Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

Term 4 is a great time of year. I hear teachers say that it is their favourite time of the year as they see the progress of students really coming to fruition. It is a busy time for us as we focus on celebratory events and also look forward to our planning for next year.

Class Groups 2015
One task that we devote many hours and minds to is the class makeup for students for the new school year. Our process is to have current year level teachers start to have a fresh mix with a balance of gender and capabilities. Considered care is also given to the social and emotional aspect of the decision making. Our experience is that teachers know the students well and with the input from our student support teachers and school leadership team – a balanced, cohesive and new class composition is determined.

In recent years and in the spirit of our partnership, parents have also been invited to provide input if it is considered necessary. This is not to request teachers and such requests won’t be considered. The quality of teaching across all year levels is very high at St Rita’s and the expertise and strengths of each teacher matches their commitment and dedication to our profession. If you would like to have some input into your child’s class placement, you are most welcome to provide information about learning styles, social skills, strengths and challenges. Could you please have this written communication sent via email (pvictoriapoint@bne.catholic.edu.au) or paper copy to the office by Wednesday 5 November, 2014.

Great Teachers = Great Results
An initiative from the State Government is now providing some significant funds to Catholic Schools to promote high yield strategies for teaching and learning. St Rita’s School has been identified by Brisbane Catholic Education as a pilot school to implement a Literacy Project in 2015 working with world renowned educators in best practice for systemic improvements in schools. This selection is as a result of our progress in developing high standards of professional learning and practices, teacher collegiality, professional feedback and analysis of student data to target new and improved learning outcomes for our students. We see this as an opportunity to go from strength to strength in the delivery of high quality teaching practices that result in good and excellent progress in learning for all of our students.

School Officers Day
This Wednesday we are taking up a suggestion from the Queensland Independent Education Union (QIEU) to honour our many school officers at St Rita’s who provide a wonderful array of support – educationally and administratively to our students, parents and community members. They are often the glue that keeps our school family together – many being long time serving members of our staff. Their collective expertise in child development, sustainability, social justice, finance, health and safety, communication, school marketing, strategic planning and general life skills is greatly valued and appreciated. We will be celebrating this special day with a morning tea provided by our teaching staff. Happy School Officer Day for tomorrow!

Anne

Welcome back to another term of learning, celebration and community. Tomorrow our teachers will join with our cluster schools, Star of the Sea, St Luke’s, St Anthony’s and St Mary Mackillop to talk
about students’ learning and make judgments on what ‘at standard’ looks like. These discussions assist teachers to make on-balance decisions based on the evidence collected during learning and teaching episodes. Our teachers engaged in similar conversations with each other last week, and will moderate in our new Religion Curriculum and English with a focus on Reading. We look forward to collaborating with our cluster schools, and making new connections.

This term our classes will join Fr Paul and parish to celebrate Mass, and you are all welcome to join your children on these days. Below are times when your child/ren’s classes will be attending. We hope you can join us in celebrating the Eucharist.

Week 3: Wednesday 22 October – Year 3
Week 4: Tuesday 28 October 1L
Week 4: Wednesday 29 October - Year 2
Week 4: Thursday 30 October - Year 6
Week 5: Tuesday 4 November 1K and 1T
Week 5: Wednesday 5 November 9am Mass – Year 7
Week 6: Wednesday 12 November 9am Mass – Prep
Week 7: Friday 21 November 9am Mass – Year 4
Week 8: Tuesday 25 November 9am Mass – Year 5

Next weekend our school will join together to celebrate our “Together in Family” Mass. Below is the Prayer for the Synod on the Family.

Holy Family of Nazareth, in you we contemplate the splendor of true love and model of family life. Grant that our own families may remain united in deep mutual love and be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches.

Guard the members of our family from all physical and spiritual danger and keep us faithful to the Lord. Grant healing to all families who experience rejection and division. Keep us attentive to their needs may our families be living witnesses of the love and presence of Jesus in the world.

Have a blessed week everyone.

Lagi

One of the facets of my job I love is going on playground duty each day. It gives me an opportunity to see our students first hand integrating with each other and watching them evolve socially outside of the classroom. As with all schools, from time to time I have to speak with some students (generally boys) about incidents which start off as a bit of fun but can lead to someone getting accidentally hurt. More times than not these events are ‘just boys’; wrestling, diving on each other & not listening.

Being a visible presence in the playground and talking with the students in such events, revising expectations and checking in with the students the following day/s is one behavioural management strategy that works well and above all it makes you realise again what a great job teaching can be.

Speaking of behaviour management, we believe it is the process by which a school ensures appropriateness and consistency of children’s behaviour. At St Rita’s we believe it is most successful when it encourages children to develop responsibility and own their behaviour. A system of behavioural aims and consequences are only one aspect to a successful behaviour improvement process. It is important that:

- Children learn best in an environment where there are clearly defined expectations and consistent methods of dealing with inappropriate behaviour.
- Children learn best when teachers have helped create an environment based on good relationships and achievable goals.
- Children learn best when they are supported in learning responsibility for their own learning and behaviour.
- Children learn best when their achievements are recognised and they are not in an environment founded on criticism and the finding of errors.

At St Rita’s, we have the Behavioural Improvement Process (KTL) with Knowledge, Truth & Love - Consistent Consequences Matrix. The matrix is one component of our Behaviour Learning Program. The aim of our overall program is to teach right behaviours and reduce the frequency of problem behaviours which hopefully ensure that our school is a learning environment that promotes and nurtures safe and effective learning and meaningful relationships to ‘Know More, Do More and Be More’ each day.

This can be achieved through the consistent and effective teaching of our School Expectations:

Show That we:
Respect Everyone
Inspire Learning
Take Care of Property and our Environment
Act Safe Be Safe
Once again the behavioural management of our children is a partnership between the school and the family and if you ever have any concerns please do not hesitate to arrange a time to see your child’s teacher or a member of the Leadership team.

All the best for another great term.
Shane

**SCHOOL PARENT NETWORK**

The final SPN meeting for 2014 will be held this Wednesday 15th October. We are always open to new ideas about making our children’s school experience better. If you have something to share then we invite you to come along to the Staff room in the Administration building at 7pm. We look forward to seeing you there! Agenda items can also be emailed to StRitasSPN@gmail.com

**S.P.E.A.K.**

S.P.E.A.K – Oral Language for 2-4 year olds!

Wednesday 15 October

Follows “Rhyme Time” at 10am

Victoria Point Library - ALL WELCOME!

**SPORTS NEWS**

**Quote of the week**

Leaders aren’t born, they are made. And they are made just like anything else, through hard work. And that’s the price we’ll have to pay to achieve that goal, or any goal. *Vince Lombardi*

**St Rita’s Touch Football**

*U/8’s and U/10’s are playing at 4.30pm*

*U/12’s are playing at 5.15pm*

*Game details will be communicated on a weekly basis through a messaging system to parents.*

Training for U/12s will be from 3.10 – 4.10pm Monday afternoons, U/10’s will be Thursdays First Break and Fridays Second Break during school hours.

**P-3 Swimming Program**

The P-3 Swimming Program commences this week for a period of 5 weeks on Thursdays and Fridays at Victoria Pt YMCA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>DATES: Weeks 2 - 6 on Thur and Fri (YMCA Victoria Pt) Carnival – Mon 17 Nov (Cleveland Pool)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lesson Time</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.20 – 12.00</td>
<td>PK and PT</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.00 - 12.40</td>
<td>PL and 1K</td>
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<td>12.40 – 1.20</td>
<td>1T and 1L</td>
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**Mission Cup Netball**

The Mission Cup Carnival is only a mere 2 weeks away, as we move into our final preparations. As the carnival is hosted by South Coast Netball Association, it would be great if Parents/Families could inform the coaches and managers of their intent to stay down there or travel to the venue each day over the weekend of 25/26 October.

Training will still be held on Tuesday afternoons for the next 2 weeks from 3.15 to 4.30pm.

Please let either Mr Kenyon, Mrs Rossi or Mrs Manderson if unable to attend.

**QLD All Schools Touch Football Competition**

This term over the weekend of 1 and 2 November, St Rita’s will compete as a mixed team in the QLD All Schools Touch Football Competition at Cleveland. The team will be announced shortly, and consists of 10 players (5 Girls and Boys). Students are chosen based on performance in the Friday Night Competition in the U/12 Division, knowledge of rules and aspects of game play. Students involved will be notified shortly.

**Upcoming Important Dates:**

- 2 October – Final Interschool Sports Day 2014
- 25 and 26 October – Mission Cup Netball Competition (Palm Beach)
- 31 October – Year 4 Activity Day at Kindilan
- 1 and 2 November – QLD All Schools Touch Football Competition
- 17 November – P-3 Swimming Carnival
**Learning Support**

**Extension opportunities**

Last term various extension opportunities were offered to our St. Rita’s students, such as writing and maths competitions, the Brisbane writer’s festival, ‘Challenge 2014- program for the gifted’ and Excellence days offered through Victoria Point High. This is in addition to our planned in-class and support extension classes, such as maths investigation groups and book clubs. It is widely recognised by reputable sources in gifted education, such as Renzulli, that provisions such as these provide invaluable opportunities to increase autonomy, problem solving skills and the ability to deal with challenges that students will be faced with in the future. These experiences increase potential, student motivation and above all promote ‘personal excellence.’ (Karnes & Riley)

**Australian Maths Competition (AMC)**

Congratulations to all students who participated in the AMC: Zayne, Fletcher, Keira, Josh, Joel, William, Carlos, Michaela and Aidan. Zayne and Fletcher received an outstanding score, placing them in the top 10% of the nation for their age group. Wow, well done!

**Challenge 2014**

Congratulations Carlos, Alice and Ashleigh for attending this challenging, but rewarding day. Well done to Carlos who got his article, outlining his unique experience, published in the QAGTC magazine. What a great achievement!

**Brisbane Writer’s Festival**

On Friday, 5th September, everyone in the year 4 book club, a few in year 5 and one in year 6, went to the State library in South Bank to see Andy Griffiths with Mrs Anderson, Mrs Rossi and Mrs Stone. After we saw Andy, we got to get our book signed by him. The line got so big. I think the line would have been as long as the UNITAS centre. It was AWESOME meeting Andy. On my book he drew me swimming in the shark tank. It was funny. Before we left to go back to school we got to see Michael Gerald Bayer and his son. (Michael is the author and his son is the illustrator.) They showed us how they cartoon using a computer and some of his books. It was fun and entertaining. I hope I go next year because it was a jam packed day out!

By Bella Perez.

**Media Excellence Day**

On Thursday the 9th of October Izzy, Ava and Billie had the opportunity to attend Victoria Point State High School for their Excellence Day. We had a great time and we learnt lots of different things in Film Work and Photography. We walked to the enormous High School and met with the other schools that were coming to the day as well. We met with Mr. Shepardson who is the head of years 8, 9 and 10. We got to go into the filming studio with Mr. Exelby first. We were going to be filming a fake news report. We ran through the script that Mr. Exelby had written for us. When we were in our groups we got to choose the parts. We all helped in filming and setting up the green screens. A green screen allows you to choose different backgrounds for your set. We inserted a news room background where we recorded a news program. We used lapel and shotgun microphones, a soundboard and television cameras to film our television report. It was lots of fun and you get to help behind the scenes.

After filming we then did a photo shoot. We dressed up in costumes to take the photo. We set all the cameras up and took turns at taking the pictures. After we did that we all had a photo so that we could photo shop it. Ms. Bierton showed us how to airbrush our skin to make it look nicer (just like the celebrities do). Once everyone had finished airbrushing themselves we put titles and stories onto the page and put barcodes on, to make it look like a professional magazine cover. Everyone had a great time doing both activities.

By Izzy, Ava and Billie (Year 5)

**Upcoming Events:** Watch this space for ‘The Quest’ information coming soon.
NEWS FROM THE RESOURCE CENTRE

Scholastic Book Club brochures have been distributed. If you wish to place an order for issue 7, please send your order to Mrs Brownlie in the library by Tuesday 28 October.

ST RITA’S RANGERS

Koala Count-a-thon
On the last weekend of October the Koala Action Group is asking everyone in the Redlands to be on the lookout for koalas. The Redlands Koala Count-A-Thon survey will be help from Sat 25 October 8am to 26 October at 5pm. Please report all Koala sounds and sightings and the exact location of the Koala during this time in one of the following ways:

Post you sightings at Facebook/KoalaActionGroup
Email: admin@koalagroup.asn.au
Phone: 38201103
Or alternatively hand it in to at school and we can pass the information on.

Thanks St Rita’s Rangers

THE GREAT BOOK SWAP

The Student Council has begun organising The Great Book Swap to raise money for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation to aid in providing books to Indigenous people in remote communities. It will be held on Monday the 3rd of November in the Unitas Centre. For the great book swap to occur we are asking for you to donate any preloved books that are still in good condition that you think others would like to buy. The student council will collect books from the classrooms each Thursday before lunch. On the great book swap day we will be selling the donated books for $1 each. Thank you for helping us to build a love of reading throughout all of Australia.

SCHOOL BANKING

The Banker of the week is Jaxon H, congratulations Jaxon we have deposited $2 into your bank account for you.

Don’t forget we have a great Marquee that we’re happy to lend out to Community Groups. Please call us on 3207 6133 or pop into Victoria Point Branch to book the Marquee for your next event.

We’re open 9.30am Mon – Fri, Sat 9am, 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

TUCKSHOP NEWS

Wednesday 15th October
Terri Comerford
Felicity Shipton

Thursday 16th October
Maria Kease
Tania Digby

Friday 17th October
Nigel Wright
Deb Kemp
Louise Lowcock
Help Needed??

2nd Break
Louise Lowcock

Great to see so many people ordering our Yoghurt on these hot days and not to forget Sushi Fridays. We no longer sell Cola Monkeys as we have Ice Cream Cones @ 60c.
Renee - rsaleh@bne.catholic.edu.au

UNIFORM SHOP

YEAR 6 PARENTS

Calling for parents of current Year 6 students that are willing to help organise the Year 6 Graduation Party. Please contact Julie Johnstone on 0403 577 424 or jjohnstone.cleveland@ljh.com.au.
WOOL CLUB

Wool Club finished up for the year at the end of last term. A big thank you to all of the helpers and students who have come along this year – some weeks there have been as many as 60 students working on different projects! This year we have woven monster bookmarks and Fathers’ Day coasters, created families of wool dolls, learnt how to knot new macramé friendship bracelets and woven into frames made of sticks and branches. If the students would like to take home any of their unfinished projects, please let me know as I still have them to collect. See you in Wool Club next year.
Carly

FROM THE PARISH

Family and School Mass.
Next weekend, 26 October at the 9am mass. Please join us for a Family Mass. Members of St Rita’s School will be joining us for this celebration of the fact that we are all one big parish family, united with a common vision. Please bring a plate of food to share for a snack after mass at that 9am mass only. God bless.

First Reconciliations:
Please keep in your prayers the children who are making their first reconciliation on Thursday night 30 October at 6.30pm at St Rita’s Church. May they always experience the mercy, love and care of God in their lives.

LOST

LOST GREY CAT, Pt Halloran area Wed 1 Oct. Our much loved Boris, a 5 year old pedigree Russian Blue escaped from his cat-run during the last week of the school holidays. As he is an inside cat he has no collar, but is micro-chipped. He has a sleek grey coat with faint rings around his tail. A REWARD is offered for information leading to his return. Bruce & Tania Stevens 32079797
NEW SWIM CLUB
AT THE YMCA VICTORIA POINT
JUNIOR - ADULT
PRICES FROM $7
ALL YEAR ROUND HEATED POOL
MORNING & AFTERNOON SESSIONS
JO : 0450 047 886

STUDENT TRAVEL REBATES
Semester 2, 2014

Bus Fare Assistance
• Does your child attend a school outside the Brisbane City Council boundary?
• Does your family spend more than $25/week* on fares to and from school (* $20/week if you hold a concession card)?
• Does your child travel on a publicly available bus not owned or associated with the school?

Students with Disabilities
• Does your child have a verified disability that requires transport assistance to and from school?
• Has your school’s learning support teacher assessed your child’s travel capability rating as ‘semi-independent’ or more dependent?

Visit our website to see if you qualify for financial assistance to help with the cost of transport and apply at www.schooltransport.com.au by 31 October 2014. Late applications cannot be accepted.