FROM THE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

It is hard to believe that we are now mid-way into our first term. I trust that the many parent teacher inquiry meetings that have taken place across the year levels have been beneficial and informative to build success in your child’s learning and wellbeing this year.

This week our School Leadership Team (Ms McKenny, Mr Mason, Mr Mulhearn and Mrs Maclean) will be attending the Brisbane Catholic Education Leadership Cluster on Thursday and Friday. On these days we finalise our School Annual Plan for the year inclusive of our major goals in Mission and Religious Education, Learning and Teaching, Professional Practice and Collaborative Partnerships and Strategic Resourcing. Our goals across these four priority areas will then be endorsed by our School Board at our March meeting and shared with the wider school community.

Mrs Faye French, Mrs Marianne Ferguson and Mrs Therese Rae will share the responsibility of School Leadership in our absence on Thursday and Friday.

No Protected Industrial Action at St Rita’s

There are media reports of teachers and school officers taking strike action in Catholic Schools this week. Please be advised that our teaching and school officer staff have said “No” to any protected industrial action including strike action planned for this Thursday 25 February. There will be no disruptions to our teaching and learning program at St Rita’s.

ACU – BCE Partnership in Speech Pathology

From the 1 of March, our school will be welcoming second year students from Australian Catholic University – Speech Pathology to be fulfilling their practical course requirements within a school setting. This is a highly commendable initiative introduced by ACU in 2015 and St Rita’s was been identified as a desirable setting for best practice in early childhood education. The success of this program has resulted in its continuation in 2016. As such, there will be two students working with each of our Prep classes on a weekly basis (Tuesday) under the supervision of Dr Sharon Crosbie. Our progressive work in the importance of oral language to lay the foundation to all learning is being recognised and rewarded through collaborative and professional partnerships such as this. We look forward to further positive outcomes for our Prep students this year. Further detail will be provided directly to our Prep parents in due course.

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

Anne

As we enter the middle week of Term One (Yep - halfway already!), I’d just like to say how much I am enjoying being here at St Rita’s. It certainly lives up to its reputation as a very happy, friendly and welcoming community.

One aspect of my role as APA is working with students, teachers and parents in dealing with behavioural issues and conflict situations that can arise as part of the nature of social interaction. St Rita’s is a PB4L (Positive Behaviour For Learning) school and, as such, our focus is on teaching students about making positive choices in their behaviour and social interaction both in class and outside of class, so that they can “Know more. Do more. Be More.”
Conflict is a natural part of that social interaction and we endeavour to assist and guide our students in managing conflict situations appropriately and effectively. This is encapsulated in our school motto of “Knowledge, Truth and Love” and within our school rules:

- Respect Everyone
- Inspire Learning
- Act Safe - Be Safe
- Take Care of Property and Our Environment.

Teasing V Bullying
Bullying is a common and understandable area of parental concern and topic of conversation among parents and educators. Accompanying this week’s newsletter is a very simple but informative Parenting Ideas and Insights article by Michael Grose regarding the use and true meaning of the term ‘bullying’. In the article Michael outlines in simple terms the characteristics and differences of Rudeness, Teasing and Bullying. He does not downplay the seriousness of bullying, but rather helps to identify and bring clarity to aspects of various negative social interactions, so that the most appropriate management and support processes can be engaged for the benefit of all. I recommend this article to you.

St Rita’s Touch Footy 2016
I’d like to take this opportunity to commend Daniel Kenyon and his support crew on their efforts in getting our St Rita’s Touch Footy up and running again this year. Last Friday afternoon saw five St Rita’s teams participate in their first round of fixtures in the Redlands Touch Comp at Cleveland Showgrounds. From all reports the games went well and the students had a great time, which is the main goal and purpose of this activity. I congratulate all of our enthusiastic student players and all who are involved in supporting them. Well done!

As an extra-curricular activity, this competition relies completely on the great generosity of time commitment and genuine personal interest given voluntarily and so willingly by Daniel and the other staff, parent and past-pupil volunteers who assist him in managing the teams. Additional volunteer assistance is always welcomed and appreciated, so if there are any parents willing to volunteer their time as a ‘Team Delegate/Coach’ then I encourage you to see Daniel. A background/knowledge of the game would be preferred and responsibilities would include Supervise, Coach and Manage team on Friday evenings at Cleveland Showgrounds.

Have a great Week 5!
Brian

I am excited about Wednesday’s Prep Liturgy in the Church. During this time of Lent, it is great to see our classes immersing themselves in the Religious Life of the School. We continue to support Caritas and the work they do across the world including places like Fiji where we have seen the devastation caused by Cyclone Winston. Our prayers and thoughts this week are with those people who have lost their possessions and more as a result of natural disasters.

With limited support services for children living with intellectual disabilities in Laos, Duangmala feared that her eight-year-old son, Hum Noy, would never reach his full potential because he has Down Syndrome. However, he now has the chance to learn and thrive at a school for children with intellectual disabilities, supported by Caritas Australia.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2016 and help children living with intellectual disabilities in Laos learn, grow and reach their full potential. You can donate through School boxes, by or phoning 1800 024 413. visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion.

SCHOOL FEES

Please be advised that Term 1 school fees are due this Friday, 26 February. Payment can be made by Credit Card over the phone, EFTPOS, BPay or Cash/Cheque. If payment cannot be made or you have not received your statement please contact the Finance Dept.
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.

SPORTS NEWS

District Sport Trials
The following district trials have become available:
1. Rugby League (Boys born in 2004/05)
2. AFL (Boys born in 2004/05)
3. Hockey (Boys and Girls born in 2004/05/06)
4. Soccer (Boys and Girls born in 2004/05/06)

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
Congratulations and well done to all our St Rita’s Rep Swimmers whom competed in the first 10-19yr Bayside Combined Primary and Secondary Swimming Carnival. Each student did their school proud and should be commended on their efforts.

A further congratulations to Thomas (YS) who was successful in gaining selection into the Bayside District Swimming Squad to compete at the upcoming Met-East Trials for 50m Breaststroke.

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
Congratulations to all our St Rita’s Touch Teams who played their first game for the year last Friday. It was great to hear positive feedback from our parents and supporters present and to see obvious enjoyment on the faces of our players.

We also welcome back this year three ex-students/representative players from last year who will be assisting with our u/10 teams on Fridays. These girls are seeking to complete their coaching and referee courses later next month.

ROUND 2 – 26 FEB

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>U/12 Allstars Boys Blue</td>
<td>5.15pm</td>
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LEARNING SUPPORT

QUT study
Just a reminder to parents that all students selected to participate in the QUT study must have their permission notes returned by the end of this week. We are hoping to complete this project in week 6.

Writers Wanted
The Write 4 Fun competition is open to all age groups this year, from Prep to year 12, where students are required to enter either a poem or short story of 500 words. Let your imagination go wild and take the opportunity to be in the running to have your work published. Prizes include up to $1000 in cash!! Entries close on the 31st March, 2016. Enter online: www.write4fun.net

Have a great week,
Wendy Anderson
**SCHOOL BANKING**

Congratulations Layla T (2L), 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 24th Feb**
Terri Comerford
Help Needed??

**Thursday 25th Feb**
Tania Digby
Geraldine Harper

**Friday 26th Feb**
Danielle Hallgarth
Melissa McElwaine
Help Needed??

2ND Break
Help Needed??

The Menu that was issued at the beginning of the year is missing the Pasta and Rice dishes. These dishes are available every tuckshop day for $3.00.

**Menu Change Update**
- The drink menu will adjust to only Milk, Juice and Water products. All other products fall under the Red Category as a rarely food/drink.
- We are currently looking for a Cookie recipe that is low in sugar. If you have a hidden recipe at home that we could use to replace our current cookies we would appreciate it.
- Chicken Nuggets will no longer be sold on their own. From next term they will be sold with some salad. This is to keep them in the Amber Category (sometimes food).

If at any time you would like to discuss any of the new menu or have any questions, please feel free to contact me or come and see me. I am in tuckshop on Tuesday afternoons from 1:00pm.
Renee - 0411 523 969

**UNIFORM SHOP**

**HOURS**
Thursday 8.00 to 10.00am
Friday 8.00 to 10.00am

**SAN SISTO COLLEGE**

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 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
Dear Parents

We are currently considering offering a Vacation Care Program here at St Rita’s Before and After School Care during the school holidays and also on Pupil Free Days which will be available to all families at the school.

If parents are interested could you please contact the service or sign the “Expression of Interest” located at the school office or complete the survey online at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KKPYHWB

Thank you for your support.

Regards

OSHC Team.

PH: 0477 550 700

Victoriapointoshc@bne.centacare.net.au

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**Chisholm Catholic College**

**Enrolments Year 7, 2018**

Chisholm Catholic College will be conducting enrolment interviews on Saturday 16 April, 2016 for students wishing to attend the College in Year 7, 2018 (current Year 5 students). Parents wishing to make application should do so immediately to ensure an interview time on this day. Application forms are available on the College website [www.chisholm.qld.edu.au](http://www.chisholm.qld.edu.au) or by contacting the College Office on 3209 0700.

**Chisholm catholic college Open day 2016**

You and your family are invited to attend the College Open Day on Thursday 17 March from 1.00pm to 6.00pm. Come and explore the exciting academic and pastoral opportunities on offer, meet our friendly students and staff, take a tour of our new facilities and discover opportunities available beyond the classroom. Principal’s Address commences at 4.00pm.
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

Paul Wilson
0407 733 829
paul@wilsoelectricalgroup.com.au
www.wilsoelectricalgroup.com.au

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www.odysseyauto.com.au
When speaking with parents when I present at schools, or engaging with them via our social media, bullying is always a hot topic. A recent Facebook post had one of our biggest engagement rates ever. It begged the question: “What is bullying? Do we mix it up with teasing and other forms of mean behaviour?”

It’s an important topic that needs clarification.

Bullying is a term that’s wrapped in emotion. For many people it’s associated with bad childhood memories. It’s been estimated that around 40 per cent of people have experienced bullying in the past. It’s something that we don’t want to happen to our kids.

But I fear it’s being overused at the moment and confused with teasing and rudeness.

Rudeness refers to thoughtless behaviours and thoughtless words. Kids often do rude things to each other without thinking about their actions through. Examples include breaking wind in a child’s direction; joking about the colour of a child’s hair in front of others; failing to share possessions and neglecting to acknowledge someone. Rudeness is usually about selfishness and thoughtlessness. Taken on their own many rude behaviours can be seen as an element of bullying but when looked at in context they are more about thoughtlessness, lack of consideration and poor manners rather than a deliberate attempt to hurt someone.

Teasing refers to annoying, hurtful behaviour that is used to get a reaction from someone else. Teasing can be persistent in nature, but not always. It’s generally an attempt to get under a person’s skin. It can involve name-calling; it can be personal and hurtful in nature. It can also infringe on another person’s rights. But generally teasing doesn’t have the key ingredients that make up bullying.

Bullying is the selective, uninvited, repetitive oppression of one person or group by another. It involves three elements – intent to hurt or harm; power imbalance; and repetition over time. It takes many forms and guises including physical aggression; verbal abuse; emotional aggression (or blackmail); intimidation; harassment and exclusion.

The new cyber-dimension to bullying has moved the goalpost for many kids. In the past children and young people could escape bullying behaviours by being at home. Cyber-bullying means that children can’t escape bullies like they once could.

Why the distinction? I hear the term bullying misused a great deal in the media and when talking with parents. We run the risk of “The Boy Who Cried Wolf” Syndrome where we become so desensitised to the term that we (or teachers) ignore it when children really are the victims of bullying. We also run the risk of failing to skill our kids up to manage rudeness and teasing if we categorise every awful behaviour that kids experience as bullying.

Our ability to be discerning about bullying is as important as the action we take when we are sure that our child is on the receiving end of bullying behaviour. These actions include: dealing with feelings; providing emotional coping skills; getting others involved; building up a child’s support networks; and building self-confidence that can take a battering. Bullying needs to be taken seriously. But we also need to be discerning about bullying behaviours.