Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

Faith and Friendship
We had a great morning of Faith and Friendship on Sunday with thanks to our energetic SPN organising another family fun day beginning with Sunday Mass. I think having this a little later in the year turned out well – with our beautiful Queensland wintry sunshine lending itself to some vigorous physical activity (mostly the Dads!) and a great way to catch up and soak up some warmth with a coffee and a good chat (mostly the Mums 😊).

So…. to this week…….
Tomorrow we celebrate St Rita’s Day with a whole school mass in the Unitas Centre welcoming Fr Peter Wienke OSA while Fr Leo is attending a conference in Sydney this week. Last year’s St Rita’s Day brought to us the creation of “Gus Augustine” – our school mascot. This year, we will have a team from Brisbane Catholic Education Music Fire to help us create a new school song reflecting our current vision and vibrancy as a great Catholic School. We will also have a film crew here to shoot some footage for our new school website.

(By the way, have you registered your email address yet? This is needed from all families – even if you have provided your current address in recent times to our school office. Please do this online via the website”.

We will also be launching our St Rita’s Wool Club tomorrow – a lunch time activity for weaving, knitting craft skills.

On Friday, we have our Walk to School Safely Day and on Sunday, we have a St Rita’s team participating in the Redlands Koala Fun Run. Please see the information for both of these events within the newsletter – we are certainly active within the local community this week.

School Fees
All accounts have been issued and I encourage you to make payments within the due date. Our school fees are vital to maintain our standards for resourcing and school maintenance. If you are having financial difficulty, please make contact with Krys, our Finance Secretary, to arrange for a concession. Our thanks to all parents who are maintaining this important commitment.

Farewell for Now
Thursday will be my last day here at St Rita’s until returning in Week 6 next term. Thank you for your good wishes for my forthcoming travel and leadership experiences which I am very much looking forward to. I do so, with complete faith in our team at St Rita’s to sustain and progress our many great initiatives in learning and community building throughout this time.

May God’s peace and blessings continue to be with you and your family.

Anne McKenny
Principal
**WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN**

When you shop at Woolworths you can collect Earn & Learn Points from the checkout operator and place them on a Woolworths Earn & Learn Points Sheet. There’ll be 1 Earn & Learn Point for every $10 spent. Once completed, the sheets can be placed in the Woolworths Earn & Learn Collection Box in the Library.

**NAPLAN**

Last week, our year 3, 5 and 7 students sat examinations which have in a limited nature tested their knowledge of language conventions which are spelling, grammar and punctuation, their reading comprehension, their ability to write given a set topic, their understanding of mathematical concepts and the use of a calculator.

I have been very impressed and proud of the manner in which all our children and our teachers have approached these tests as they can be a ‘little stressful’.

The results of these tests will be forthcoming most probably late in third term. These results will be used by our teachers this year and next to assist children in areas of need. This is only one type of testing in a broad cross section of assessment that is conducted at school.

The national test results represent a snapshot of a student’s achievement at a particular point in time. They are but one form of assessment used to measure students’ development and should be considered in relation to other aspects of school assessment.

Further information about the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is available on the following website: [www.naplan.edu.au](http://www.naplan.edu.au)

**Uniform**

As the fresh mornings continue to come forth, can I remind all students that the expectation is that the correct uniform must be worn at all times. The uniform shop is open Thursday and Friday mornings from 8:00-10:00am and the new winter stock has now arrived. Please see me if you have any queries.

**ST RITA’S WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY**

**FRIDAY, 24 MAY 2013**

Walk to School Safely Day is happening at St Rita’s this Friday 24 May 2013. Get together with your friends and walk with your children to school. The following locations are the meeting points for the walk. You can also choose to join in the walk along the way.

**MEETING POINTS FOR WALK TO SCHOOL**

1. Yeo Park, Thompsons Beach, Cnr Eagle Street & Thompson Esplanade Victoria Point – assemble by 7.25am. **Supervisors** – Shannon Edwards, Martina Saunders
2. Sharks Clubs, Colburn Avenue, Victoria Point – (top car park) assemble by 7.30am. **Supervisors** – Michelle Tanham-Kelly, Ray Comerford
3. St Rita’s School Oval for those who are unable to participate in walking to school – arrive at 7.35am. **Supervisors** – Mr Shane Thompson (APA) and Mr Dan Kenyon (PE Teacher)

All children walking from Sharks Club and Thompson’s Beach must be accompanied by parents/carer to participate. If you are unable to walk to school with your child, please drop them to School for the walk around the oval at 7.35.

On arrival at each location, all children will be given a balloon to represent their participation in the morning.

On arrival at School, there will be a healthy breakfast set up on the deck and all participants will be invited to have something healthy to eat and receive a sticker for their efforts.

Looking forward to seeing you all walk to school proudly in your St Rita’s Uniform with yellow and blue balloons flowing!

Many thanks to Lisa Acret and the SPN for the organisation for this event.

All the best
Shane
Mini Vinnie’s Social Justice Day – 21st May
We congratulate Nicole, Katie, Emmerson, Madisyn, Cain, Ebonnie, Maddison and Maddisen who will be attending the Mini Vinnie’s Social Justice Day today, Tuesday 21st May. An invited group of Year 5 – 7 students from Brisbane Catholic Education schools on the South Side will come together to work through activities on social justice themes. These students will present on a whole school assembly their learnings from today.

St Rita’s Day – 22nd May 9:00am Mass
We are starting our St Rita’s day celebrations with a Mass commencing at 9:00 am in the Unitas Centre. You are most welcome to be with us as we mark the Feast of St Rita of Cascia. We are also marking the day with the commencement of the development of our school song. Staff from Brisbane Catholic education are working in small teams with children to gather key words that need to be included. Please let us know if you have any skills in this area or any great ideas for our song.

Year 5 Mass – Thursday 30th May
Our Year 5 children are leading our School / Parish Mass this Thursday commencing at 9:00 am. All are welcome to share in Eucharist as we gather as a faith filled community – please join us if you can.

Rosies and BABi Appeal starting soon - Monday 10th to Friday 21st June
With winter upon us and the nights getting colder, spare a thought for those in our Redland Bayside Deanery community who are most at risk. These are the ‘Homeless’ in our midst. Their bed could well be a park bench tonight. For them the nights will be particularly cold. The Redlands deanery needs your help in helping the homeless. They wish to collect items so as to provide both Rosies and BABI with some basic resources which they require to fulfill their mission. More information will be coming soon from our Mini Vinnie’s Team.

Reflection
Faith is the lifelong companion that makes it possible to perceive, ever anew, the marvels that God works for us.

Have a wonderful week
Kevin

SCHOOL PARENT NETWORK
Thank you to all who attended the St Rita's Faith & Friendship Day on Sunday. We were blessed with the most beautiful day to come together to have fun and get to know each other better. A big thank you to all who helped throughout the day. It couldn’t happen without you!

ENROLMENTS FOR 2014
For those families with siblings at home ready to start Prep in 2014 please get your enrolment forms in for the 2014 school year. Prep Enrolment Interviews will be held early in term 2. Enrolment forms are available from the school office or the website www.stritasvp.qld.edu.au.

SPORTS NEWS
Athletics Training
Athletics training has commenced - Monday, Wednesday and Friday Mornings from 7.50am.
Mondays – 100m Sprints/Timing
Wednesdays – Shot Put
Fridays – Long Jump

Age Championship Events
Nominations for these events open Wednesday 22 May. We are trialling an ‘Online’ method to nominate for these events this year. These events are available to all that turn 10 or older this year.

The page to nominate for these events can be found on the student portal (follow the quick link from the school website).

Events available for nomination are:
- Shot-put
- Long Jump
- High Jump
- 800m

St Rita’s Touch Football
The games for Friday night are as follows:
u/10 – 4.30pm Field 5A
u/12 – 5.15pm Field 1
u/14 – 6.45pm Field 2
Please let Mr Kenyon or Mrs Hill know early in the week if you are unable to play due to other commitments.

**Important Dates:**
- **Tuesday 4 June** – Interschool Sports Carnival Day 2
- **Monday 17 June** – St Rita’s Sports Day Athletics
- **10 to 12 July** – Year Seven Camp (Goodenough)

**Assembly Awards**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6L</th>
<th>For Inspiring Learning by actively listening and being ready to follow instructions. Congratulations Jacob</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ryan S</td>
<td>Your persistence with working to meet your learning goals is an inspiration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jayden L</td>
<td>For Inspiring Learning, doing your best in all activities and persisting to complete your tasks.</td>
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</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>7T</th>
<th>For her kind nature and friendly personality. Jahnai seeks to treat everyone fairly and with great respect.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Matthew D</td>
<td>For listening well in class and taking responsibly for his belongings.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**School Banking**

Banker of the week goes to Kalin J 2T, Congratulations Kalin & happy savings to you all. Just a quick reminder school banking is TUESDAY’S, so bring your book in each week & watch your savings grow you never know who is going to be the next weekly winner. Have a great week to all St Rita’s family and friends 😊.

Kinds Regards

The BOQ team Victoria Point & Redland Bay.

Direct Branch PH 3207 6133.

**Tuckshop News**

- **Wednesday 22nd May**
  - Kelly Goldston
  - Veronica Dunn

- **Thursday 23rd May**
  - Trish McNamara
  - Helen Coates

- **Friday 24th May**
  - Brenda Owbridge
  - Darren Smallwood
  - Michelle Kotynski
  - Maggie Helmn

**2nd Break**

- Michelle Romeo
- Nicola Taylor

A very BIG THANK YOU...............................................

It has been wonderful to see parents/grandparents and care givers coming to give a hand in Tuckshop. Still a great response to www.flexischools.com.au We are also going to be putting the sports day menu on Flexischools.

Renee Saleh 0411523969 email rsaleh@bne.catholic.edu.au

**Explorers by the Fourers**

The Explorers by the Fourers Museum will be opening on Thursday 13 June 2013. Year Four parents please save the date for this exciting event. More information coming home soon.

**News from the Resource Centre**

This week we will be acknowledging National Simultaneous Storytime (officially to be held on 22 May, at 11am) during all Early Years Library classes. The Wrong Book by Nick Bland, is a delightful picture book about "escaped" characters turning up in the wrong book! You can find out more about the book and the author at the link below!

http://www.alia.org.au/nss
**SCHOOL PHOTOS**

Students will receive their named photo envelopes during the next day or so. Please ensure they are returned to the school on the photo days as listed below. Family envelopes are available from the school office. Online payment is also available. Please note there has been a minor change.

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**STAFF PHOTO**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday 23 May</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday 27 May</th>
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<tr>
<td>Staff Photo</td>
<td>8:25</td>
<td>WHOLE SCHOOL</td>
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<td>2L</td>
<td>8:45</td>
<td>ASSEMBLY</td>
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<td>4L</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Council</td>
<td>12:15</td>
<td>7L</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior Drama</td>
<td>12:30</td>
<td>3K</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior Choir</td>
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<td>12:40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instrumental</td>
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<td>3L</td>
<td>12:50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guitar</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>Senior Drama</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keyboard</td>
<td>1.10</td>
<td>Senior Choir</td>
<td>1.10</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rock Band</td>
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**UNIFORM SHOP**

**HOURS**

Closed Thursday May 23

Friday 8.00 to 10.00am

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**FROM THE PARISH**

**Lost Property**

If your child has lost any property during the school year can you please ensure you periodically check the lost property drawers in the school office. In particular, there are a large number of unnamed drink bottles. At the end of this week all unclaimed and unnamed items will be disposed of.

---

**Altar Servers – More Volunteers Needed**

We are still looking for more boys and girls to be altar servers. The children that are interested must be Catholic and have completed their first Holy Communion. They should be between the ages of ten and seventeen. We need altar servers for both Sunday Masses and at the vigil Mass on Saturday night. It is an honour and privilege to be an altar server. It is up to us parents to encourage our children to participate more at Mass. Being an altar server is a good way to serve the Lord. Altar servers are important; they prepare things for Mass. They assist the priest before and during Mass. They light candles, carry the Processional Cross, hold the Sacramentary, and ring bells. The altar servers learn the Order of Mass, prayers, responses, and postures. They are an integral part of the Celebration. It will be a good experience for them. We invite you to encourage your children to serve. Parents if you are interested in your child serving here at St. Rita's, please contact us at the Parish Office on 3207 9177.

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**Children’s Liturgy Volunteers Needed**

We are one of the few parishes that offer Children’s Liturgy in two age groups for our parish children during the school term. There is a Lower Primary Group (Prep to Year 4) and a Upper Primary Group (Year 5 to Year 7). All children are very welcome to participate in this Liturgy. It’s a great way to introduce your children to Sunday worship. In order to do this we need help, particularly with the Senior Group. If your child is in that Grade 5 to 7 age group, please consider getting involved. If you can spare us an hour once a month during the Mass you attend, we can keep this ministry operating each week for our young people. All the material is supplied. Contact Angela at the parish office 3207 9177, if you can help.

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**Thinking of becoming a Catholic?**

The RCIA program (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is a journey that takes about 9 months. It involves meeting every week in a small group to discuss topics that have been read previously (you would be given a resource that you read, reflect on, wrestle with etc) and to ask any questions you may have. You would be given a sponsor, someone who would walk the journey alongside you to help support you and to encourage you. Some parishioners would act as catechists in the small group and they are there to help you understand the Catholic faith.
and tradition. Meanwhile you would be attending mass every week (although you would not be able to receive Holy Communion) in order to experience liturgy and to become familiar with Catholic worship. This period is called the period of the Catechumenate (Catechumens are those people who have never been baptised) and is a time of discerning your beliefs, and for the nurturing and growth of your faith and conversion to God and educating yourself about the Catholic faith. We are hoping to start the RCIA journey in August/September. If you want to know more, please contact Angela Clarke at the parish office on 3207 9177 or email at pa.victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au

Life in the Spirit Seminar with Fr Jack Soulsby S.M.
St Rita’s Catholic Parish will be hosting a Life in the Spirit Seminar with Fr Jack Soulsby S.M. a 3 day retreat from 2nd to the 4th August 2013. The Life in the Spirit Seminar is commonly used by Catholic groups in the context of renewal in the Roman Catholic Church. It is an instrument for bringing people into a deeper experience of the work of the Holy Spirit. The Life in the Spirit Seminar is available for everyone. The Seminar provides a way to learn more about living in the Spirit. In the Seminar you can take steps which will allow Jesus Christ to establish, or restore, or deepen a relationship with you. For Catholics who have experienced the sacramental graces, Jesus will give you a new and fuller relationship with Himself. The gift of the Spirit fills our whole life and changes us so that we begin to know and experience God's love and the abundant life Jesus spoke of ..."I came that they might have life and have it to the full." (John 10:10) The Church has never lost the life of the Spirit nor the experience of the Power of the Holy Spirit. For enquiries please call Angela at the parish office on 3207 9177.

Mass Times in our Parish – Saturday 6pm, Sunday 7am, 9am, 6pm.
Reconciliation Times - Saturday’s 5pm to 5.30pm in the Church
ST RITA’S WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY
FRIDAY, 24 MAY 2013

This is the 3rd year we have had a Walk Safely to School Day and we are fortunate to have such a supportive parent community involved in the morning. It is a really easy event to help out with and each year it grows in numbers.

It is a great day to be involved with and the event is all over by about 9.15am. If you would like to be a part of the team organising the day, these are some of the tasks that are involved.

PARENTS/CARERS – WHAT ARE YOU GOOD AT?

1. Requesting donations from local suppliers – if you have a contact at a fruit shop or local supermarket, please talk to Lisa about the food we would like donated.
2. Collecting fruit and cutting it up fruit the day or night before (Thu 23/5/13) – 2-4 people
3. Setting up at school on the deck for breakfast at around 7am. (3 people)
4. Supervisor at walking locations (arrive 7.15am - 2-3 people at each location)
5. Serving out the food on the deck from around 7.50 (will need 6 people)
6. Giving out stickers (2 people)
7. Taking photos for the school (1 person)
8. Cleaning up after breakfast (4 people, at around 8.45-9.15am)

If you would like to get involved, please contact Lisa Acret, acrets@me.com or 0405 152 952.

COMPETITIONS FOR THE STUDENTS:

PREP – YEAR 3 - COLOURING IN COMPETITION

Show us your great colouring in skills by having a go at colouring in the Walk Safely to School Colouring in Sheet. Teachers will distribute sheets this week to students in Prep to Year 2. There will be 2 prizes per class awarded so start colouring in and submit your entry to your teacher by Friday 24/5/13. Winners will be announced/awarded at year level assemblies.

YEARS 4-7 – CREATIVE CHALLENGE

The challenge for students in year 4-7 is to tell us why being active and eating healthy is important to you. This can be represented through writing a poem, short story (couple of paragraphs), verse, or creating a poster or picture. Entries will close Fri 24/5/13. There will be 2 prizes per class awarded and winners will be announced/awarded at assemblies. Winning entries will be published in the newsletter.
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES TRAVEL REBATE

Semester 1, 2013

- 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 May 2013.

Late applications cannot be accepted.

STUDENT TRAVEL REBATES

Semester 1, 2013

Bus Fare Assistance
- Does your child attend a school outside the Brisbane City Council boundary?
- Does your family spend more than $22/week on fares to and from school (i.e. $37/week if you hold a concession card)?
- Does your child travel on a publically 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 May 2013.

Late applications cannot be accepted.

HEATH POOLS

www.heathpools.com.au

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- Mobile Pool Servicing
- Pool Heating & Blankets
- New Pool Construction & Renovations
- Always Deal With The Owner/Builder Direct

We build custom designed concrete pools that reflect your distinct style. All within your budget.

Mark Heath 0409 341 028
info@heathpools.com.au
Ph: 07 3820 6699

THINKING OF A HOLIDAY?

Let Belinda, your local travel expert who comes to you, turn your travel dream into reality. Enjoy the ultimate in personal, convenient and professional travel planning. Belinda will give you expert advice and the best travel deals.

Belinda Cormack – Mobile Travel Agent
m: 0413 438 261 e: bcormack@mtatravel.com.au
fb: www.facebook.com/BelindaCormackMta
Licence TAG 0903
Gus wants you to join his team at the Redlands Koala Fun Run!

The Redlands Koala Fun Run is held on Sunday 26 May at Norm Price Park - Redland Showgrounds, Long Street, Cleveland. It is a 3.5 km walk raising awareness of koalas in the Redlands.

To be part of Gus’s team you need to register online at http://www.koalacentral.com.au/koala-fun-run-2013.php When registering, choose the option “Join an existing team” - Gus’s team is called TEAM ST RITA’S. Choose the 3.5km walk to be part of the St Rita’s walking group. All children will need an adult to register and accompany them on the walk.

On the day, please wear your St Rita’s hat - that way Gus can identify you easily. With your family, find Gus at the park and be ready to walk 3.5 km with his team.