Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

With some chilly breezes but blue skies we all enjoyed a fantastic St Rita’s Sports Carnival yesterday. It was great to see the children and adults of all ages and abilities entering into the spirit of the day - aiming for personal best in having a go (it’s been a while since I have “sprinted” 100m!!) to breaking school records. There was a lovely uplifting spirit throughout the day and the children were well supported by many parents, grandparents and family members. Our gratitude to Mr Kenyon for a comprehensive and inclusive program and to Bob Smith, our fabulous groundsman who had the oval and grounds looking fantastic for a midwinter event. We congratulate those students who will be representing St Rita’s at the forthcoming District events. The commitment to training and preparation continues!

New APA Appointment
Last week we announced the 2016 appointment of Mr Brian Mason to the Assistant Principal Administration position. Brian will join our community in this leadership role bringing a wealth of experience and high credentials. He is currently the APA at Jubilee School, Pacific Pines and we have on good authority that their community will be very sad to farewell Brian at the end of this year. We look forward to welcoming Brian next year and will plan for some opportunities throughout the remainder of this year for him to visit and be introduced to our St Rita’s Community.

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

Anne

NCCD – National Consistency Collection Data
This year schools throughout Australia are collecting data on support provided for students who display learning difficulties and disabilities. This is inclusive of our students who have a recognised and diagnosed learning disability and also students that have been identified through our school’s Concern for a Learner processes. Please see attached the link to a parent information Fact Sheet about this process which allows provision for parents to request their children not be identified in adherence to the Privacy Act.


School absenteeism: On Monday we started using an SMS service to contact parents if students are marked on the morning role as an unexplained absence. We appreciate your support as we implement this new initiative to ensure that in partnership we monitor children’s whereabouts as best as possible. We ask that if your children are away for the day, or a number of days, you communicate this to the office with a brief explanation for the absence 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 with the office an offer a brief explanation for the absence so your child can be marked as an explained absence. Accurate explained and unexplained absence data is important for our school information and we will continue to monitor this. We appreciate your attention to this important initiative.
Student late arrivals: In reviewing the morning SMS process for student absenteeism, we also need to tighten our process for student late arrivals. All students who arrive at school after the 8:40 bell are required to be signed in by an adult at the office. A late pass is given to the student and then this is taken to the teacher. The information from the office ‘Sign in Sheet’ is then transferred to the student rolls and students are marked as a late attendance. The only children who are able to sign themselves in are children that arrive late due to buses or ferries. A member of staff will be contacting families to support this change in order to minimise the number of children signing themselves in late. We also thank you for your support of this.

Enjoy the warmer days ahead

Kevin

Next Monday 27th July begins the Sacramental Program for Reconciliation. There will be an information evening held in the church for the parents of year 4 students wishing to take part in the reconciliation program this year. If you have any questions please see me or Candace Holden in the Parish Office. Please keep these children and their families in your thoughts and prayers as they take the next step in their faith journey.

This Friday the 24th July is National Tree Day. Indigiscapes at Capalaba have donated a number of plants to St Rita’s in celebration of this day. The St Rita’s Rangers will be planting and will then be responsible for taking care of these plants. It has been wonderful to see these students working in our vegetable gardens showing their love and dedication to caring for our environment.

Best wishes for the week ahead,

Jess

**SPORTS NEWS**

**Quote of the week**

Persistence can change failure into extraordinary achievement. Marv Levy

**Sports Day**

Congratulations to everyone on their efforts and team spirit displayed on Sports Day this week. It was great to see everyone getting involved and participating in each event and cheering on their fellow team mates.

A further congratulations to the following students who broke records both on Sports Day and the week prior in Age Championship Events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Old Record</th>
<th>New Record</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B.Hale</td>
<td>10yrs</td>
<td>100m</td>
<td>15.99s (2013)</td>
<td>15.90s (2015)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.McNamara</td>
<td>12yrs</td>
<td>100m</td>
<td>14.82s (2014)</td>
<td>14.79s (2015)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A special thankyou to all the staff involved on the day running activities and directing students. Also to all the families and members of the community that came along for the day to support the students. Thankyou to all for making yet another successful and memorable Sports Day.

WELL DONE... WHITE HOUSE! 2015 House Champions (3 Successive Years)
St Rita’s Touch Football

Season starts: Friday 31st July

Teams: Will be confirmed and communicated with parents soon.
Training: Will commence once teams are finalised

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.

NEWS FROM THE RESOURCE CENTRE

MS Readathon!
This worthy cause will take place again this year during the month of August. Jump on the website at: www.msreadathon.org.au and register your name to take part. Reading lights up our world....and the world of MS sufferers!

Book Character Dress Up Day:
Our very special day is fast approaching! On Monday, 3rd August all students and teachers are invited to dress up as a favourite book character and celebrate our author visits.

Woolworths Earn and Learn.
Once again, Woolworths is running its earn and learn promotion. If you collect the stickers from Woolies at Victoria Point (the large shopping centre) you will find the St Rita’s box to place your stickers/cards. Otherwise the stickers can be brought in to our library for collection. We were able to purchase lots of science equipment last time with the points we raised. Thank you in advance for your support again this year.

SCHOOL BANKING
SAVE SAVE SAVE and Win A Movie Ticket !!!
Welcome back everyone, we hope all those great savers who received a movie ticket last term were able to use it over the holidays. (If not please make sure you check the expiry date and use before then) We are very excited to be running the saving encouragement again this term. To get your free movie ticket you just need to deposit into your

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.

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-
school banking account minimum 7 weeks over the term. Then in week 10 you’ll receive a movie ticket to Cineplex Victoria point from BOQ. Looking forward to a wonderful term of saving!!

**Weekly Winner**
Congratulations Jay A in 4K. You are the lucky weekly winner for week 1, 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.

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**LEARNING SUPPORT**

**Learning Support - Sharing stories**

During the holidays I was fortunate enough to attend the Challenge 2015 workshops organised by The Queensland Association of Gifted and Talented Children (QAGTC). I was delighted to meet up with many St. Rita’s students who also attended the day, and who were excited about meeting new people and engaging in the challenges that the days always offer. The topics were varied and designed to meet different age groups and levels of ability. Over all, the students’ evaluations of their experiences clearly articulate the invaluable opportunity of Talent enhancement workshops that nurture students’ gifts and allow them to engage with peers who share similar interests.

*On the holidays I went to a gifted and talented workshop for drama. We practised The Lion King. I auditioned for Sarabi, Simba’s mother and I got the part. I felt a bit nervous, but mostly excited and confident on the day of the show. We did a good job and had lots of fun. I didn’t want those two days to end!  
Alice C, 3T*

*Over the holidays Seth and I went to the QAGTC Challenge workshops. On the first day we both did ‘Take Flight’. We learnt about how planes stay in the air and the Bernoulli Effect. We learnt how to make the best paper aeroplane and had a competition to see whose plane flew the furthest. Then we made paper helicopters and fired water rockets which was fun. On the second day I did robotics and learnt how a laser tripwire alarm works and even got to make one. Seth learnt how to use graphs, do mapping and circuits and played a game called flood fill. Zayne and Seth H, 4K and 3L

*On the first Tuesday of the school holidays, I went to an English writing workshop at the high school, ‘Churchie’. The Workshop started at 10:00am. A teacher from the Gold Coast was leading the writing one. We had to introduce ourselves and say why we like writing. Once we had done that, we had to look at a few types of writing and write about a sunset and the sky.

After a while, we watched and listened to Taylor Swift’s video of her song “Mean” and the teacher played Taylor Swift’s song “Red” on her guitar. Then we had to make similes to match the lyrics.

The last thing we did was write a story or song. I wrote a song with a friend I made. Her name was Hayley. We put together our lyrics from the “Red” song before and changed the tune a little.

The Workshop was so much fun and if I had the chance I would go next year.  
Libby A, 5L

This year I was able to attend QAGTC Challenge 2015 Workshop. I attended a program called Beyond Words where I was able to learn a new way to write. This was to start off with something simple like the sky and drift off into something completely different.

The sky is immensely taken up by grey heavy clouds dominating majority of the space above our heads, almost as if it was a ghost town. The hollow pity we feel on a day like this takes me to a place of misery leaving me to drift off into the distant but loud memory of the war. I sink quietly so I don’t bring attention to myself; I reimage the time when I was lashing through the war-torn land or grave of Vietnam feeling sometimes rusted or sometimes smooth bullets whiz past, sometimes missing me by
the width of a books page. It’s then I realise the depressing scene of me best mate being pulled down by the EVIL within the VIETNAMESE SOLDERS. I look up and see the loudly beating grey clouds, leaving me to have a high hate for the skies of evil that are represented by the heavy grey clouds that overhang well above our heads.
Carlos N, 6T

Have a great week,
Wendy Anderson

**TUCKSHOP NEWS**

**Wednesday 22nd July**
Terri Comerford
Felicity Shipton

**Thursday 23rd July**
Tania Digby
Geraldine Harper

**Friday 24th July**
Maggie Helmn
Lisa Bihari
HELP NEEDED
HELP NEEDED
**2ND Break**
HELP NEEDED

A very big THANK YOU to Louise Lowcock, Maggie Helmn and all our volunteers on a very successful Sports Day.
We are looking for a few more people to Volunteer on Fridays. If you can spare 1 Friday a month please come and see me.
Renee 0411523969

**WOOL CLUB**

Wool Club is held during the colder terms 2 and 3 of the school year and is open to all students in grades 3-6. It has been a very popular way for students to spend one of their lunch breaks a week learning new skills and creating different projects with wool and textiles. We are currently looking for somebody to take over the role of coordinator for 2016 and beyond. If you are interested, please leave your name with the school office and I’ll be in touch.

**FROM THE PARISH**

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM REMINDER.**
A reminder that the parent information session for the sacramental program for children in year 4 or older (if they have not yet received the sacrament of reconciliation) will be on Monday the 27th of July at 6:30pm in the Church. For any further inquiries please contact Candice 32019177.

**UNIFORM SHOP**

**HOURS**

Thursday  CLOSED – Please call the office for emergencies only.
Friday  8.00 to 10.00am