FROM THE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

At St Rita’s our priority and focus for all actions and decision making is always centred on our children and what is best for them. They are the reason we are here! However, for this our last newsletter for 2013, I would like to dedicate and focus this message to our wonderful teachers and school officers.

At our last staff meeting, our teachers reviewed their individual Performance Development and Professional Learning Plans for the school year sharing “Thrills, Spills and Actions for next Year”. The atmosphere throughout the meeting was intensely positive and energised as each teacher articulated such thrills as these: Students achieving beyond expectations, the success that comes with additional support and focussed extension, the accomplishments of contemporary learning utilising new technologies and then - enthusiastically anticipating future goals and objectives for 2014. During these discussions each person received and welcomed focussed and constructive collegial feedback. I could not help but think how blessed our students are to have such dedicated and inspiring teachers developing their individual expertise as collaborative professionals.

Similarly, our school officers work enthusiastically with equal dedication providing additional support and encouragement to our students, delivering individual care and attention each day and delighting in all achievements, no matter how small. For the many parents who express their gratitude to the skills and qualities of our school staff – thank you. You may not realise just how much these gestures of gratitude are appreciated. Together we make St Rita’s a great school for our children.

Today you will receive your children’s Semester 2 reports. As I signed off on each one, I was able to reflect on the overall academic, social and spiritual achievements of our students and be confident in our school’s delivery of a high quality curriculum and bringing to reality our vision for each of us to continue to Know More, Do More and Be More.

Furthermore, we hope you enjoy this year’s edition of our School Year Book. This new look publication is filled with our many thrills and achievements for 2013.

This week we farewell some very special people. We are thankful to Mrs Evans for her teaching excellence and personal warmth brought to our staff and students throughout the year. We hope to have you back at St Rita’s in 2014. We wish Ms Sam Young every blessing. Ms Young has been connected with St Rita’s for a number of years. Initially as a school officer and then as a Graduate teacher in 2010. Sam has inspired us all and made an indelibly positive difference to many students’ lives. In addition, she has contributed positively as a dedicated and highly professional staff member. She will be greatly missed as she pursues and extends her professional experience at St Oliver Plunkett School.

To our Year 7 students, may you continue to grow in Christ’s love and that of your families as you progress into Secondary School. You have been a wonderful

IMPORTANT DATES

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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 4 December</td>
<td>Year 7 Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 6 December</td>
<td>SCHOOL FINISHES AT 12NOON</td>
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<td>Wednesday 29 January</td>
<td>First Day of 2014 School Year</td>
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group of student leaders – happy and spirited learners, pursuing your dreams and talents.

May those families leaving our school take with you fond memories of our community and we wish you well.

Finally, may the true meaning of Christmas be present to all – the gift of God’s ultimate love and goodness brought to be among us through the Christ Child. Be safe and happy throughout the Christmas season and summer break and we look forward to new school year in 2014.

May God’s peace and blessings be with you all.

Anne

**SCHOOL PARENT NETWORK**

**Monthly Volunteer Draw**

Be in the running to win two adult Cineplex movie tickets. All you need to do is place your raffle ticket in the volunteers registry box in the school office. Each month a ticket will be drawn and that volunteer will be rewarded for their time.

Congratulations to our latest winner, Tracey Knight, you have won two movie tickets!

Wishing all the families of St Rita's a peaceful and happy Christmas. We thank everyone who has helped to make 2013 a fun and rewarding year. We look forward to working together for another fantastic year in 2014!

**SCHOOL FEES**

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.

**ASSEMBLY AWARDS**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1K</th>
<th>1T</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alannah I</td>
<td>Sam B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom S</td>
<td>Cooper D</td>
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**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 your 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.

**"SPEAK" CHRISTMAS AT THE LIBRARY**

There will be a "Speak" Christmas break up session on Wednesday 4 December from 3.30-4.30pm, to make a Christmas decoration in the Cleveland Library.
**THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS**

*Christ the King is born*

*He is the son of God*

*Reminds us of goodness*

*Inspires us to follow his footsteps*

*Shining brightly the star overhead*

*Time to celebrate the birth of Jesus*

*Mary the mother cares for her child*

*And all of us as well*

*Sharing the joy, hope and peace to all.*

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**TUCKSHOP NEWS**

**Wednesday 4th December**

Veronica Dunn  
Tracey Knight  
Ross Romeo

**Thursday 5th December**

Maria Kease  
Trish McNamara

You may still pre-order Sushi for Thursday.

**Tuckshop will be closed on Friday as it is only half day.**

Cleaning will be done Thursday after 12:00pm if anyone would like to help.

I would like to thank all Volunteers who have helped throughout the year. It is great to see how many new friendships have been made through volunteering. You all have made the tuckshop the place to be when you are a new or old family to the school and most of all you have made it a fun and rewarding for all parents and students.

I look forward to seeing you all next year. Have a very Merry Christmas and a Wonderful New Year.

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

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**MUSIC NEWS**

Congratulations to all students from P-7 for fabulous carols night this year. It was great to see the students excited to perform to such a large crowd, and what a great job they did. Thank you to all that attended to make it a very special evening.

Well done to Junior Choir for putting on a fantastic concert at Marebello Aged-Care in Victoria Point. It was a lovely way to end the year (students also had all the residents singing by the end of the concert!). Thank you to all parents for coming along to support the students.

Just a reminder that choir has now concluded for the year, there will be no choir in week 9.

Have a great Christmas and a safe and happy new year. I look forward to a fun and exciting musicing in 2014.

Paul Tyrrell  
Art Teacher

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**UNIFORM SHOP**

There are still quite a few orders not collected or paid for, don’t forget this is the last week to do so, payments over the phone will be accepted if that is suitable.

**SHOP HOURS**

Thursday  8.00 to 10.00am  
Friday  8.00 to 10.00am

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**THANK YOU**

Mrs Nipperess and 1K would like to thank Ruby, Matilda, Brooke and Ronan from 3T for all of the hard work and dedication they have shown towards the boys and girls in 1K this year. You have all worked very hard and should be congratulated for your commitment to helping us learn.
I would like to send out a personal thank you to Tricia Eales and the other members of the Party Committee, the SPN, Eddie and Lorraine Dunne, Bob and all the parents of the Year 7’s for the wonderful support given to make the Year 7’s farewell Party a memorable success. It was incredible to see such a well behaved group of young teens enjoy each other’s company and all join in to create a fun atmosphere, not only for themselves but for the many parents who came along to supervise on the night.

A little keepsake pack will be going home with each student on Tuesday, containing a DVD of the Photobooth Photos that were taken and an Autograph Booklet kindly donated by Hayden’s parents, Owen and Dannielle Green, which can be filled and kept as a momento of their last year of Primary School. I wish all the students well in the next chapter of their lives, High School.

Debbie Tye-Anderson

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

Just a reminder that there are still a few openings for new students in Serendipity Art Classes for term 1, 2014. Everyone is welcome from Prep to Year 7. Enquiries please don’t hesitate to text Jenny on 0438 376 311.

I would like take this opportunity to wish you all a Christmas that is filled with the blessings and love of family and friends. Looking forward to 2014 and more beautiful art.

Jenny Randall.

Thank you to all of the creative students who have taken part in Wool Club this year, it’s been very exciting watching you learn new skills and seeing all of the wonderful things you have made. In our last Wool Club class for the year this week, we are going to make a small Christmas project. The students will also be able to take home all of their projects from the year on Wednesday so don’t forget to come along! (And bring back all borrowed knitting needles please).

Lastly, a very big thank you to all of the volunteers who have given their time to Wool Club this year. Sharing your knowledge and experience with the students has been invaluable and we couldn’t have Wool Club without you!

Happy Christmas everyone 😊
Carly

Children’s Liturgy at Sunday 9am mass only
Mrs Candice Holden will be running a special Advent Children’s Liturgy every Sunday morning at 9am mass for the month of December.

Christmas Vigil Junior Choir Members Needed
Christmas Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24 December at 6pm – there will be Children’s Drama & Singing to portray the Christmas Liturgy of the Word. It promises to be a beautiful Mass for children and families. We are practising for this Wednesday 4th December in the Ruby room (next to the parish office), but also there will be practices during the holidays &/or weekends. If you are interested, please tell Martina Saunders or Madonna Hennessy or the Parish Office (3207 9177)
Christmas Eve Vigil Nativity Drama
Is your child interested in acting out the Christmas Liturgy? St Rita’s Parish is looking for children to participate in the Christmas Vigil Family Mass at 6pm, Tuesday 24th December. If you would like your child to join our Parish in this joyful and spiritual celebration of the Birth of Jesus, please contact Angela (pa.victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au) or St Rita’s Parish Office on 3207 9177 for more details.

St Vincent de Paul Toy drive
Christmas is not always a time for giving and receiving. For many children experiencing disadvantage, Santa doesn’t come and parents don’t have the opportunity to give gifts to their children or indeed to receive them. At Christmas, Vinnies members and volunteers, through the generosity of our supporters, spread a little magic at this special time of year by providing families in crisis with Christmas gifts and necessities. We invite you to join the Vinnies Christmas Toy Appeal and light up the face of a young child on Christmas morning. Your donation will make a huge difference to the lives of Australians experiencing disadvantage.

SVdP request that all toys/gifts are new – no second hand toys please. They suggest that smaller items such as DVDs, book vouchers, educational games, board games etc. are donated and would ask that no soft toys are included. For health and safety reasons, all gifts must be unwrapped. All donations can be left for the parish in the school office or in the green donation box at the back of the church. Thank you :

TRANSDEV SCHOOL BUSES
Transdev Queensland (TDQ) has been granted approval by TransLink to make a number of school service changes, which will commence 27 January 2014. Changes to school services were based on TDQ’s annual school services review conducted in 2013, the April network review conducted in 2013 and the South East Qld urban network review.

We strongly encourage all students and parents to revise their route prior to school commencement in 2014. You can find all updated school route and timetable information on Transdev Qld’s website at http://www.transdevqld.com.au from the 20 December 2013.

Transdev Queensland looks forward continuing to providing you with safe and reliable school services.

Should you require any further information please contact Transdev Qld on 3248 610

Christmas by Starlight
Location: Norm Price Park
Redland Showgrounds,
Long Street, Cleveland
Date: Saturday 7 December
Time: 3pm to about 8pm

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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Program 1:  Monday September 30th to Friday October 4th 2013
(Every Saturday 8:00am to 10:30am)

Program 2:  Saturday November 16th to Saturday December 14th 2013
(Every Saturday 8:00am to 10:30am)

Program 3:  Monday January 20th to Friday January 24th 2014
(Everyday 8:00am to 10:00am)

Program 4:  Saturday March 8th to Saturday April 5th 2014
(Every Saturday 8:00am to 10:30am)

littlesavers@lifesaving.com.au