Dear Parents and Carers,

A wonderful way to wind up National Literacy Week is to reflect on our very special Father’s Day events held last Friday with the publication of the tributes shared by Lara (4T) and Alice and Claire’s’ Dad, Daniel in today’s newsletter. The recital of “Father’s Day Poem” by our three Prep classes at the Daddy-Bears picnic certainly highlighted the positive impact of our Early Years Education Program that maintains a strong focus on oral literacy while the children progress successfully with their reading and writing skills.

This week we have a particular focus on Child Protection and it is timely to share our school’s “Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy”. This document can also be found on our school website and I invite you to peruse this document as an important source of information outlining our practices in student and community safety at St Rita’s.

Welcome to Fr Joseph
Archbishop Mark Coleridge has announced the appointment of Fr Joseph Vattaparambil as the new Parish Priest to St Rita’s. We look forward to welcoming Fr Joseph for the commencement of Term 4 – he will be arriving to the parish on 28 September. Fr Joseph is a member of the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate – the first Catholic Order of priests in India. I spoke briefly with Fr Joseph this morning and he is excited and very much looking forward to working and ministering with us at St Rita’s.

May I also take this opportunity to express gratitude and well wishes to Fr Anthony Mellor for being with us during this time of transition following the sudden departure of Fr Paul earlier in the year through to the appointment of Fr Joseph. We reflected that Fr Anthony arrived in time for our Mother’s Day Liturgy and stayed long enough for our Father’s Day Liturgy. In between he has provided wisdom and humour, care and insightful support of our school and parish during a time of some uncertainty and change.

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

Anne
This week at St Rita’s, all classes will have a special focus for Child Protection Week. The theme of the week is Protecting Children is Everybody’s Business. By promoting the value of children and focusing attention on the issues of child abuse and neglect, the objectives of Child Protection Week are to; raise the profile of all issues connected with child protection, including child abuse prevention, treatment, research, education, service provision and support for children, young people and families; create a state-wide umbrella focus for child protection allowing government and nongovernment agencies to present a cooperative and coordinated community oriented campaign; support and value professionals and volunteer child protection workers by providing ‘best practice’ training and a forum to exchange ideas and information and offer a framework to recognise advances in the field, and thereby contribute to better outcomes for all children and young people, especially those who have been harmed or are at risk of harm.

All Brisbane Catholic Education schools use the terms Recognise, React, Report when it comes to promoting child safety with children. The students of St Rita’s, their safety and wellbeing, are our priority. St Rita’s Primary School is committed to the protection of all our students from harm and abuse. For more information on student protection, please follow the link to our website http://www.stritasvp.qld.edu.au/enrolments/Pages/Student-Protection.aspx

Best wishes for the week
Kevin

Social Justice and the pursuit of justice for another sake is clearly evident among the St Rita’s community. This forms a special part of our Augustinian Charism of love – showing love to those in need. Next Thursday 17 September this will run true again when we hold a free dress day to raise monies for two charities significant to Brisbane Catholic Education and South East Queensland. Both were founded by BCE students in South East Queensland. Next Thursday the students can choose to dress either orange in support of ‘Orange Sky Laundry’ or in rural – country and western to support ‘Rural Connect.’ We suggest that in support of these two worthy causes each student donates $2 or more. Please read below for further information about both of these Charities.

Rural Connect
Is an initiative organised and developed by the Students and Staff at St Mary’s Catholic Primary School Laidley early in 2014. It began with the students from the Lockyer Valley deciding to volunteer their time to support drought affected farmers. The students saw a need to support and went about raising money to develop the funds to buy farmers in need bales of hay. St Mary’s have continued this initiative this year and are seeking further support to continue their hard work.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UwDR9ChQlY0

Orange Sky Laundry
Two 20 year old Brisbane men Nicholas Marchesi and Luca Patchett, who are ex BCE students have launched a revolutionary charity, Australia’s first mobile laundry service providing homeless people with access to free washing and drying facilities. They are currently servicing parks and drop in centres across Brisbane, Melbourne and the Gold Coast with a vision to expand their service Australia wide. Brisbane Catholic Education currently have a goal to help Orange Sky Laundry raise the funds for a fully equipped van with washers and dryers which costs more than $70 000 to buy and outfit.

Jess

What a wonderful success the Prep Daddy Bear’s Picnic was. The prep students bought along their favourite teddy bears and invited their Dad’s to celebrate Father’s Day. There was great preparation in learning to sing songs and recite poems. The students had made sandwiches with the kind donation of bread from Riley’s parents at Brumby’s Bakery, Victoria Point, thanks! The afternoon was finished with a scavenger hunt and making kites from recycled materials. Thank you to all the dads and grandads that were able to come last Friday.
Sharing Stories

Last week was one of my favourite days of the year, the writers’ festival. It is always a wonderful experience to share this day with our students who show great enthusiasm in reading and writing. Both writers, Nick Earls and Christine Bongers, had their manuscripts rejected before they became successful authors, so were equally inspiring with their message of never giving up, no matter what the circumstances. Jemma from SL also had the opportunity to introduce and thank Christine Bongers for her session. Jemma presented with confidence and ease, showcasing the invaluable skills that Mr David is equipping year 5 and 6 with in public speaking. Please see Eboni-Blu and Annie’s review of the day below.

On Wednesday 2nd of September, 13 year 5 students went to the Brisbane writers’ festival in the Brisbane city. We met 2 different authors, Christine Bongers and Nick Earls, who talked about their lives as young children and adults. I loved Christine Bongers but I also really liked Nick Earls. He talked about his new book ‘The New Boy’ and how he came from Northern Ireland and didn’t know much about Australia. He was a really funny author who got everyone laughing. He also got everyone involved and was really entertaining. We all wanted to get his book and have it signed by him.

Eboni-Blu, 5T

On Wednesday the 2nd of September the Year 5 Book Club went to the Writer’s Festival at The State Library. There were 2 Authors, Nick Earls and Christine Bongers. My favourite was Christine Bongers. She has written many books including “Intruder, Dust and Henry Hoey Hobson”. Most of her books are fiction and based on reality, they are suitable for ages 8 and above.

At the State Library, Christine entertained us with stories of her childhood, where she grew up with six brothers on a farm outside Biloela, Central Queensland. Christine shares her life with her husband Andrew, children named Connor, Brydie, Clancy and Jake, and their dog Huggy. She completed a Master of Arts in youth writing at Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in 2008.

Annie, 5L

Write 4 Fun Competition

Thank you to all the students who sent me their stories for this competition. All entries have been submitted and I anticipate great results having read through them all. Below I share Tarni’s entry, titled ‘Competition of the Realms.’ Tarni has received outstanding results in her ICAS testing this year and this shines through in her talented writing ability. See Tarni’s story below.

The Competition of the Realms.

In the universe there are 9 realms Earth, Dewethis, Obarat, Xafasia, Oklinys, Aphiotopia, Zeodriatape, Giapania and Cruzerim. The realms are completely different and are in different eras. Earth is in the lowest era and Zeodriatape is in the highest. Legend has it that the realms will one day fight in a battle of superior smartness. There will be no technology and the people participating will be under 20 years of age and be a minimum of 10 years.

There is only one line of people in each realm that know of the challenge. They are raised for this and grew up doing series’ of academic activities. Earth, being the least technologically advanced has the least training. Most of the other realms rely on their technology.

At the present moment the unfortunate child is Kristal Jamieson. She grew up training in highly academic schools and is 11 years old. She can be classed as the smartest child in the world but will it be enough? She has superior intelligence in English and science but is a little bit less intelligent in math. Kristal was in class in the Academic Society of Australia’s school for gifted children when it started. A letter was sent to the school for her. The moment she opened the letter it whisked her into the venue.

The venue is in a mutual area in the centre of all the realms. There is no fighting in the venue and if a child comes last in the competition the child and his or her world will disintegrate.

The venue is in a mutual area in the centre of all the realms. There is no fighting in the venue and if a child comes last in the competition the child and his or her world will disintegrate.
When Kristal arrived at the venue everyone was there. They were all older but only one of them looked friendly to her. The girl walked over and introduced herself. She told Kristal her name Bethany and she was 14 years old. They became friends.

Then the automaton arrived. The automaton is hosting it so there are no arguments over what person from what realm will host it. It started the competition and explained the rules. It took days and Kristal and Bethany were near the top until the last challenge. They had series of challenges and they were all extremely hard. The last challenges were making or breaking and Bethany got all the questions wrong. She was on the bottom of the list. As she and the realm Cruzerim were disintegrating she said to Kristal “You go and win it for me.”

After she disintegrated Kristal burst into tears. She knew now she would not only have to win the competition for her planet but for Bethany. The Earth would never know what she will have done for them but at least she and her family will.

There will be harder and harder challenges coming up and as the realms slowly dwindle in numbers the stress will begin to show. Kristal is the youngest of them all and there will be a lot of hardships if she gets through.

To be continued….

**Congratulations 6L!**

Congratulations 6L for coming 4th place in the MangaHigh Competition. All the hard work that 6L and Mr Fernando have put in has paid off. **What a great result!**

Have a great week - Wendy Anderson

---

**ASSEMBLY AWARDS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PT</th>
<th>You are showing confidence and persistence with reading and literacy activities. Great Work!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diesel E</td>
<td>You are showing confidence with classroom Rotation Activities. Well Done!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel T</td>
<td>You Inspire learning with the great responses you give with class discussions. Fantastic!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billy C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**MUSIC NEWS**

Well done to a fantastic term of 'St Rita's Got Talent' and congratulations to all the students that participated. There will be certificates for all students that participated, and the finalists to be announced on Tuesday. The finalists will get to perform at the school fete on Saturday 31st October for prizes and trophies.

Well done also to the combined Junior and Senior choir who performed as part of the 'Reconciliation Mass' on Saturday 29th October - They really added something special to the evening!

Choir will conclude for the term in Week 9, as I will be away on leave in Week 10. I will also be away in Week 1 of Term 4, therefore choir will resume in Week 2 of Term 4. The choir students need to be commended for an excellent term of performances. I feel proud to represent all students at these events! Well Done!

Paul Tyrrell

---

**NEWS FROM THE RESOURCE CENTRE**

**MS READATHON**

A huge thank you to our students who participated in the MS Readathon challenge this year. Beibhinn, Bella, Ethan, Jakob and Madisson have raised $570.00 so far for this wonderful cause. Well done!

**WOOLIES EARN AND LEARN**

This Woolies challenge ends on Tuesday 8th September. So if you have any sticker sheets at home, please bring them along to school for our final tally. We will pick up the stickers from the shopping centres next week to add them to our count! So far we have collected 30,000 stickers, and soon we will be able to redeem these stickers for supplies and resources for our school. Thanks for your support.

**BOOK FAIR**

Our final tally for this year’s book fair was $8982.00. An amazing effort considering we were a whole year
level smaller than last year. It was great to see the smiling faces as some of the reorder books arrived late last week. If your child ordered: Minecraft Papercraft; 3D Sharks; Dangerous Dinosaurs; Spiro Art or A book about the one and only me, we have been advised that they are still to be shipped to us. I will deliver to your child as soon as they arrive. Sorry for this inconvenience.

HELP NEEDED PLEASE
Any parents that have some spare time, it would be appreciated if you could spare a couple of hours to help out in the library to cover some library books for the children. Please see Maureen in the library.

**TUCKSHOP NEWS**

**Wednesday 9th Sept**
Linda Thorogood
Maria Kease  

**Thursday 10th Sept**
Trish McNamara  
HELP NEEDED??  

**Friday 11th Sept**
Michelle Kotynski
Louise Lowcock  
HELP NEEDED??  

2ND Break
Louise and Michelle  

Reminder - Please, if you are putting money in one bag for both breaks or siblings please make sure you put it in 1st break. This will save us a lot of time.
Renee

**UNIFORM SHOP**

**HOURS**
Thursday 8.00 to 10.00am  
Friday 8.00 to 10.00am

**Reflection of Dad**

Why I love my dad. There are many reasons why I love him but these ones are the special ones because they replay in my life.

He always makes me feel safe. When I am scared in bed he would come and cuddle and kiss me and tell me stories until I feel better and are back to sleep.

He plays so many parts in my life like a coach at netball to help me. A security guard to protect me. A chef when he cooks me simple but special dinners that make a smile appear on my face. A hunter to hunt down the monsters under my bed. And an extra special job which is the cuddle man who keeps me feeling safe and warm.

He is supportive - like when we go fishing and I’m getting nothing he will put down his rod and cast for me. When I have got nothing he will let me wind up his fish and call it mine.

I love how funny he is and how not serious he takes life. He is always acting like a clown and is always up for a joke and a play a round.

But my favourite thing is his commitment to have time for me - like when he always has time for one more story or one more shot at the netball hoop or one more kiss and cuddle before bed.

I love my dad so much for these things and more and I feel like the luckiest girl in the world to be blessed with an amazing Father. So for all the fathers out there especially mine happy Father’s day.

**SCHOOL BANKING**

Congratulations to **Jessica F PL** 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.
Reflection of Fatherhood – Daniel Connor

I will start with sharing of few memories of growing up and my father. Back then, it was rare for a Dad to be present at the birth of their child, but now it is not negotiable and for all the good reasons.

My father was a Plasterer. He worked hard and worked a lot, so it was mum’s job to do all of the running around. My Dad never went to anything at school and rarely made it to our weekend sport, but when he did, I remember how special it made me feel that he was there. We never had a lot growing up, but we didn’t miss out either.

I have great memories of our family trips to the Ekka every year and the tidy room competitions for the weeks before to earn money for showbags. I remember the fun I had wrestling with Dad on the lounge room floor and I also remember the occasional ‘1980’s style discipline’ I received for doing the wrong thing or fighting with my brother & sister once too often. Dad was firm but fair – he was a man’s man.

I think this firmness and fairness has given me my strong will and determination that has helped me through work and life, but also the lovingness that I have for my family today.

My story today is a little different to my childhood. We are blessed with 2 x beautiful daughters Alice and Claire, who are polar opposites, but also a lot alike and best friends when they are not yelling at each other.

Alice is our bookworm and I often find her ¾ dressed on the floor of her room with her head in a book, as she just couldn’t find the time to put that 2nd sock on without knocking over a couple more pages of her latest book. So I use this to my advantage when she isn’t doing what she is supposed to do, then I will give her a 10 minute reading penalty and she falls into line pretty quickly, as a reading penalty is the worse than going without food for a week. Alice is such a gorgeous, loving daughter.

I’m the first to admit that I spend too much time working and as a father and husband, I tend to get it pretty easy, not having to deal with the little darlings in the witch hour before and after school each day and things are generally pretty peaceful by the time I get home (and their mother is exhausted). Also, when things get bad with illness, injury or emotions, they only want their mother in those times of need. I’m happy to pass on most of that stuff.

In a book that I’m reading, there are several references to ‘Darwinism’, referring to Charles Darwin and his theory of Evolution and how things evolve and improve with each generation. While as Catholics and Christians, we may reflect on our Creation, I think ‘parenthood’ has a good association to ‘Darwinism’.

We need to take all of the best memories and experiences from our childhood and that of our friends and other experts to become better parents and most importantly become better role models for our kids, in today’s fast paced, technological, reality TV world.

So Alice and Claire, my commitment to you is to find a little more time in my busy schedule to pick you up from school, to play with you, to build cubby houses with blankets, to do rubbish patrol down at the beach, shoot netball hoops with you, set up cool treasure hunts when I go away with work, play tricks on each other and mum, and tell you stories. Like your Papa and Poppy, I will always be firm but fair, but with lots of fun, love and huggles.

Like every Dad here today, I too am the luckiest Dad in the world and hope you all have a great Father’s Day on Sunday.
Do you like the beach? Do you want to be active? Do you want to make new friends and get involved in a great Australian way of life? Are you aged between 5 and 13 years? Then join the Point Lookout SLSC Junior Activities (Nippers) Program which was recently awarded the South Coast Branch “Nipper Club of the Year”. Nippers is run on a Saturday, starting October 10 and runs throughout the summer.

Sign On and Pool Swim Assessments for new members will be held at Ormiston College Pool (entry off Sturgeon Street) on Wednesday 9th and 16th September from 6.30p.m. - 7.30 p.m. Bring your togs for pool swim/survival float assessment and speak with the Junior Club Officers. Birth certificate is required as proof of age. For more information about joining the Point Lookout Nippers, contact Ben on 0428 771 377 or email admin@pointlookoutslicom.au