FROM THE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

If you’ve been up and around our lovely school recently, you would have noticed some interesting natural works of art immersed in our trees and garden deck area. These are the art installations as a result of our pilot weaving project – “Weaving our World” – facilitated by sculptor and artist, Carly Kotynski. The children have continued to speak of this experience and are now enjoying the appreciative phase of the art experience. The Year 3 project is hopefully a pilot to something on a wider and whole school scale for 2015 should we be successful in applying for an Art Queensland Grant.

Outstanding School Fees
It is that time of year when we are finalising accounts and request that all outstanding fees be paid for the 2014 school year. Thank you to our families who have done so already. With the emailing of accounts it is easy for these to be overlooked. Please contact our school office if there is a difficulty with payment. Otherwise prompt payment is appreciated.

School Board and School Parent Network Combined Dinner
This evening, members of our SPN and School Board will be joining together to celebrate our achievements for 2014 and to also say a special farewell to Shannon Edwards who has been the Chairperson for the SPN for the previous three years. Shannon brings great vitality and commitment to our school community as a parent and regular relief teacher. We wish Shannon, Craig and their four children our best wishes as they re-settle into family life back in the suburb of Manly.

Parent Portal
In the coming days you will receive an email to launch a new web portal for our parent community. Access to this is restricted to our school parents and you will be supplied with a password for you to log on with. Substantial preparation to have the parent portal ready for use has been the responsibility of our School Administration Team and we are appreciative of their work and expertise to have this contemporary communication tool ready to go. It is vital that your email address is always current and please advise the school office of any changes.

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

Anne
IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday 19 November  Middle Years Assembly
Thursday 20 November  Early Years Assembly
Friday 21 November  Year 4 Mass 9am, Bayside Swimming
Monday 24 November  Booklist Orders Due,
Next Week  Carol’s Night

We extend a warm welcome to all to join our Year Level Masses.

This Week:  Year 4:  Friday 21 November
Next Week:  Year 5:  Tuesday 25 November

Advent

The season of Advent, the time of preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas and the start of the liturgical year in the Roman Catholic Church, begins on a different date each year. Advent begins on the Sunday nearest to the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle (30 November) and embracing four Sundays. That means that the First Sunday of Advent 2014 is Sunday 30 November.

Term four in schools is traditionally very busy, filled with thanksgivings, end of year celebrations and farewells. Advent only really begins in the last week of the term, therefore we take these finals weeks to teach about the season of Advent. Teachers allow for opportunities to teach in context, and the share the rich spiritual traditions of this important season. These opportunities can be incorporated into the preparation of liturgies and end of year prayer thanksgivings.

As we wind down for the year, let us take some quiet moments over the next few weeks to be grateful for 2014, and ever thankful for the opportunities of friendship and companionship within our St Rita’s Community.

Readings for the Season of Advent:

Have a peaceful week everyone.

Lagi

"The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago. The second best time is today." Chinese proverb.
The final term of the school year is a crazy time not only in schools but in all aspects of our lives. End of year reporting, class allocations, timetabling, budgets and planning for the impending holidays and Christmas, swamp us at a time when our energies may be low and many of us feel we are running on empty.

By the end of the year, we are more likely to be sensitive, ‘thin skinned’ and emotional because we are run down and in need of that well-earned break. We shouldn’t be surprised. The same thing happens at this time every year. The important thing is how we respond to this challenge.

Monitoring our talk and our sensitivity are particularly important at this time of the year. We are far more susceptible to allowing irritations that would not normally have an effect on us to get to us. Our resistance is low and we are vulnerable to both attack from outside and poor decisions within. Now is the time to watch our words, resist the temptation to ‘shoot from the hip’ and make decisions on the run.

It is when times are tough that reputations are truly made. A harsh or insensitive word to someone can undermine our good work in building relationships throughout the year. It is important to be aware of our moods and on guard that we think before we act. Remember back to the start of the year. Most of us start the year with energy, vim and vigour. We were rejuvenated by the break and were ready to put all of our energies into being as effective as we possibly could.

The old adage ‘beginners are many, finishers are few’ is worth remembering. It is important to finish strong, just like we started the year. Whilst our reserves may be running low, it is vital to remain focused and finish the year well. Our credibility in the eyes of others is based on results. Our ability to complete our projects, meet deadlines and follow tasks through to completion.

“A brand for a company is like a reputation for a person. You earn reputation by trying to do hard things well.” Jeff Bezos, Founder and CEO Amazon

Stephen Covey, the author of the book, “Seven Habits of Highly Effective People” talks about when world-class marathon runners ‘hit the wall’ and they feel like they can’t go on, instead of focusing on their exhaustion and how tired they are feeling and going into the ‘survival shuffle’, they lift up their head and pick up the pace. This is a vital mind set for everyone at this time of the year. By picking up the pace, you are really saying to yourself that you’re not just going to finish, you’re going to finish strong. (By Steve Francis MScM, Bed, DipT)

Ms Mckenny mentioned to us all on assembly in week 5 the importance of finishing strong at St Rita’s for 2015 and I think the above article echoes the many benefits in doing so. All the best

Shane
SCHOOL FEES

Prompt payment of overdue fees is required. If you are experiencing difficulty and payment cannot be made please contact the finance department as soon as possible. Parents paying by direct debit, a reminder that camp costs are not included in your direct debit and a separate payment is required. Thanking you. Krys Kuropka

STUDENT MEDICAL FORMS

The Student medical forms were sent home this week. Please ensure these are returned to the school office by Friday 28 November. This information is very important, and needs to be updated every year, for every child.

BOOKLISTS

Book lists have been emailed. 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.

SCHOOL PARENT NETWORK

Weaving our World
During the first week of November the Year 3 classes participated in the 'Weaving Our World' project. I was fortunate to be able to assist the 3T class as a parent helper. I have never done anything like this and was amazed to learn about the natural resources we have in our school grounds and local community that can easily be manipulated to make unique pieces of art. You may have noticed the mandala display at the end of E Block, the birds nests and baskets hanging from the trees or the play hut next to the deck. These were all made by our talented Year 3 students. We are very thankful to the local Redland City Council for the Regional Arts Development grant that enabled us to run this as a pilot project and are hopeful that this can be extended to all the classes at St Rita's in 2015. In order for this to happen we need as much feedback as possible from the whole school community. It would be very much appreciated if you could have a look at the webpage http://weavingourworld.weebly.com and submit your feedback in the contact section.

MONTHLY VOLUNTEER DRAW

Be in the running to win two adult Cineplex movie tickets. All you need to do is place your volunteers registry ticket in the box beside the sign in register on the counter in the school office. Each month a ticket will be drawn and that volunteer will be rewarded for their time. Congratulations to our latest winner, Kylie Fontyne, who won two movie tickets!

ASSEMBLY AWARDS

The following students received Gus Gotcha awards at this week's assembly:

PK - Tamika, Jade, Tia, Stella, Breanna, Paige, Lainey, Kayley, Timmy, Cooper, Vincent, Fionn, Sebastian.
PT - Jack, Ellie-May, Quin, Sofia, Laurel, Abbie, Zoe, Michael, Marc, Nate, Izack.
1K - Ashton.
1T - Bae, Madeline, Mia, Jackson, Jesse, Jessica H, Ebony, Levi.
2K - Sam, Oliver, Thomas, Hunter, Taylor.
2T - Brandon.
2L - Brandon.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PT</th>
<th>For Inspiring others with great number skills! Fantastic!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grace R</td>
<td>For Inspiring others by persisting with difficult tasks. Great Effort.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Izack C</td>
<td>For continually inspiring others by persisting with difficult tasks. Wow!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte T</td>
<td>For your excellent observations during our science experiments. Brilliant!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3K

| Zac F | Great work Zac. You have been putting in a great effort to your religion. Your retelling of the story of Matthew was wonderful. |
**3T**

Kaden M  
Well Done Kaden! Your positive attitude every day is a great asset! You are a great friend to everyone in the classroom.

Bella W  
Bella, you approach each day full of sunshine. You always manage to see the good in everyone and everything. Thankyou for being such a positive member of 3T!!!

Jakob T  
Great work Jakob. You treat your classmates and teachers in a calm and kind manner. This shows RESPECT for others. Well Done!!!!!

Sienna M  
Welcome to St Rita’s and 3T. We are so pleased to meet you and are glad you joined our class!!!!

**4T**

Chantelle M  
For increasing effort in being a responsible and successful learner. Keep it going, Chantelle, you’re doing well!

Amy S  
For Respecting Everyone by always using good manners in the classroom.

**NEWS FROM THE RESOURCE CENTRE**

Where has the year gone? It's been a very busy year in the library! Record sales at our Book Fair, students participating in the MS Readathon, supporting the Indigenous Book Swap.....

We would like to thank the wonderful mums and grandmas who have helped with book covering during the year. Please come in and see us, if you would like to help out with this task. Many hands make light work.

Now the time has come for all library books to be returned. Please look in all the usual hiding places for any missing books. Come in and see Maureen or Jo if you think your child has returned their books, but you are still getting reminder notices.

Thanks for a great year.

**WEAVING OUR WORLD**

**Artist-run project**

Earlier this month I had the wonderful opportunity to work with the year 3 students on an art project we called ‘Weaving Our World’. This opportunity saw each of the year 3 classes spend a full day with me, using the Environmental Garden as our outdoor classroom, to learn about native plants and weeds and to weave with these natural fibres.

Our mornings were spent learning the weaving technique and creating flat mandalas that we installed as a beautiful screen within the grove of trees near the water bubblers outside E block.

Still enthused, the students built upon their new skills and then created baskets, bowls and birds’ nests which were later hung in the trees throughout the school grounds with the help of the year 5 buddies.

In the afternoons, each of the students took part weaving cane into the wonderful playcave hut which now lives beneath fig tree beside the deck. Bob has been preparing the garden bed for the hut with a pathway, plants and vines which will soon grow up and over the hut.

The environmental education officer from Indigiscapes also came and talked to the students about weeds and how they affect not only the native plants of the Redlands area but also the wildlife and waterways and what goes into tackling the problems they cause.

On Friday morning the year 3 students became teachers and showed the other students around the school explaining what they had learnt and created during the workshops.

This project connects in with the strong environmental focus that St Rita’s has and was made possible through an RADF grant and the support of the school’s leadership team and the SPN. We hope to build upon this project next year and extend it to involve the entire school.

You can read more about the project on the website www.weavingourworld.weebly.com and are welcome to please leave a comment on the contact page to strengthen our application next year.

- Carly Kotynski

On Monday November 3, I went to weaving for the whole day. I made a spider’s webs and a basket out of twigs and leaves. After second break I was sent up as part of a group of 6 to weave a big bird’s house. I had a great day.

Georgia Hunt 3T
**ST RITA’S RANGERS**

**St Rita’s Rangers visit to Brisbane City Council, Waste Education Centre, Rochedale.**

As a member of the Redland City Council, RedWaste School Programme, we were privileged to be invited to visit the Landfill site in Rochedale where the Redlands rubbish is taken.

Thirty students were very lucky to have been given a tour of the Landfill site. We all sat on a bus and were driven around the site where we saw how a landfill site operates. We saw the rubbish trucks arrive and the large dozers that compressed the waste to save space. We were shown the network of pipes that collect the Leachate and methane gas, which are toxic substances which are produced from the breakdown and decomposition of our waste inside the landfill sites. The landfill sites have to be lined with thick clay and plastic to save our Earth from being poisoned. Brisbane City Council explained how they recycle this toxic gas into clean electrical power enough to feed 10,000 homes a day.

We spent lunch on the deck where turtles swam underneath us and then Craig Duncan from Redland City Council took us through the Education Centre. We were taught how we should look at our rubbish by avoiding the use of some items, reducing our creation of waste, ways in which we should reuse everything we have, to recycle items where possible and only disposing where absolutely necessary. We really need to consider ways to reduce how much waste goes into the landfill. We have brought lots of ideas back to school for us to improve our reducing, reusing and recycling at St Rita’s into 2015.

**PIANO/KEYBOARD LESSONS FOR 2015**

Enrolments are currently being taken for piano and keyboard lessons for 2015. If you are interested in your child having lessons at school please collect an expression of interest form from the office or contact me on Vicki.Minogue@bigpond.com for more details.

Vicki Minogue - Piano/keyboard Teacher
0407 027 216

**MUSIC NEWS**

Congratulations to all Senior Choir students who performed as part of the Salvation Army/K-Mart Christmas Wish Appeal last Wednesday. Students sang beautifully and the choir received excellent reports from their performance. Well done! As a special treat Senior Choir students will be attending a trip to ‘Bounce’ on Monday 24th November for all their hard work this year.

This year’s ‘Christmas Carols Night’ will be on Wednesday 26th November, starting at 6pm on school oval. There will be a Parish Barbecue on the oval starting at 5pm, with food and drink for sale. Please bring a blanket or chair to sit on, and let’s celebrate the festive spirit with our students at St Rita’s. Good luck to our Junior Choir students who will be performing at Merebello Aged Care Facility on Monday December 1st at 1.30pm.

Paul Tyrrell

**SCHOOL BANKING**

Congratulations to the Banker of the week Taylor C from 2K. Taylor BOQ 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. Last school banking for the year next week. Well done to all our clever little savers in 2014. See you all in 2015

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

**MINI VINNIES CHRISTMAS AND BACK-TO-SCHOOL APPEAL**

With Christmas fast approaching and as preparations for the festive season begin, it’s time when our thoughts turn to those less fortunate than ourselves. The Mini Vinnies are once again running a Christmas and Back-to-School Appeal and are asking for your help.

Please show your support for families in our local community by donating from the list of items requested by our Parish St Vincent De Paul group. All items will stay within our Parish, and are sure to brighten up somebody’s Christmas.
A very big THANKYOU to Esperanza Ponce De Leon for donating her wonderful Organic Iced Tea for the Prep Orientation Day. They were very refreshing on such a hot day. If anyone has any enquiries about the Iced Tea please pop in and see me and I can forward on her details.

Renee 0411523969

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**Year** | **Collecting...** | **Reps**
--- | --- | ---
Prep | Christmas Lollies/ Candy Canes (No chocolates) | Lauren, Piper, Isabel
Year 1 | Christmas Puddings | Annie, Hannah, Caitlin
Year 2 | Christmas Cakes | Kasey, Lara, Mia W.
Year 3 | Tinned Ham | Nicola, Danielle, Gemma
Year 4 | Tinned biscuits/ shortbread/ fruit mince pies | Shanae, Libby, Breanna S.
Year 5 | Soft Drinks/ Cordial | Katie, Jessica, Maddie.
Year 6 | Back-to-school snacks/ Poppers | Doirind, Eleanor, Alexandra
Year 7 | Christmas Decorations/ Tinsel/ Bonbons | Michaela, Mia T, Breanna H.
Staff | $5-$10 small gift for a primary school aged-child | Dakota, Taylor

Appeal runs from Monday 3 November to Wednesday 26 November. The collection will be presented to the St Rita's Parish St Vincent De Paul group at our carols evening.

*Please ensure that all food items are non-perishable.*

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**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.

---

**TUCKSHOP NEWS**

**Wednesday 19th November**
Trish McNamara
Leila Winterburn

**Thursday 20th November**
help needed??
help needed??

**Friday 21st November**
Michelle Kotynski
Maggie Helmn
help needed??
2ND Break
Michelle Kotynski

---

**St Rita’s Parish BBQ at the Carols Evening**

Enjoy supper under the stars!
We will be serving the following BBQ Food:
- Steak Burgers
- Sausages
- Beef Hamburgers
- Cold drinks

*Wednesday 26 November from 5pm!*

**St Rita’s Craft Group Christmas Stall.**
Great stocking fillers
And Christmas goodies for sale.
Come along and grab a bargain!

**Glow candles also for sale!**

*Wednesday 26 November at the Christmas Carol Evening.*
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

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Bayside Properties
m: 0412 557 777 e: davidbradley@remax.com.au

It won’t be news to you that kids can be expensive. But it might surprise you to learn just how costly it can be.

The AMP NAPISEM report, Cost of Kids, has found that an average middle-income family will spend over $860,000 to raise two kids. And if mum and dad want a private education for their children, then the bill shoots well over $1 million\(^2\). The first step can be the simplest - to meet with us and come up with a plan. Contact Nicole Pennestelli today on 07 3828 9699 or email nicole@basicfinancial.com.au for more information.

EDUCATIONAL TUTORING
Beau Vetsich
Registered Teacher
Redlands
Brisbane
0410 641 035
b_vetsich@hotmail.com

St Rita’s WINTERFEST

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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

Altar Servers (Trained)

Welcome Procession

Readers

Gospel Drama - Boys and Girls

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