Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

Welcome to Term 4! With Jacarandas in full glory and temperatures above 30° it is well and truly summer at St Rita’s. Once again we will be very thankful for your and previous family contribution to our building fund which provided air conditioning to all our learning spaces. This does truly make a difference to student learning and productive teaching.

St Rita’s Community Spirit.
Even on the holidays, our Know More Do More and Be More attitude was alive and well with our parents and teachers helping out with the Year 4 and Year 5 classroom furniture clearance. The many hands make light work approach enabled a thorough clear out for classrooms and other storage spaces making way for the arrival of our new pieces that will enable the physical environment in our classrooms to match the contemporary learning that takes place there.

It was a delight for a number of our children, families and staff to meet Archbishop Mark Coleridge at Sunday Mass. As head of our church, he loves to know the people – as we are his Church. He seemed most impressed with our lovely school environment, took great joy in hearing some stories of our children that I shared with him and looks forward to a visit in term time in the near future.

Supporting Indigenous Education – The Great Swap!
Your generosity to our wider community was evident last term with our support to St Mary’s School, Beaudesert. This term, our Student Council are co-ordinating our first ever “Great Book Swap”. Do you have some bookshelves that could do with a bit of clean out? Please bring in some books – loved and unloved, read and maybe unread that others can purchase for a gold coin. Further details within the newsletter. This is a great cause – as it promotes reading within and beyond our community.

Welcome to our New Families
Today we welcome to St Rita’s seven new families. It’s great to have Connor (3K), Ellie (2T), Emily (3K), Greg (2T), Matisse (4K) and Holly (K) and Riley (PK) join our school community.

Please remember that all new families – recent and otherwise are invited to join with staff and other parents who can be available for coffee and a chat after our school assembly next Monday 14th October. We plan to make this a monthly event – cool or warm drinks provided by Bryon from the Coffee Van and sponsored by our School Parent Network. Please join us at the Unitas Centre

Anne McKenny

We are called to be people of welcome who understand and build the spirit of Christian hospitality in every situation. One of the features of the early Christian communities was their sense of genuine welcome to all. Hospitality and generosity go hand in hand, and these early communities had a long and deep tradition of welcome in the scripture. In the gospels, Jesus’ open welcome to all was very challenging to the people of his time. Today, the practice of welcome continues to call us to open our doors and to reach out not only to those in our community but to the wider world through social justice missions. St Rita’s is a school well-known for its welcoming hospitality, with many new families.
starting with us this term I am sure you will all open your doors and welcome them to our community. I would also like to welcome you to celebrate mass/prayer with your child's class throughout the term. Dates of these masses and liturgies will follow in later newsletters.

**NAPLAN - National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy.**

Each year, all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are assessed on the same days using the NAPLAN tests: national tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation) and Numeracy. Over the holidays, the results of these tests arrived at school and have been sent home to families today.

These tests were held in every Australian Primary School and your child's results are compared to the state average in the areas of Numeracy (Mathematics) and Literacy (English). These results will be used by our teachers this year and next to assist children in areas of need and a copy of these will be placed in your child's file at school for future reference. This is only one type of testing in a broad cross section of assessment that is conducted at school.

The tests were based on the National Statements for Learning. 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. Generally, Queensland students have not been in school for as long as students in other states.

This should be considered when analysing test results. St Rita’s will continue to monitor the results of these tests and use this information to plan for improvement in students’ learning.

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). Each school is also provided with a set of results for each class and this shows how our children performed across various aspects of the test. As always there continues to be much publicity about the NAPLAN data release, but little recognition of the hard work of those who educate our children. I would like to congratulate the teachers at St Rita’s and affirm their continuing hard work and commitment as educators to enable our students to **know more, do more and be more** each day.

All the best

Shane

**SPORTS NEWS**

St Rita’s – Friday Night Touch Football

u/10’s Allstars 1 (Mrs Hill) – 4.30pm on Field 4B
u/10’s Allstars 2 (Mr Kenyon) – 4.30pm on Field 5B
u/12’s Allstars Blue – 4.30pm on Field 9
u/12 Allstars Maroon – 4.30pm on Field 10
u/14’s Invaders – 6.00pm on Field 4

Please let Mr Kenyon or Mrs Hill know if you are not available to play this week.

Training for U/12’s will now be held on Monday afternoons from 3.10pm to 4.10pm.

**State Indoor Netball**

Congratulations to Tyler (Y5), who recently was selected as one of twelve players from 150 entrants to represent QLD in the ‘U/10’s All Stars Indoor Netball Team’. Well Done Tyler on such a fantastic achievement!

**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.

**Important Dates**

Prep to Year 3 Swimming Program – 28 Oct to 1 Nov
Prep to Year 3 Swimming Carnival – Mon 4 Nov
Interschool Sports Day #4 – Tues 15 Oct

**ASSEMBLY AWARDS**

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<tr>
<td>Kara G</td>
<td>For the outstanding effort she has applied in order to complete her assignments at a high level. Kara’s work is well-constructed, showing care and pride.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooper I</td>
<td>For the sensible approach Cooper has displayed while completing his assignments. Cooper works methodically, checking his work for errors and asking for assistance if required.</td>
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TUCKSHOP NEWS

Wednesday 9th October
HELP NEEDED??

Thursday 10th October
Maria Kease
Trish McNamara

Friday 11th October
Louise Lowcock
Michelle Kotynski
Melissa Lorimer
HELP NEEDED??

2nd Break
Michelle Kotynski

Please keep an eye out for a newsletter this week for what is happening this term in tuckshop.

There is no Thursday Term Special this term.

For all enquiries please do not hesitate to contact Renee Saleh 0411523969 email; rsaleh@bne.catholic.edu.au

UNIFORM SHOP

HOURS
Thursday 8.00 to 10.00am
Friday 8.00 to 10.00am

MEETING
THURSDAY OCTOBER 10, 4PM
The next fete meeting is being held on Thursday October 10th, commencing at 4pm, in the staff room.
If you would like to become involved in any way with the fete, please come and join the meeting, bring some new ideas. Looking forward to seeing some new faces.

PARISH NEWS

Altar servers – More volunteers needed urgently:
Fr Leo is happy to run a training session this month after school for anyone interested. For more details contact us at the Parish Office on 3207 9177

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.

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Victoria Point Safety House Committee

PO Box 3635
Victoria Point West 4165

Rachel Aumuller 0738208327

St Rita’s Primary School

Safety House Closing Notice for the School Newsletter

On behalf of the above committee we would like to regretfully advise the students and parents of the school that due to a lack of community support for the Safety House Association of Qld Inc., the Association will be closing within the next few months. Because of this our committee will be closing in the area as of 30/11/2013.

Our Committee feels that they have exhausted all avenues to obtain community support for the Safety House Program in the state and has had to close with dignity after nearly 30 years of operation.

All signs that include school, zone and house plates will be removed by 30/10/2013 by some of our remaining Committee members or another authorised person.

The closure of the Safety House Program means that if the children within our area find themselves in danger or unsafe they will no longer have a Safety House to seek refuge.

Please advise your children about the closure of the Safety House Program and that all the Safety House signs in the area will be removed on the above date.

We would like to thank all parents for the support you have given us over the years.

Thank you again.

Yours Sincerely,

Rachel Aumuller
19/09/2013