Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

Thanks for your Support
We are most appreciative for the support of local councillors, Lance Hewlett and Lisa-Maree Hardman for their support alongside Nigel Hyland OAM President of the Run for Redlands Campaign and the work of our School Parent Network in our successful bid for a grant to provide funds for a new BBQ, eskies and chair trolley for the Unitas Centre. The cheque for these items was presented at our school assembly yesterday. We hope to purchase these items from local businesses this coming week in time for our Father’s Day Liturgy and breakfast on Friday morning.

Father’s Day Liturgy – Friday 4 September
We wish our Dads, Stepdads, Grandads, Uncles and all those who provide a gift for being a father figure in our families a very special Father’s Day this Sunday. Having lost my Dad at a young age, I’m always very conscious of the importance of those that provide fatherly care and support and how special this is throughout our lives. We provide for your interest two great articles from Michael Grose – Parenting Ideas. They are “It’s time for Dads to speak up” and “Build up Frequent Fatherpoints”. We look forward to welcoming Fr Anthony and you to our Father’s Day Liturgy 7.45am in the Unitas Centre followed by a delicious BBQ breakfast.

May God’s peace and love be present to us throughout the coming week.

Anne

National Literacy and Numeracy Week (NLNW) is a great event to raise awareness of the importance of literacy and numeracy skills for all Australian students. Now in its 17th year, it is firmly established on the national education calendar as occurring in the week leading up to International Literacy Day on 8 September. NLNW promotes the importance of literacy and numeracy as fundamental life skills and highlights effective literacy and numeracy practices on a national scale. The week gives our school the opportunity to get involved in a range of activities across all classes – this link to the NLNW website has a number of ideas for school and families National Literacy and Numeracy Week. It is also an opportunity to recognise the achievements of students and the work of teachers, parents and members of our community who support young people to develop stronger literacy and numeracy skills. Each day during NLNW week will tweet out photos of our students engaging in rich literacy and numeracy tasks. Oliver in Prep starts of our collection with his self-created ‘Where’s Wally’ book.
As part of NLNW, Indigenous Literacy Day will be held on Wednesday 2 September. The aim of this day is to raise funds and awareness for remote Indigenous communities where access to books and literacy resources is problematic and where literacy levels are low. The website has further details on this great initiative including information outlining the desperate need to improve literacy levels in remote Australian communities.

All the best for the Fathers in our community. I hope you have a wonderful weekend full of celebrations with those you love.

Best Wishes
Kevin

SCHOOL ABSENCE

Our SMS service to contact parents if students are marked on the morning role as an unexplained absence seems to be working well. We ask that if your children are away please communicate this to the office with a brief explanation by 9:00am. This may be done through the Parent Portal by clicking the Attendance Variation button or alternatively you may also call the school office number on 32076628 then press 3. If you receive an SMS, could you please communicate a brief explanation for the absence so your child can be marked as an explained absence.

SPORTS NEWS

St Rita’s Touch Football
Fields and Game times will be communicated to families during the week via a text messaging system. Please do not respond to these texts as messages are not received.

Training: Monday afternoons for U/12’s, U/10’s training will be during lunch times Wed/Thurs.

Bayside Combined Catholic Schools Athletics
Congratulations to our ‘St Rita’s Rep Runners’ some outstanding results at the 2015 Bayside Combined Schools Athletics Carnival. St Rita’s dominated most of the track events and relays taking out many 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. On percentage points, St Rita’s finished in 3rd Place overall, a fantastic achievement! Well done everyone.

Interschool Sport – Semester 2
This Semester there are two Interschool Sport Carnival Days. Permission notes have gone home and will need to be returned to their classroom teacher by this Friday.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oz-Tag (Yr5 and 6)</td>
<td>Cleveland Showgrounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nucombeball (Yr5)</td>
<td>St Luke’s Primary School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball (Yr6)</td>
<td>St Luke’s Primary School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Handball (European Handball) (Yr5 and 6)</td>
<td>Pinklands Netball Courts</td>
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Dates: Tuesday 25 August and Tuesday 13 October

HPE Lessons
Years 3 to 6 have started a new unit on ‘Tennis’. If there are any students wanting to bring their racquets to school they may (These must only be used for HPE lessons, not at break times). It is not a requirement to own one as St Rita’s do have some to loan students for lessons.

Representative Singlets
We are still chasing numerous ‘Representative Sport Singlets’ from either Cross Country or Athletics that were loaned to Students competing. Could these please be returned ASAP to Mr Kenyon.
Assembly Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ryan S</td>
<td>Keep up the great work, Ryan!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian P</td>
<td>For amazing improvement in reading. Fantastic!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack M</td>
<td>For making intelligent contributions to class discussions and for demonstrating the attributes of an effective listener.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seth T</td>
<td>For showing interest in your lessons and for demonstrating good manners and behaviour in the classroom.</td>
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<tr>
<th>5K</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jacob C.</td>
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<td>Kiara H.</td>
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<td>Annie M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harry S.</td>
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<td>Evan S.</td>
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Learning Support

Extension Opportunities
As we embark on preparing the Year book to represent yet another productive year of learning at St. Rita’s, it is exciting to reflect on the ongoing extension opportunities that our students are offered on a daily basis both within the classroom and through extension activities.

Writer’s Festival
This Wednesday the year 5 book club students will be attending the Writer’s Festival held at the state library. This is the third year that this opportunity has been offered to the students and always offers rich learning experiences and active participation for all involved. This year the students will participate in two programs, ‘New Boy Nick Earls’ and ‘Bouncing off real life into the world of fiction.’ The students will have the opportunity to meet with professional authors, publishers and illustrators and to be inspired by their creativity and passion for writing.

Year 5 Book Club to meet on the deck by 8am, ready to embark on a creative and literacy filled experience!

Future Problem Solving
This term the Future Problem Scene is focussed on: Propaganda. Our Future problem solvers, ranging from years 3 to 6, are currently working hard to put our action plan together to prevent future citizens being bombarded with propaganda and advertising. These students create an action plan that involves: listing 8 major problems, identifying the main problem, devising 8 solutions to the problem and finally choosing the best solution. They then write up their findings in their ‘action plan,’ and submit to judges for marking.

Last term the comments we received were outstanding for our first attempt. It was stated that we presented unique and original solutions that displayed fantastic higher order thinking skills. The team comes together once a week on Thursdays to participate in this challenge program.
**Year 3 Maths Investigations**
Each Wednesday a group of 3K students are challenged with a problem solving strategy, such as: Act it out, Use a picture, make a list or table, Use logic, make a pattern or Guess and Check. Having now mastered these six strategies, the group will consolidate their learning by completing an in depth maths investigation. They are excited to put these strategies into practice by being active problem solvers who know they are being successful when they think, ask questions and most importantly, make mistakes in the process of finding the solutions.

Have a great week,
Wendy Anderson

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**MUSIC NEWS**
Congratulations to all students who participated in the Music Showcase Concert on Monday 24th September. It was a great night, filled with fantastic performances from students who showcased their developing musical skills. Well done!

Coming up - St Rita’s Got Talent Auditions, St Rita’s Parish Fete (Saturday October 31), Music Count Us In (Thursday 29 October)

Paul Tyrrell

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**SCHOOL BANKING**
Congratulations to Rydah F you are the Lucky Banker of the Week!! You will receive $2 into your account. Don’t forget if you miss bringing in your banking to school on a Tuesday morning, you can always bring it down to the branch we would love to see you. We are open Mon to Thurs after school til 4:30pm and Fri til 5pm. Saturday’s 9am - 12pm. Have a great week from the team at BOQ Victoria Point 3207 6133.

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**FATHER’S DAY LITURGY**
The St Rita’s Mini Vinnies and School Parent Network invite all grandfathers, fathers, uncles, family members and students to attend the Fathers’ Day Liturgy on Friday 4 September at 7:45am in the Unitas Centre. The liturgy will be followed by a morning tea for the adults.

During the liturgy, a slide show of photos will be shown. The Mini Vinnies are seeking digital photos of our St Rita’s students with their fathers/stepfathers/grandfathers/uncles to use for a reflection. If you have a suitable digital photo that you would like to share with our community, please email it to: stritasfathersdayphotos@hotmail.com. The photos will only be used for this purpose, and then deleted by the school. Please ensure photos are submitted by Wednesday 2 September.

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**TUCKSHOP NEWS**

**Wednesday 2nd September**
Terri Comerford
Felicity Shipton

**Thursday 3rd September**
Tania Digby
Trish McNamara

**Friday 4th September**
Maggi Helmn
Melissa McElwaine
Louise Lowcock

**2ND Break**
Louise Lowcock

**Just a little reminder** - if you are putting money for both breaks in one bag please make sure it is 1st break as we do not always have time to go looking through 2nd Break. 1st break is our main break, some student say we have 3 breaks.....

**Munch and Crunch** (for approx. 5 min but not an official break)

**1st Break** (our main meal break)
**2nd Break** (our smaller break)

If you have any questions about the breaks we have please ask. - Renee
UNIFORM SHOP

HOURS
Thursday  8.00 to 10.00am
Friday  8.00 to 10.00am

Uniform orders for year 2 into year 3 will be due shortly, please ensure you have your order placed promptly.

SERENDIPITY ART

What a wonderful and busy term the students and I have had in our art classes. During the Art Block, Serendipity was invited to display a selection of work at the Brisbane Catholic Education South Service Centre at Springwood. The feedback we have received about the standard of the artwork has been wonderful and it is a fantastic opportunity for students to be able to display their work. Over the next few weeks, I will also be displaying the students work in the Bendigo bank at Victoria Pt for our local community to enjoy, so please pop in and take a look. You do not need to be a Bendigo customer, everyone is welcome to come in for a browse.

The term 3 Art Block has come to a close, enrolments for term 4 are now underway. Enrolment forms are located in the foyer of the school office and must be completed and returned by Wednesday 16th of September. If you would like any further information please don’t hesitate to call me after school hours on 0438376311. Alternately, send a txt and I will return your call. Places are limited, but new students (Prep - yr 6) are always welcome.

Have a wonderful break and I look forward to creating more beautiful Art with students in term 4!

Yours in Art - Jenny Randall

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Extra-curricular photos are now available for ordering from Studio Kirby
2. Select the “Extra Curricular Photos” tab and select school St Rita’s 2015.
3. Enter the password ritas15
4 Select the photos you would like to order and add to the cart.
5 Checkout through the cart.

ST RITA’S BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL HOURS CARE has vacancies every morning from 6.30am. We provide a nutritious breakfast and take the preps to their gathering area at 8.20am. After school also has vacancies every afternoon...a healthy snack is provided for afternoon tea.
PH: 0477 550 700
A casual position has opened for a person that is enthusiastic and motivated that enjoys playing games and doing craft activities with the children in our Afterschool Care Program.

The position is for 10 hours per week from 3-5.30pm Monday to Thursday afternoons.

A first aid certificate is preferable but not necessary.

Training for the role will be given to the successful applicant after a probation period.

Send resumes to: victoriapointoshc@bne.centacare.net.au

WOOL CLUB

Our beautiful God’s Eyes continue to grow each week and are all so different. A reminder to the students who started mandalas at the beginning of the term that there are only a few weeks left to finish them before Wool Club finishes at the end of term so come along during the first break on Thursdays in the Japanese room.

- Carly

RITA’S RANGERS

The Rita’s Rangers are looking for new members to come along to our regular weekly meetings and join in the many fun activities each week. The Rangers enthusiastically participate in the planting and care for a variety of organic produce which we supply to our school tuckshop such as tomatoes, sweetcorn, lettuce and capsicum. We even get to taste the yummy organic produce ourselves!

We are also successfully continuing to help our school reduce, recycle and reuse items, and at the end of this term will introduce new classroom bins including a compost bin to feed our worm farm. Students are also able lead assembly presentations and discussions about a variety of school and environment issue. If you would like to try something different during break time we meet at the tree after eating at first break, do join us and try it out.
Welcome to Week 8, Term 3. Not long now till holidays!

Community Supporting Community.
The Councillor Community Grant was officially presented to St Rita's Primary School SPN at this morning’s School assembly. Thank you to Councillor Hardman (Div 3) and Councillor Lance Hewlett for contributing to the grant for the purchase of a new community BBQ and chair stacking equipment and esky and to Nigel Hyland, President of Run for Redlands 48 Hour Charity Festival for providing sponsorship.

Did You Know?
Date: Friday, 4 September
Time: 7:45am, followed by Breakfast for the adults at 8:30
Place: St Rita’s Unitas Hall
Who: Everyone is welcome!

Lost Property
The lost property is located at the school office. There are so many lunch boxes, containers and drink bottles. There is also a draw full of unnamed jumpers and track suit pants. Please if you have time pop in and see if they belong to your family. This does get cleared out and after 4 weeks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Important Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Father’s Day Liturgy</td>
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<td>Springfest</td>
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<td>SPN meeting</td>
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<td>Carols night</td>
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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

Blessings
Antoinette Page and Debbie Stone
Do you like the beach? Do you want to be active? Do you want to make new friends and get involved in a great Australian way of life? Are you aged between 5 and 13 years? Then join the Point Lookout SLSC Junior Activities (Nippers) Program which was recently awarded the South Coast Branch “Nipper Club of the Year”. Nippers is run on a Saturday, starting October 10 and runs throughout the summer.

Sign On and Pool Swim Assessments for new members will be held at Ormiston College Pool (entry off Sturgeon Street) on Wednesday 9th and 16th September from 6.30 p.m. - 7.30 p.m. Bring your togs for pool swim/survival float assessment and speak with the Junior Club Officers. Birth certificate is required as proof of age. For more information about joining the Point Lookout Nippers, contact Ben on 0428 771 377 or email admin@pointlookoutslsc.com.au
Michael Grose looks at the role of a father’s ‘presence’ and the need for fathers to ‘speak up’ to their kids to impart important life lessons.

The messages for fathers from parenting experts like myself have morphed over time. Two decades ago dads were encouraged to ‘be a presence’ in the lives of their children. Authors such as Steve Biddulph and Daniel Petrie urged fathers to be very present in their children’s lives rather than a distant or aloof figure. They reminded us that kids need good men around them to model how to relate, how to behave and how to live a good life. Raimond Gaita author of the superb book Romulus, my father articulated this notion beautifully when he wrote, “I know what a good man is, because I’ve seen it in my father.”

A decade or so ago the ‘be a presence’ message for dads was turned up a few notches to become involved in all parts of children’s lives. A raft of research linked a father’s active involvement with positive educational and social outcomes for kids, as well as a dad’s satisfaction with the role. Men embraced this ‘hands on dad mantra’ in droves.

Suddenly changing nappies, going to parent-teacher interviews, helping with homework, coaching (or umpiring, managing, cutting oranges for) their children’s sports teams became the new fathering norm. Family breakdown, long working hours and Fly In Fly Out jobs, rather than lack of will, were seen as impediments to men’s ongoing involvement in their children’s lives.

It’s time to speak up

It’s time to ramp up father’s presence once again, but in a different way. The recent actions of some high profile representatives of the Millennial Generation – from being arrested in a $9000-a-night hotel, through to cringe-worthy public antics - has many Australians scratching their heads in bewilderment. Quietly, many people are questioning the quality, or lack thereof, of the advice they receive from their fathers. Being present and involved in children’s lives isn’t enough per se for this current generation.

TIME magazine recently described this group as ‘a generation with narcissistic tendencies that contribute to a feeling of entitlement before they’ve achieved anything’. But an overblown sense of importance is only half the story. Growing up in a reality TV culture where everything is critiqued it is little wonder that today’s young people are perhaps the most critical generation that have ever lived – posting careless criticism of ideas, people and institutions at the tap of a finger at unfathomable speed, fast losing the art of thinking things through. So what’s a dad to do?

I firmly believe the current generation of young people are in dire need of some old-fashioned, very grounded fathering advice such as “Don’t get ahead of yourself”, “Treat others respectfully at all times” and “Think before you speak/tweet/post anything nasty about anything/one else.”
Okay these messages can and do come from mothers but they have equal, if not more potency when they come from the traditionally more reserved parent– their father. Sometimes a few well-chosen words said with conviction from a highly regarded elder have more impact than a series of reminders, talks, and dare I say, lectures.

**Reclaim your place**

Part of the modern parenting malaise is that many fathers are unsure of their place when their children are unsocial, unfriendly or just plain painful in public. Which side of the fence should I stand on when my child or young person misbehaves– the side of my child or the side of the offended institution or organization? I suspect fathers of past generations would have had few qualms about letting their offspring know their position when they behaved like brats. A clip around the ears would have been the preferred communication method. While I disagree with the methodology I wholeheartedly agree with the sentiment expressed.

It’s not just when kids act like brats that dads need to step forward. They need to be present when children and young people are hurt, fearful, lonely, sad and depressed. The best thing that they can bring to the table is their vulnerability and a willingness to talk about feelings. I suspect most adolescents would think likewise if asked.

I agree with Guardian columnist Mariella Frostup who recently wrote, “Despite 70 years of full-on feminist rhetoric we still bring up boys to be emotionally buttoned up and girls to remain painfully vulnerable to any emotional undercurrent.” I’ve long believed that it’s fathers, rather than mothers, who take their sons to an emotional space…or not, as the case maybe. The male inability to admit weakness or talk honestly about feelings may currently pervade the halls of power and business, but it should not and must not be the norm at home. Keeping fear, affection, sadness and other emotions under a veneer of ‘she’ll be right’ control is exhausting for men, just as it is for those around them.

**Become the story-teller**

Storytelling used to be the most potent strategy parents used to pass on knowledge and wisdom to their offspring. For too many reasons to mention here storytelling is now a lost art. It’s a shame because most children crave to hear their father’s warts ‘n’ all story from the horse’s mouth so to speak, rather than have it told to them by someone else, usually their mother. It’s how the vulnerability comes out and also how kids know that their dads are human. Realistic rather than exaggerated stories offer kids hope and can become their map to help them navigate new territory such as starting secondary school, dating, and going for a job. “My dad found things tough but he got through it. I reckon I can too” is a great message for a young person.

The language of fathering is a very physical one. That is, many dads build relationships with their children through games and active pursuits. It’s very often how dads pass on important lessons such as fairness, persistence and winning and losing. If physicality is a bloke’s only strategy then a father is left out in the cold when his sons and daughters move into adolescence – well passed the playful age.

A man’s just got to talk to get his messages through. He can start by letting kids know when their behaviour is likely to offend others; when they behave like chumps when they are not yet champs; and when they need to show respect to those who’ve tread whatever path they are on before them. This is what great fathering is about in these interesting times in which we live.
A good friend enthusiastically told me how he was looking forward to spending a few days away on his own with his two kids, aged 10 and 13. He was feeling quite chuffed.

He was having some ‘dad time’ with his kids.

Good on him!

He was doing some memory building & relationship building, as well as having some fun.

He told me that he was aware that his kids were getting older and he knew such opportunities were diminishing.

Gone are the days when the only relationship many men had with their kids was through their wife. She would explain him to the kids (‘Your dad’s very busy but he would love to see you play sport but he can’t make it.’) As well, she’d keep him up-to-date with the children’s lives.

Blokes, it seems, are valuing the time they spend with their kids on their own.

Or at least the dads I mix with are.

Spending time alone with kids is a great way to build confidence in dads.

And the kids usually just love it.

Mothers can play a role here by not getting in the way if their husband or partner wants a little time alone with kids. (Most mums I meet welcome this!)

Children usually associate their fathers with activity. When I ask children to tell me about their dads they usually talk about the things that they like to do together with their dads. Playing, walking, fishing, wrestling...the list goes on.

It’s through shared activity and involvement in kids’ lives that dads build up frequent father points. It’s hard to build good connections with kids when you are not there!

Don’t wait until adolescence

These relationships are best built in childhood, when kids just love their dads to bits and want to be around him. It gets trickier in adolescence, but having shared interests developed in childhood gives you a connection point during these sometimes-turbulent times.

Dads also benefit from spending time with their kids. Most health scales state a healthy relationship with their children is a predictor of good health and longevity for men. I’m not sure where the health benefits come from, but I suspect there is something relaxing and de-stressing about getting into a child’s space. There is a big kid inside most men just busting to get out.

These days we take parenting pretty seriously and it’s easy to forget that one of the fundamentals of raising kids well is to spend some time in your child’s space, doing stuff, or not doing stuff, whatever the case maybe.

So how are your (or your partner’s) Frequent Father points going? If they need some topping up then you can start by doing something together that the kids enjoy. Having a bit of fun together is the best place to start.

Author’s note: Sole mums can take these ideas on-board to have a NO RULES weekend with your kids, where you have a change of routine and activity that can give kids the chance to see you in a different way.

Michael Grose looks at the importance of topping up Frequent Father points, and the benefits for both dads and for kids.