Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

This Friday 22 May, we mark and celebrate the Feast Day of our Patron Saint ‘St Rita of Cascia’. It is an important part of our Catholic Identity for our community to understand who St Rita was and how our values of Knowledge, Truth and Love came to be. St Rita was born at Spoleto, Italy in 1381. At an early age, she begged her parents to allow her to enter a convent but instead they arranged a marriage for her. Rita became a good wife and mother, but her husband was a violent man with a temper who often mistreated the family. Rita tried to perform her duties faithfully and she prayed often for peace in her family’s life. After nearly twenty years of marriage, her husband met with foul play by an enemy but before he died, he repented because Rita prayed for him. Shortly afterwards, her two sons died, and Rita was alone in the world. Prayer, fasting, penances of many kind, and good works filled her days. She desperately wanted to join the convent of the Augustinian Sisters at Cascia in Umbria, and once admitted she began an Augustinian life seeking Knowledge, Truth and Love. Her life was one of suffering but she never gave up, or lost her faith. She died on May 22, 1457 and she is known as the patroness of impossible cases.

The Augustinian term for unity and harmony is Unitas which is how we came up with the name for our community center. Later in the year we will discuss how two more Augustinian terms, Veritas (the pursuit of Knowledge and Truth) and Caritas (the pursuit of Love) will come to life in our St Rita’s community. Nearly in every meeting with families seeking enrolment at St Rita’s, we hear about the values they want for their children and the values they see and hear about in our community. One recent conversation with a family was how they wanted their children to be ‘good neighbours’ as adults, at both home, work and in their world. If as a community we teach our children to live by the values of knowledge, truth and love, then the message of St Rita of Cascia lives on. Please celebrate St Rita’s Feast day with our School and Parish community by attending a Holy Mass on Saturday night the 23 May commencing at 6:00 pm. This is also the evening that the students in the Sacramental Program will make their First Communion.

In our continual efforts for improving communication with families, I am pleased to let you know that we are ready to launch our new Parent Portal. The Parent Portal is a password secured location that sits within our public website that is only available for St Rita’s parents. It is designed for you to find all forms, documents, book lists, newsletters etc. from Friday 22 May. There is even a tab for notifying the office of student absences or updating family information. The Parent Portal will continue to be improved over the years and we would appreciate any feedback on ways it can be improved. During the week you will receive a letter outlining the steps you need to take to gain access to this secured site. Thank you in advance for your support of this initiative.

School Fees
It would be greatly appreciated if all accounts be settled by the due date, Friday 22 May. If you have not received your account please notify the finance office. If payment cannot be made by the due date or you are experiencing financial difficulty please ring Kry Kuropka to discuss.

Have a wonderful week and I hope to see you Saturday night. Kevin
After coming together each week for the past month the students in the Sacramental Program will finish their journey this Saturday 23 May and will be Confirmed in the morning, then make their first Communion in the evening. This is an important step in the faith journey of these children and their parents as it is the time they will be fully welcomed into the Church. Please keep these children and their families in your thoughts and prayers. This weekend shows further importance as it is the Feast of Pentecost on Sunday. The Feast of Pentecost ends the Season of Easter, fifty days after the Resurrection of Christ when the Holy Spirit descended. It is a celebration of gifts of the holy spirit, wisdom, understanding, right judgement, courage, knowledge, reverence and wonder.

Last Friday started the 48hour Run for Redlands Charity Run. This began with a school challenge with schools from the Redlands coming together to compete. Nine children represented St Rita’s and participated in the relay in which they ran as many laps of a 400m course as possible in one hour. It was an enjoyable day with the St Rita’s Team coming second overall. We also received the perpetual trophy for the highest fund raiser. Congratulations to, Ethan, Julia, Alex, Neve, Mikayla, Brendon, Damon Dylan and Charlie.

I look forward to celebrating St Rita’s day with you all on Friday and Saturday. Have a lovely week.

Jess

School photos were to take place with week, but have been rescheduled to term 3 due to other events happening this term. The new date is Tuesday 14 July. Please mark the date in your calendar. Forms will be sent home during the last week of term 2.

Quote of the week
Every strike brings me closer to the next home run.  
Babe Ruth

District Sport Trials
The following district trials have become available: Rugby Union (Boys born in 2004, 2003)

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.

St Anthony’s Combined Schools Invitational Cross Country
Students who have been selected to represent St Rita’s this Thursday will need to be at school by 8.30am to be marked off and to board the bus promptly. Looking forward to a great day.

Athletics Training
It’s that time of the year again! For all those students interested in training with ‘Sprints’, ‘Shot-Put’ and ‘LongJump’ – It will be starting next week!

Monday – Sprints
Wednesday – Shot-Put
Friday – Long-Jump

Please wait for Mr Kenyon in the Tuckshop area at 7.50am on those mornings to be escorted to the designated area on oval for training to take place.

St Rita’s Touch Football
Students and families involved will be notified throughout the week of playing times and fields.

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.
During Term One, Victoria Point Magic put out a School Challenge. Schools were asked to put together a soccer team to challenge other schools. This challenge was about Team work, Fair play, and positive attitude. It was played during the first week of the Easter holidays.

Students involved were from year 5/6. Dylan C (Year 5), Dylan S (year 5), Zachary C (year 6), Connor S (Year 6) and Kyle S (Year 6).

The St Rita’s Challenge Soccer team, who had never played together, had a wonderful attitude and played together using all their skills and love of the game. They did St Rita’s proud. Please see attachment on page 3 for further details. The boys showed great team spirit and won the series. He boys have won 10 Soccer Balls for the school!

**CONGRATULATIONS**

The importance of ‘like-minded peers’
Recently I referred to the importance of gifted students being surrounded by ‘like-minded peers,’ as outlined by Author Tracy Riley at the QAGTC conference in April. While I attended various workshops on the day, it was Riley’s that largely impacted on me as she challenged us to question what being ‘like minded’ is, and explored why it is held with such high regard in gifted and talented education.

Riley’s article titled, ‘Thinking along the same lines’ claims that after conducting research, ‘interestingly, all of the students described like-minded using a derivative of the word ‘think.’ For these kids it was more how they think, than what they think. Riley claims that Rex stated, ‘it is someone who thinks not exactly the same, but in a similar process.’ Matt described like-minded peers being those who are ‘similar and think on the same kind of path as you.’ One teacher claimed that ‘like-minded’ thinking for the gifted is, ‘not fitting the mainstream(but rather) enabling them to accept and understand others, including those with different viewpoints as well as other gifted students with whom they can relate socially and intellectually.’ Another stated that it allowed them to ‘get on with each other, they understand what they are talking about, the topics that they talk about, in and out of class.’

The gifted students interviewed ‘described a desire for choice, challenge and control in the ways in which they are grouped for learning.’ Riley states this is best supported by students choosing their peer groups who share similar thinking traits to themselves. She also claims that ‘thinking productively...can be encouraged among like-minded peers,’ as they share a ‘need for precision,’ and ‘can make connections in ways that others simply don’t.’ Gifted students ‘see underlying patterns, breaking down and understanding abstract ideas in ways that demand learning challenges which when not met lead to boredom.’

Riley’s support for like-minded peer opportunities is consolidated in her conclusion. She states, ‘The advantages of spending time with like-minded others provides increased opportunities for connectedness; improved chances of being understood and accepted; better prospects of forming high quality friendships; more suitable occasions to practice socio-affective skills; and the comfort of “feeling normal.” (Adams-Buyers, Squiller Whitsell & Moon, 2004, p. 15). Gifted and talented students have the opportunity to learn how to learn, take risks and develop resilience when learning with like-minded peers. Knowing how to think- not what to think- is what really matters.’ For the full article please visit [http://sengifted.org/archives/articles/thinking-along-the-same-lines](http://sengifted.org/archives/articles/thinking-along-the-same-lines)

**Australian Maths Competition**
The Australian Maths Competition will be held on the 30th of July this year. This is an extra opportunity for students who enjoy mathematics to increase their confidence and participate in a competition that rewards their efforts. Last year we had some outstanding results, with two current year 4 boys being placed in the top 10% of Australia. If you wish for your child to enter this competition please complete the enrolment form at the back of the newsletter and hand into the office, along with $6 payment, by the end of week 5.
International Competition and Assessment for Schools (ICAS) testing
ICAS commenced today with the first subject being ‘Digital Technologies.’ The upcoming tests and dates are outlined below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ICAS SUBJECT</th>
<th>ICAS SITTING DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digital Technologies</td>
<td>Tuesday, 19 May 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Wednesday, 3 June 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Monday, 15 – Friday, 19 June 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>Tuesday, 16 June 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Tuesday, 28 July 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Tuesday, 11 August 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Have a great week,
Wendy Anderson

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### ASSEMBLY AWARDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3T</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clayton R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faye H</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<th>3L</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tatiana J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandon D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### NEWS FROM THE RESOURCE CENTRE

The Gruffalo’s Child, based on the award-winning book by Julia Donaldson is soon to be Live on Stage at the QUT Garden’s Theatre. 9-13 June, 1 George St, Brisbane.

Book tickets through [www.gargenstheatre.qut.edu.au](http://www.gargenstheatre.qut.edu.au) or by phoning 07 3138 4455.
MUSIC NEWS

To conclude St Rita’s Day on Friday 22nd May, the Year 6 Drama Students will be presenting the play ‘Little Red Hoodie’ at 2.15pm in the UNITAS centre. Please feel free to come along and watch, as students have been working very hard during the term to bring to you a high quality performance. If anyone has the following prop items to lend for the play could you bring them in through the week, it would be greatly appreciated. I will need a bed, a crate or box, to be used to hide a student in, kitchen accessories, and trees.

Thanks - Paul Tyrrell

SCHOOL BANKING

Congratulations Ava S 3L You are the lucky weekly winner, a bonus $2 will be deposited in your account. Don’t forget bring your banking in on Tuesday’s! Have a great week from the team at BOQ Victoria point 3207 6133.

NIHONGO NOTES

みなさん、こんにちは (Hello Everyone) There are lots of free apps to assist with learning Japanese. A particularly good and free app developed by Education Services Australia is called Nihongo Go. See details here: http://www.nihongo.go.edu.au/

TUCKSHOP NEWS

TASTE TESTING!!!!!!
Who: Hierba Santa Organic Tea
Where: Tuckshop
When: Wednesday 20th May 2-3pm

Why: As we are coming into flu season more reason to drink healthy drinks full of Vitamin C to help us keep going.
Our current Prep Families tried this wonderful Tea on Prep Orientation Day last year. We also run this wonderful healthy (NO artificial colours or flavours) through our Slushy machine…..sssshhhh! don’t tell the kids it’s healthy.
You will be able to purchase on the day or put in an order to be delivered to tuckshop.

Wednesday 20 May
Trish McNamara
Geraldine Harper

Thursday 21 May
Linda Thorogood
Jane Reinhold
Louise Lowcock (Renee away)

Friday 22 May
Michelle Kotynski
Louise Lowcock
Melissa McElwaine

2ND Break
Erika Hains

For all enquiries please contact me on 0411 523 969 or rsaleh@bne.catholic.edu.au

UNIFORM SHOP

HOURS
Thursday 8.00 to 10.00am
Friday 8.00 to 10.00am

LOST PROPERTY

Parker Walls in 1K has lost his named school hat and jumper. If found can you please return them to his class.

Australian Mathematics Competition
I wish for my child __________ ____to enter the Australian Mathematics Competition held on the 30th July, 2015. I have enclosed the participation fee of $6 with this permission form.

Name______________________________
Date______________________________
Signature______________________________
Welcome to Week 5, Term 2. What a great night had by all on Friday at Snug as a Bug. It was great to see so many families come and enjoy the night. It was the biggest turn out we have had yet. We are very blessed to be a part of such a caring community body. Thank you to all at the end for helping with the tidy up. We would like to say a BIG thank you to Kelly Staines and Karen Fox in the kitchen. Without you it would not have run so smoothly.

**Did You Know??????????**

29 May Walk to School – is now a week later. Thank you to all that have returned or emailed with your availability. If there is anyone available to help with the set up and serving that would be great. Please email if you can.

We have 4-5 parents at each starting point. We have 3 meeting places.

1. Victoria Point Sharks
2. Thompson Beach
3. School with Mr Kenyon

**What’s the quickest way to receive IMPORTANT School Updates – twitter.**

You may not have an account but it is so useful to just open one and add St Rita’s Primary School. This is where you will find out the latest CURRENT information for BEFORE school activities and if they are cancelled along with so many other updates. Please follow this link: [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)

**Movie Ticket Give Away**

Each month there will be a movie ticket given away for all Parent/Guardian helpers throughout the St Rita’s School Community.

Sign in at the office and fill in a raffle ticket and place it in the blue box.

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**Important Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPN meeting</td>
<td>27 May @ 7pm (staff room)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk to School</td>
<td>29 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harmony Day</td>
<td>21 June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father’s Day Liturgy</td>
<td>4 September</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that these dates maybe subject to change. Mark it in your diary to arrange your work timetable.

**Contact**

Please if there are any questions/ideas we welcome feedback. Please follow the link to email us at: [StRitasSPN@gmail.com](mailto:StRitasSPN@gmail.com)

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**Blessings**

Antoinette Page and Debbie Stone
MINI VINNIES WINTER APPEAL
FOR ROSIES & BABI

With winter fast approaching and the nights getting colder, spare a thought for those in our community who are most in need. The St Rita’s Mini Vinnies are hoping for your help to collect the following to provide both Rosies and BABI with some basic resources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Items Collecting…</th>
<th>Mini Vinnies Reps</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Small size toiletries (Mini deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes etc.)</td>
<td>Madi, Amber &amp; Eboni 5T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Coffee, Cuppa Soups, Long life milk</td>
<td>Tyler-Jaye 4K, Kalin 4L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Baby Food</td>
<td>Lara 4T &amp; Madi 4L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Biscuits</td>
<td>Makayla &amp; Belbhinn 4K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Tinned meals/ soups/ vegies, Small cans of tuna and baked beans</td>
<td>Scoutt &amp; Lily 6T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Tomato/ BBQ Sauce</td>
<td>Carlyle 6T &amp; Laura 6L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Cheese and Biscuit Snacks, Cereal Bars</td>
<td>Keira &amp; Luti 4L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>Cleaning products</td>
<td>Hayden 6L</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please set aside an item or items and send them to school with your child. These will be collected from their classroom and forwarded to Rosies and BABI.
ADVERTISING

STUDENT TRAVEL REBATES
Semester 1, 2015

Bus Fare Assistance
• Does your child attend a school outside the Brisbane City Council boundary?
• Does your family spend more than $33/week* on fares to and from school (* $25/week if you hold a concession card)?
• Does your child travel on a publicly available bus not owned or associated with the school?

Students with Disabilities
• Does your child have a verified disability that requires transport assistance to and from school?
• Has your school’s learning support teacher assessed your child’s travel capability rating as ‘semi-independent’ or more dependent?

Visit our website to see if you qualify for financial assistance to help with the cost of transport and apply at www.schooltransport.com.au by 31 May 2015.
Late applications cannot be accepted.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES TRAVEL REBATE
Semester 1, 2015

• Does your child have a verified disability that requires transport assistance to and from school?
• Has your school’s learning support teacher assessed your child’s travel capability rating as ‘semi-independent’ or more dependent?

Visit our website to see if you qualify for financial assistance to help with the cost of transport and apply at www.schooltransport.com.au by 31 May 2015.
Late applications cannot be accepted.

SECONDHAND GOODS
Wed-Sat 8.30am – 4pm
Furniture, Clothing, Bric-a-Brac
Redlands Business Park
Unit 6/12 Hanmer Drive, Redland Bay
PH: 0423 490 350

YOUR LOCAL DENTIST
110 Bloomfield Street, Cleveland
www.clevelandclinic.com.au
Phone 3486 2079

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and Clean

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Zoom Teeth Whitening
40 Minute Consultation