FROM THE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP
TEAM

Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

As our first Semester draws to a close, we are publishing our Around the School newsletter for the last time in hard copy. Now that all families have established current email contacts for the distribution of school fees and the setting up of our parent portal, it is timely for us to take this next step in the interests of sustainable practices. Further to this, our students from Years 4 to 7 also have the newsletter sent to them via their student email addresses. We trust this format will be accessible and in an easy to read format for you to enjoy and be informed of what’s happening within our school and benefit from the educative articles supporting the vital partnership that parents have in your child’s education.

A small number of paper copies will be available from the school office in the first few weeks of the term.

Winterfest Success
It’s with tremendous gratitude that we congratulate all who helped with the preparation, donations, organisation, setting up and clearing up for our very successful Winterfest this year. A school parish community event such as this is great and would not happen without the trusted support of parents and parishioners to make it so. We delighted in the children’s performances and enjoyment on the day, the winning luck of one of our families to win the Camper Trailer (Well done to The Sullivans); and that we were blessed with Winter Sunshine and no rain. We look forward to sharing the details of the funds raised and putting this to good use for our school.

Fr Leo Celebrates a Half Century!
Tomorrow, six students will accompany Mr Thompson and I to a special Anniversary Mass at St Stephen’s Cathedral celebrating Fr Leo’s 50 years as an ordained priest, with our Archbishop celebrating his 40 years. Thomas and Jacob (Yr 6), Owen (Yr4), Breanna (Yr3), Alice and Faye (Year 2) are very much looking forward to this as are we. We congratulate Fr Leo on his 50 years of priestly ministry – a great achievement.

Student Reports
Semester Reports are being sent home today and we congratulate our students on their good progress in learning this semester. As a school we are concentrating on Visible Learning – part of which is that our students know what it takes to be a good learner. An active and effective learner is one who knows mistakes are an opportunity to learn something new, will take risks, collaborates, sees themselves as a teacher and makes connections with their learning to what they already know and can do. You will see evidence of this in the general comments provided by our teachers as we work towards greater clarity and evidence of this with our students.

May the welcome two week break be restful and rejuvenating for you and your family. We wish those who are leaving us to travel safely to new destinations and enjoy their new schools as we prepare to welcome new families into our community next term.

Together in Family
Anne

Winterfest
The success of Winterfest was clearly evident in everyone’s faces on Saturday. There were many excited smiles, whether it was from the thrill of the rides, a bargain at the cake stall or those winning the class art work silent auction, everyone had a fantastic day. It is such a heart-warming day to be part of with so many people putting in hours of time or donating

IMPORTANT DATES

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 25 June</td>
<td>Junior Year Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 26 June</td>
<td>Early Years Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 27 June</td>
<td>Last Day Term 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 14 July</td>
<td>First Day Term 3</td>
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to make our Winterfest such a success. A part of the day that really struck with me was the dedication and enthusiasm of our students. The readiness of the students and their parents to help out on the day was overwhelming.

The students who are members of Mini Vinnies, Student Council and The St Rita’s Rangers worked in stalls alongside each other. This eagerness by our students to organise then take part in volunteering at Winterfest shows the community spirit that is shining among the students of St Rita’s. The students in these three groups are clearly contributing to our community in a positive way.

**St Vincent de Paul Sleepout**

Last Wednesday was the annual St Vincent de Paul CEO Sleepout. This is the 5 year anniversary of the event. The aim is to raise money and awareness in support of those who are currently homeless and the people that are at risk of becoming homeless. There are currently over 105,000 Australian’s who find themselves living on our streets. Pam Betts, Brisbane Catholic Education Executive Director took part in this event sleeping out on a thin piece of cardboard in the Suncorp Piazza at South Bank. If you would like to read more about Pam’s experience please visit the following link to the Catholic Leader [http://catholicleader.com.au/news/sleeping-rough-for-charity](http://catholicleader.com.au/news/sleeping-rough-for-charity)

**Year 4 Liturgy**

Today year 4 celebrated a liturgy surrounding the theme of community. This was very fitting with the community effort that was evident at Winterfest on the weekend. This Liturgy also held extra significance as it may be the last the St Rita’s students celebrate with Fr Leo before he retires in August.

Jess

As we approach the end of Term 2, I can’t help but note how quickly the weeks have gone!

Many thanks to all that assisted with making the Winterfest the successful event that it was. A true sign of the great family community we have here at St Rita’s.

This afternoon your child / children will receive their Semester One report cards. As previously mentioned, your child’s report is a written record of their demonstrations of learning. It represents a summary of progress based on judgements made by the class teacher from formal testing, work samples and regular consultation and observation.

The home and school share a common purpose - the growth and development of your child. This written report provides just one means of communicating your child’s faith, intellectual, social, emotional and physical development at school. You are encouraged to discuss its contents with your child’s teacher if you have concerns, so that together, we can provide opportunities for your child to continue to ‘know more, do more & be more.’

The children’s progress in regard to their social and application skills are also assessed and this is another important aspect of our children’s development. This looks at the ‘RITA’ School expectations - how they work in class, complete homework tasks, follow directions, follow school and class expectations, accept responsibility and interact with their peers. Please see attached at the back of the newsletter the Parenting Ideas Insights from Michael Grose for Reading Your Child’s Report.

So as Term Two is soon to be a distant memory, I trust, as a community we can continue to work together to make St Rita’s a happy place characterised by a network of bonding and concern for people, where education is experienced as a partnership with school, parents, parish and the local community, where we can celebrate our achievements, our Catholic and Christian faith and where communication is always open and constructive.

All the very best.

Shane

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**FEES**

If your school fees have not being paid, please forward your payment by Thursday of this week.

As from Term 3 School Fee Statements will no longer be printed and mailed. These statements will be emailed to each family. Please ensure you have notified the school office of your current and correct email address. If you have not notified the office of your email please do so as soon as possible. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter. An email can be sent to stritasicl@bne.catholic.edu.au to have your details updated.

Krys Kuropka
Finance Administrator
What is giftedness?

‘Kate Neiderer, the keynote speaker at the QAGTC Conference this year, would state that we need to let our gifted kids ‘fall into the dip’ occasionally, to toughen them for the fall when they eventually do.’

Two weeks ago, the topic of getting ‘gritty’ was discussed in this section and concluded with the above statement. This week I would like to give more insight into what falling into ‘the dip’ entails.

Kate explained this concept by drawing two cliffs facing each other being divided by a clear gap. She claimed that our gifted children spend their days in the classrooms jumping casually from one cliff to the other, or taking the bridge, as seen in the image below, never having the opportunity to fall down into the metaphorical ‘dip,’ where they are unsure of an answer. She states that their advanced rate of learning sees to them mastering the majority of tasks they are offered in both their primary and high school education, only to be unpleasantly surprised once reaching the tertiary level. It is here that Kate suggests that these students who have achieved constant success in their schools years can come unstuck as they may have always excelled in their own educational setting, but may meet, for the first time, someone who can match or even outperform them. This can cause them great discomfort as they plunge into that dip without any experience of having been in it previously.

Kate suggests we combat this problem early on by providing our gifted students with challenging hurdles on a regular basis, so that they too can experience failure and subsequently spend a healthy amount of time down ‘in the dip’ as they build up their resilience to bounce back up the cliff again. Failure, or ‘First attempt in Learning’ is a powerful experience for all students and leads to them finding the ‘grit’ to succeed in the face of adversity. When students feel safe to take risks, or to ‘have a go’ with the understanding that they may not always arrive at the correct answer, that’s when real learning occurs. Kate recommends that students should feel comfortable with being ‘in the dip’ for part of every lesson and that they should view ‘being stuck’ on a question as a healthy progression towards eventually achieving success.

ST RITA’S RANGERS

We are planning a few exciting recycling ideas to decorate our school. We need as many colourful plastic lids as possible. SO WE NEED YOUR HELP.

Please can you start collecting any plastic tops from milk, soft drink and orange juice containers and start bringing them in next term.

Here is just one example of what we can create from the recycling of bottle lids. Why not have a look under Bottle Cap Art in Google Images.

SPORTS NEWS

Quote of the week

One man can be a crucial ingredient on a team, but one man cannot make a team.  Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Athletics – Age Champion Event Nominations

Age Champion Events take place this week. Students who have nominated, may wish to wear their sports uniforms on days they compete in events. Events are held during school hours (Please see below).

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Girls Shot-Put</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Highjump</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Boys Shot-Put</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Long-Jump</td>
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St Rita’s Touch Football

Congratulations to all our St Rita’s Touch Footballers on a successful 1st season for 2014. It was great to see everyone get in and have a go and achieve some great results all round. All our u/8’s and u/10’s were awarded trophies last Friday night (If you have yet to
receive your trophy, could you please see Mr Kenyon. We will also have a quick presentation early in Term 3 for our u/12 teams who will each receive medallions.

If you are interested in playing Touch Football for St Rita’s in Season 2 starting next term, please see Mr Kenyon for a note explaining all necessary details. We will also be looking for any parents willing to assist with coaching, as we expect to see addition of another team(s).

**Important Dates**
*Year 5 Camp – 21 to 23 July (Mon-Fri), Term 3*

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### ASSEMBLY AWARDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PK</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Darcy W</td>
<td>You are always keen to answer questions and share your knowledge with others. Great work Darcy!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelsea F</td>
<td>You are always ready to learn and keen to try new activities. Your enthusiasm inspires us!</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>PT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marc</td>
<td>For the kindness you show to your classmates when they are in need. Fantastic!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sofia V</td>
<td>For always following instructions and the wonderful creativity you display at craft time. Top Effort!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Izack C</td>
<td>For the helping hand you give to your classmates during computer lessons. Great Job!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace R</td>
<td>For being a helpful and considerate member of Prep T. Fantastica!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baxter D</td>
<td>You inspiring Learning by showing the class great Literacy skills. Top Effort!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellie-May S</td>
<td>For the caring and helpful friend you are towards your classmates. Brilliant!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nate H</td>
<td>For the great improvement you have shown with your Literacy. Keep up the great work!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laurel P</td>
<td>For the informative contributions you offer to whole class discussions. Wow!</td>
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<tr>
<th>PL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scott H</td>
<td>Thank you for inspiring us by persisting with writing your numerals. Good on you for not giving up!</td>
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<tr>
<th>1T</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alexis T</td>
<td>You show respect to all staff and other students by being a great listener and using your manners. Thank you!</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>2K</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alex S</td>
<td>Congratulations for presenting an excellent and well-rehearsed calendar and weather report last week. Well done, Alex!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruby C</td>
<td>For the kindness and sensitivity you display towards other children. You certainly know how to respect everyone at St Rita’s School.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>5K</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neve W</td>
<td>For Inspiring Learning by contribution positively to her learning and always giving of her best.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luca F</td>
<td>For Inspiring Learning by increasing his valuable contributions to class discussions and completing set tasks more tasks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claire D</td>
<td>For Inspiring Learning by contributing to class discussions and always being ready to answer questions. Congratulations Claire</td>
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<tr>
<th>5T</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Isabella</td>
<td>For Respecting Everyone by listening to the ideas and opinions of her peers when working in collaborative groups. Also, she always uses her manners and includes everyone when in the playground. Congratulations Isabella!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack</td>
<td>For Inspiring Learning by sharing his thoughts openly in whole class discussions and striving to put his best foot forward when completing class activities. Well done, Jack!</td>
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</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>6K</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Holly B</td>
<td>For Inspiring Learning, doing your best in all activities and persisting to complete your tasks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jade M</td>
<td>For conscientiously working independently to successfully achieve her learning goals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabel B</td>
<td>For Inspiring Learning in others by your ability to undertake challenges and complete your work. Well done Isabel.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**LOST PROPERTY**

Taylor 6T lost her sports hat on sports day. If found please return to 6T.

As it is the end of the term, it would be a good idea to come and look what is being held in the drawers. The drawers will be cleared by the end of the term.

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**ARTS NEWS**

Congratulations to all our students for providing some outstanding entertainment for our annual 'WinterFest' on Saturday. Well done to our Prep to Year 3 dancers, you did a fantastic job, and your costumes really added something to the performance. Well done also to our choirs, Rock Band, Creative Kidz dancers, singers, guitarists, and band for some great performances on the day. A special thank you to Mr Fernando for MC, and to Olivia Fielding for helping in the adjudication of our 'St Rita's Got Talent' finalists. Thank you also to Kye McCabe and Evie Heinemann for helping on the sound desk. Thank you to Mrs Brown for helping with supervision for choir and for organizing our choir rows.

Well done to our St Rita’s Got Talent Finalists who were placed as follows:

**Bronze**
- Cassie Conlon
- Lucy Shipton/Carla Smit
- Madisyn Stockwell
- Lauren Sanders/Danielle Guy

**Silver**
- Jacob Ryan
- Leilani Cross
- Kasey Hale
- Jemma Sullivan/Eleanor

**Gold**
- Katie Reeves
- Shanae Cropper
- Myra Smith
- Mali Kaese

Looking forward to a fantastic 'Winterfest' in 2015. Have a safe and happy holiday!

Paul Tyrrell

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**SCHOOL BANKING**

The Banker of the week this week is Bailey C, congratulations Bailey we have deposited $2 into your account for you.

Have fun on your school holidays, School Banking will start again on Tuesday 15 July, however you can still bank over the school holidays if you like, just pop into the Victoria Point Branch we’d love to see you.

We’re open 9am Mon – Sat, Closing times Mon – Thur 4.30pm, Fri 5pm & Sat 12noon.

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**WOOL CLUB**

Congratulations to all of the Wool Club students who have worked on some fantastic projects this term! We’ll finish off some scary and funny monsters this week along with some beautiful nature weavings - make sure to keep an eye out for these creations coming home. And a big thank you to all of the helpers we’ve had to this term - the students couldn't do it without you.

Carly

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**NIHONGO NOTES**

みなさん、こんにちは(Minasan, Kon-nichi-wa) And so it is holiday time again...‘yasumi o tanoshinde ne’ (Have a fun holiday!)
TUCKSHOP NEWS

Wednesday 25th June
Terri Comerford
Felicity Shipman
Esperanza Ponce

Thursday 26th June
Maria Kease
Trish McNamara

Friday 27th June
Michelle Kotynski
Nigel Wright
HELP NEEDED???
HELP NEEDED???
2ND Break
Michelle Kotynski

Tuckshop is open on the last day of school.

This week we will have for sale some leftover sweets and chocolates from the Sweets and Chocolate Stall at Winterfest

HELP - we are in dire need of volunteers for the tuckshop. The tuckshop does not run without our wonderful volunteers. Please, 3 hours once a month is all it takes. At the moment we have a small handful of volunteers that are doing overtime in the tuckshop. Please help supply some relief, Mums, Dads, Caregivers, Grandparents, Aunties etc....all are welcome.

Term 3 Tuckshop roster has been done and issued today. If you did not receive yours or would like one to see if you are able to help at any stage please let me know.

OUR KIDS GO FRESH AND HEALTHY

The students from Year 6 are well on their way to eating all their vegetables after attending a Brisbane Produce Market Kids Go Fresh & Healthy presentation recently.

The information session was a fun way to promote healthy eating choices to our students. The students learnt how many serves of fruit and vegetables to eat every day, the difference between a fruit and vegetable, and they also taste-tested some fruit and vegetables they may not have tried before.

The students each received a healthy eating goodie pack, including a banana to give them lots of energy to get through their day. The Brisbane Produce Market also brought along some delicious fruit and vegetables from local greengrocer, Victoria Point Fruit Market, for the students to taste.

Overall, the fruit and vegetables got a big ‘thumbs up’.

CREATIVE KIDZ

Music and Dance Lessons at St Rita’s School- ENROL NOW for Term 3!

Students can enrol in Saxophone, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone, Flute, Drum, Singing, Guitar and Dance Lessons at St Rita’s.

Creative Kidz is now accepting new enrolments for Term 3 at St Rita’s School. If your child learns a Brass, Woodwind or Percussion Instrument, they are also able to participate in the St Rita’s School Concert Band for free!

We are now offering 2 Dance Ensembles at St Rita’s. The Senior Dancers (Yr 4-7) rehearse in the hall before school on Tuesday mornings from 7:45-8:30am and the Junior Dancers (Prep- Yr 3) rehearse after school on Thursday afternoons in the hall from 3:15-4pm.

Learning a musical instrument or participating in dance lessons helps your child develop in so many ways. Our Creative Kidz program offers children the chance to develop their social skills, communication skills, self-concepts, cooperative talents and creative mind.

If there are any students at the school who would like to be part of our fantastic Extra Curricular Music Program please pick up an enrolment form from the school office or download an enrolment form from www.creativekidz.com.au and send it back to us directly. Alternatively, if you have any questions please call Kathleen Smith on 0421022818 or email info@creativekidz.com.au

UNIFORM SHOP

HOURS

Thursday 8.00 to 10.00am
Friday 8.00 to 10.00am
Feast of Saints Peter and Paul
In the Gospel this weekend, Jesus said to Peter “You are Peter; and I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven.” As children mature they learn the importance of good leadership in community life. Through Peter and Paul’s example we can teach them that Christian life and ministry must be rooted in faith in Jesus.

Children’s Liturgy of the Word (C.L.O.W.)
The Lower Primary Group (Prep to Year 4) will be held on Saturday at 6pm and Sunday at 9am, each weekend. If you can help with Senior Liturgy (Year 5 -7) please contact the parish office. It’s a great way to introduce your children to Sunday worship.

Altar servers – More volunteers needed urgently:
Fr Leo is happy to run a training session after school for anyone interested. For more details contact us at the Parish Office on 3207 9177

St Rita’s Parish Newsletter
The weekly parish newsletter is available from our website www.stritasparish.org

You can contact the Parish Office on 3207 9177 or email victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au

Mass Times in our Parish – Saturday 6pm, Sunday 7am, 9am, 6pm.
Reconciliation Times - Saturday’s 5pm to 5.30pm in the Church

SCHOOL DENTAL NEWS

The dental van located at St Rita’s will be open during the next school holiday period. Parents are requested to contact the call centre on 1300 300 850 to organise bookings. Please see attached flyer for eligibility for this free children’s dental service.
**Kids Kayaking School Holiday Program**

Meet you on the water this school holidays for some serious paddling fun. Our school holiday kayak program will run for 1.5hrs each day for Tuesday 1st July, Wednesday 2nd July and Thursday 3rd July. You will learn how to kayak, see various waterways of the Redlands and get up close and personal with the wildlife. There will be two sessions, children aged 8 – 10 and 11yrs+. Cost $125.00 per child. (includes full use of kayak gear and safety equipment, photos and light refreshments each day)

For more information please contact Katrina Beutel at Redlands Kayak Tours 1300 529 258 or email admin@redlandsokayaktours.com.au

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**TENNIS COACHING - ENROL FOR TERM 3**

The Redland Bay Tennis Club has places available for Term 3 tennis coaching at St. Rita’s Primary school. Places are now available for group and private lessons.

If you are interested please phone us at the Pro Shop.

Ph: 3822 8930 OR 0408 722 620.

baysidetenniscoaching@gmail.com

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**Young Sports in Chandler!**

FREE SOCCER BALL, BASKETBALL or TENNIS RACQUET!

For all new enrolments before 11th July

Young Sports is an exciting Multi-Sport program for children 3-10yrs of age. We introduce children to 9 popular sports, one at a time. Our sports include:

- Athletics
- Baseball
- Basketball
- Cricket
- Golf
- Hockey
- Rugby
- Soccer
- Tennis

Children will acquire:
- An introduction to the joy of sport
- The basic skills for each sport
- Essential developmental motor skills
- Confidence through achievement

FIRST LESSON FREE!

Term 3 classes start Thursday 17th July from 3.30pm!

$12 for 3-6 year olds / $17 for 7-10 year olds (Payable by the term or weekly by direct debit)

Venue: Sleeman Sports Complex (Cnr Old Cleveland & Tilley Rd)

Book now with Young Sports!

3376 3388  info@youngsports.com.au  www.youngsports.com.au
Reading your child’s report

Reports can mean anxious times for children. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children.

Could try harder . . . always does her best . . . lacks concentration . . . easily distracted . . . a pleasure to teach . . . Do these comments, taken from a batch of student reports sound familiar?

Student reports bring mixed feelings for parents. Pleasure and pride if they are performing well but considerable angst when children are not progressing as you hoped.

Reports can mean anxious times for children too. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children. Kids of all ages take their cues from their parents, so your reaction to their school report can affect the way they see themselves as learners and as people.

Before you rip open the sealed envelope containing the report do a little self-check to see if you are in the right frame of mind.

Are your expectations for your son or daughter realistic and in line with their ability?
Expectations are tricky. If they are too high then kids can be turned off learning. Too low and there is nothing to strive for. Pitch your expectations in line with your child’s abilities. A quick check of your child’s last report cards may provide you with a good yardstick.

Do you believe that children learn at different rates?
There are slow bloomers, late developers and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom, so avoid comparing your child to siblings, your friends’ children and even yourself, when you were a child. Instead look for individual progress.

Are you willing to safeguard your child’s self-esteem rather than deflate it?
Self-confidence is a pre-requisite for learning, so be prepared to be as positive and encouraging as possible. School reports come in different formats. Some are prescriptive while some use grading systems such as A, B, C, etc., with room for teacher comments. Regardless of the format school reports should provide you with an idea of your child’s progress in all subject areas, their attitude and social development.

Here are some ideas to consider when you open your child’s report:

Focus on strengths. Do you look for strengths or weaknesses first? The challenge is to focus on strengths even if they are not in the traditional 3Rs or core subjects.

Take into account your child’s effort and attitude to learning. If the report indicates that effort is below standard, then you have something to work on. If your child is putting in the required effort, then you cannot ask any more than that, regardless of the grading.

Broaden your focus away from academic performance to form a picture of your child’s progress as a member of a social setting. How your child gets along with his or her peers will influence his happiness and well-being, as well as give an indicator to his future. The skills of independence and co-operation are highly valued by employers so don’t dismiss these as unimportant.

Take note of student self-assessment
Kids are generally very honest and will give a realistic assessment of their progress. They are generally very perceptive so take note of their opinions.

Discuss the report with your son or daughter
Talking about strengths first before looking at areas that need improvement. Ask for their opinion about how they performed and discuss their concerns.

After reports are read and discussed celebrate your child’s efforts with a special activity or treat. In this way you will recognise progress and remind them that the holidays are just around the corner when they can forget about assessment, tests and reports for a while.

Stay one step ahead of your kids with great ideas & expert advice from Michael Grose. Join Michael’s NSW Parenting Ideas Club today at parentingideasclub.com.au. You’ll be so glad you did.

© 2014 Michael Grose

parentingideas.com.au
Winterfest Baking Stall - Thank you!
I would like to say a huge thank you to all those great St Rita's people who assisted with donating ingredients and baking for the Stall! Once again this year, it was a huge success. I would also like say a special thanks to those who contributed their time to volunteer on the day on the Baking Stall and the Coffee food stall. The combined efforts made it a great day and a huge success for the St Rita's Community.

Kind regards -Lisa Acret - Baking Stall Convenor

The financial cogs of St Rita’s Winterfest were kept running smoothly due to the time and toil of our fantastic finance Team. This team included Daniel Connor and Jeanette Barnes from BOQ Victoria Point, Deb Tye-Anderson, Elaine Strati, Tom Burkett, Mary-Anne Cullen, Marilyn Duggan, Krys Kuropka and John Josefki.

Your professionalism, team work and accuracy was outstanding and you are all to be commended. On behalf of the St Rita’s Community I would like to thank you for your generous donation of your time and talent.

Bev Van Schie, Fete Treasurer

Please show your appreciation and support to the wonderful businesses who so generously supported our 2014 Winterfest: Chrissie Owen – Independent Consultant Lorraine Lea Linen, Raingrove Pty Ltd, Sea Mist Day Spa, The Plantation Swim School – Gumdale, The Athletes Foot, Riverlakes Golf Club, Cornubia, Redland Bay Golf Club, Bay Harmony, St George Bank Victoria Point, Victoria Point Pharmacy, The Ginger Factory, Colburn Boutique, JD Hair Victoria Point, Harvest Café, Victoria Point, Cold Rock Springwood, Watershed Wines, Carbrook Golf Club, Pattemores Meats, The Egg Farm Redland Bay, Sizzler Cleveland, Redlands Mechanical Repairs, Kleenheat Gas, Scout Group Victoria Point, Betta Car & Ute Hire, Bank of Qld Victoria Point, JDS Carpets, Bartons Capalaba, Multipest, Red Desk Tutoring, Biddle Lawyers, Cr Lance Hewlett, Peter Dowling MP, Tidbold Real Estate, Camping Solutions Cleveland, Paul Tongiatama, Candles on Coochie, Ryan & Associates, Redland Bay Tennis Club, Complete Self Storage Capalaba, King Country, Ray’s Organic Cleveland, Ray White Cleveland, Wray’s Organic Cleveland, Stefan Victoria Point, Andrew Knight Optometrist, Beenleigh, Bennett Family Real Estate, Supercheap Auto

SWEETS AND CHOCOLATE STALL
Thankyou to those families who so generously donated goods and made sweets for the stall, without your support the stall would not have been such a great success that it was. For all those families who brought the goods in to the school in containers, your containers are now ready for collecting from the school office. We will be having some left overs for sale at the school tuckshop this week.

THANKYOU
A huge thankyou to the all the convenors of stalls, without your dedication and preparation the stalls would not go ahead, to the set up/pull down crew, it is fantastic to see so many willing hands to help pull the fete together. To the teachers and students for their fantastic effort on the Year Level Art works, these were amazing. To our auctioneer, James McNamara, you did an amazing job with this. And to all for supporting and turning up on the day, we thank you.

GROUND COFFEE
If anyone is interested in purchasing ground coffee, we have packets of 1kg lots for sale at $15 each. Please call the office to purchase.
Reading your child’s report

Reports can mean anxious times for children. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children.

Could try harder . . . always does her best . . . lacks concentration . . . easily distracted . . . a pleasure to teach . . . Do these comments, taken from a batch of student reports sound familiar?

Student reports bring mixed feelings for parents. Pleasure and pride if they are performing well but considerable angst when children are not progressing as you hoped.

Reports can mean anxious times for children too. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children. Kids of all ages take their cues from their parents, so your reaction to their school report can affect the way they see themselves as learners and as people.

Before you rip open the sealed envelope containing the report do a little self-check to see if you are in the right frame of mind:

1. Are your expectations for your son or daughter realistic and in line with their ability?

Expectations are tricky. If they are too high then kids can be turned off learning. Too low and there is nothing to strive for. Pitch your expectations in line with your child’s abilities. A quick check of your child’s last report cards may provide you with a good yardstick.

2. Do you believe that children learn at different rates?

There are slow bloomers, late developers and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom, so avoid comparing your child to siblings, your friends’ children and even yourself when you were a child. Instead look for individual progress.

3. Are you willing to safeguard your child’s self-esteem rather than deflate it?

Self-confidence is a prerequisite for learning, so be prepared to be as positive and encouraging as possible. School reports come in different formats. Some are prescriptive while some use grading systems such as A, B, C, etc. with room for teacher comments. Regardless of the format school reports should provide you with an idea of your child’s progress in all subject areas, their attitude and social development.

Here are some ideas to consider when you open your child’s report:

Focus on strengths

Do you look for strengths or weaknesses first? The challenge is to focus on strengths even if they are not in the traditional 3Rs or core subjects.

Take into account your child’s effort and attitude to learning.

If the report indicates that effort is below standard, then you have something to work on. If your child is putting in the required effort, then you cannot ask any more than that, regardless of the grading.

Broaden your focus away from academic performance to form a picture of your child’s progress as a member of a social setting. How your child gets along with his or her peers will influence his happiness and well-being, as well as give an indicator to his future. The skills of independence and co-operation are highly valued by employers so don’t dismiss these as unimportant.

Take note of student self-assessment

Kids are generally very honest and will give a realistic assessment of their progress. They are generally very perceptive so take note of their opinions.

Discuss the report with your son or daughter talking about strengths first before looking at areas that need improvement. Ask for their opinion about how they performed and discuss their concerns.

After reports are read and discussed celebrate your child’s efforts with a special activity or treat. In this way you will recognise progress and remind them that the holidays are just around the corner when they can forget about assessment, tests and reports for a while.
The way we praise our children, even from a very early age, can have a lasting impact. When done effectively, it can really promote resilience.

It seemed to come out of nowhere. One day we had a happy, confident, thriving daughter who was doing really well at school and the next she was alternating between a quiet sullenness and loud arguments, telling us, “I just don’t care”.

The problem appeared to lie with her maths. She had previously found maths quite easy, and had got good enough marks to be put up into the ‘smart’ kids. The result: a very unhappy daughter and a significant slump (aka tailspin) in her performance.

Putting on our best parental hats, we tried to work out what was going on. Our daughter’s response to our gentle probing was “I should never have been put into the smart kids’ class because I’m dumb” and “My teacher just thinks I’m not “trying”.

Kids (and adults!) learn best when feeling confident and motivated to do well, even when the work is hard. The trouble is that in many instances our education system is set up to reward cleverness or smartness before effort. Those who excel in learning and passing exams often enjoy an elevated status and are held up as the example for others to emulate. There is much less recognition for effort alone.

What she needed was more of a growth mindset. Helping our children to develop a ‘growth’ versus ‘fixed’ mindset is what makes the biggest difference in determining our their level of self-confidence, resilience and motivation. Professor Carol Dweck, in her book Mindset, describes how by choosing to develop a growth mindset we can start to learn from our mistakes, and feel we are succeeding when we master a new skill or piece of learning that has been challenging or difficult.

Our mindset is not something we are born with, it is formed and shaped through experience, and who we hang out with. We used to think that intelligence was innate, a ‘fixed’ quality, and we now know that is simply not true.

Tips for encouraging a growth mindset:

1. Look at learning as a way to stretch and grow the brain. Learning new things is great exercise for seeing new possibilities or ways of doing things. It encourages imagination and creative thinking.

2. When congratulating your child, use words that praise the outcome that has resulted from their putting in the work and effort.
... why praise can be a double-edged sword ...

Building parent-school partnerships

3 When things go wrong, ask, “What could you do differently next time to get a better result?” Failure and making mistakes is normal. Learning to deal with them effectively helps build resilience.

4 Use the power of “Yet”. If your child tells you, “I’m no good at...” or “I can’t do that”, your response could be, “You’re just not there ... yet”. This implies that it is work in progress and success may come through perseverance. It’s not about false hope, but encouragement.

Other research is now uncovering additional benefits from adopting a growth mindset. It can:

- encourage a student to want to stay at school longer
- facilitate transition to university
- diminish bullying or aggressive behaviour
- develop resilience in the face of adversity
- help see challenge as opportunity
- develop tenacity in persevering to overcome obstacles
- help see effort as the route to mastery
- build the ability to use criticism as something to learn from
- promote inspiration and new learning from sharing in the success of others.

We all want our children to do well and one of the best ways we can help is to promote a growth mindset so they become more positive in their outlook as to their own capabilities, broaden their perspective of the world and elevate their resourcefulness.

Dr. Jenny Brockis is a brain health specialist. Her focus is on promoting optimal health and function for all brains. She is also an author and speaker, and mum to two young adults. www.drjennybrockis.com

Jenny Brockis

Stay one step ahead of your kids with great ideas & expert advice from Michael Grose. Join Michael’s NEW Parentingideas Club today at parentingideasclub.com.au. You’ll be so glad you did.