Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

Reading Success for Preps – and More!
This is much discussion in education these days about literacy development in young children. At St Rita’s we have made a conscious decision to not succumb to the pressures of measuring reading success through a “take home reader” practice. We strongly believe that such a practice at best may measure some aspect of reading development, but is more likely to result in reading being little more than practised memorising of words with minimal engagement and enthusiasm or joy for reading.

So what do we do?

A far better alternative is to promote, teach and develop a much broader and deeper repertoire of literacy skills. An example of our success with this is evident in our Prep Reading Forums. The children bring to the forum their choice of books and discuss their reading and comprehension of the material read. Our Prep teachers report how keen the children are to talk about their books, share information and opinions with their friends. We are very impressed with the knowledge displayed by the children and how focussed and engaged they are with “real” reading.

We know we are employing best practices endorsed nationally and internationally by literacy experts. Our reading results across all year levels are providing evidence and further proof of the benefit to our commitment to best teaching practices.

Methods such as take home readers and working through sight words are only a small part of a much more complex set of skill development.

Focussing too early and too much on these drills will hamper children’s aptitude to fully develop their literacy skills and quality communication. We are currently working on a St Rita’s APP which will provide parent access to these practices to further strengthen our partnership with you in leading children’s learning. Stay tuned!

While you our current parent community are supportive and knowledgeable about what we do well, it is also important to share this in the broader local community. We are planning an open afternoon session for our Prep Program for 9th September between 3.30 and 5.30pm. Please let families who may be interested in St Rita’s know of this event. A flyer is posted on our website and our school mascot “Gus” and our staff are visiting local Kindys and Pre – School centres this week and next.

Litter Free Lunch Day!

Today we started our first Litter Free Lunch Tuesday. We have made fantastic inroads this year to improve our management of waste – reducing and recycling. The following is a link to a great website to assist you with planning lunch menus that are healthy for children and healthy for our environment.

Staff News

Our beloved groundsman, Bob Smith, is undergoing some eye surgery and will be away for the next two weeks. We welcome Darren Smallwood to our staff to be our groundsman and wish Bob well for a successful outcome and speedy recovery.
Helping out St Mary’s – Computers and Stationery
We are pleased to be sending our PC computers from our computer lab to St Mary’s School, Beaudesert, following the devastating loss to equipment and classrooms in last week’s fire. The computers are in good working order and we have simply moved forward our planned review of the computer lab and PC replacement scheme. This means some minor adjustments including a short time without the lab - but most importantly, in doing this, we are reaching out to one of our Catholic schools in need. Please keep the stationery supplies coming in as well.

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

Feast of St Augustine – This Wednesday 28 August is the Feast Day of St Augustine which is a significant event for our community. St Augustine was a bishop, philosopher and theologian in Africa who lived around the 4th Century. Augustine's thinking and writings has shaped the Catholic Church throughout the ages. He is perhaps best known for his conversion - from a wayward soul to Doctor of the Church. St Rita was an Augustinian Nun who dedicated her life to the teachings of St Augustine. The following link provides some more information St Augustine

Year 5 & 6 School Parish Mass – Thursday 29 August, 9am Please celebrate with our Year 6 and Year 5 students a Mass to celebrate the Feast Day of St Augustine. St Augustine was considered one of the Fathers of the Catholic Church so we also - dedicate this Mass to honour the Father figures in our community. We hope to see you there.

Father’s Day Liturgy – Friday morning 30 August
To assist us with catering for the morning breakfast, could you please ‘like’ our post on FB if you are coming to the breakfast. We posted this last week.

Enjoy your week
Kevin

2014 Federal Election
Catholic education policy priorities
Catholic education is seeking a statement from both major parties on their education policies and how they will affect the 735,000 students educated in the 1,706 Catholic schools across Australia.

Both major parties have been asked the six questions below. Their responses will be provided in the near future.

Policy Questions

1. How will your policy support parents to choose the education they want for their children and ensure religious freedom for Catholic schools is preserved?
2. How will your policy affect the ability of Catholic education systems and schools to distribute funding according to locally-identified needs?
3. How will your policy deliver additional government funding to support student needs and ensure funding keeps pace with the real cost of educating a child?
4. How will your policy support the needs of students with particular disadvantage, students with disability and other special needs to receive funding to meet their needs, regardless of the school they attend?
5. What government funding for the capital needs of Catholic schools do you have planned? Does this funding recognise Catholic education’s support of disadvantaged communities and willingness to establish in new growth areas?
6. How will your policy deliver funding certainty for schools?

Catholic education will continue to work with all parties in the Parliament to ensure that Catholic schools have the resources to support the needs of all students.

Principals Anne McKenny and John Carroll (Birkdale) are seeking meetings with ALP and LNP candidates to seek their views on these matters.

SCHOOL FEES

Overdue statements will be posted this week. We ask that your account be paid as soon as possible. If you are experiencing difficulty with payment please contact us that we can arrange a payment plan. A reminder those families paying by direct debit need to pay for camp separately as this amount is not included in your direct debit.

Many thanks
Krys Finance Admin Officer
Little Gus’s Big Adventure at World Youth Day

Christ the Redeemer
With only a few hours of sleep after a late arrival, our first day in Rio de Janeiro started with a 3am Zumba class in our hotel foyer as we waited excitedly for our tour bus. After a long wait, our tour bus arrived and we set off for our early morning tour of the Christ the Redeemer statue. Christo Redentor is a 30m tall and 28m wide statue of Jesus Christ which stands atop Corvacoado Mountain. It overlooks the entire city of Rio de Janeiro.

Arriving at the bottom of Corvacoado, we were greeted by a sea of pilgrim groups all waiting with anticipation for the same thing. This was the first moment that our group felt we had really arrived in Rio for WYD. Proudly getting out our Australian flag, we attached it to a long stick with hair ties (we felt like MacGyver) and proudly waved it back and forward. This gave us our identity and before long, other pilgrims knew exactly who we were.

We were ushered by our guide to a cog train station where we boarded a two-carriage train and headed up the steep, rocky mountain. The sun was starting to rise revealing a misty and overcast day. This didn’t dampen our spirits and we knew what was waiting above us.

When we arrived at the top, we were greeted by strong, chilly winds and rainy mist, the most miserable weather. We layered ourselves in snow and rain gear and jumped in the lift to be taken up to the mighty statue. As we exited the lift … tiredness … inclement weather … all was forgotten as before us was the most mighty sight – Jesus, with his arms outstretched welcoming and protecting us.

At first we were a little disappointed that we could not see the city and beaches below us as the postcard pictures promise. But as we stood there, we realised we were not in Rio to see Rio, we were in Rio to experience World Youth Day and our Catholic faith and of course, Jesus. So our gazes turned back towards the statue. The mist and clouds surrounded the entire mountain top, coming and going in waves. It was just us, on a mountain top, surrounded by clouds, with Jesus. A group of French pilgrims had gathered and huddled together like penguins, they were singing beautiful hymns and prayers. We stopped, and for a moment, we were in heaven, at one with our God. It was surreal and beautiful and … words cannot do it justice. After a few moments of aloneness with God, we prayed an Our Father together.

We got our touristy photos of the statue - arms outstretched, waving the Australian flag, hugging our mates etc. Aware that many other pilgrims awaited their turn with Jesus, we headed back down the mountain. We were tired, but so filled with joy, our first day in Rio had started with the most amazing of experiences. We had been welcomed by an almighty Jesus, who truly watched over His pilgrims throughout WYD.

For the following week, everywhere we went in Rio, our eyes gazed backwards towards His mountain to once more gain a glimpse. And with a glimpse, our hearts would jump inside us and a smile would inevitably rise on our faces – such is the power of our God.

Prep Dads, Grand-dads, Uncles, Step-dads - Don't forget to join us for our Daddy Bear's Picnic at 8:45pn Friday (after the Father's Day Liturgy). We look forward to seeing you there.

St Rita’s Touch Football
Friday Night games at Cleveland Showgrounds are as follows:
U10’s Allstars 1 (Mrs Hill) – Field TBA @ 4.30pm
U10’s Allstars 2 (Mr Kenyon) – Field TBA @ 4.30pm
U12’s Allstars Maroon : Time and field TBA
U12’s Allstars Blue : Time and field TBA
Training will be held on Thursdays from 3.15pm – 4.15pm for U/12’s and u/14’s.
Mr Kenyon’s u/10’s team will train Wednesday 2nd break at school.
Mrs Hill’s u/10’s team will train Thursday 1st break at school.

Bayside Athletics
All the best to our St Rita’s Athletes who participate in the ‘Bayside Combined Catholic Schools Athletics Carnival’ this Thursday at Carmel College. We look forward to hearing some great results! Good luck everyone!

Mission Cup Netball
Training for the Mission Cup Netball Squad will be on Tuesday afternoons from 3.15pm till 4.15pm. Please let Mr Kenyon know if you are unable to make training certain weeks.

State Games – Special Olympics
On Saturday the 7th of September, Matthew D will be competing in the Special Olympics State Games on the Sunshine Coast. Matthew is a member of the Brisbane East Swimming team and he will be competing in Freestyle, Backstroke and Butterfly. It is his first competition for the Special Olympics and he is very keen to wear his new Brisbane East uniform and take part in the State Games and 'Reach his personal Best' which is the Special Olympics motto. All the best Matthew!

Important Dates
Year 6 Camp – 11th – 13th September
Interschool Sports Day #4 – Tuesday 15th October

**6L**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Award</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Danni Jo R</td>
<td>For having a go at all classroom tasks. Your persistence with working to meet your learning goals is an inspiration.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nikita S</td>
<td>For Inspiring Learning, with your enthusiasm and great sportsmanship at interschool sports.</td>
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<tr>
<td>William P</td>
<td>For being able to focus on your tasks in class and encouraging others to work hard by your terrific example.</td>
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**7T**

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<th>Student</th>
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<tr>
<td>Georgia S</td>
<td>Georgia is a hard-working student who applies outstanding effort in every aspect of school life. Georgia is particularly neat, ensuring all her work is presented beautifully.</td>
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Alisha B  Alisha takes great pride in her school work, ensuring that it is neat, well-presented and error-free. In particular, her Homework is of a pleasing standard. Keep up the hard work Alisha!

**NEWS FROM THE RESOURCE CENTRE**

A big thank you to everyone for your great support of our activities last week during Book Week. The book characters were fantastic, everyone enjoyed the author visits, and we took $6,506.90 at the fair.....WOW!!! That meant we were able to purchase books with our commission to the value of $2,300. Look out for these new books on the shelves in the coming weeks.

Thanks again!
Mrs Jo Rossi and Mrs Maureen Brownlie.

Mrs Rossi will be away for next four weeks until the end of term. During that time I will be a new face in the library. I have been teaching for over 25 years and have worked in a variety of settings. I look forward to working with your children to enhance their literacy and increase their enjoyment of literature.

This year we are participating in The Great Book Swap on October 25, which is an initiative to assist improving literacy in Indigenous Communities.

All students will be able to participate in The Great Book Swap by donating a pre-loved book before the event and then choosing a book for a gold coin donation on the day. All money raised will go to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

Mrs Therese Evans
In support of our friends at St Mary’s Catholic Primary School, Beaudesert who recently lost many school buildings in a fire, the St Rita’s Mini Vinnies are seeking donations of the following items:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level Groups</th>
<th>Suggested Items</th>
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<tr>
<td>Preps, Year One, Year Two</td>
<td>Coloured pencils</td>
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<td>Lead pencils</td>
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<td>Year Three, Year Four, Year Five</td>
<td>Rulers</td>
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<td>Erasers</td>
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<td>Sharpeners</td>
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<td>Scissors</td>
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<td>Glue sticks</td>
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<td>Highlighters</td>
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<td>Year Six, Year Seven, Staff</td>
<td>7mm blue lined exercise books</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7mm and 5mm grid books</td>
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Please show your support for this Catholic community by giving your donations to your classroom teacher. This collection will run until Friday 6 September.

**Father’s Day Liturgy**

The St Rita’s Mini Vinnies and School Parent Network Father’s Day Liturgy is **THIS FRIDAY 30 August at 7:45am in the Unitas Centre**. All special men in our community are most welcome to join us in celebrating God’s wonderful gift of fathers.

The liturgy will be followed by a light BBQ breakfast and a cuppa for the adults.

During the liturgy, a slide show of photos will be shown. The Mini Vinnies are seeking digital photos of our St Rita’s students with their fathers/grandfathers/uncles etc to use for a reflection. If you have a suitable digital photo that you would like to share with our community, please email it to: stritasfathersdayphotos@hotmail.com by Wednesday 28 August 2013. The photos will only be used for this purpose and then deleted by the school.

**YEAR 6 EXCURSION RECOUNT**

We enjoyed the term 3 excursion. Firstly we stopped at the botanic gardens it was great, after morning tea we went to a playground with a view of the Brisbane River. There were a lot of bright colours the beautiful, tended to lawns, neatly trimmed bushes, water features and the surprisingly fresh air in the city of all places!. Then we went to Queensland Parliament House and saw politicians debating, watched a slide show about Parliament House, enjoyed a tour and participated in a role play debate. Finally we went to the museum and there were a lot of old things, it has changed since last time I went, but is a lot better.

(Lachlan B, Ryan F, Erin & Nikita)
**FELXISCHOOLS**

The IPhone app for flexischools has been deleted and no longer in use. Flexischools has made their website phone and tablet friendly and free. For more information please go to flexischools.com.au

**TUCKSHOP NEWS**

**Wednesday 28th August**
Veronica Dunn
Tracey Knight

**Thursday 29th August**
HELP NEEDED???
HELP NEEDED???

**Friday 30th August**
Michelle Kotynski
Maggie Helmn
Nigel Wright
Lisa Bihari

2ND Break
Michelle Kotynski

If you order Noodles for your child's lunch, please let them know so they can come and collect them at first break.

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

**UNIFORM SHOP**

**HOURS**

Thursday 8.00 to 10.00am
Friday 8.00 to 10.00am

**FROM THE PARISH**

Altar servers – More volunteers needed urgently:
Fr Leo would like any children interested in becoming an altar servers to attend a training session this Thursday 29th August at 3.30pm in the meeting room in the church.. Parents if you are interested in your child serving here at St. Rita’s, please contact us at the Parish Office on 3207 9177

**Confirmation and 1st Holy Communion Photos**
The children who made their Sacraments earlier in the year can collect their professional photos this weekend at Children’s Liturgy. The leaders will be giving them out at 6pm Saturday night and also at 9am Sunday morning during Children’s Liturgy.

**Date Claimers - Sacrament of Reconciliation 2013**
The preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will begin with a ‘Parent Information Evening’ on Tuesday 15th October at 7pm in the church. This is an important meeting and one parent is requested to attend if you wish your child to be involved this year. This is usually for the children in Grade 4 in preparation for the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation in Grade 5, 2013. If you have an older child who would like to receive First Reconciliation in preparation for Confirmation and First Eucharist in 2014 please come to this information meeting.

The children will be enrolled at mass on the weekend of 19th/20th October. Parents can attend either Saturday 19th October at 6pm mass (enrolment ceremony is during the mass) or Sunday 20th October at 9am mass. Children will be given Reconciliation lessons during Saturday 6pm mass or Sunday 9am mass on the following dates: 26th/27th October, 2nd/3rd November, 9th/10th November

The Rite of Reconciliation will be held on Tuesday 12th November at 6pm or at 7.30pm again in the church. Contact Angela at the parish office on 32079177 if you have any questions.

**Aria Angels – Music, Movement, Art and ...More**
Reaching out to parents before and after Baptism, through the parish, ARIA Angels offers a special time for children from birth to 5 years. We start the session with music, song and dance. Next we have an art activity, then a cuppa and close with a prayer. We gather in the Ruby room next to the parish office on Thursdays from 9.00am to 10.30am during the school term.

Starting dates are THURSDAY August 30, Sept 5, 12, The cost is $5 for one child, $8 for two children and $10 for three children, including morning tea. If you are a parent, grandparent, or carer of pre-school children you are warmly encouraged to join us.
For more information call parish office on 3207 9177.
"GIVE LOVE AND GET ART"

The organisers of “Give Love and Get Art” exhibition for Caritas Australia and their major sponsor PW Dancewear warmly invite you to this year’s art exhibition showcasing 140 artworks for sale in a variety of mediums: sculptures, mixed media, oils, acrylics, airbrushed acrylics, watercolours and pencil.

The exhibition will be in the beautiful new facilities at St Rita’s College, 41 Enderley Rd Clayfield on Sunday 15th September between 9am – 3pm, with the auction of 16 donated art works being held at 2pm. Entry is $10 p/p which includes light refreshments, entertainment and art demonstrations.

Raffle prizes are also up for grabs with the major prize being a $1000 Virgin Airlines voucher. Please visit their website to pre-bid on the 16 fabulous auction pieces, as well as details relating to the exhibition. www.giveloveandgetart.com

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Assessment and Treatment of Fears and Anxiety in Children
Griffith University

Parents, is your child fearful of certain situations or do they seem to experience ongoing feelings of anxiety? At Griffith University, we are conducting a large-scale study for children (7 to 13 years of age) with anxiety that includes a thorough assessment and a novel, home-based treatment using computers and telephone contact from a trained clinician. We are providing this service at no cost to families. To find out more about this project, please contact our team on 07-3735 3418, cadrp@griffith.edu.au.

Young Sports classes now at Chandler!
Young Sports is an exciting multi-sport program for young children. We introduce children 3-10yrs of age to 9 popular sports, one at a time.

ATHLETICS BASEBALL BASKETBALL CRICKET GOLF
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Children:
- are introduced to the joy of sport
- learn the basic skills for each sport
- acquire essential developmental motor skills
- build confidence through achievement

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY
3.30pm - 4.00pm 3-4yrs
4.00pm - 4.30pm 5-6yrs
4.30pm - 5.30pm 7-10yrs
$12 (3-6yrs) & $17 (7-10yrs) per lesson

BOOK NOW FOR A FREE TRIAL!
Sleeman Sports Complex - Cnr Old Cleveland & Tilley Roads, Chandler
(07) 3376 3388 info@youngsports.com.au www.youngsports.com.au
Coochiemudlo Island Surf Life Saving club
SIGN ON DAY For the 2013/2014 Season
NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME
(Birth Certificate Required)
Sunday, 8th September, 2013 10am and 2pm
28 Yeo Street, Victoria Point
Call Des on 0468 525 844 or Russell on 0409 619 516
e-mail coochieslsc@bigpond.com for an info pack

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Every Monday 9.30am Register Now!!
Contact Nadine: baysidefitclub@bigpond.com
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WINTERFEST DONATIONS
Please support the following businesses who have so generously donated towards Winterfest:

BOQ, King Country, JDS Carpet Dry Cleaning, Watershed Wines, Family Tree Care, Lorraine Lee Linen, LJ Hooker, Cleveland, Victoria Point Mower Centre, Bob Jane Tmart Capalaba, Peter Dowling MP, Service Plus Auto, Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, Sirromet Winery, Watershed Wines, Redland Bay Golf Club, Cr Lance Hewlett, Michel’s Patisserie, Cleveland Picture Framing, Merlo Coffee, Dan Murphy’s, Redlands RSL Club, Grandview Hotel, Raniga Dental, Victoria Point Shopping Centre, Super Cheap Auto, YMCA, Snap Fitness, Curves, Victoria Point Tavern, Victoria Point Newsagency, Smiths Snackfoods, Nestle Australia, Mars Chocolate, Cadbury, Betta Car n Ute Hire, Lenards Victoria Point, Newswox Victoria Point, Commonwealth Bank, Coles, ZOL, The espresso bar, Fasta Pasta, Apache tyres, McDonalds, Go Vita, Cartridge Citi, Redlands Leagues Club, Blockbuster video, Donut King, Woolworths Victoria Point, The cheesecake Shop, Victoria Point Sharks, Best Nails