FROM THE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

Today our entire staff will be attending one of two presentations by Brendan Spillane. We welcome the return of Brendan to St Rita’s following an inspiring day of professional learning and culture building on one of our January professional development days earlier this year. Needless to say there’s been much that our school community has drawn on since that day to strengthen our unity and work through challenging times. It will be good to revisit aspects of what it takes to create high performing teams – high trust, high quality of conflict, high peer accountability, high engagement, a strong delivery focus – all centred around our purpose. Our purpose at St Rita’s is for all of our students to progress in learning and grow as young people of faith with a belief in God and to show dignity and respect for all. To come each day to Know More, Do More and Be More.

Our continued emphasis on improving literacy skills across all year levels through the Learning Collaborative is providing pleasing results. In particular, our Early Years learners are demonstrating marked improvement in reading progress while still focussing on developing a strong base for oral literacy through the structured, engaging and negotiated play based learning environments. In the older classes, we are welcoming Mr Roy David to lead our Year 5 and 6 students in developing their oral language skills to develop capability in prepared and off the cuff public speaking. A wonderful life skill to build confidence and enhance one’s journey in lifelong learning.

As I visit classrooms this week to conduct our Learning Walks and Talks – I will find students highly engaged in their learning, knowing what they can do, where to next and be capable of discussing ways of making progress. I asked one of our new students recently how she was enjoying our school. She told me that she loved St Rita’s and the main reason was because of her learning.

On 21 August we will be hosting the Learning Collaborative event for Brisbane Catholic Education curriculum leaders that we were to have in March. While much has happened since that time, we have continued to focus on our students and their learning and we look forward once more to sharing this good work with our BCE colleagues.

Change is a given in life. It is with much joy for Mr Billion that we congratulate him on his appointment to a Principal position at St Mary’s Beaudesert. We have the remainder of this year to honour Kevin and his wonderful contribution (to date and in the coming months) to the vibrancy and excellent standards of learning at our school and the quality of our relationships.

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

Anne
Later this week, individual student’s NAPLAN results will go home for our Year 3 and Year 5 students. We have had an initial look through the results with some strong learning progressions evident for individual students. From here, teachers will look closely at the results and in combination with other assessment information, identify additional learning opportunities, student strengths, and needs in literacy and numeracy programs to move learning forward. The next few staff meetings are dedicated for all year level teachers to look at individual student data. This is supported through a web based application called the Business Intelligence (BI) Tool. On the 19 August, the leader of the BI Tool for Brisbane Catholic Education is leading our staff in using particular features of the tool for analysing individual student data. Also included below is a snapshot from the NAPLAN website how schools may use NAPLAN test information. Please feel welcome to discuss your child’s NAPLAN results, or other student results, with your class teacher.

How are NAPLAN test results used?
- Schools use results to identify strengths and weaknesses in teaching programs and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review programs and support offered to schools.
- Students and parents may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help them better identify students who require greater challenges or additional support.
- The community can see average school NAPLAN results on the My School website: www.myschool.edu.au

A gentle reminder that supervision of the children commences at 8:10am in the morning and approximately 3:20pm at the drive through zone in the afternoon. All play equipment from 3 pm is not supervised and therefore out of bounds for children who are unsupervised by their parents. Children are unable to wait there for collection by parents. Please understand that this is for the safety of the children.

Thank you to the many parents for their best wishes as the news of my appointment to St Mary’s from 2016 was announced. There will be opportunities to express my appreciation later, however for the moment, be assured of my continued focus on the many initiatives and tasks that continue to make St Rita’s an incredible learning community.

Enjoy the warmer days ahead.
Kevin

Last Friday as part of Catholic Education Week the St Rita’s community celebrated a Random Acts of Kindness day. It was heart-warming to see our community showing this kindness in so many ways. There were children sharing cookies they had baked, giving the gift of cards to others, smiles all around and many children showing great excitement when they realised that they had performed a Random Act of Kindness.

This leads well to the upcoming Feast of Saint Mary MacKillop of the Cross. We celebrate the feast day of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop on August 8. St Mary is Australia first saint and is also the patron of the Archdiocese of Brisbane. She serves as an inspiring example to all to work for the marginalised and the needy and to ‘never see a need without doing something about it’.

Mary MacKillop was born in Melbourne in 1842 and died in Sydney in 1909. She took the religious name Mary of the Cross. Responding to the isolation of colonial families she pioneered a new form of religious life to provide education for their children. She and her sisters shared the life of the poor and the itinerant, offering special care to destitute women and children. Mary is remembered for her eagerness to discover God’s will in all things, for her charity in the face of calumny and for her abiding trust in God’s providence. (From: Praying with St Mary- Ways to Pray Calendar, 2015)

Jessica
NOT RETURNING IN 2016

There is a note with week’s newsletter regarding students not returning in 2016. If you are aware that your child/ren will not be returning to St Rita’s in 2016 it would be appreciated if you could complete and return the form to the school office by Monday 17 August. Families with a student in year 6 do not need to complete this form for them.

SPORTS NEWS

St Rita’s Touch Football
Fields and Game times will be communicated to families during the week via a text messaging system. Please do not respond to these texts as messages are not received.

Training: Monday afternoons for U/12’s, U/10’s training will be during lunch times Wed/Thurs.

District Athletics
All the best to our ‘St Rita’s Representative Athletes’ who will compete at the ‘Bayside District Track and Field Carnival’ this Thursday and Friday.

Families are reminded that private transport must be arranged for their children to and from the venue on the days of competition. Students are to arrive at the venue by 8.30am on the days they are competing for a prompt start.

Venue: Cleveland District State High School

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>Official’s Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45am</td>
<td>Marshalling first events</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Start</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:45pm</td>
<td>Finish</td>
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Students competing will be provided with a ‘School Representative Singlet’ on Wednesday to wear on the days of their events. These are to be returned to Mr Kenyon next Monday.

ASSEMBLY AWARDS

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reece C</td>
<td>For always showing respect to teachers and other children and having beautiful manners. Thank you for being a great example to others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Akacia D</td>
<td>For being a confident learner. You are always willing to have a go. Well done.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Georgina B.</td>
<td>For showing a perseverance and a positive attitude towards all aspects of her school work. Good work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiara H.</td>
<td>Kiara is such a positive and considerate member of our class. She always approaches her day with interest and enthusiasm. Thank you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronan G.</td>
<td>For working so well mathematically especially when using techniques using mental computation. Well done, Ronan!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brendon T.</td>
<td>For working hard to improve his focus in class this week. His attitude towards his schoolwork has been exceptional and he has been willing to give everything a go. Well done.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emmy D.</td>
<td>For always giving 110% to everything she does. She continually puts her best foot forward in all aspects of her school life. Congratulations Emmy!</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mia T.</td>
<td>For doing her best work and participating well in all activities throughout lessons. Mia is an inspiring learner. Congratulations and well done, Mia!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor N.</td>
<td>Taylor has demonstrated persistence and good listening skills this week. She has completed all her work and presentation skills have been excellent. Well done.</td>
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This week I came across a Galbraith’s book, ‘You know your Child is Gifted When...’ and was quite taken by how well she provided critical information to parents of gifted children in such a creative and entertaining manner.

While Galbraith states that the 9 generally accepted signs that a child could be gifted are:
1. Advanced intellectual ability
2. Verbal proficiency
3. Curiosity
4. Creativity
5. High energy
6. Focus, passion, intensity
7. Logical and abstract thinking
8. Sensitivity
9. Sense of humour

It is actually the last characteristic that I would like to focus on in this article, Sense of humour.

This is certainly a part of motherhood that I particularly enjoy, especially as I share a similar sense of humour with my own children. Being able to have a laugh at your own expense occasionally is a great resilience building tool to promote and encourage. Gifted children often have highly mature senses of humour at early ages, and thoroughly enjoy sharing this trait with adults who understand them.

In fact, sense of humour can be one effective way to identify a gifted child. For young children humour is usually visual, such as clowns and slapstick humour, and generally moves to verbal humour, such as puns and riddles, as they reach middle/upper primary.

Galbraith’s ‘Ways to help your humorous child’ are outlined below.

1. Laugh at your child’s jokes. (Yes, even the puns!)
2. If you subscribe to a daily newspaper, read the comics together. Cut out cartoons your family enjoys and post them on the refrigerator...
3. Go to funny movies, rent funny videos, and watch comedy shows together on TV.
4. Start a family collection of joke books and cartoon books. Encourage your child to write his own joke book and add it to the collection.
5. Find funny books and stories to read aloud at bedtime.
6. Once a week (or once a month), have a family dinner where everyone brings a joke or two to share.


UPCOMING Competition: ICAS Maths- 11 August

Have a great week,
Wendy Anderson

Best of luck to our Junior and Senior Choir who will be representing our school at Redland’s Eisteddfod. The event will this year be held at Cleveland Baptist Church on Bloomfield St, Cleveland, with the Junior Choir Section starting at 5pm on Thursday and the Senior Choir Section starting at 5pm on Wednesday. Good Luck!

If students have registered for St Rita’s Got Talent!, please check the timetables on the music room door.

Coming up....St Rita’s Got Talent Auditions, QCMF (Concert Band & Senior Choir - August 14th), Music Count Us In

Paul Tyrrell

Congratulations to William H (5T) you are the Lucky Banker of the Week!! You will receive $2 into your account. Don’t forget if you miss bringing in your banking to school on a Tuesday morning, you can always bring it down to the branch we would love to see you. We are open Mon to Thurs after school til 430pm and Fri til 5pm. Saturday’s 9am - 12pm. Have a great week from the team at BOQ Victoria Point 3207 6133.
TUCKSHOP NEWS

Wednesday 5th August
Terri Comerford
Trish McNamara

Thursday 6th August
Kylie Holbeck
Tania Digby

Friday 7th August
Maggie Helmn
Louise Lowcock
Geraldine Harper
Duncan Blackburn (til 10am)

2ND Break
Louise Lowcock

We will be having a Ekka Meal Deal on Wednesday 12th August. This meal deal will come under the Red category. Keep an eye out for it.

Renee

UNIFORM SHOP

HOURS
Thursday 8.00 to 10.00am
Friday 8.00 to 10.00am

WOOL CLUB

This week the students will begin their big final Wool Club project. The students have learnt some wonderful skills in wool club over the past three years and will now create some beautiful large god’s eye mandalas to display at the school at the end of term. All students are welcome to come along to start their projects this week.

Carly

'AFTER SCHOOL STORY FUN'

'After School Story Fun' at Victoria Point Library 3:30 - 4:15 - Prep to Year 3 Wednesday 12 August.

Please join us for...
Let’s Read & Count
Free interactive workshop for parents, carers and educators.
Practical strategies to help you support children, aged 0-8 years, develop their literacy and numeracy skills.

When: Wednesday 19th August
6.00—8.00pm
Registration from 5.30pm

Where: St Rita’s Benfer Road, Victoria Point

Talk to
• Hear & Say about the importance of children’s hearing
• Allied Health Professionals & others

Register online by Tuesday, August 18th

Presented by
Early Learning Redlands—a community group dedicated to supporting lifelong learning in partnership with
The Smith Family &
Welcome to Week 4, Term 3 What a fantastic start with Book week. All the children and teachers looked amazing yesterday. The characters certainly came to life.

**Did You Know?**

SPN meeting has needed to be changed to **NEXT Wednesday 12th August at 7.00pm**. Please send through any concerns or questions to stritasspn@gmail.com. They will be added to the agenda so that you may raise them at the meeting.

The School Petition forms for the proposed development of the block of land next to our school are being presented at the next Council Meeting Friday 14th August @ 9.30am by one of our parents Sarah Gillham.

**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
- Remember the Parent Portal and the BCE Connect app, you can access - newsletters, forms, log your absences, direct link to twitter and facebook and many other great tools. **All from your mobile.**

**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. When you sign it at the School Office there is a raffle booklet. Just pop your name on it and place it in the blue box.

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### Important Dates

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<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time/Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>SPN meeting</td>
<td>5 August</td>
<td>@7pm Staff room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Father’s Day Liturgy</td>
<td>5 September</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Snug as a Bug</td>
<td>21 August</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Springfest</td>
<td>31 October</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Carols night</td>
<td>TBA December</td>
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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

Blessings
Antoinette Page and Debbie Stone

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**Springfest**

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**URGENT WE NEED YOU!**

- **Volunteer for** SPONSORSHIP/Business Donations —this is such a vital position for our Fete to be a success.
- Convenor for Fruit and Veg stall.
- 2 helpers every Friday morning to sort class donations (approx 30mins)

If this sounds like you please on Debbie URGENTLY
0402 102 987, donought83@hotmail.com
or
Elaine Strati
estrati@bne.catholic.edu.au 3207 6628
Free Dental Treatment
The School Dental Service provides free dental treatment to all school students up to Yr 10. As well as to those 0-4yr olds, and Yr 11 &12 students who hold a Health Care Card or receive the Child Dental Benefits Scheme.
Call 1300 300 850 to book an appointment at a clinic near you.
4 August 2015

Dear Parents

We are currently finalizing enrolments for 2016 and are aware that some families will be leaving at the end of this year. We would appreciate if you could take the time to complete the slip below if your child/ren may/will not be returning to St Rita’s in 2016 and return it to the School Office by Monday 17 August 2015. Alternatively you can email to pvictoriapoint@bne.catholic.edu.au with the information listed below.

Families with a student in year 6 do not need to complete this form for them.

Many thanks for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Anne McKenny
Principal

……………………………………………..………………….……………………………………………………………………

CHILDREN NOT RETURNING TO ST RITA’S IN 2016

Child’s Name:  ________________________________

Current Class: _______________________________

Date leaving St Rita’s: __________________________

New School: _______________________________

Contact Phone No.: __________________________
‘Snug as Bug’
Movie Session

In conjunction with St Rita’s Primary school, the School Parent Network proudly presents.....

When: Friday 21st August @ 5.30pm (6pm Movie Start)
Where: Unitas Centre
Snacks & Drinks available to purchase

Sausage Sizzle: Free from 5.30pm 1/person

BYO: Chair, Comfy Blanket, pillow, snacks

----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Family Name: ______________________________________

(An adult must accompany children)

Number attending: __________________________________

Please return to the office by Tuesday 18th August, 2015