FROM THE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

This week we are celebrating World Teachers Day which officially takes place on 31 October, 2014. With a number of staff away on that day, we brought our traditional breakfast sponsored by the School Parent Network to this morning. Our staffroom was beautifully decorated by two of our talented parents – Katina and Donna and we enjoyed a beautiful breakfast made by Mary-Anne and Margaret.

Excellence in teaching is our inspiration and aspiration at St Rita’s. Last week I met with our teachers to review their Performance Development and Professional Learning Plans – in other words, annual goal setting. The discussion was insightful as well as indicative of the growth and overall progress in deepening and extending student learning at St Rita’s. Themes such as our Schoolwide Pedagogy, Visible Learning and embedding contemporary learning strategies with ICTs permeated the discussion and will inform our Annual Goal Setting for 2015.

Weaving our World
It was a wonderful sight to behold yesterday afternoon as a small number of teachers and parents gathered with Carly Kotynski for a first of many weaving workshops. Through our supportive SPN, we have been successful in receiving a grant from RADF (Redlands Arts Development Fund) to pilot an arts project with our Year 3 students. The project will involve a holistic art and environmental experience utilising natural materials – and in some cases weed and non-native types of material to weave ephemeral (non-permanent) structures.

School Leadership Cluster
Tomorrow, our school leadership team will be meeting to review our School Goals for 2014 and formulating our direction for 2015. Mrs Ferguson and Mrs Hill will be stepping into the leadership roles for the day. I then look forward to writing a report that will be presented at our forthcoming SPN and School Board Combined Dinner on 12 November, 2014.

Year 6 and 7 Student Transition to Secondary School – Celebrations and Events
This term a number of initiatives are underway as we prepare to farewell both our Year 6 and Year 7 students to secondary school. We know that they are well prepared and ready to leave their primary education as confident and independent learners. It is our aim to honour and celebrate each year level as distinct groups. Therefore there will be two separate school thanksgiving liturgies in the last week of the school year. Year 6 on Tuesday 2 December and Year 7 Wednesday 3 September. They will then combine for the excursion to White Water World on Thursday 4 December. I am also aware and supportive of the separate parent initiated party events.

A question that arises is the standard of dress for the Thanksgiving Liturgy on 2 and 3 December. I am always pleased to see our St Rita parents and students take a very sensible approach to this special occasion. It is an event for Primary school children and, as such, the standard of dress is consistent with this – age appropriate and suitable for a school event. We recommend smart casual outfits that you know your child will be able to wear elsewhere and do not encourage any unnecessary and additional expense. The children always look wonderful on the evening and most importantly conduct themselves in such a way to instil a great sense of pride and admiration for who they are.

IMPORTANT DATES

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 29 October</td>
<td>Year 2 Mass, Junior Years Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 30 October</td>
<td>Year 6 Mass, Music – Count Us In, Early Years Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 31 October</td>
<td>Year 4 Camp Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 3 November</td>
<td>Whole School Assembly, The Great Book Swap</td>
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Class Groups 2015
A 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.

This week we welcome Ms Shannon Byriel to 3L to replace Mrs Natasha Howden who commences maternity leave in preparation for the birth of her first child in early December. 3L parents and children and our school staff ensured Mrs Howden and her husband, Bruce, were well and truly showered with love and baby gifts to mark this very special occasion. We will miss Natasha, but are thrilled for her as she and Bruce get ready for the most precious gift of all – the arrival of Baby Howden. Hopefully we will have some news before the school year is done!

Last Sunday’s Together in Family Mass was a very special time for our school and parish. We look forward to planning more of these in 2015.

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

This week we started week 4 with our ‘Together in Family’ Mass. A celebration of Parish and School coming together as a family. It was a very special occasion and I would like to give recognition to Mr Tyrrell and our lovely singers from the choir who lead us so beautifully in song.

This week we have two class/cohort Masses, and we offer an invitation for all to join in the church on the following dates at 9:00am. Mrs Davison and 1L joined Fr Paul and members of our Parish to celebrate Mass this morning.

- Wednesday 29 October - Year 2
- Thursday 30 October - Year 6 and 5

I had the pleasure in attending my own children’s end of year liturgy at Clairvaux Mackillop last night, and it was an honour to watch the year 12 cohort stand and applaud one of their peer’s success in learning. This of course led to a standing ovation from all in attendance. The young man had topped all six of his classes and was receiving the highly distinguished award for Dux. A truly impressive feat, and not accomplished without determination, grit and a lot of hard work. What impressed me about this was the way in which his peers applauded and cheered him on. It was evident this young man was not just successful with his learning, but also with his friendships. At last year’s end of year Liturgy this same young man topped the Year 12 Mathematics B as a Year 11 student! The same cohort then celebrated his achievement in the best way they knew how.

As we begin to look down the end of the road for our year 6 and 7 students, I wonder if some friendships will continue until their year 12 graduation. I wonder how they will support and celebrate each other’s learning over the years. I wonder if there will be any standing ovations for our St Rita’s students. Ex-pupils of St Rita’s are already marking their own territory with leadership roles in our systemic high schools. As the weeks fly by, may we stop to take in the little things that we often take for granted.

Have a great week everyone.
Lagi

Working Bee
This Saturday 1 November from 7:00am-11:00am we will be having a Working Bee at St Rita’s. I understand the busyness of weekend commitments as it is but if you can spare some time to assist, perhaps only ½ hour, it would be much appreciated.

The main purpose of the day is to clear out and clean up the Environmental Area on the bottom oval. Additionally, we have a number of other jobs that need attending to around the school. We will conclude at 11:00am with a sausage sizzle. Bob has arranged for a skip to be delivered on Friday afternoon to dispose of any rubbish on the day.

If possible, please bring:
- Any gardening equipment you may have.

All the best
Shane
**SCHOOL FEES**

School Fees are due **Friday, 7 November**.

A reminder to parents who are paying school fees by Direct Debit, please note your direct debit **does not** include your camp or polo shirt costs. This needs to be paid as an addition to your direct debit repayments. Payment can be by Credit Card, EFTPOS, Bpay or Cash. Could you please arrange payment for these fees as soon as possible.

**BOOKLISTS**

Book lists were emailed last week. If you did not receive them, please go to the school website to view them or contact the school office. Orders must be submitted online by Monday 24 November for delivery to school on Tuesday 2 December. Please refer to the information sheet regarding other pick up options. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email info@redlandschoolzone.com.au.

**SPORTS NEWS**

**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 will run for a period of 5 weeks on Thursdays and Fridays at Victoria Pt YMCA.

**TIME** | **DATES: Weeks 2 - 6 on Thur and Fri (YMCA Victoria Pt) Carnival Day – Mon 17 Nov (Cleveland Pool)**
---|---
Lesson Time | Thursday | Fridays
11.20 – 12.00 | PK and PT | 2T and 2L
12.00 - 12.40 | PL and 1K | 3K and 3L
12.40 – 1.20 | 1T and 1L | 2K and 3T

**Mission Cup Netball**

Congratulations to all the girls who represented St Rita’s at the 2014 Mission Foods Primary School Cup Netball Carnival at Palm Beach last weekend. Our Senior girls did extremely well winning 6 from their 9 games coming in 3rd place in their pool. Our Juniors however were unfortunate to win a game, although played very well right up to their last game. A big thank you to Mrs Manderson, Mrs Rossi, Lisa Bihari and Danielle Brokenshire for their time training and preparing these girls over the last couple of months.

**QLD All Schools Touch Football Competition**

This weekend of 1st and 2nd November, St Rita’s will compete as a mixed team in the QLD All Schools Touch Football Competition at Cleveland. We wish Emily, Eden, Julia, Michaela, Mackenzie, Will, Angus, Emmanuel, Ethan and Callum the very best for the games ahead and look forward to hearing some great results.

**Upcoming Important Dates:**

31 October – Year 4 Activity Day at Kindilan
1 and 2 November – QLD All Schools Touch Football Competition
1 November – P-3 Swimming Carnival

**ASSEMBLY AWARDS**

**PT**

| Ashley R | You Inspire Learning by sharing your extensive knowledge of the sea and sea creatures. Great Effort! |
| Siera B | You Inspire Learning by noticing patterns and sounds in words. Well Done! |
| Mattia M | You Inspire Learning by designing your own craft and sharing with the class. Fantastic! |
| Lincoln J | You Inspire Learning by persisting with difficult tasks and never giving up. Fantastic! |

**PL**

| Ella B, Beau B, Lincoln B, Jack M | For fantastic effort in writing. Keep up the great work! |

**1T**

| Jessica K | For the increased confidence you have shown in the classroom, in the playground and in your swimming lessons. |
| Caitlin H | For writing an informative and interesting recount about her class excursion to Sea World. What an inspiring writer! |

**2K**

<p>| Lily D | For staying on task and giving 110% effort in all areas of your learning. |
| Charlotte C | For working hard in the class to achieve your best. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Citation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5K</td>
<td>Callum S</td>
<td>For respecting everyone by demonstrating great skill and sportsmanship at the Interschool Sports carnivals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Harry R</td>
<td>For his initiate when completing class tasks in mathematics. Harry has a great attitude when it comes to trying his best.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ethan D</td>
<td>For his exceptional contributions in class discussions and group work. Ethan navigates his own learning by having a go and taking risks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5T</td>
<td>Dylan R</td>
<td>For Inspiring Learning by increasing his focus when working in small group tasks. He willingly accepts help and advice when given to improve his learning. Well done, Dylan!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laura C</td>
<td>For Inspiring Learning by participating well in class discussions and working hard to improve her focus in class. Congratulations, Laura!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5L</td>
<td>Lexi F</td>
<td>For respecting everyone by demonstrating great sportsmanship at the Interschool Sports Carnivals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zac R</td>
<td>For his efforts to inspire learning by focusing on his work and sharing his ideas. Well Done!</td>
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### LEARNING SUPPORT

**Sharing stories**

On the 5 of November we have the pleasure of welcoming a published author, Dianne Lonergan, to our school to share her story, ‘Mavis the Amazing Tugboat’ with the students. Dianne is a Mater Hospital volunteer who has been busy sharing her story with many schools and organisations in the local community.

Her children’s book captures the Brisbane River flood in 2011 as the tugboat battles against the disaster, but finally survives in the end showing both bravery and an optimistic outlook on the situation. While this novel is written for a young audience, the underlying message is ageless and supported with a PowerPoint for the older students to educate them on how to have your novel published and illustrated.

If your child wishes to purchase a copy of the novel, please place your child’s name and class on the front of an envelope along with $10 enclosed and hand into the office before the 3 of November. 100% of the proceeds go to the Mater Mothers Redlands. Students will receive their signed copy by the author on the day of the event.

The Quest

This week three students, Fletcher, Alice and Ashleigh, will participate and represent our school in a two day challenge in the areas of literacy, numeracy and humanities at Mansfield State School. The first day will prepare and strengthen the students’ problem solving skills, and the second day will allow them to put these skills into action. We wish them good luck and congratulate them on being selected for this challenging opportunity.

### 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 3 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.

### ARTS NEWS

The countdown is on for this year’s ‘Music Count Us In’ which will be happening this Thursday 30th October at 12.30pm in the UNITAS. Music Count Us In is an annual event that celebrates music making in schools. Schools registered nationwide will sing the song ‘Paint you a song’ at the same time on the same day.
Students have been rehearsing really well on the song for the last few weeks, and I am looking forward to an excellent performance. Parents are welcome to the performance, the more people we have singing the better! If you would like more info on music count us in, you can check out the website - http://musiccountusin.org.au. If you would like to hear the song and/or practice the song check out: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KmkLWpG203s

Coming up....End of Year Concert - November 10, K-Mart Wishing Tree Appeal - November 12, Xmas Carols Night - November 26

Happy Musicing! - Paul Tyrrell

**TUCKSHOP NEWS**

**Wednesday 29th October**
Terri Comerford
Felicity Shipton

**Thursday 30th October**
Louise Lowcock
Annie McHerron

**Friday 31st October**
Nigel Wright
Deb Kemp
Louise Lowcock
help needed?
2nd Break
Leila Winterburn

Instead of sending yoghurt in your child's lunch box in this hot weather, why not just get it from tuckshop.
Gluten Free - Mango, Mixed Berry, Lime Splice and Natural for $2.00 each.

Renee 0411523969

**SCHOOL BANKING**

**Congratulations to the Banker of the week ISAAC L from 1T. Isaac we have deposited $2 into your bank account.**

School Banking is every Tuesday.

To all St Rita’s family and friends we would love to see you so pop in anytime for help with any of your banking needs. We’re open Mon – Thur 9.30am – 4.30, Fri 9.30-5.00, Sat 9am – 12 noon.

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

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

SPEAK (Speaking Promotes Education and Knowledge)
Thank you to all those who attended the Pirates and Princesses day at Capalaba Library on Saturday. It was great to see so many children, parents and grandparents having fun and sharing quality time together. Improving children’s oral language through activities like these not only helps with literacy foundations but can also help build self esteem and confidence. Why not download the free SPEAK app and try some of the activities yourself? (Available free from iTunes)

The Pirates and Princesses day at Capalaba library went well, 40 - 45 children (about ten of these from St Rita’s). Abigail R from PT won one of the prizes.

**YEAR 5 - RECYCLING PRESCRIPTION GLASSES AND CASES**

5K have been researching Fred Hollows and his wonderful life changing work restoring peoples sight. We decided the nearest way we could help people who are less fortunate than us is to collect and recycle prescription glasses and cases. Although we cannot donate them to the Fred Hollows Foundation, we can collect them on behalf of the Lions Club of Brisbane. They sort and grade the prescription glasses and give them to people who cannot access or afford the glasses they need.

So please can you look at home and donate any prescription glasses that you may have. A box is in the school Office ready for your donation.

**UNIFORM SHOP**

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

For all those families that have ordered uniforms for Year 3, your orders are ready for collection. It would be appreciated if you could please have them picked up and paid for by November 7.

**UNIFORM SHOP WILL BE CLOSED ON THURSDAY NOVEMBER 6 and FRIDAY NOVEMBER 21**