Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

Welcome to Term 3 and especially to our new families with students Flynn (4K) and Hudson (PL), Coraline (4K), Lana (3T) and Ethan (1L). It is great to see everyone looking rested and refreshed on these chilly mornings ready for a new term of learning at St Rita’s. Our teaching staff are looking forward to progressing our focus on best effective practices in teaching with an emphasis on constructive feedback. We also will be working on our students taking charge of their learning through goal setting and self-talk on their progress.

Today, however, our thoughts and prayers are with the Murphy family. Mrs Geralyn Murphy and Mrs Kate Kellett are job share teachers in Year 6. Their beloved husband and father, Mr Brendan Murphy will be laid to rest following a strong and very inspiring response to a cancer diagnosis some eight years ago. Throughout this time, the family have been a wonderful model for focussing on what’s important in life – love, family and enjoying the simplest pleasures. This lovely man will be well honoured today and we are grateful to Brisbane Catholic Education to support us with a large number of replacement staff to allow the many friends and colleagues of Geralyn and Kate to attend today’s service.

School Absences
With cold and flu season upon us, please remember to alert any student absence so they may be recorded as an “explained absence“. This may be done through the Parent Portal by clicking the Attendance Variation button. You may also call the school office number on 32076628 then press 3. In the coming weeks further communication technology will be in place whereby parents will be contacted via an SMS service for any unexplained absences.

School Parent Network
Looking forward to seeing as many parents as possible for our first SPN meeting for the term this Wednesday between 2 and 3pm. Please also mark 31 October in your calendars for this year’s St Rita’s School and Parish Fete – Springfest! There will be more communication to come for ways in which we can consolidate the strength of our community spirit by supporting this happy event.

Sports Day
We look forward to a dry track and sunny skies for our Sports Carnival next Monday. A timetable for the day will be emailed out and placed on the Parent Portal.

May God’s blessings be with you and your family this week.

Anne

SCHOOL PHOTOS

As you are aware, school photos have been taken today. Due to the school holidays we understand some people lost or misplaced the photo order envelopes. There are spare envelopes in the school office so you are still able to order photos. Please ensure all envelopes are returned to the office by Friday 17 July.
**Quote of the week**

Every strike brings me closer to the next home run.  
*Babe Ruth*

**Track and Field - Athletics Age Championship Events**

Nominations for these events closed end of Term 2. Students involved in the following events must be available and present on the specified day/time to compete. If a student is away representing the school at a higher level sport on these days they must arrange a time with Mr Kenyon to ensure they can compete.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long-Jump</td>
<td>BOYS – Wed 15 July 2nd BREAK GIRLS – Thur 16 July 2nd BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shot-Put</td>
<td>BOYS and GIRLS - Friday 17 July 2nd Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>High-Jump</td>
<td>10yo BOYS and GIRLS Tuesday 21 July 1st Break 11 and 12yo BOYS and GIRLS Tuesday 21 July 2nd Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>800m</td>
<td>10, 11 and 12yo BOYS and GIRLS Monday 20 July (SPORTS DAY) Before School 7.45am on Oval</td>
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**St Rita’s Touch Football**

*Season starts:* Friday 31 July  
*Teams:* Will be confirmed and communicated.  
*Training:* Will commence once teams are finalised.

**Sports Day**

Sports Day will be next Monday 20July. All students will participate in a variety of events as they rotate through activities on the day. We encourage families to come along on the day to support the students as they compete in their events. There will be ample space/zones throughout the carnival for spectating. Looking forward to a great day!

**Cross Country Singlets**

I am still chasing some outstanding ‘St Rita’s Cross Country Singlets’ from earlier in Term 2 where students completed at the District Carnival as well as St Anthony’s Cross Country. If you still have one, could you please hand them directly to Mr Kenyon so they may be accounted for.

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**LEARNING SUPPORT**

**Sharing Stories**

Last week I attended an intensive one week course at UNSW that focussed on ways to adjust practice to meet the needs of gifted learners. Once again, *higher order questioning* and *critical and creative skills* were at the forefront of stretching student learning. As a way to encourage deep questioning the teachers were asked to engage in a game based around a Socratic method: *‘I only answer questions with questions.’* This game is based on the belief that inquiry based, open ended questions, stimulate deeper thinking, understanding and knowledge, and is played between two people. The only instructions are that you have to answer a question with another question based around the topic.

For Example:

*Jack:* Do you play tennis?  
*Ruby:* Do you have a tennis racket?  
*Jack:* Can you serve well?  
*Ruby:* Have you ever been called for a foot fault?  
*Jack:* Do you like to have your game referred?

This level of questioning encourages creative and imaginative responses that allow your child to think deeply and make connections between ideas and concepts. **All the challenges that gifted students thrive on!**

Why don’t you give it a go at home. It’s quick, but *challenging*, and allows children to put their myriad of daily questions to good use. You will be surprised at how much enjoyment they gain from sharing this experience with you.

Have a great week,  
Wendy Anderson

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**UNIFORM SHOP**

**HOURS**

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>8.00 to 10.00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>8.00 to 10.00am</td>
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POETRY TO THE RESCUE! By Steven Herrick.

Steven Herrick will be one of our guest authors this year to celebrate Book Week: Books light up our world. (Presenting to Years 4, 5 and 6). Steven has offered us the chance to purchase his books at a reduced cost through the school-

Untangling Spaghetti is the book I’ve wanted to publish for years – it’s the selected poems of my three poetry collections, previously published by the University of Queensland Press. It contains many of the poems I’ll perform at your school plus a host of my other favourites.

Also available will be my verse-novel for Primary School students – Pookie Aleera is not my boyfriend – the story of a new teacher arriving at a rural school. A tale of friendship, grief, humour and the importance of baked goods! This book was shortlisted for the CBCA Book of the Year Awards in 2013 and was joint winner of the WA Premier’s Literary Awards.

The other book I’m happy to have available is my novel for children, titled Bleakboy and Hunter Stand out in the Rain. It’s the story of ‘friendship and family, of doing the right thing yet still being true to yourself.’ It’s shortlisted for the CBCA Book of the Year Awards this year.

Pookie Aleera is not my boyfriend ISBN: 9780702249280 Discount Price: $15
Bleakboy and Hunter Stand out in the Rain ISBN: 9780702250163 Discount price: $15

If you would like to purchase any of these books, please send your order to Mrs Rossi in the library. On the envelope state your name, class and order and put the money in the envelope. Sorry….but cash only!

Thanks.

Wednesday 15th July
Linda Thorogood
Kylie Natt

Thursday 16th July
Kylie Holbeck
Kylie Natt

Friday 17th July
Michelle Kotynski
Melissa McElwaine
Louise Lowcock

2ND Break
Louise & Michelle

SPORTS DAY - Tuckshop will be open on Monday for 1st and 2nd breaks with a modified menu. We have attached the menu again and it is also available on Flexischools with a cut off time of 8:30am Monday (1:30pm on Saturday 18 July for Sushi).

Volunteers are still needed for this day especially around bagging time.

For all inquiries please do not hesitate to contact me on 0411 523 969 – Renee

WOOL CLUB

Wool Club will continue in term 3 with some new weaving projects for the students starting in week 2. It will be lovely to stay warm and create with the warm wool during this colder term! Students in grades 3-6 are welcome to come along each Thursday during first break in the Japanese room.