Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

We began our fourth week with a beautiful celebration of our Opening School Mass for 2016 in the Unitas Centre yesterday morning. Presided by Fr Joseph, our children participated with a wonderful sense of reverence and prayer.

This week we congratulate Mrs Sue Maclean on her appointment to a middle leadership position within our school. Sue has lead our professional learning in literacy, supporting our teachers in the Delivering Excellence in Learning and Teaching (DELT) strategy. Brisbane Catholic Education is committed to the improvement of student learning outcomes in literacy and numeracy and is supporting initiatives in schools that inspire high expectations for learning that maximizes engagement, progress and achievement for each student in every classroom. One of these initiatives is to appoint a Primary Learning Leader within each school. Sue will maintain her integral role in Student Support. This appointment enables us to extend our Student Support team and we are currently recruiting for an additional two days support teacher to ensure the continuity of programs to support and extend student learning outcomes at St Rita’s.

Today our teachers will be participating in a twilight professional learning program with a focus on Mathematics. In January we began our 2016 professional practice with an overview of the Mathematics curriculum. This will be further explored today with a focus on the “Big Ideas” in Mathematics. For a number of students, the lack of progress in Maths in the later years can be due to some incidental gaps in their learning – around number sense, place value, patterning. By increasing our professional knowledge on these “Big Ideas” we feel more confident in identifying areas of need and addressing the key issue that may be stalling student progress.

Thank you for the discussion and interest in my invitation to School Board Membership. We are currently hopeful for some new membership in 2016 to supplement our current team.

May God’s peace and blessings be with you and your family in the coming week.

Anne

Last Monday we celebrated our Opening School Mass. Thank you to all the parents and parishioners who attended. Our readers did a wonderful job as did all our students who participated. It was great for me to experience as a new member of our community.

Starting this week, I will be including a story from Project Compassion. This week we have the story of Doney from Malawi. As I mentioned to the students during Ash Wednesday commemorations, that during Lent we give thanks for the good things that God has given us and remember that these blessings are not just for us. We must share them and use them to help other people in the world who do not have enough food, clean water and healthcare.

Nathan

From the School Leadership Team

39 Benfer Road VICTORIA POINT 4165
Ph: 07 3207 6628 Fax: 07 3207 6734
Email: pvictoriapoint@bne.catholic.edu.au
Online: www.stritasvp.qld.edu.au

Term 1 Week 4 16 February 2016
Like many families in her remote village, Doney and her family have often gone months without enough to eat. But with the support of Caritas Australia and local partner CADECOM, the people of Doney’s community have learned to harness their strengths. Today they are building new livelihoods, improving health and growing literacy to create paths towards a better future.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2016 and help people in remote areas of Malawi harness their strengths and pave the way towards a thriving future. You can donate through School boxes, by phoning 1800 024 413 or visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion

**PREP 2017**

Prep 2017 enrolment interviews are planned to begin before the end of this term. If you have a younger child due to start Prep in 2017 (born 01/07/2011 to 30/06/2012) please submit the enrolment application as soon as possible. The forms can be completed and lodged electronically through the school website or collected from the school office. Please remember to include copies of birth and baptismal certificates and any other documentation you think may be relevant. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

**PARENT PORTAL NEWS**

Invitations will be emailed out this week to all our new families showing the procedure on gaining access to the Parent Portal.

In order to gain this access to the Portal families must have a valid email address lodged with the school. It is possible for both parents to have access as long as both parents have supplied separate email contacts. The Parent Portal is a great source of information for our families as it contains many forms such as newsletters, fee information, calendar of events, the ability for parents to report a student absence and change of contact and address details.

If you have any concerns or question relating to the Portal procedure please contact the school office and we will be able to talk you through.

**SPORTS NEWS**

**District Sport Trials**

The following district trials have become available: Rugby League (Boys born in 2005/06)

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 local representative experience. Please see Mr Kenyon if interested.

**District Swimming**

All the best to our St Rita’s Rep swimmers attending Bayside Districts this Thursday. Looking forward to seeing some great results.

**Cross Country Training**

For all those interested – Cross Country Training has started. Training is held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 7.45 – 8.10am. Students are asked to meet Mr Kenyon under the covered area outside the tuckshop prior to 7.45am. Training is on offer to all students interested. See you there!

**St Rita’s Touch Football**

Teams have now been finalised. If there are students yet to receive their playing singlet – can they please see Mr Kenyon ASAP. Games start this Friday. Students will be notified of playing times and field allocations, once they become available.

We have had an overwhelming response for Touch Football over the years and we ask if there are any parents willing to volunteer their time as a Team Delegate/Coach that would be highly appreciated. A background/knowledge of the game would be preferred and responsibilities would include Supervise, Coach and Manage team on Friday evenings at Cleveland Showgrounds.
**MUSIC NEWS**

Congratulations to all students who auditioned for parts in Suessical Jr. All students who auditioned did an excellent job, it was a very difficult choice for Mr Fernando and myself. The lead roles are:

Cat in the Hat (Emily H), Horton (Abbygail R), JoJo - (Hannah W), Mayzie La Bird (Morgan G), Gertrude McFuzz (Audrey S), Mr Mayor (Finn M) Mrs Mayor (Keeley W), Sour Kangaroo (Ella M).

All other students will be cast as part of groups or smaller roles. Due to the larger numbers of students wanting to participate, I have had to cap the larger groups at 10, due to the physical limitations of our stage space. Our first read-through rehearsal will be on **Tuesday 23 February at 3.15-4.30pm**, where students will receive a rehearsal and performance timetable, as well as scripts and music for practice. I have sent notes home to all participating students with information about up-coming rehearsals.

Junior and Senior Choir has now resumed for the year, with Junior Choir beginning at 7.45am on Tuesday morning and Senior Choir at 7.45am on Thursday morning.

Looking forward to a great term.
Happy Musicing!

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**LEARNING SUPPORT**

**Pilot project**

Yesterday eight year 5 and 6 students were invited to participate in a small study being conducted by a QUT PhD student, Anne Ozdowska. Anne’s project aims to overcome writing difficulties for students with ASD, along with all students, through the use of technology.

While the project predominately seeks to improve persuasive writing techniques for students with ASD, it is recognised that the APP could assist all students and therefore a range of students are required to participate in the focus groups.

The study will ideally take place in week 6 and will only require approximately ten minutes of the students time. If your child has received a note in regards to this study and you are happy for them to participate in the process, can you please sign and return to the classroom teacher by the end of week 5.

**Peer Mediation**

This week peer mediators will complete their training during Wednesday and Thursday lunch time. The students have done a marvellous job already by remaining committed to their training and becoming experts in the SOS peer mediation process. They are enthusiastic about beginning their roles in week 5. Well done Year 6!

Have a great week,
Wendy Anderson

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**NIHONGO NOTES**

みなさん、こんにちは (Minasan, kon-nichiwa). This week we say farewell to our wonderful assistant in the Japanese classroom, Ookubo Sensei, who has been with us since April 2015. I am sure all the children join me in saying a HUGE ありがとう (arigatou) to Ookubo Sensei for always being such a delight in our Japanese classes. We wish her all the best as she returns to her university studies in Japan.

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**SCHOOL BANKING**

Congratulations Nathan G (1T) you are the winner of the weekly $2 deposit into your account!! Please don’t forget to update your new school class on your banking book or plastic cover. For any information about school banking please drop into our branch at Victoria Point Shopping Centre (Food Court end) or call us on 3207 6133. Have a great week from Bank of Queensland Victoria Point.
**Tuckshop News**

**Wednesday 17th Feb**
Juanita Holman
Geraldine Harper

**Thursday 18th Feb**
Trish McNamara
Kristy Sorenson

**Friday 19th Feb**
Maggie Helmn
Kyile Caruana
Rebecca Iffland

**2nd Break**
Help Needed???

Due to the Implementation of changes to Smart Choices by the Queensland Government and Department Of Education and Training, there will be significant changes to the Tuckshop Menu from next Term. I will endeavour to keep you updated on the changes.......watch this space.

It has been great to see new faces in the Tuckshop. Thank you all so much.

If you have any questions at all please feel free to contact me. Renee 0411 523 969

**Uniform Shop**

**Hours**

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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
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San Sisto College is enrolling now for Year 7 in 2019.

Is your daughter currently in Year 3 and you have not yet lodged an application for enrolment, please do so immediately? Alternatively, you can contact the College on 3900 9800 for an enrolment package to be sent to you as a matter of urgency. This will ensure your daughter’s application is given consideration on our first round of offers.

Limited vacancies also exist in other Year levels.

See the College first-hand at our Open Day on Sunday, 22 May 2016. We invite you to meet our students and teachers while exploring our stunning campus and state-of-the-art facilities. Bookings are essential. Visit [www.sansisto.qld.edu.au](http://www.sansisto.qld.edu.au) for details.

San Sisto College, 97 Mayfield Road, Carina Qld 4152
T: (07) 3900 9800 E: scarina@bne.catholic.edu.au
W: [www.sansisto.qld.edu.au](http://www.sansisto.qld.edu.au)

**Outside School Hours Care**

**Before School Care**
6.30am – 8.30am
Permanent Fee - $16.00
Casual Fee - $18.00

**After School Care**
3.00pm – 6.00pm
Permanent Fee - $20.00
Casual Fee - $21.50

Every Morning and Afternoon has vacancies.

Please contact Sandra on 0477 550 700 for further enquiries.
MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

3 – 5 June 2016 :: Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend for married couples at Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Ormiston QLD (on Brisbane’s bayside). For bookings/details contact: Maria and David Murphy, ph (07) 3342 1456, dandmmurphy@optusnet.com.au Information website: www.wwme.org.au. Watch our new video - YouTube: https://youtu.be/5Hdl2ZDxZXc