Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

I am often told in an enrolment interview that we have a reputation for “good discipline” at St Rita’s. Yesterday we practised our “Lock Down and Drop” procedures as part of our Workplace Health and Safety Procedures. This time, the drill was to occur while students were out at play. Once the signature music for our procedure started to play, all 600+ students and staff were out of sight in secure and safe places and not a sound was to be heard within three minutes. It was an outstanding display of disciplined behaviour and we are very proud of the way in which the children conducted themselves. Moreover, it is indicative of the successful teaching of expected behaviours on a whole school basis. Congratulations to all teachers, staff and students for conducting this safety procedure so well.

While we always hope that it will not be needed, it is very reassuring to know that we are well prepared with good, thorough and disciplined practices.

As our year draws to a close we look forward to the school based Christmas activities – our annual Prep Nativity Play is on today and it seems like the weather is looking favourable for a splendid Carol Under the Stars event this coming Thursday. However, and with some relief, Christmas is not quite upon us and in fact, within our Church year, we are yet to begin the preparations for the coming of the Christ child in the Season of Advent. Often this can be missed in the busyness of end of school year activity. This year we are celebrating a School Parish Mass to mark the first Sunday of Advent and we hope to see many families there.

We are finalising Reports this week and they will be ready to distribute next week. Class groups and teachers for 2014 will be announced next Tuesday. An extraordinary effort goes in to the make up of these with collaborative processes in place. A request to make changes after such a thorough process will not be possible as the balance of academic and social needs has already been very carefully considered and needs to be respected.

School Fees
With only days remaining for the school year, could all outstanding fees be finalised by the close of school on 6 December.

Thank you to those who have done so already. It is vital for our bills to be paid that we are in receipt of these fees.

If you have difficulty with this, please contact our school office and Finance Secretary.

Looking forward to seeing you across the celebrations in the week ahead.

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

Anne

Many people have been commenting on the speed with which the year has been racing along with the end just over a week away. It is hard to believe that the festive season is upon us already.

2013 Year Book
The final proof for the 2013 Year Book was sent to the printers yesterday. Thanks for your feedback regarding last year’s edition which has resulted in trialling a new publisher this year and I am hopeful you will appreciate the fresh change. As always, I welcome your feedback.

It is anticipated that a copy will be sent home to all families early next week.

Second Semester Report Card
Next Tuesday the 3rd of December, your child will receive their second semester report card for 2013.
**IMPORTANT DATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 27 November</td>
<td>Junior Years Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 28 November</td>
<td>Carols Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next Week</td>
<td>Last Week of School Year, Whole School Assembly, Year 7 Graduation, Year 7 Excursion,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 6 December</td>
<td>SCHOOL CLOSES 12NOON</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This will provide families with a comprehensive view of how students have performed over the past semester across all areas of schooling (academically, socially, physically and emotionally). Teachers have used observations, checklists, assignments, work samples, exams and their professional judgement when compiling the report.

As parents and carers you would already have a good idea about how your child is performing at school but please contact the teacher if you have any queries or concerns about their education or performance.

Reports are beneficial as they provide us with an opportunity to praise our children for the great things they are doing and address any concerns in an affirming manner to ‘know more, do more and be more’.

We, as parents and teachers, have been working towards nurturing lifelong learners who are knowledgeable, creative, investigative, reflective, keen participants and good communicators.

We continue to strive to ensure the students at St Rita’s are flourishing to their full potential and continually challenged to ‘know more, do more and be more’ and their learning is our first priority.

Thanks very much for your continued support and partnership this year.
All the very best
Shane

**Preparation for Advent** – Mass 1 December 9:00 am

This Sunday, we look forward to seeing our families celebrate the beginning of Advent. The children in class are preparing ‘Advent Stars’ to place on the Christmas Tree during the Offertory Procession. The following was sent to me by a Parent and Parishioner – it is a simple story from years ago called “Mary’s Dream”:

**Mary’s Dream**

“I had a dream, Joseph. I don’t understand it, but I think it was about a birthday celebration for our son. The people in my dream had been preparing for about six weeks. They had decorated the house and bought new clothes. They’d gone shopping many times and bought many elaborate gifts.

It was peculiar, though, because the Presents weren’t for our son. They wrapped them in beautiful paper and stacked them under a tree. Yes, a tree, Joseph, right inside their homes! They’d decorated the tree with sparkling ornaments. There was a figure like an angel on the top of the tree.

Everyone was laughing and happy. They gave the gifts to each other Joseph, not to our son. I don’t think they even knew him. They never mentioned his name.

I had the strangest feeling that, if our Jesus had gone to this celebration, he would have been intruding. How sad for someone not to be wanted at his own birthday party! I’m glad it was only a dream. How terrible, Joseph, if it had been real!”

(Author Unknown)

**Reflection**

*I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen:
not only because I see it,
but because by it I see everything else.*

_C. S. Lewis_

Kevin

**MEDICATION**

Can you please ensure that all medication is collected from the school office at the end of the school year. You will need to collect a new **Student Medication Request Form** that must be completed by the doctor and returned at the start of the new school year with appropriate named medication.

If you child requires an asthma puffer you will also be required to provide a named spacer.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

**STUDENT MEDICAL FORMS**

The Student medical forms were sent home last week. 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.
**SCHOOL FEES**

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

Direct Debit forms were sent home last week, please ensure these are returned as soon as possible, if you didn’t receive one and would like to set up a direct debit for your school fee payment for 2014, please call into the office and collect one.

**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 Level</th>
<th>Donation Item</th>
<th>Mini Vinnies Reps</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Christmas lollies / Candy canes</td>
<td>Kasey, Paige, Aymee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(no chocolates please)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Christmas table decorations / Tinsel</td>
<td>Cian, Maddy B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>/ Bon Bons</td>
<td></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, Maddi M., Lucy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Christmas cakes / Christmas Puddings</td>
<td>Krystal, Ebonnie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></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-</td>
<td>Natasha, Piper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>aged child (not wrapped)</td>
<td></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.

**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.

**CHRISTMAS UNDER THE STARS**

I am looking forward to a wonderful evening of entertainment at our annual 'Christmas Under the Stars' on Thursday 28th November. Each class has prepared an item to perform on the evening. There will be a mystery performance on the night, as well as solo singers, band, dance and choir performances. Band students will need to meet Mr Smith at 5.30pm, choir students will need to meet Mr Tyrrell at 5.45 pm at the stage area on the school oval. If there are any parents that can help set-up on Thursday, I will be beginning set-up at 2pm on the oval. It would be greatly appreciated if we could get some parents to help pull down the equipment at the end of the night.

Please bring a blanket and a chair, and enjoy a wonderful evening of entertainment!

Please come along and enjoy 'Little Red Hoodie' presented by Senior Drama Club on Thursday 28th November. There will be 2 performances in the Unitas Centre at 12pm and 12.30pm.

Well done to Leah Lever (5K), who received a distinction in Trumpet (Grade 3) and a distinction in her piano exam! Well done!

Please note that there will be no choir (senior and junior) in week 9, however students will be having a pizza lunch on Monday for all their hard work this year!

Have a safe and happy holiday!
Paul Tyrrell - Arts Teacher
**ASSEMBLY AWARDS**

The following students were awarded a Gotcha from Gus. Fantastic Work!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1T</td>
<td>Sam B</td>
<td>For your impressive effort in delivering your Science presentation to the class. Well done Mr. Confident.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1L</td>
<td>Amy S</td>
<td>For being an inspired learner who consistently gives her best effort.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5K</td>
<td>Callum A</td>
<td>For her excellent research efforts in Science and History this term. Well done Lara, you are an inspiring learner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Michaela S</td>
<td>Thank you for being a great classroom organizer. Your consistent efforts are appreciated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5L</td>
<td>Mary W</td>
<td>For being a super reader and contributing interesting ideas during book club discussions!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Emily W</td>
<td>For making a great effort with her work this semester and listening attentively in class! Good Work!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ashton C</td>
<td>For being a valuable and considerate member of our class! We will miss you next year! Best wishes!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oliver P</td>
<td>For trying extra hard with new concepts in Maths and putting in a great effort! Well Done!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**YEAR FOUR SCIENCE**

As part of Science this term, 4 Truth have been exploring the life cycles of living things, in particular, flowering plants. The students have created a class website [http://4tlivingthingshavelifecycles.weebly.com](http://4tlivingthingshavelifecycles.weebly.com) to record their observations of bean plants throughout the term. Some pages of the website are still a ‘work in progress’ however the students would love to share their inspired learning with the St Rita’s community.

**SCHOOL BANKING**

The Banker of the Week is Brandon D in 1L, congratulations Brandon we have deposited $2 in your bank account for you. Thank you to all the families who have chosen to do school banking with the Bank of Queensland this year, we have some great little savers out there you’re doing a fantastic job of saving your money. This is the last week for Student banking, just because the school year has come to an end doesn’t mean you have to stop saving. You can still do your Student Banking at the Victoria Point branch, our friendly team would love to meet you over the school holidays.

School banking will start again on the 4 of February next year. Merry Christmas and stay save over the holidays.

**MUSIC AND DANCE LESSONS 2014**

Creative Kidz is now accepting new enrolments in Dance, Guitar, Singing, Drums, Brass, and Woodwind Lessons from Term 1, 2014 at St Rita’s School.

Learning a musical instrument or dance, helps your child develop in so many ways other than just learning the creative arts. Our Creative Kidz program offers children the chance to develop their social skills, communication skills, self-concepts, cooperative talents and creative mind. Ultimately, by learning an instrument or dance with Creative Kidz, we believe we are helping young people to be successful at anything they do in life through a fun filled environment.

Participation in the St Rita’s Dance Ensemble or the School Concert Band is free for any student who takes a music lesson with Creative Kidz at St Rita’s School.

If there are any students at the school who would like to be part of our fantastic Extra Curricular Arts Program please pick up an enrolment form from the school office or download an enrolment form from [www.creativekidz.com.au](http://www.creativekidz.com.au). Alternatively, if you have any questions please call Kathleen Smith on 0421022818 or email info@creativekidz.com.au

David and Kathleen Smith
TUCKSHOP NEWS

Wednesday 27 November
Michelle Berry
HELP NEEDED????

Thursday 28 November
Tracey Knight
HELP NEEDED????

Friday 29 November
Darren Smallwood
Leila Winterburn
Michelle Romeo
Maggie Helmn
2ND Break
Nicola Taylor

The last day of Tuckshop for 2013 is Thursday 5th December (first break only), we will be back Wednesday 29th January 2014.

It is great to see every taking advantage of the new Sushi Flavours with the pre-ordering. Great healthy choices.

If you would like to meet new families and help in tuckshop next year please let me know.

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

UNIFORM SHOP

HOURS
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.

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

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.

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 ______________________________
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

Christmas Holidays DANCE CAMP
Gold Coast
Bounce Dance are holding a dance camp for children aged 5 to 18 in the first week of school holidays Monday 16th December to Friday 20th December. Combining Hip Hop, Yoga, Jazz, Ballet, Contemporary, Bootcamp & Pilates. For more information please visit www.bouncedance.com.

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