Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

Unique and United – We Rejoice!
Welcome to the first newsletter for our 2016 School Year. We have enjoyed a wonderful start at St Rita’s welcoming new Assistant Principals, Mr Brian Mason and Mr Nathan Mulhearn. Brian and Nathan are out and about each morning and generally at the Drive – Thru in the afternoon and have appreciated your introductions and informal chats as they get to know our community. For me, it is like they are “ducks to water” and we are well on our way to a new beginning and fresh start at St Rita’s.

We also welcome new teaching staff, two Graduate teachers Ms Nikki Ogden (6T) and Ms Cerryn Henry (2T) and Mr Chris Azzopardi (5T) who has come from Star of the Sea Catholic School at Cleveland. Fourteen new families have also joined our community along with the many “first timers” within our Prep classes. We have enjoyed a very smooth start to the year and we look forward to our continuing partnership with you in the privilege of educating and caring for the wellbeing of all.

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. It fits very well with our theme for this year, “Unique and United – We Rejoice”. In the words of St Augustine, “God loves each of us, as if there were only one of us.” So, too, do our teachers and staff aspire to this call. We value that your child is like no other, like some others and like all others. Please make a time to connect with your child’s teacher as this is a very valuable exercise. (As Year 4 introduces the 1:1 computer program and the first year of camp, there will be, in addition, a one hour parent information session tomorrow evening at 6pm.)

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. Generally 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. There has been a growing number of families dropping children off at school from 7am.
onwards and we request that you make the necessary arrangements for supervision of your children to ensure their safety. The contact number for OHSC is 0477 550 070.

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

Anne

Greetings everyone. I’m very happy and excited to now be a part of the St Rita’s Community, as Assistant Principal, Administration and I am very appreciative of the warm welcome that has been extended to both Mr Mulhearn and to me as the new members of the St Rita’s Leadership Team. As a school community, we have enjoyed a very smooth and positive start to the 2016 school year and that is a credit to the parents, students and staff of this wonderful school.

By way of introduction, I’d like to share with you just a little about myself. I am married to Janice (also a teacher) and we live in Rochedale South. We have four grown-up children (all also teachers) and four beautiful grandchildren aged 8, 7, 15mths & 2 wks. This year will be my 39th year of continuous service in BCE schools (in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast), in roles that have included classroom teacher, Assistant Principal and Principal at various times. Two of my previous schools were also in the Redlands. I really enjoy working with people, especially children. I enjoy all forms of sport, but have a particular interest in Rugby League, Rugby Union and Touch Footy and I support the Broncos, the Maroons and the Reds.

I wish you all the very best for the year ahead and I look forward to meeting each of you at some stage.

Brian

I would like to thank every member of the Victoria Point community who I have met so far. I have felt very welcome and at this early stage I can already sense that I am going to enjoy sharing in the school’s ongoing story. It is a very special place here at St Rita’s and I look forward to creating many happy memories with the students and community. Please feel free to come up and say hello if I haven’t already met you.

We have an early Easter this year. So the season of Lent is almost upon us, beginning with Ash Wednesday next week (week 3). Year 6 will attend Parish Mass at 9am on Ash Wednesday with some other selected classes. All other classes will attend a short Prayer Liturgy at different times of the day to be anointed with the ashes. On Tuesday students will prepare for Lent with Shrove Tuesday also known as Pancake Day with their classes.

Nathan

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EMAIL ADDRESSES

As most school correspondence, including school fees and newsletters, are emailed to families it is important that families keep email addresses up to date. This can be done through the school office or parent portal.

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SCHOOL ABSENTEE PHONE

Please remember to use the absentee line (3207 6628, option 3) to leave messages regarding students not attending school. Please leave the following information by 9.00am on the day of absence:

   Date
   Your name
   Your child’s name and class
   And reason for absence.

There are also options for school fees and enrolments.

Please ensure if you need to get a message to your child that it is done before 1.00pm as often classes are out of their rooms in the afternoon session. As we communicate with the classroom via an internal phone we cannot guarantee messages will be received in a timely manner.

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NEWS FROM THE RESOURCE CENTRE

The first Book club catalogues for 2016 are coming home today. Orders are due back by 15 February.
**SPORTS NEWS**

**Quote of the week**

‘Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world.’

Joel A. Barker

**District Sport Trials**
The following district trials have become available:

1. Netball 11yrs (Girls born in 2004)
2. Netball 12yrs (Girls born in 2005)

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**

Students aged 10+ will be notified shortly if they have been selected to represent St Rita’s at the upcoming Bayside District Swimming Carnival. Selections are based on performance and times gained at the School Swimming Carnival from Term 4 last year. The district carnival is scheduled for 18th February at Chandler Aquatic Centre.

**Cross Country Training**

For all those interested – Cross Country Training has started this week (Monday morning). 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**

Going home to interested Y3-6 students shortly are notes regarding St Rita’s Touch Football. There are no guaranteed places in teams as numbers are needed first. Cost is dependent on numbers, however is normally around $80-90 based on a team of 10.

We have had an overwhelming response for Touch Football over the years and we ask if there are any parents willing to volunteer their time as a ‘Team Delegate/Coach’ that would be highly appreciated. A background/knowledge of the game would be preferred and responsibilities would include Supervise, Coach and Manage team on Friday evenings at Cleveland Showgrounds.

**LEARNING SUPPORT**

Welcome back to Term 1. It’s been wonderful seeing the students return with smiles on faces eager to start a new year of learning and fun. As I’ve been wandering across classrooms this week it’s been apparent that teachers are getting to know their students through various methods; one of which is **goal setting**.

Student set goals are effective in motivating students to achieve and feel successful by a set timeframe. Carol Dweck talks about *Growth Mindsets* and *fixed mindsets* in relation to how students feel about themselves and their ability to succeed. A growth mindset is not predominately about effort, but rather about trying new strategies and seeking advice from others when feeling stuck.

Therefore, the key to having a growth mindset, or being dedicated to improving, is persistence and resilience. It’s about facing setbacks as challenges and moving forward, regardless of the failures, to achieve the end result. If students believe they can ‘grow their brains’ and develop their intelligence, they are more willing to persist and succeed.

Some encouraging words of advice to develop a growth mindset: “If you catch yourself saying I’m not a maths person, just add the word ‘yet’ to the end of the sentence.” I could possibly use this advice myself when it comes to exercise. “I’m not an exercise person, yet.”

This type of thinking is definitely the recipe to improvement and progression.

Have a great week,

Wendy
Welcome to 2016! Please note that students will be undertaking choir auditions at break times this week, (week 2). I will post a final list of choir students on the music room door by Friday, Week 2. Choir will resume for Juniors on Tuesday morning and for Seniors on Thursday morning at 7.45am in the music room.

There will also be our Suessical Jr auditions happening next Monday at 3.15pm in the music room. If students cannot make this time to audition, could you please let me know and I will arrange an audition at a break time this week. Hopefully our final cast list will be available by Wednesday, and I will post this on the music room door this Thursday.

Looking forward to an exciting 2016!!

Paul Tyrrell - Arts Teacher

**SCHOOL BANKING**

Welcome back to another year of school banking, we hope you all had a lovely break. Banking has officially began again for 2016, don’t forget to bring your school banking in for next Tuesday 9 February. We will also continue with our exciting incentive to keep banking with a movie ticket to Victoria Point movies. If you bank 7 weeks this term you will receive a movie ticket just in time for the Easter holidays.

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, Everyone from Bank of Queensland Victoria Point.

**TUCKSHOP NEWS**

**Wednesday 3rd Feb**  
Trish McNamara

**Thursday 4th Feb**  
Louise Lowcock  
Geraldine Harper

**Friday 5th Feb**  
Louise Lowcock  
Serria Glindemann  
**2nd Break**  
Louise Lowcock

A very big welcome to a new school year. Just a few points to think about for new and old parents.

- New menus were issued to all students last week, as there have been some changes this year please take time to look over the menu. If you did not receive one you can pick one up from the office/tuckshop or you may text me your Child's name and class and I will send one home for you.
- We still have Sushi Fridays. Please remember that these are pre-ordered only. Please have all orders done by 1:30pm on Thursday. We need at least 20 orders to place a Sushi order.
- As Term 1 is the least busiest term for tuckshop, I would like to suggest that you use this opportunity to come in and see how we run, check ingredients (for allergy students) and see what your children are asking for.
- Thank you to the new families that put their names down to help in tuckshop this year. I have attached a copy of the roster and as you will see that we need more Volunteers (Mums, Dads Grandparents). All it takes in a few hours a month/fortnight to help. Without Volunteers the tuckshop does not function.
- Why not try Flexischools, a very easy online ordering system from tuckshop. If you have any queries about Flexischools please feel free to come and see me and I can show you. For the families who are already on Flexischools please remember to reset your child's class. www.flexischools.com.au
- We do not encourage Prep students to order ice blocks in Term 1 as it cuts into their play time.

If you have any questions at all please do not hesitate to contact me - email - rsaleh@bne.catholic.edu.au or 0411 523 969
**UNIFORM SHOP**

**HOURS**

Thursday 8.00 to 10.00am  
Friday 8.00 to 10.00am

**PIANO LESSONS**

**Limited Vacancies**

Application for Piano lessons are still being taken for Term 1. If you are interested in your child having Piano lessons please collect an expression of interest from the school office or contact me on 0407 027 216 or email vicki.minogue@icloud.com.

Vicki Minogue

**HELPING OTHER PARENTS EXCHANGE**

HOPE (Helping Other Parents Exchange) - support group for Parents and Carers of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, behavioural or learning conditions.

Our first meeting for 2016 will be held from 9am on Thursday 18 February at Wray Organic Market and Cafe, Ross Court, Bloomfield St, Cleveland. We would love to welcome new members to our group.

**PARISH CRAFT GROUP**

**Craft Group Coordinator:** The Craft Group are looking to appoint a new coordinator this year and will happily support them in their new role. This is essential for the Craft Group to continue.

If you are able to help or for any further information, please contact Elaine on 0414 763 261 or Marlene on 3207 8584.

Art classes for Term 1 will commence this Thursday. New students from Prep to Year 6 are always welcome. Information is available from the school office or please feel free to contact me on 0438 376 311 (after school hours).

Yours in Art  
Jenny Randall