FROM THE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

Yesterday we welcomed our new Prep students for 2015 to their Orientation Day. It was great to see so many beaming smiles and excited chatter and by all accounts we look forward to a very vibrant group of learners ready for their “big school” experience in the new year. In view of this, we are implementing a new initiative this year and that is to invite our 2015 Prep students to attend three more morning sessions over the next three Tuesdays – while the current Preps have their specialist lessons. Our dedicated Prep teachers believe that this will be of great benefit for a strong and smooth start to the new school experience come the end of January.

Christmas is Coming!
We heard on Assembly this week about our Parish Christmas Eve Mass for families and that our children are encouraged to participate. Please read further details within the newsletter. It is sure to be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate faith and family. It is also a reminder that some children may be thinking of writing Christmas Cards for classmates and teachers. Our practice is to share these within class time and not before school, ensure that everyone is included and - in the interest of healthy teeth - please do not send in lollies or candy canes.

Remembrance Day – Local Community
We are very proud of our Year 6 teachers and students who represented our school at a Remembrance Day Service hosted by Faith Primary yesterday. It was a memorable and informative experience for our students as they learned of local service men and women within our Redlands Community who set off to serve our young nation a Century ago. Our gratitude to Faith for this gracious invitation for all of our Year 6 students to attend.

Showcase Spectacular – Music Concert
I thoroughly enjoyed all of the performances from our many talented and enthusiastic musicians, singers and dancers on Monday evening for the end of year concert. While I see students walking to and from lessons with guitars – I had no idea just how many budding Eric Claptons we have at St Rita’s! Whether being a member of our school band, choirs, guitarists, pianists, singers and/or dancers – you all make our school rich in cultural experiences.

Today our Senior Choir opened the Salvation Army Wishing Tree Appeal at Kmart with some splendid Christmas Carols.
Next Tuesday evening we have our combined SPN and School Board Dinner in the Unitas Centre. Please contact Belinda in the school office by this Friday if you would like to attend. It is a time to celebrate our work Together in Family for the year and you are most welcome.

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

Anne

Cohort Mass: Prep – Wednesday 12 Nov 9:00am
Today we commemorated Remembrance Day with one minute’s silence at 11:00am. One hundred years ago on the 1 November 1914 Australian and New Zealand troops sailed for Turkey and other battlefields in World War One. The rest of Australia did not find this out for another three weeks! Think how different our world is today, anything news worthy that occurs locally or internationally, we know almost instantly through social networks and real time online reporting.

Our year 6 cohort were especially invited to attend the 100 Year’s Remembrance Day Celebrations at Faith Lutheran Junior today.

The Faith Remembrance Day Ceremony means to us a great deal because it commemorates the soldiers that fought for our country and our freedom during World War I. if they didn’t, our lives might not be the same today. It also means a lot because people gave their time to talk to us. The ceremony also showed us that not only men fought during the war, but women also volunteered and had a great deal to do with the war.

Doirind and Lara

Remembrance Day ~ let quiet contemplation be your gift

At 11 am on 11 November 1918 the guns of the Western Front fell silent after more than four years continuous warfare. The allied armies had driven the German invaders back, having inflicted heavy defeats upon them over the preceding four months. In November the Germans called for an armistice (suspension of fighting) in order to secure a peace settlement. They accepted the allied terms of unconditional surrender.

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month attained a special significance in the post-war years. The moment when hostilities ceased on the Western Front became universally associated with the remembrance of those who had died in the war. This first modern world conflict had brought about the mobilisation of over 70 million people and left between 9 and 13 million dead, perhaps as many as one-third of them with no known grave. The allied nations chose this day and time for the commemoration of their war dead and called it Armistice Day.

After the end of the Second World War, the Australian and British governments changed the name to Remembrance Day. Armistice Day was no longer an appropriate title for a day which would commemorate all war dead. Today we continue in that tradition as we not only commemorate those who died in past conflicts, but we also think of our Defence Force members presently serving on active operations in various parts of the world.

‘No one has greater love than this, than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.’

Together we offer this prayer
O God, our ruler and guide, In whose hands are the destinies of this and every nation,
We give you thanks for the freedoms we enjoy in this land and for those who laid down their lives to defend them:
We pray that we and all the people of Australia, gratefully remembering their courage and their sacrifice,
May have the grace to live in a spirit of justice, of generosity, and of peace;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Greg Whitby is the Director of Catholic Education in Parramatta and an educator whom I have come to greatly respect and I was fortunate to hear Greg speak at a Conference some time ago. In a recent interview, he talked around the importance of teaching, he made some incisive comments worthy of consideration, and I have shared some of them below.
On the topic of quality schooling, Whitby would suggest it’s about relevance and context. The best learning occurs when the learner can apply learning in a purposeful way. The existing model of schooling was suitable to a certain time and context. That time has passed and we need to identify new models that meet the needs of learners today and in the future. The core of teaching is about knowing the learners and how they learn. The critical tools for teachers will be data and evidence, rather than command and control. They will use an array of new tools, like technology, and the role of the teacher will transition from being the expert, to being a learner.

Short term changes along ideological lines have not, and are not succeeding. We have seen the introduction of high-stakes testing – and we will see it disappear. We have seen things like rote learning come in, go out, and come in again. We have seen school based curriculum, State based, and so on. Such policies have promised much, and delivered little. The only way to drive continuous improvement is to invest in the people who do the work – our teachers and leaders. Teachers themselves, will continue to define what the profession is like as the work evolves. The more we try to impose on the profession, the less likely we are to get the outcomes we seek.

Teachers derive more energy and passion from their commitment to working with young people and their colleagues than their pay and conditions. This is evidenced by the many extra hours the majority of teachers give to their work, beyond the normal 9-3 school day. Reducing the complex work of teachers to mere dollars and cents demeans the profession.

You can see evidence of Greg’s ideas clearly at St Rita’s. We are responding to our learners to ensure they can learn in ways that are meaningful to them. Furthermore, technology in our school is to be further developed as a teaching tool with teachers focused on their own learning so that they can effectively help students to learn. Next Thursday afternoon, the teaching staff of St Rita’s will have their fourth and final Professional Development twilight for 2014. The PD will include working with Fawmatt on how to utilise ‘OneNote’ as a useful and meaningful tool in the classroom for our students.

All the best
Shane

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**SCHOOL FEES**

School Fees were due last **Friday, 7 November.** Prompt payment is now required. If you have any concerns please contact the school office immediately.

**CARMEL COLLEGE ORIENTATION DAY**

This year Carmel College will be holding their Orientation Day for Year 8, 2015 students on Tuesday 25 November and Year 7, 2015 students on Monday 1 December 2014.

The purpose of this day is to:
- Familiarise students with their new surroundings
- Assist students in making contact with other students in their year level
- Meet teachers and senior year’s students.

The Principal Mr Eastaughffe and staff look forward to welcoming our students on these days.

**DYSLEXIA SUPPORT GROUP MEETING**

Dyslexia Support Group Term 4 Meeting 2014. You are most welcome to attend the final Dyslexia Support Group Meeting for 2014.

The details for the meeting are as follows:-
- **Date:** Monday 24th November
- **Time:** 6:00 pm for 6:30 pm start
- **Location:** Victoria Point Tavern

Mrs Owbridge will speak about her personal journey. Look forward to see you all!
Raymond Schwartz
Guidance Counsellor

**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

We are now moving into the final rounds of the season. All teams will play through till Friday the 28 November.
Redlands touch will also be hosting a ‘Grand Final Family Fun Day’ on 29 November, where teams that make the final play throughout the day from 9-2pm.

Congratulations to all those boys and girls involved in teams this year. I would also like to thank Mrs Hill, Mr Brammer, Mr Fernando, Mrs Barton, Darren Edwards and Dennis Winterburn for their help and support coaching and managing teams this year.

For those students interested in playing next year - Notes will go home in the coming weeks.

**P-3 Swimming Carnival**
The Prep to Year 3 Swimming Carnival will be held on **Monday 17 November** at the **Cleveland Aquatics Centre**. The day will be broken into two smaller sessions. Prep and Year One will attend their carnival from 9.00am to 11.30am and Year Two and Three from 11.45am to 2.15pm.

Looking forward to a great day!

**St Rita’s Representative Sport Singlets/Netball Dresses**
We are still currently waiting on a few representative singlets/dresses to be returned from sporting events earlier last term and this term. Can these please be returned to Mr Kenyon by the end of next week.

**Upcoming Important Dates:**
17 November – P-3 Swimming Carnival
21 November – Bayside Swimming Carnival

**SCHOOL PHONE**
 Please remember to use the absentee line (3207 6628, option 3) to leave messages regarding students not attending school. Please leave the following information by **9.00am on the day of absence**:

- Date
- Your name
- Your child’s name and class
- And reason for absence.

There are also options for school fees and enrolments.

Please ensure if you need to get a message to your child that it is done before 1.00pm as often classes are out of their rooms in the afternoon session. As we communicate with the classroom via an internal phone we cannot guarantee messages will be received in a timely manner.

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**ASSEMBLY AWARDS**

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<tr>
<th>PL</th>
<th>Maya C, Blake S and Lacey-Reign P</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></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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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabella H and Levi W</th>
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<tr>
<td>You have been making fantastic progress with reading and writing. Keep it up!</td>
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<tr>
<th>1T</th>
<th>Mariana K</th>
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<td></td>
<td>For demonstrating resilience when things are challenging and for your bubbly personality which brightens up our classroom.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Ben M</th>
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<tr>
<td>For persisting to complete your work in class and for always showing respect to your teachers and friends.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Sarah M</th>
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<tr>
<td>For writing an interesting and informative recount about your family trip to North Queensland.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Lucas R</th>
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<tr>
<td>For sharing wonderful information with us about your family trip to Portugal.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Jack S</th>
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<tr>
<td>For working so hard to improve your reading skills this year. Your hard work has certainly paid off.</td>
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<th>Jessica H</th>
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<tr>
<td>For working so hard this year to improve your reading skills. You should be very proud of the progress you have made.</td>
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<tr>
<th>1L</th>
<th>Theo M</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For the confident way that you have started school at St Rita’s, we are glad to have you in our class!</td>
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<th>Erin K</th>
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<td>For the way that you show kindness and friendship to everyone around you. Well done, Erin!</td>
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<th>Tillia Sy</th>
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<tr>
<td>For always trying your best with your school work. Keep up the great work, Tillia!</td>
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<tr>
<th>Keagan W</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For working so hard at everything that you do. You are doing so well, Keagan!</td>
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<th>2K</th>
<th>Chase S</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For being a responsible student and always doing your best in all areas of your learning. Well done!</td>
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<tr>
<th>Ashleigh H</th>
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<tr>
<td>For participating in ‘the Quest.’ and completing activities in maths and science over a two day period. We are so proud of you.</td>
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</table>
**SCHOOL BANKING**

Congratulations to the Banker of the week Mia W from 4L. Mia 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

**CMJ DAY**

On Friday the 31 of October Saint Rita’s had CMJ day. CMJ Day stands for Catholic Mission for Jamaica Day. To participate in the day we all were invited to wear clothes that Jamaicans generally wear or just bright coloured clothes. We were also allowed to wear a tea cozy (beanie). It was a very successful day with St. Rita’s raising $500 altogether. The money Saint Rita’s raised will be going to Catholic Mission so they can help the poor and homeless in Jamaica. Thank you to everyone who participated in this very successful day.

Cody – Year 7.

**LEARNING SUPPORT**

Sharing Stories.
Recently three of our St. Rita students participated in a 2 day challenge at Mansfield State School. Fletcher W, from 3T, has written a description of the day below.

On the 29 and 30 of October Alice and Ashleigh from 2K and I participated in the quest challenge at Mansfield state school. The three subjects we participated in were maths, science and humanities. In maths we learnt about decimal points and percentages. In science we did a thing called myths v’s reality. In humanities we learnt about Greek gods. The hardest was maths. Our team didn’t make it to the finals. I would like to do it again next year.

Paul Tyrrell
**TUCKSHOP NEWS**

**Wednesday 12th November**
Terri Comerford  
Felicity Shipton

**Thursday 13th November**
Maria Kease  
Annie McHerron

**Friday 14th November**
Louise Lowcock  
Deb Kemp  
Cilla Mihajlovic  

**2nd Break**
Louise Lowcock  
Nigel Wright

When pre-ordering Sushi through the bag system.  Please make sure you send a paper bag with the money in it when placing the order. We do not place orders if there is no money.

For all inquiries please do not hesitate to contact me anytime. Renee 0411523969 or email rsaleh@bne.catholic.edu.au

**YEAR 6 BEACH PARTY**

There is money still outstanding for Year 6 Beach Party. If your child is attending money must be in by this Thursday 13 November. Any queries to Julie Johnstone 0403 577 424.

**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 as soon as possible.

**SCHOOL DENTAL NEWS**

The dental van leaves St Ritas on 11/11/14. Children and families can still access free dental care, even when the van is not on-site, by phoning Metro South Oral Health Hub on 1300 300 850 to arrange bookings at a convenient oral health facility in the local bayside area. Appointments will be available throughout the next school holiday period (please see attached flyer for details). Looking forward to caring for your families oral health needs in the future.  
Colleen & Donna
For the Year 6 and Year 7 End of Year Party
Pop down to see “A Hidden Identity Costumes” for all your children’s needs. St Rita’s families will receive a 10% discount.

San Sisto College
Women of Integrity Shaping the Future

San Sisto College has been able to expand the enrolment capacity for 2015. We therefore currently have vacancies for Years 7 and 8 in 2015. Please contact the college on 3900 9800 for an enrolment package.

BUYING or SELLING
David Bradley
m: 0412 557 777
e: davidbradley@remax.com.au

Metro South Health provides free dental care to children throughout our region.

Who is eligible?
✓ All children aged 4 through to year 10
✓ Students in years 11 and 12 who have a current Centrelink Card, Healthcare Card or Pension Card
✓ 0-3 year olds whose parents have a current Centrelink Card, Healthcare Card or Pension Card
✓ 2-7 year olds who are eligible for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule

Who needs to attend the appointment?
A parent or legal guardian is required to attend every dental appointment.

How do I make an appointment?
You can now book an appointment for you and your child at a time and location convenient for you. For all appointments, please telephone:

1300 300 850

Cost of a local call. Calls from mobile phones may be charged at a higher rate. Please check with your telephone service provider.

SCHOOL REWARDS PROGRAM
HELPING EVERYONE AT ST RITA’S PRIMARY SCHOOL FIND THEIR FIT

The Athlete’s Foot Carrum and Capalaba are our recommended suppliers of school and sports shoes.

Our expert fitters will use the world’s most comprehensive fit analysis tool to help find your perfect fit.
NEW SWIM CLUB
AT THE YMCA VICTORIA POINT
JUNIOR - ADULT
PRICES FROM $7
ALL YEAR ROUND HEATED POOL
MORNING & AFTERNOON
SESSIONS

RAINGROVE PTY LTD
SAP Consulting Services
Mobile: 0407 102 211 Email: raingrove@bigpond.com
A.B.N. 16 010 453 075
Children of St Rita’s Parish Family

We Need You!

For our Christmas Vigil Mass
On

Wednesday 24th December 2014 @ 6pm

There are many ways you can take part. We need your skills!

- Choir Members
- Readers
- Altar Servers (Trained)
- Gospel Drama- Boys and Girls
- Welcome Procession
- Communion Procession

The rehearsals will take place each Sunday during Advent:

- Sunday 30th November from 10:00am - 10:30am in the Unitas Centre at St Rita‘School.
- Sunday 7th December from 10:00am - 10:30am in the Unitas Centre at St Rita‘School.
- Sunday 14th December from 10:00am - 10:30am in the Unitas Centre at St Rita‘School.
- Sunday 21st December from 10:00am - 11:00am in the Unitas Centre at St Rita‘School.

(Final Dress rehearsal and opportunity for parents to take photographs)

Lord Jesus Christ, You loved children so much that you said:
“Whoever welcomes a child welcomes me.”

For all enquiries contact Candice at the Parish office: Telephone: 07 3207 9177 or Email: holyjoe@ozemail.com.au