



Around Our School

Term 4 Week 9

29 November 2016

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FROM THE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

I find it hard to believe that this will be my last newsletter contribution at St Rita's. I am very appreciative of the support and encouragement you have shown not only in the past week, but across my seven years as Principal of our wonderful school. It is with a great sense of satisfaction and pride that we draw this year to a close with the fantastic results in student learning, inspiring community events such as our Carols night, Prep Nativity and annual Year 6 Vs Teachers Touch Footy Game (I'm still feeling the effect of that one!!) and the smooth transition into new class groups for 2017.



We will be welcoming **Mrs Carolyn Watson** to St Rita's as Acting Principal for 2017. Mrs Watson is currently Principal at St Peter's, Rochedale. Before this, Carolyn was APRE at St Anthony's, Alexandra Hills. I spoke with her this morning and she is very excited to be offered the opportunity to be Principal at St Rita's in 2017 and I am sure you will make her feel very welcome.

Our teaching staff remain very stable with one new addition – Ms Brittany Holahan commencing her teaching career at St Rita's. Please see our class teachers attached.

May I take this opportunity to wish all our families a most joyous Christmas. I am mindful that a number of families face challenging times through illness and changing relationships. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers and we ask for God's strength to bring comfort to you. May all our

IMPORTANT DATES

Tue 29 Nov	Year 6 Thanksgiving – 6.00 pm
Thurs 1 Dec	Year 6 Excursion to Wet 'n' Wild
Fri 2 Dec	Final Assembly 11.30 am
	SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 12NOON
Tue 24 Jan	First Day of school for 2017

students enjoy the well-earned holiday break – keep safe and well and ready for a new year of new learning and opportunities for new friendships in 2017. For our families moving on to new schools, we wish you well.

I look forward to maintaining contacts and friendships with the St Rita's community. You will forever be in my heart.

May God's peace and blessings be with you and your family.

Anne

A Personal Note of Thanks

As we approach the end of the school year, I'd like to take the opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the students, parents and staff of St Rita's for the wonderful first year that I have had here in 2016. When I was considering my application for this APA position last year, I liked what I had seen and read about the school and I had the sense that St Rita's was a very welcoming, supportive and joyful community. My experiences here this year have only served to confirm that impression and I feel very blessed to be an integral part of this community now. I thank you all for a great 2016 and wish you and your families every blessing for the Christmas and New Year season. I look forward to working with you again in 2017.



To Anne – it has been a real pleasure working with you this year. I wish you every success in your new role as Area Supervisor. Be assured that we will continue to Know More, Do More and Be More here at St Rita's in Knowledge, Truth and Love, just as you have shown us.



Unique and United – We Rejoice.
Brian Mason

Road Safety Concern - Sycamore Pde, Redgum Dr, Rear Entrance to School and Internal Road to OSHC

We have received some expressions of concern from neighbours in Sycamore Parade regarding the speed at which some drivers are approaching and entering our school through the rear entrance and car park. The concerns extend to people travelling too quickly along the internal road that leads to OSHC as well. **The safety of our students and families has to be our highest priority and so we ask all parents, staff and visitors to be conscious and careful at all times with regard to the speed at which they approach and enter these thoroughfares and any approaches and entrances to our school.** We advised the neighbours that we would communicate these concerns to our school community and we encouraged them to contact the council and/or police should the concerns continue.

Last Thursday we were lucky to have a group of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Performers presenting a Cultural concert. A big thank you to Bridget Garay from Creative Tracks and her fellow musicians Troy Brady, Manduway Dutton and Charles Passi. This coincides with today's 30th Anniversary of Saint Pope John Paul II's visit to the Indigenous Peoples of Australia in Alice Springs. His visit and subsequent ground-breaking address acknowledged the richness and grace of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' traditions and urged all Australians to move towards reconciliation and healing. If you have not had an opportunity to read [the text of Pope John Paul II's statement](#), I urge you to do so. You will discover very quickly why it is considered one of the most significant Catholic teachings about the Church's relationship with Aboriginal Peoples.



I send cordial greetings and best wishes to you and the entire Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the visit of Saint John Paul II to Alice Springs. I assure you of my spiritual closeness as you reflect on the many ways in which Almighty God has blessed your community through that historic visit.

*This anniversary affords me the happy opportunity to express my deep esteem for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and for your ancient cultural heritage. Uniting my voice to that of Saint John Paul II, I encourage you in his words: "Your culture, which shows the lasting genius and dignity of your race, must not be allowed to disappear. Do not think that your gifts are worth so little that you should no longer bother to maintain them. Share them with each other and teach them to your children. Your songs, your stories, your paintings, your dances, your languages, must never be lost." For when you share the noble traditions of your community, you also witness to the power of the Gospel to perfect and purify every society, and in this way God's holy will is accomplished. I pray that this occasion will provide an opportunity to deepen your love for Christ and for one another, offering a convincing and tangible sign that we are "no longer strangers and sojourners, but...fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God"(Eph 2:19). **Letter from Pope Francis to the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (2016).***



I would also like to thank the entire St Rita's community for welcoming me in 2016. St Rita's is a wonderful community and I am very much looking forward to 2017.

Nathan

SPORTS NEWS



Hockey Academy – Gala Day

Last Thursday St Rita's was well represented by 9 students across Year 4-6 at the Toowoomba 6-a-side Hockey Gala Day. St Rita's played a total of 7 games and won 2, finishing in 4th place in their division. Congratulations to all those girls and boys involved and we hope to compete again next year!

Local Representative Touch

Congratulations to Jess M (3), Fletcher W (5), Josh M (5) Georgia H (5), Ronan G (6) and Kiara H (6) who were all successful in gaining selection in the Local Redlands Representative Touch Training Squads for their age divisions for the 2017 season. Well Done!

Swimming Age Champions and Runner-Ups 2016

Congratulations to the following girls and boys who were awarded Age-Champion and Runner-Up based on their overall combined efforts at the recent 3-6 Swimming Carnival.

Division	Age Champion	Runner Up
8yo Girls	Jessica M	Isabella B
8yo Boys	Archie L	William Di
9yo Girls	Sophie E	Faye H
9yo Boys	Liam S	Thommy N
10yo Girls	Tamsyn W	Imogen Gt
10yo Boys	Thomas E	Ethan S
11yo Girls	Ella S	Brianna S
11yo Boys	Jerome S	Dylan S
12yo Girls	Jessica P	Bree T
12yo Boys	Michael K	Ethan H

NEW Swimming Records

Congratulations to the following students on their outstanding effort and results gained in various events at our recent swimming carnival.

Event	Old Record	New Record
Girls - 50m Freestyle (School Record)	35.79s (2011)	34.59s (2016) – Sophie E (Year 3)
10yr Girls – 50m Freestyle	41.40s (2013)	40.84s (2016) – Tamsyn W (Yr 4)
10yr Girls – 50m Breaststroke	55.78s (2010)	53.49s (2016) – Tamsyn W (Yr 4)
10yr Boys – 50m Freestyle	38.12s (2012)	37.72s (2016) – Thomas E (Year 5)
10yr Boys – 50m Breaststroke	54.50s (2012)	49.28s (2016) – Thomas E (Year 5)
10yr Boys – 50m Backstroke	47.24s (2012)	45.68s (2016) – Thomas E (Year 5)
10yr Boys – 50m Butterfly	58.20s (2012)	49.79s (2016) – Ethan S (Year 5)
10yr Boys – 200m IM	3:43.23 (2012)	3:42.65 (2016) – Thomas E (Year 5)

Representative Sport and Touch Football Singlets

Could all students that still have representative singlets/Touch Football Singlets and Shorts please return them ASAP. Please ensure they are washed and placed in a plastic bag clearly marked with their name so they can be accounted for. Hand directly to Mr Kenyon.

MEDICATION

Please remember to collect ALL MEDICATION from the school office before the end of the school year.



You will also need to complete new Student Medical Record for 2017. The forms will be handed out when the medication is collected.



MUSIC NEWS

Congratulations to Junior Choir who performed beautifully at Marebello Aged-Care, Victoria Point. The residents loved the performance and the children presented them with cards. A really special way to end the year.

Thank you for all your support with the arts this year. Without help from parents we wouldn't have made Seussical the success that it was. A special thanks to Anne McKenny for her wonderful support of the arts at St Rita's, you will be missed.

Please note that choir and extra-curricular activities have now concluded for the year.

I hope that you have a happy Christmas, and a wonderful 2016.

Paul Tyrrell

SCHOOL BANKING



Congratulations to Levi W (2T) you are the lucky winner of a bonus \$2 deposited into your account!! We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for being such wonderful customers. We look forward to seeing you during the school holidays if you would like to come into the branch and continue your saving. Please note: school banking will resume Week 2 on Tuesday 31 January 2017. Have a Merry Christmas from BOQ Victoria Point Ph: 3207 6133.



KEYBOARD LESSONS 2017

Keyboard lessons are a great introduction to music learning. If your child is showing an interest in music, Keyboard lessons are a great place to start. Expressions of interest for keyboard lessons 2017 are now open. If you would like your child to commence keyboard lessons next year please collect a form from the school office or alternatively you can contact me.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me either through phone or email.

Vicki Minogue - Keyboard Teacher
ph. 0407 027 216 or vicki.minogue@icloud.com

TUCKSHOP NEWS

Wednesday 30 November

Ursula Wendt
Geraldine Harper



Thursday 1 December

Trish McNamara
Duncan Blackburn
Clean Up Crew
Louise Lowcock
Vicky Kelly

Modified Menu - As you can understand we are limiting our stock for the end of year. This means we don't have everything that is on the menu, like; Fried Rice, Pasta, Hotdogs.....

We will endeavour to fill all orders as requested. If there is a shortage we will speak the student.

A very big thank you to all our volunteers over the year. Every minute has been appreciated. Have a safe and happy holiday.

**For all questions please contact me
Renee**

UNIFORM SHOP

HOURS

Thursday 8.00 to 10.00am



The uniform shop will not be open this Friday 2 December.



LOST PROPERTY

You will have noticed that the Lost Property has been outside the tuckshop over the past couple of weeks in hope that students will claim any lost items. On Wednesday afternoon the Lost Property will have a thorough clean out. Any unclaimed items will be disposed of accordingly. So please ensure you check the Lost Property before Wednesday.



A/PRINCIPAL	Carolyn Watson
APA	Brian Mason
APRE	Nathan Mulhearn
PLL	Sue Maclean
School Secretary (Principal Support)	Belinda Martin
Finance Secretary	Krys Kuroпка
School Secretary	Kelly Husted
School Secretary/WHSO	Liesje Maslowskyj
Finance Secretary/Uniforms	Kim Watson
PK	Karen Turner
PT	Deirdre Tate
PL	Fiona Wilson
1K	Kathy McNaughton
1T	Colleen Hughes
1L	Brittany Holahan
2K	Anne-Marie Allen
2T	Cerryn Henry
2L	Kristy Trappett (T-F)/Jess Hill (M)
2J	Anthony Fernando
3K	Therese Rae
3T	Donna Nipperess
3L	Nikki Wild (M-Th)/Faye French (F)
4K	Marianne Ferguson
4T	Lisa-Marie Louange
4L	Tracy Hill
5K	Jade Krieger
5T	Chris Azzopardi
5L	Virginia Hay
6K	Tony Gaze
6T	Nicole Ogden
6L	Geralyn Murphy (M,T) /Kate Kellett (W-F)
Guidance	Raymond Schwartz
Japanese	Kathryn Tominaga
Japanese Assistant (M,F)	Kumi
ESL (W)	Trish Hutchings
Inclusion Teacher	Wendy Anderson
STIE	(M-W) Roseanne Davies (Th,F)
Teacher Librarian	Jo Rossi
The Arts	Paul Tyrrell
H.P.E.	Daniel Kenyon
School Officer	Sharan Rockcliffe
School Officer	Nathalie Holt
School Officer	Maria Fielding
School Officer	Jenny Randall
School Officer	Paula Silvestro
School Officer	Kay Zivkovic
School Officer	Colleen Barton
School Officer	Nicola Hardaker
School Officer	Kylie Jones
School Officer	Keryn Lietzow
School Officer	Rianne Loft
School Officer	Louise Penglis
School Officer	Anne Retief
Grounds	Des Roffey
Grounds	Connor Martin
Grounds Trainee	James Penglis
Tuckshop	Renee Saleh







Dear Parents and School Community

As the school year is coming to an end, Metro South Oral Health would like to ensure those children in need of oral care have access to our free dental service. We have a large number of dental clinics in the local area and our clinics are open and available to all eligible children **over the school holidays**.

As we have for many years, the School Dental Service provides free dental treatment to all children aged 4 to grade 10, plus children younger or older who are eligible for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule or whose parents hold a current Centrelink, Health Care or Pension Concession Card. We welcome new and existing patients to contact us in 2017 for a dental appointment.

We have a large number of clinics in the local area and our clinics are open and available to all eligible children.

Free Dental Treatment

Metro South Oral Health provides free dental treatment to **all** school students up to Year 10. As well as to those 0-4yr olds, and Year 11 &12 students who hold a Health Care Card.

Please call **1300 300 850** to organise an appointment before the end of the year or in 2017.

Holiday appointments are available now!

For more about Metro South Oral Health and services we provide please visit our website:

<https://metrosouth.health.qld.gov.au/oral-health>

or contact us via email: metrosouthoralhealth@health.qld.gov.au

Kind regards

Metro South Oral Health