Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

As our school year comes to a close in the next few weeks, may I thank you as parents for the significant role you play in leading learning with your children. The large number of parents who are able to be present for special events – such as class liturgies, school disco, assembly performances, art work, class work, drama and sporting events – is absolutely wonderful and stronger than ever. A vibrant learning community is greatly dependent upon this level of support and it is a true delight for our children to see this grow from strength to strength. We also congratulate the forty families supporting the children predominantly in Year 4 in receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation last week.

We are planning a School Parish Mass for the first Sunday in Advent (1 December) and we look forward to seeing many of our families join us for this celebration – taking the first step to recognise the true meaning of Christmas. Our celebration of God’s gift to our world that the person of Jesus Christ comes to us in humanity – loving us with faults and strengths combined – is at the heart of this message.

As the Christmas festivities are soon to be upon us, a welcome gesture between classmates may be to share Christmas Cards. As in previous years, we encourage and promote the following. There is no better Christmas gift than to share words that are thoughtfully expressed. If your child is writing cards, please ensure that no-one is left out and we ask that Candy Canes and/or lollies or gifts are not necessary or enclosed. Our preference is that gifts are donated through our Mini Vinnies appeal. The true gift is in the sharing of kind words of friendship and good wishes. We also ask that any giving of cards occurs within the classroom environment under the supervision of your child’s teacher. Many parents expressed their appreciation for this policy last year and I am very happy to endorse this once more.

Social Media
With our stormy afternoons becoming a regular occurrence, let us remind you of the value of following our School Twitter account and Facebook. We need to have the Twitter as the main source for social media feeding into the FB platform. With the many events coming in the next 3 weeks, we will use Twitter and FB, which posts automatically on our school website, to communicate any changes that may be needed due to inclement weather. **You may remember that last year we needed to postpone our Christmas Concert an hour before the start to the next day during school time. We were able to do this quickly using social media.** If you need a hand to set up Twitter – please see Mr Billion.

**BCE Director – Learning and Teaching**
Last Friday we welcomed Mrs Helen Royan, the Brisbane Catholic Education Director for Learning and Teaching to speak with our teachers and students regarding the implementation of our LIFE – Learning Management System, an aspect of our whole school technology program. Mrs Royan was greatly impressed with the obvious active and effective learning from our students.
IMPORTANT DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 20 November</td>
<td>Middle Years Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 21 November</td>
<td>End of Semester Concert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 22 November</td>
<td>Year 7 Graduation Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next Week</td>
<td>Whole School Assembly, Prep Nativity, Junior Years Assembly, Carols Night</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some Staff News
This year, we sadly farewell Ms Sam Young who will be expanding her teaching experience and accepting a move closer to home at St Oliver Plunkett School, Cannon Hill. Ms Young has made a significant difference to the education and wellbeing of our students coming to St Rita’s as a graduate teacher in 2010. We wish Sam well in her move to St Ollie’s and we look forward to welcoming Ms Angela Manderson who will be transferring from there to St Rita’s.

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

Anne

St Rita’s Volunteers
As we head towards the end of Term 4, it is pleasing to see more volunteers who are assisting at St Rita’s. Just a reminder about the current legislation from the QLD Government in place in QLD schools regarding Blue Cards. Any volunteer that comes onto the school premises to work with children who is not a parent must have a Blue Card. This includes grandparents. If you are a parent and have not completed the volunteers register, please do so prior to volunteering. This can be accessed from the school office or alternatively from our school website.

Application forms for blue cards can be obtained from the school office. I also remind you all to please sign in at the office when you are visiting the school during the day. Your adherence to this is appreciated.

Furniture
As some of you may already be aware, the year 4’s and 5’s have recently been fitted with new contemporary learning classroom furniture. As a result, we will be donating a number of old student desks and furniture to Lifeline this Friday. If you would like a student desk for your home, could you please let me know via email shane.thompson1@bne.catholic.edu.au

Collection times will be tomorrow afternoon (Wed 13th Nov) from 3:30-4:00pm.

All the best
Shane

Last week was a very busy week with many year levels celebrating Mass or Liturgies. Thank you to the many parents who were able to support these celebrations by practicing readings with children, attending, or just being with us in Spirit. It is always great to gather as a community – please note some of the upcoming events.

Tuesday 26 November the Year 6 children are celebrating 9:00 am Mass together in the theme of ‘Wake Up, Believe, Repent’ in preparation for Advent. Please come and celebrate with the community if you are able to make it – you are most welcome.

Sunday 1 December we are celebrating with the Parish at Sunday mornings Mass the beginning of the Advent Season. Advent both marks the commencement of the preparation Season for the coming of Jesus, as well as the beginning of the Catholic Church’s Calendar Year. All St Rita’s children and families are especially invited to this Mass, which will also be our final Mass as a school community for 2013. The children will have a special children’s liturgy which will be supported by a number of our teaching community. We hope you can stay afterwards for morning tea.

Reflection
In the end
Only three things matter:
How much you loved
How gently you lived
And how gracefully you let go of things not meant for you.
Buddha

Have a wonderful week
Kevin

School fees are now overdue. Please ensure all fees are finalised by the end of the school year. If you need assistance please contact the school finance office.
STUDENT MEDICAL FORMS

The Student medical forms were sent home today. Please ensure these are returned to the school office by Friday 29 November. This information is very important, and needs to be updated every year, for every child.

NOT RETURNING IN 2014

A note went home last term about students not returning in 2014. If you are aware that your child/ren will not be returning to St Rita’s in 2014 it would be appreciated if you could return the form to the school office as soon as possible.

MINI VINNIES CHRISTMAS AND BACK TO SCHOOL APPEAL

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

Please show your support for families in our community by donating from the list of items requested by our Parish St Vincent de Paul Conference below. All items will stay within our Parish and are sure to brighten-up somebody’s Christmas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Donation Item</th>
<th>Mini Vinnies Reps</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Christmas lollies / Candy canes (no chocolates please)</td>
<td>Kasey, Paige, Aymee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Christmas table decorations / Tinsel / Bon Bons</td>
<td>Cian, Maddy B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tinned Biscuits / Shortbread</td>
<td>Madi W, Emerson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tinned ham / Tinned salmon</td>
<td>Claire, Addi M., Lucy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Christmas cakes / Christmas Puddings</td>
<td>Krystal, Ebonnie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Soft drinks / Cordial</td>
<td>Gabbi, Lauren</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Back-to-School snacks / Poppers</td>
<td>Tilly, Carla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Back-to-School snacks / Poppers</td>
<td>Jessica, Holly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>$5-$10 small gift for a primary-aged child (not wrapped)</td>
<td>Natasha, Piper</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Appeal runs from Mon 28 Oct until Thursday 28 Nov. The collection will be presented to the St Rita’s Parish St Vincent de Paul Conference at our carols evening. Please ensure that all food items are non-perishable.

MUSIC NEWS

Well done to all students who have been rehearsing very diligently on their carols songs performances. There will be an all star cast of P-7, Ukulele Orchestra, Solos, Band and dancers and some mystery performances and guests on the night. We will also be making use of our newly purchased choir stands, so bring your camera! 'Carols Under The Stars' will be held on the School Oval on Thursday 28th November at 6pm, with food and drink available from 5pm. Bring a blanket or chair, family and friends, a singing voice and a bit of Christmas spirit (and hopefully not an umbrella) and enjoy a great evening of entertainment!

If any parents can donate or loan any bits of Christmas decorative items to dress up the stage can you please drop them off at the office between now and next week. If there are any parents that can help with set-up, I will be setting up from 2pm on the day.

Paul Tyrrell

SCHOOL BANKING

The Banker of the Week this week is Grace C, congratulations Grace we have deposited $2 into your account for you. With Christmas sneaking up fast every year the Bank of Queensland help the Smith Family collect for families in need. This year we are helping to collect gifts for children aged 9 to 12 if you would like to make a donation the Christmas Tree is decorated and the stocking is ready to be filled, just pop into the Victoria Point branch with your new toy or book to put under the tree for those less fortunate and help make this Christmas a little brighter for an Aussie kid in need.

SPORTS NEWS

St Rita’s – Friday Night Touch Football (Last Round)

u/10’s Allstars 1 (Mr Brammer) – 4.30pm on Field 3A
u/10’s Allstars 2 (Mr Kenyon) – 4.30pm on Field 5B
u/12’s Allstars Blue vs u/12 Allstars Maroon 5.15pm on Field 8
u/14’s Invaders – Games Finished

Please return all playing singlets cleaned on Monday 25th November.
**Met-East Aquathlon Trials**

Congratulations to Ky (Y6) and Connor (Y6) who were successful in the recent Met-East Aquathlon trials. They came 5th and 6th respectively across the Met-East participants for a 1km run, 250m swim then another 1km run. Both boys will now head to Harvey Bay in February for the State Championships. Well Done Boys!

**Representative Sport – Presentation**

There will be a presentation on Monday 25 November at our School Assembly for those girls and boys who have been involved in Mission Cup Netball and Friday Night Touch Football.

**Mission Cup Netball**

There are still a number of netball dresses that have not been returned. Could players please return them cleaned by the end of the week to Mr Kenyon.

---

**ASSEMBLY AWARDS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3K</td>
<td>Emily H</td>
<td>For settling in so well into your new school and class. You are most welcome in our 3K class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jayke R</td>
<td>For settling in so well into your new school and class. You are most welcome in our 3K class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ella M</td>
<td>For being well organised to begin all learning activities and for completing her homework tasks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3T</td>
<td>Connor B and</td>
<td>Welcome to St Rita's and 3T. We are glad you joined our community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Declan-Lee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4T</td>
<td>Lexi, Connor,</td>
<td>For inspiring learning with determination and persistence, you have shown great progress in your reading this year! Congratulations!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kelso, Jordan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kayne</td>
<td>For taking care of property and being of great assistance during the Year Four furniture move. Your help was much appreciated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lachlan</td>
<td>For inspiring learning when you accept help and work cooperatively with teachers and friends at St Rita’s. Well done</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5L</td>
<td>Eloisa T</td>
<td>For always listening attentively and contributing interesting ideas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**TUCKSHOP NEWS**

**Wednesday 20th November**
Wendy Bevis
Trish McNamara

**Thursday 21st November**
Tania Digby
HELP NEEDED???

**Friday 22nd November**
Louise Lowcock
Michelle Kotynski
Nigel Wright
Emily Murray

**2ND BREAK**
Michelle Kotynski

A little reminder that we have Fruit Salad and Ice Cream this term for $2.00.

**PLEASE DO NOT FORGET TO PRE-ORDER YOUR SUSHI.**

Renee Saleh 0411 523 969

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**UNIFORM SHOP**

**HOURS**
Closed Thursday Nov 21.

Thursday 8.00 to 10.00am
Friday 8.00 to 10.00am

Orders placed for Year 2 moving to Year 3 are now ready for collection and payment, please ensure these orders are finalised by end on November. Prep families don’t forget that you need to purchase a navy blue hat for your students going into Year 1 next year.
SERENDIPITY ART CLASSES

Enrolments are now open for term 1, 2014. Enrolment forms are available from the school office. Classes are open to all students from prep to year 1 and new students are always welcome.
Yours in Art, Jenny Randall

PIANO/KEYBOARD LESSONS

Enrolments are currently being taken for piano and keyboard lessons for 2014. 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.
Vicki Minogue
Piano/Keyboard Teacher - 0407 027 216

YEAR 7 - HAWAIINA ALOHA 'OE

Shout out to all year 7 parents.
As part of the Year 7 Party we are having a Lollie/fruit Buffet complete with chocolate fountain. we are asking if parents could please send in donations of Lollies for the buffet. eg marshmallows, soft lollies (bananas/rasberries), licorice, dried apricots, waifers. There will be boxes in the class rooms for the kids to drop them in and they will be collected daily. A big thank you to all parents for getting the rsvp's back promptly.

St Rita’s Parish Craft Group’s Children’s Christmas Stall
All items $4 or less!
Great stocking fillers and Christmas Goodies for sale.
Come along and grab a bargain!

Thursday 28 November at the Christmas Carol Evening

FROM THE PARISH

Advent Adventures:
On Saturday 30th November, your children are invited to come to our church to participate in a very special day to prepare for Christmas. The theme that day will be “Advent Adventures”. Catholic children will gather from many schools for a fun day of activities including drama games, PowerPoint stories, craft, songs etc. BYO lunch. Morning and afternoon tea provided. Please let us know if you are coming by contacting the parish office on 3207 9177 or email Angela on pa.victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au

Return slip: Advent Adventures Holiday Activity Day

I would like to register my child/ren

Name/s __________________________________________

Age/s ______________________ School/s ____________________________

Parent’s name _________________________________________

Contact No _____________________ Email ___________________________
Children’s Liturgy
Our final Children’s Liturgy for Sat night 6pm mass and Sunday morning 9am will be the weekend 30th Nov/1st Dec. Mrs Candice Holden will be running a special Advent Children’s Liturgy every Sunday morning at 9am mass for the month of December.

Junior Choir:
The Junior Parish Choir will be singing at the 9am mass on Sunday 1st December. This will mark the first Sunday of Advent.

Meet and Eat:
Our final Meet & Eat for 2013 is planned for Sunday 1st December both 7am and 9am masses. So bring some gold coins and stay after mass for some yummy pikelets and jam.

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