘this is the worst thing to happen to me.......ever’) and others will personalise (‘it’s my fault that I have no friends’) when bad stuff happens. These types of reactions exaggerate anxiety. One way kids can keep a sense of proportion is to ask them to identify their problem or difficulty on a disaster scale of 1 to 10. Another is to wind back their language.

5. Set a goal or two: Help kids look ahead rather than backwards when bad stuff happens. “Let’s take the first step” can have a powerful impact on a child or young person when life doesn’t go their way.

All the best
Shane

**DROP OFF AND PICK UP**

With many families transitioning into the routine of morning drop-offs and afternoon pick-ups as well as juggling multiple drop offs, it is timely to outline our safe options at St Rita’s. We have also had some constructive and respectful feedback from our neighbouring houses highlighting the importance of not blocking driveways and/or rubbish bins as well as parking around corners.

**Safety First – Drop Off and Pick Up.**

**Options:**

**Park** - in Church Car Park off Benfer Rd and Walk In / Walk out

**Park** - on Sycamore Drive at back of school and walk in. Please do not drive into this back entrance to the school grounds / staff parking area and drop off or pick-up at roundabout. This is illegal. (Only permissible before 7.30am after 4 pm to drive up to OHSC building)

**Drive-Thru** – Please proceed through the Benfer Road Church Car Park keeping on the LEFT side through to the drop off zone outside Year 2 classrooms in the roadway adjacent to Benfer Road. Please do not have children get out of / or into cars on the drive-thru thoroughfare. It is dangerous and obstructs the flow of traffic. Please do not enter school gated area turning left at the tennis courts.

When parking in the streets around the school please do not park across or too close to resident drive ways as they may also be coming and going from their homes.

**Above all – remember safety must always come before individual convenience. We take advice from Qld Police Service – Traffic Branch to ensure safe and legal practices. Adherence to these is not only appreciated, it is a requirement by law.**

**SCHOOL FEES**

School Fees are due this **Friday, 6 March**. Prompt payment would be appreciated. If you have any concerns please contact Krys in the school office.

**SPORTS NEWS**

**Quote of the week**

When you’ve got something to prove, there’s nothing greater than a challenge. 

Terry Bradshaw

**District Sport Trials**

The following district trials have become available:

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
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.

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**MATHS BUILDER CHAMPION**

Congratulations to Elliot C in Year 6 who succeeded in becoming the "Champion of the Week" on the Maths Builder website. Elliot broke 3 world records on the site to claim this award from the Managing Director of On Your Mark Publishing. Along with a certificate, Elliot has won 2 maths books as well as a set of maths resources for his school! Well done Elliot...you are really inspiring learning at St Rita’s.

**SCHOOL BANKING**

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

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

**NIHONGO NOTES**

みなさん、こんにちは
(Hello Everyone) This week, in Japan, children (and especially girls) celebrate ひなまつり (Hinamatsuri – the Doll Festival) on 3rd March. Beautiful displays of traditional Emperor and Empress dolls are displayed in the home and a special dinner of Chirashi-zushi is enjoyed by the family. Families wish for the future health and happiness of their daughters. Let’s all take a moment this week to be thankful for our daughters.
**TUCKSHOP NEWS**

**Wednesday 4th March**
Terri Comerford  
Felicity Shipton  
Lee-Ann Nepia

**Thursday 5th March**
Linda Thorogood  
Geraldine Harper

**Friday 6th March**
Louise Lowcock  
Michelle Kotynski

HELP NEEDED??
HELP NEEDED??
2ND Break  
Louise & Michelle

Flexischools.com.au is the online ordering for tuckshop. You may also like to order uniforms through this site as well.

We are still hoping to get a few more Volunteers for Friday 1st Break. A very big thank you to all who have put their names down so far.

In this hot weather please make sure there's always room to keep the lunchbox chilled with an ice brick and/or frozen popper. This will keep food fresh and crisp, ready to eat at lunchtime and eliminate risk of upset tummies.

For all tuckshop inquiries please do not hesitate to contact me. Renee rsaleh@bne.catholic.edu.au

**UNIFORM SHOP**

**HOURS**

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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

In recognition of the strong connection between women’s and children’s rights, Children’s Safety Australia Inc. is hosting an International Women’s Day Luncheon with a focus on practical strategies to promote children’s safety. Speakers include internationally renowned children’s rights campaigner Professor Freda Briggs, accomplished author Tess Koolen and internet safety expert Brett Lee.

Key topics include:
- the emerging trend of children who abuse other children;
- internet safety tips including how to protect children and young people from various dangers in a rapidly changing online environment; and
- practical strategies to keep children safe, including how to build their self-esteem and resilience.

Venue: Pullman Brisbane King George Square Date: Monday, 9 March 2015 Time: 9:30am (for a 10:00am start) – 2:00pm Cost: $60 (includes light morning tea on arrival and hot buffet lunch) Booking: http://www.lynbrook.com/07920 Further Information: Kim Jackson via email: admin@childssafety.org.au or mobile: 0423 532 806 As highlighted in United Nations report, Women’s and Children’s Rights: Shaping the Connection, the lives of women and children are tightly knitted, as are their rights. Advocating for women’s rights has been essential to advancing the situation of women worldwide. The same holds true for the promotion of children’s rights and improvements in their ability to survive and thrive. However, if the rights of women and children are considered together, they can reinforce each other and make mutually supportive demands on society.

The event presents a valuable professional development opportunity for police, social workers, educators, youth workers, chaplains, guidance officers, parents, carers, grandparents and anyone with an interest in keeping children safe.

Bayside Boat Licensing Freecall 1800 90ATLC (1800 902854) COLIN HINDER • PHONE: 0434 148 705

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Paul Wilson 0407 733 829 paul@wilsoelectricalgroup.com.au www.wilsoelectricalgroup.com.au

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Free Chatter Matters

Interactive workshop providing practical strategies to help you support children’s oral language development from 0—5+ years.

When: Wednesday 4th March 6.00—8.00pm
Registration & stalls from 6pm

Where: Redland Community Centre
29 Loraine Street, Capalaba

Register online by 2 March http://chattermatters.eventbrite.com.au

Everyone Welcome!

Communication skills—talking & listening are vital skills for children to learn so they can reach their full potential.

Talk with Professionals including speech therapists, educators and more.

Presented by Early Learning Redlands—a community group dedicated to supporting lifelong learning.
In this half day workshop Louisa will introduce participants to the current research and some of the common myths associated with dyslexia and other reading disorders.

**THE WORKSHOP WILL COVER:**

- Common myths associated with dyslexia;
- sub-types of reading disorders, including language comprehension disorders;
- the “dyslexia debate” – do we need the “D” word?
- Principles of intervention strongly supported by research evidence; and,
- a number of case studies and the possibility of positive outcomes.

**This workshop is targeted to Parents and Tutors**

Dr Louisa Moats will present two teacher sessions – Robina & Brisbane
please see Speld Qld Website for details or [download flyer](#)

**Presenter: Dr. Louisa Moats** has been a teacher, psychologist, researcher, graduate school faculty member, and author of many influential scientific journal articles, books and policy papers on the topics of reading, spelling, language and teacher preparation. After initially working in the field of neuropsychology, Louisa became a teacher of students with learning and reading difficulties, earning her Master’s degree at Peabody College of Vanderbilt. She later earned a doctorate in Reading and Human Development from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Louisa spent the next fifteen years in private practice as a psychologist in Vermont, specialising in assessment and consultation, and working with individuals of all ages and walks of life experiencing reading, writing, and language difficulties. Since then Louisa has written extensively and presented throughout the United States and internationally.

Louisa’s publications include Basic Facts About Dyslexia & Other Reading Problems, Expert Perspectives on Interventions for Reading and Speech to Print – Language Essentials for Teachers.

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**REGISTER ONLINE**

[www.speld.org.au](http://www.speld.org.au)

**Venue:** Fr Bernard O’Shea Inservice Centre, 19 Lovedale Street Wilston, QLD 4051
The centre is close to cafes and public transport with Wilston train station less than 10 minutes walk away.

**Date:** Wednesday, 11th March 2015

**Time:** 9.30am – 12.30pm

**Cost:**

- **Early Bird Price:** $33.75 Members | $45.00 Non Members
  (Early Bird closes 1st March 2015)

- **Standard Price:** $48.75 Members | $65.00 Non Members
  (Registrations close 9th March 2015)

Payment is required prior to the date of the Professional Learning Course in order to secure attendance.