



# Around Our School

Term 1 Week 1

24 January 2017

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## FROM THE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

Welcome to the first newsletter for our 2017 School Year. We were so thrilled to see the students back, they seem to have settled into the routines already and the transitions to new classes and meeting new teachers has gone smoothly. It was great to see the happy reunions as friends met up again.

We welcome new staff Mrs Olivia Horn to 5K and Ms Brittany Holahan to 1L. Welcome also to the 20 new families who have also joined our community along with the many "first timers" within our Prep classes. I am sure you will join us in extending a wonderful St Rita's hospitality to them all.

I am also new to the St Rita's community myself, replacing Ms McKenny who has been appointed as Area Supervisor. I come to St Rita's from St Peter's at Rochedale where I was principal for the last 6 years. Before going to St Peter's, I had been APRE for 17 years and class teacher in four different schools Brisbane Catholic Education Schools. I have been married to Keith for 32 years and we have 3 children, a son-in-law and 3 delightful grandchildren. I am very excited to be here in this community and am looking forward to getting to know everyone and continuing the great partnerships that have been so much a part of St Rita's community.

All of our teaching staff participated in Professional Development Days in the week leading up to our start today. A highlight was gathering with the staff from three other Catholic Primary Schools to hear a presentation from Fr Richard Leonard, SJ. He was able to place the mission of teaching in a Catholic School in a contemporary context for us, challenging and affirming us in our roles as educators.

We also looked at our student achievement data from 2016 and reflected on the impact of year level trends on our planning, teaching and learning cycle. Staff have certainly been very busy and diligent in their preparation for classes, I thank them for their hard work and dedication.

A Prayer Walk around the school was part of our staff day yesterday to give staff the opportunity to look at our school grounds and sacred spaces with fresh eyes. The theme for this year is See, Think, Wonder. We encourage ourselves to -

**See** what is before us

**Think** about the significance of history / meaning of what we see,

**Wonder** what might be possible or what is next for us as the community of St Rita's.

Teachers will be engaging their students in our theme for the year, you may also like to use this with your children.

### Parent Teacher Inquiry Meetings

For the first few weeks of the new year, teachers will be inviting you to a one on one meeting. This is an opportunity for you to share information that you think, as a parent, your child's teacher will benefit from knowing. Please make a time to connect with your child's teacher as this is a very valuable exercise.

### Safety First! Drop Off and Pick Up and School Hours

Thank you to all our parents using the street parking and/or Drive Thru system correctly, safely and patiently. The Drive Thru is for both drop off and pick up from the Benfer Rd entrance. Please proceed through the Church carpark in the right hand lane and move around to the pick-up zone. We ask that you do this both in the morning for drop off as well as the afternoon. It is dangerous for children to be exiting or entering cars in the carpark lanes. For the safety of everyone, when driving through the carpark please



ensure you stay under the speed limit of 5km per hour. We also ask that you not drive into the school grounds in front of the church. The Red Gum Drive entrance is for staff only to enter the staff carpark or early morning or late afternoon Outside School Hours Care. A staggered approach is ideal in the afternoon. Staff are on duty in the Drive Thru until at least 3.30pm. Parents / Carers arriving at 3.15 onwards have a clear run through. We understand that at times, you may be caught in a traffic jam somewhere. Please be assured that you children will not be left unattended.

**School Hours and Outside Hours School Care**  
Classes commence at 8.30am and conclude at 3pm. A bell will ring at 8.10am for supervised play for students who arrive early. The Prep to Year 2 remain in the Admin play area and Year 3 – 6 are escorted up to the oval seat area. It is expected that students arrive from 8am onwards. At this time, the toilets will be opened. Any earlier, we ask that you enrol into the Outside School Hours morning program. The contact number for OHSC is 0477 550 070.

May God's peace and blessings be with you and your family over the coming week,

Carolyn

## SERENDIPITY ART CLASSES



Enrolments are now open for Art classes for 2017. Term 1 will see a vibrant mix of arty/crafty after school fun that will begin in week three and continue until the end of term. Classes will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday this year and run from 3pm until 5pm. All materials are supplied and everyone is welcome from prep to year six! For further information, please txt Jenny on 0438376311 and I will return your call after school.

Yours in Art  
Jenny Randall

## SCHOOL BANKING



A big welcome back to all students. It was really great to see some of you during the holidays continuing with your banking. I hope those of you who earned movie tickets enjoyed using them too. The movie ticket incentive will continue this year. All you need to do is bank 7 weeks of the school term and you'll receive a movie ticket to Victoria Point Cineplex in the last week of Term 1. Our school banking collection will begin week 2 on Tuesday 31st January. All school banking needs to be handed to your teacher first thing Tuesday morning and delivered to the office by 9am. Alternatively you can deliver school banking direct to the school office before school on Tuesdays. Please remember to update your class on your bank book or plastic cover. We look forward to a wonderful year of saving! Any queries please call us at the branch on 3207 6133. Have a great week, BOQ Victoria Point.



## TUCKSHOP NEWS



Tuckshop will resume next week as normal. Wednesday and Thursday for first break and Friday first and second break.

## KEYBOARD LESSONS

There are limited vacancies for Keyboard/piano lessons for Term 1. If you are interested in your child having lessons please contact me on 0407 027 216 or email [vicki.minogue@icloud.com](mailto:vicki.minogue@icloud.com) for an expression of interest form or any questions you may have.

Vicki Minogue - Keyboard/Piano Teacher

## UNIFORM SHOP

### HOURS

|          |                 |
|----------|-----------------|
| Thursday | 8.00 to 10.00am |
| Friday   | 8.00 to 10.00am |

