FROM THE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

First of all, welcome back to school for a new and exciting term and an especially warm welcome to new members of our community.

On the second last day of Term 2, Mr Billion was tracked down in Vanuatu to be offered an Acting Principal position at St Joseph’s Bardon for Term 3. Kevin has accepted this opportunity and I am very supportive of this as a mark of his strong leadership capabilities and potential. Consequently, I am also pleased to announce the arrival of Ms Lagi Aukusitino to St Rita’s as Acting Assistant Principal RE for Term 3. Lagi comes to us with an impressive background of curriculum leadership and expertise with student diversity, technology and a strong Catholic spirituality. Our leadership culture at St Rita’s has provided a good foundation for those with the necessary qualities and capacity to step into our positive team environment and we look forward to working with Lagi in the coming weeks. We also wish Kevin well with his Principal experience at St Joseph’s.

Active and Effective Learning – The Sower and The Seed.

Last Sunday’s Gospel featured the parable of The Sower and The Seed. At the start of the passage we hear of Jesus entering a boat on the lake to speak to the thousands on the shore. I’d often wondered how this could be so, but having been there to Galilee I learned that there is actually a natural amphitheatre in the landscape and it is quite possible for a voice to be projected way up into the hillside. I now have a stronger image of the sower scattering seed into the fields.

The surrounds of Galilee are quite fertile, so the imagery of this parable became all the more striking as I listened and reflected on its meaning for me. I reflected that as teachers, we are the sowers – the cultivators of knowledge, skills and understandings for our students. How can we ensure that these seeds of knowledge are falling on fertile ground – and the harvest is plentiful?

Unlike the sower in the parable of scattering the seed and seemingly hoping for the best – our teachers are continually searching for ways to reach fertile minds – ready for growth and development. So in the term to come – how can we ensure our students learning is being cultivated? We believe the best way is for the students to see themselves as active and efficient learners and know what this takes.

Five features of active and effective learning that St Rita’s learners recognise are these:

- **Risk taker** – a vital aspect of an effective learner is to make a mistake. Getting something wrong tells us we need to learn something new.
- **Collaborative** – we learn more by engaging with others about what we know and sharing our ideas.
- **Make Connections** – we remember new knowledge when we can relate it to something we already know.
- **Ask Questions** – when we recognise the importance of why we are learning something new and asking questions about this.
- **Feedback** – we recognise the detail of our successes – no matter how small and are boosted by these to go to the next step or level. We also appreciate taking

IMPORTANT DATES

Next Week: Yr 5 Camp, Archbishop visit, Yr 6 Incursion
on board suggestions on how we can do better or differently.

Something new for our community this term is our first electronic only publication of our newsletter. In the interests of sustainability, we are reducing our paper printouts considerably with the move and I do hope that your access method to school information and updates is only improved by having online access through email/Twitter or Facebook/school website. We have much to look forward to this term – Farewell to Fr Leo and welcome to Fr Paul; and a school and parish visit at the end of next week from Archbishop Mark Coleridge – to name but a few. Great to be back after a lovely winter’s break – may God’s abundant blessings be with you in the coming week.

Anne

Welcome back to Term 3!
I hope all families enjoyed the break and were able to spend some quality time together. I always enjoy the first day back after a holiday period, listening to our students telling their peers excitingly about what they may have got up to during the holidays. I also seem to notice a sense of relief from parents ready to let go after what has no doubt been a big two weeks with the kids at home or perhaps on the road travelling!

For me personally, I enjoyed some great family time with my wife and 3 kids which can be tiring and extremely demanding at times so I can understand why some parents look forward to the return to school!

It is no secret or myth that our own children will test our patience and resilience from time to time and spending that extra period of time with them over a holiday break can indeed challenge us.

I came across this article which I thought may be of some interest.

Unconditional Love
One piece of advice parenting experts give to parents is to show their children/teenagers unconditional love. Children should feel confident and secure in the knowledge that their parents will love them even when they make mistakes, when they aren’t perfect. They should also not feel that parental love is tied to their achievements or abilities. As Professor Dumbledore told Harry Potter, "It is our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities." That’s a good lesson for gifted children to learn.

Unconditional "Like"
Sometimes, though, what we need to show our children is unconditional “like.” That means that we need to show our children that we don’t simply love them; we like them. We like who they are. If someone were to ask you why you like your best friend, how would you answer? You would probably be able to provide a list of qualities and characteristics that you enjoy and admire about your friend.

What about your child? Can you provide a list of qualities and characteristics that you enjoy about your child? You probably tell your child that you love him. Do you also tell your child that you like him? Sometimes parents are not completely happy with who their children are. A father may wish his highly gifted, sensitive little boy were more masculine and more interested in sports or his clumsy child to be a great sportsman. Or perhaps a mother might wish her daughter were more feminine or less strong willed.

These parents still love their children, but the children get the feeling that their parents don’t like them, and the children interpret that feeling as a lack of love, even though their parents may tell them they are loved.

So what should a parent do? In addition to telling your child, “I love you,” be sure to let your child know how much you enjoy his or her company. Let your child know what you like and admire about him or her. Of course, in order for those words to have any meaning, you need to spend time with your child and enjoy it.

All the best for Term 3.
Shane

TOGETHER IN FAMILY

Firstly, I would like to share how excited I am to be at St Rita’s. Even after just one day in Mr Billion’s role, I have been warmly welcomed and feel very privileged to be a part of your community.

A little bit about myself, my name is Lagi Aukusitino. I was born in New Zealand, and recognize strongly with my parent’s Samoan heritage. I trained and taught in Wellington, and have been teaching with Brisbane Catholic Education since 2006 where I met
and worked with Anne McKenny at Woodridge. I made the move to Australia with my children Baylee and Luka who are now teenagers, and they keep my husband Cory and I very busy running them to their sporting fixtures. I love playing indoor netball and still (just) manage to keep up with the young ones.

This is a photo taken of us two weeks ago in Old Coach Rd Ohakune, NZ before we cycled through 3 hours of snow flurries, rain and mud. The next morning we woke to 16cm of snow. Yes, it was extremely cold.

I have already been fortunate to greet and meet a few parents and community members, and welcome you to come introduce yourself and say hello. I look forward to meeting you all.

Wishing you a great week.
Together in Family
Lagi

**Year 5 Camp – Kindilan**
All the best to our Year 5 Students who venture out on camp early next week to Kindilan. Students will be taking part in a variety of activities designed to push them from their comfort zones and achieve some personal goals. Camp notes and equipment lists are available on the ‘Student Portal’. Exciting times ahead!

**Upcoming Important Dates**
*Year 5 Camp – Monday 21 to Wednesday 23 July*

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**SCHOOL BANKING**

The Banker of the week is Paige C, congratulations Paige we have deposited $2 into your bank account.

Hope you all had a great holiday and that term three is fantastic!

We’re open 9am Mon – Sat, Closing times Mon – Thur 4.30pm, Fri 5pm & Sat 12noon.
Pop in and see the friendly team, we’re always happy to have a chat and help with any of your banking needs.

BOQ Victoria Point, Shop 23 Victoria Point Shopping Centre - Ph 3207 6133

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**TUCKSHOP NEWS**

**Wednesday 16th July**
Esperanza Ponce De Leon
HELP NEEDED???

**Thursday 17th July**
Niah Brown
HELP NEEDED???

**Friday 18th July**
Michelle Kotynski
Louise Lowcock
HELP NEEDED???
HELP NEEDED???

**2ND Break**
Michelle & Louise

Welcome back from a well deserved break. We are still looking for new faces for the Tuckshop. Please keep an eye out for a newsletter from the Tuckshop containing the roster and some new and old reminders to help us along the way.

Do not hesitate to contact me for all enquiries
Renee 0411 523969 email rsaleh@bne.catholic.edu.au

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**SPORTS NEWS**

**Quote of the week**
A champion is someone who gets up when he can’t.  
*Jack Dempsey*

**St Rita’s Touch Football**
Students who are interested in playing Friday Night Touch Football for St Rita’s this season – please collect a note from the office. Spots are running out and the competition starts end of Week 4.
FROM THE PARISH

Sacrament of Reconciliation 2014
The preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will begin with an enquiry night at 7pm, Wednesday 13th August in the church, for parents to come and find out about what level of commitment is required to be part of the Sacramental program for 2014/15. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is usually for the children in Grade 4 in preparation for the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation in Grade 5, 2015. If you have an older child who would like to make their first Reconciliation in preparation for Confirmation and First Eucharist in 2015, please come to this information meeting.

As parents, you need to make a conscious choice about whether your child is ready to take on this important faith commitment in their life. Don’t let the decision be driven by peer pressure but from a genuine desire to live a faith filled life as part of a Catholic community. We will honour whatever decision you make. If your child is not ready to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in 2014, there is always next year.

If after the enquiry night your family is able to commit to the Sacramental program, then we ask parents only to attend the First Parent Information session’ on Thursday 28th August 2014 at 7.00pm in the church.
If you would like your child to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation it is essential that one parent attends the information evening. At this meeting you bring your completed enrolment form and a copy of your child’s Baptismal certificate unless they were baptised here at St. Rita’s. The cost of the Reconciliation programme is $50. This covers the cost of the workbook, photocopies, prayer cards and lessons etc. It would help if you could put money in an envelope marked with your child’s name and class and bring it to the meeting. If you need a receipt for this please mark that on the envelope too. We hope this will speed up the administration process on the evening.

The enrolment ceremony is at 9am Sunday mass 31st August, when the children receive their workbooks and both children and parents make a publically commit to the program.

The children are taught about Reconciliation over the next 6 weeks during either the 6pm Saturday mass or the 9am Sunday mass. As part of the entrance procession every week, the children make their way to the meeting room to be taught by either Candice Holden or Angela Clarke

The Rite of Reconciliation will be held on Thursday 30th October at 7pm, again in the church, where the children make their 1st Reconciliation.

Sacrament of Reconciliation 2014
7pm Wednesday 13th August, St Rita’s church Enquiry night for parents – overview of the Sacramental program - parents discern if they are able to commit to the program (Parent only)
7pm Thursday 28th August, St Rita’s church Parent information session – enrolment forms collected + Adult faith education - Theology of Reconciliation (Parents only)
9am Sunday 31st August, St Rita’s church Reconciliation enrolment ceremony during 9am mass (Parents and Children)
Sat/Sun 6th/7th September St Rita’s church Reconciliation lesson during Sat 6pm mass (Candice) or Sunday 9am mass (Angela) Parents and Children
Sat/Sun 13th/14th September St Rita’s church Reconciliation lesson during Sat 6pm mass (Candice) or Sunday 9am mass (Angela) Parents and Children
Sat/Sun 4th/5th October St Rita’s church Reconciliation lesson during Sat 6pm mass (Candice) or Sunday 9am mass (Angela) Parents and Children
Sat/Sun 11th/12th October St Rita’s church Reconciliation lesson during Sat 6pm mass (Candice) or Sunday 9am mass (Angela) Parents and Children
Sat/Sun 25th/26th October St Rita’s church Reconciliation lesson during Sat 6pm mass (Candice) or Sunday 9am mass (Angela) Parents and Children
7pm Thursday 30th October St Rita’s church 2nd Rite of Reconciliation ceremony – 7pm (3 priests) Parents and Children

Contact Angela at the parish office on 32079177 if you have any questions.
Congratulations to Serrica Glindemann for winning the yellow Ray White bike at the fete raffle. Thank you for entering and if you would like to know the value of your property just call Louise for an obligation free appraisal 0423 110 555.