FROM THE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

Congratulations to our Successful Learners and Inspiring Teachers

As the student led dialogues are near to completion and written reports are on their way home this week, it is timely to reflect on the significant progress in learning for our students across the year levels. It is evident through our analysis of student data that our learning programs are making a difference to student learning progression from Prep through to Year 6. Efforts in differentiating the learning to meet the needs of all students is recognised within the student reports – both written summative reports and the dialogues. Our aim is to deliver high quality programs where all students are achieving. Essential to student progress is their own recognition of themselves as successful learners and what it takes to achieve this. Where students are setting their own goals for their learning, knowing when they are achieving these goals and then setting new goals, we are seeing great progress.

It is a delight to share with the community a small but wonderful sample of comments from our parents during the student led dialogues for one of our Prep classes. These highlight the importance of the parent partnership in the learning process. These comments also demonstrate the benefit of our effective and expected practices to optimise learning in the early years of schooling.

WHAT WE HEARD YOU SAY ABOUT STUDENT LEARNING IN PREP

‘He came home talking about Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, how on earth does that come up in the school day?’

“I had to Google precipitation and condensation, she knew more about it than I did!”

“We were worried that he was too young but now we can’t believe how much he is learning’

“He loves to hear stories all the time and he’s now excited to read to me”

“I just can’t believe the change in him, the confidence he showed performing in front of the other classes just said it all”

“I am so glad I sent him here, I tell the teachers at my school that the play-based approach is so much better”

“She is enjoying school so much, she wants to come every day!”

“Having the speech students here is a great idea”

“Everywhere we go she is sounding things out and asking lots of questions, it’s great”

“When I see his writing and drawing I can’t believe it, I brought him to an OT last year because he was having so much difficulty”

“He’s telling us about nouns, verbs, vowels I didn’t learn any of that until I was much older”

“She is loving school, I think it’s incredible how quickly she is reading and writing”

IMPORTANT DATES

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"We're very happy with how she's going, we knew it was the right decision to send her here, we know she'll always have difficulties but we feel she is responding well to being challenged in such a caring way"

As Term 2 comes to a close, I reflect on the wonderful spirit of community at St Rita's. The way in which the care for each other is shown in practical ways continues to bring joy and comfort in challenging times. As the weeks now become months since our loss of our dear friend and colleague, Mr Thompson, as staff and families face the challenge of loss and illness - the children remind us of those things in life that matter most – the way we treat each other, respect our individual talents and gifts, challenge what may need to change and most of all – find the joy in who we are as God has created us to be.

Stay safe and well during the winter break and we look forward to continuing our learning and growth to Know More, Do More and Be More in the new semester.

Live in Hope Live with Joy
Anne, Kevin and Jess

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**SCHOOL FEES**

Overdue fee statements were posted out last week.

If you are not able to pay your account, simply contact us and we will be able to reach some agreement about your fees.

If, however, they have merely been overlooked, would you please forward your payment to bring your account up-to-date.

Many thanks Krys – Finance Administration.

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**SCHOOL PHOTOS - TUESDAY 14 JULY**

School photos will be taken on Tuesday 14 July, the second day back for term 3. Envelopes are going home with students today and need to be returned on photo day. There is one envelope per family.

Please note that sibling photos will start from 7.45am on Tuesday 14 July.

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**SPORTS NEWS**

**Quote of the week**

The miracle isn't that I finished. The miracle is that I had the courage to start.

John Bingham

**Athletics Age Championship Events – Close Friday**

Nominations are for students aged 10yrs and older. Nominations can be found under ‘Student Portal’ in the sports section. If you need assistance in nominating – please see Mr Kenyon on Wednesdays during Lunch. *Events you can nominate for:* 800m, Long-Jump, High-Jump and Shot-Put. (800m will be held on the morning of our carnival 20 July, other events will be held the week before).

Nominations will close this **Friday June 26, 8.00pm**.

**St Rita’s Touch Football**

Season 1 for Touch Football has now concluded. A special thankyou to all the parents and members of the school community who have attended games week after week and supported them. Also to Mr Anthony Fernando, Mr Dennis Winterburn and Mrs Wendy Anderson for their volunteered time and effort in coaching/managing their teams on Friday nights. Your help and assistance is invaluable.

Season 2 will not start until early Term 3. If positions become available and students are interested in playing – please see Mr Kenyon.

If there are any parents who are blue card holders or level 1 certified in touch/football and would like to assist with a team please see Mr Kenyon.
Future Problem Solving (FPS)
As the term closes, so too does our first topic of study for the Future Problem Solving group. It has been an adventure working with these problem solvers as they endeavoured to find the underlying problem and solution to alleviate students indulging in unhealthy processed foods. The students involved have actively contributed to fast paced, dynamic conversations that have required extensive research and an inquiry based approach to learning. Having now engaged with the 6 step process, the students are in good stead to undertake the term 3 topic; Propaganda.

Critical and creative thinking, which is fostered in Future Problem Solving, is one of the General Capabilities in the Australian Curriculum. It states:

‘By applying a sequence of thinking skills, students develop an increasingly sophisticated understanding of the processes they can employ whenever they encounter problems, unfamiliar information and new ideas. In addition, the progressive development of knowledge about thinking and the practice of using thinking strategies can increase students’ motivation for, and management of, their own learning. They become more confident and autonomous problem-solvers and thinkers.’

The Website, Thinking Philosophically, supports this statement, by claiming that ‘Students develop the confidence and intellectual courage to put forward their own views in a group. Participation in the community of inquiry develops higher order thinking skills in the context of meaningful discussion.’ (http://www.philosothon.org/, 2015)

I look forward to submitting our action plan for evaluation next term. This plan will also be sent home with the students involved to enable them to share the creative and critical thinking skills that they have displayed this term with their families.

Have a great holiday,
Wendy Anderson
Next term we will be running auditions for this year's 'St Rita's Got Talent' for all students from Year 3-6. If you can dance, sing or act, play an instrument, or perform a magic trick, please collect a form from the office or from Mr Tyrrell. The finals will be held at the parish fete, with students competing for trophies and to be named the inaugural champion of St Rita's Got Talent 2015.

Senior Choir rehearsal will be held in the Unitas Centre this Thursday (Week 10), as we will be rehearsing with Mrs Kellet. Choir will resume in Week 1, Term 3.

Important Dates to note...Redland's Eistedfodd (Junior & Senior Choir - Wednesday August 5th and Thursday August 6th) - Queensland Catholic Schools Music Festival - (Senior Choir Friday August 14th).

Congratulations Isaac L. 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.

みなさん、こんにちは (Hello Everyone). Thanks everyone for a wonderful term of Japanese learning! ありがとうございました。

It’s been a great term in Wool Club with familiar and new faces each week! We have had some students learning to knit and crochet and other students learning to knot macramé bracelets. Families of wool dolls have grown, and woven butterflies and pompom lady beetles have popped up everywhere. It’s been wonderful to see the students becoming teachers themselves, teaching their friends and classmates the skills that they have learnt. Each week students have had the opportunity to start new projects, revisit earlier projects we have done or learn to knit or crochet with our very patient and talented helpers. A very big thank you to these volunteers who give us their time each week.

– Carly
To the St Rita’s Community and St Rita's Mini-Vinnies, thank you so much for your fantastic contribution to the Redland Bayside Deanery appeal again this year. There are many people in the Redlands who are homeless and in need. Your very great contribution will go a long way towards helping Rosies and Babi in the next year.

Thank you again,
Maria Jones and Elaine Strati
Redland Bayside Deanery Volunteers

Did you know: Did you know we have a date for our school Fete??????

October 31 2015 Springfest
When Term 3 commences there will be a Fete newsletter going out with more details, look out for it. Volunteering is a major factor of any successful School Event. Please know that we would love your support during, prior or post the day. We know that life comes in many different busy seasons for families and any form of support is appreciated; small donations, baking, bottles, lollies etc.

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

School Contact List
Just giving you an update on the Class Contact List; it has gone out with ALL corrections that were emailed through to us. Thank you for your patience. Just in time for the holiday catch ups

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.

Important Dates
• SPN meeting
• Father’s Day Liturgy 15 July@ 2pm 4 September
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 or 0402 102 987

Blessings
Antoinette Page and Debbie Stone
ADVERTISING

Music and Dance Lessons at St Rita’s School
Enrol Now for Term 3!

Creative Kidz is now accepting new enrolments at St Rita’s School in Dance, Guitar, Drums, Singing or Brass and Woodwind Lessons.

Learning a musical instrument helps your child develop in so many ways other than just learning music. Our Creative Kidz program offers children the chance to develop their social skills, communication skills, self-concepts, cooperative talents and creative mind.

If there are any students at the school who would like to be part of our fantastic Extra Curricular Music or Dance Program please pick up an enrolment form from the school office or download an enrolment form from [www.creativekidz.com.au](http://www.creativekidz.com.au) and send it back to us directly. Alternatively, if you have any questions please call Kathleen Smith on 0421022818 or email info@creativekidz.com.au

Asthma? Allergies? Ask the Experts!

Asthma Foundation Queensland is hosting an ‘Ask the Expert’ session for parents of children with asthma or allergies. The session will provide parents with the invaluable opportunity to learn more about their child’s asthma or allergies, and to have their questions answered by experts in the field. Details for the session are below:

- **Date:** Wednesday 29th July
- **Time:** 6:30pm—8:00pm
- **Venue:** Meeting Room, Carina Leagues Club, 1390 Creek Road, Carina QLD 4152
- **Cost:** FREE

Registrations can be made online at [asthmaaustralia.org.au](http://asthmaaustralia.org.au) or by phoning 1800 ASTHMA (1800 278 462). Registration includes a ‘goodie’ bag and light refreshments.

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**Japanese students visiting St Rita’s Primary School**

**Host families needed**

Payment to Host Families: $300

- 2 Students per Homestay
- For 4 nights from Thu July 20th to Mon July 24th
- Students aged 9 to 20 yrs.
- 24/7 Support in English and Japanese just a phone call away

Japanese students are a pleasure to host and it’s a great opportunity for you to experience another culture and make an international friend.

Please contact: Odette Clark
Mobile: 0418 672 498
Email: info@thejpi.com.au

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**REDLANDS ACTING AND DRAMA**

Winter Holiday Acting Workshop

5 Days of Fun at RAB!

Students can enrol on a per day basis or enrol for 4 with the 5th free!

**Rabjwell at RAB**

**Date:** 29 June - 3 July

**Where:** RAB Studio, 68 Bloomfield St

**Cost:** $55 single day or $199 for 5 days

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**Phone:** 0408 853 511
**Email:** redlandsactinganddrama@hotmail.com