

SCHOOL NEWS

Learning, Respect, Community and Faith



1st May 2012

Edition 13

STAFF

Parish Priest:	Fr Bill Grundy
Principal:	Gavin Rick
APRE:	Sarah Hession
Prep/Yr 1:	Lana Ross
Yr 2/3/4:	Sarah Hession/Vicki Jago
Yr 5/6/7:	Dean Garside
Science:	Taryn Greenwood
Literacy Support	Bernadette Anthony
Performing Arts	Michelle Garside
LST:	Vicki Jago
Indigenous Support	Michelle Garside
Japanese:	Dorota Konszky
Admin Officer:	Julie Cross
Library/Aide:	Debbie Kurucz
School Officers:	Donna Lauridsen Lisa Calcagno
Cleaner:	Marie Torrisi

SCHOOL TIMES

First Bell:	8.40am
First Lunch:	11.00-11.45am
Second Lunch:	1.10-1.30pm
Finish Time:	3.00pm

OFFICE HOURS

Mon - Thur:	8.00am - 2.30pm
Fri:	8.00am - 2.00pm

PARISH MASS TIMES

Sat :	7.00pm
Sun :	8.00am

DATES TO REMEMBER

Term 2

May 11th	Mother's Day Salon/Spa
May 15/16/17th	Naplan
May 30th	Trivia Night
May 31st & 1/6	Athletics Carnival
June 6th	Student Free Day
June 11th	Queen's Birthday Holiday



Principal's Pen



WHO WE ARE AT ST RITA'S IS DEFINED BY OUR CORE VALUES.

The staff spent time early in term 1 explicitly teaching the students the values and most importantly how that looks in behaviour.

Parents were invited into the process where

students were asked to talk at home about how their family lives out those values. While we aren't the same, it is important for children that there are some similarities between the values played out in the home and school. As Dr Sue Roffey explained, this helps children to gain knowledge of 'what's important (values)' in life. She reinforced the notions that a healthy level of consistency between home and school brings about for children greater chance of:

- A knowledge and understanding of what's expected
- Good skill levels for communication
- Learning ways to have their needs met which are socially acceptable
- Greater ability to settle and focus

We all want our children to be 'good'. What does 'good' mean? It is a very subjective notion. Dr Roffey states that it is dependent upon-

- Explicit and implicit values (what is important in your community/family) Our St Rita's Values shape what our community consider to be 'good' ie. Being good means being a person who is about learning, a respectful person, a community minded person and a person of faith
- Modelling by significant others... children take notice of others who are important to them. St Rita's staff are always striving to model our values to the children and parents. Children see... children do! As a parent I am always mindful of what my children 'see and hear' me do. An interesting exercise to stop and ask yourself "If I were (my son/daughter) what would I have seen and heard me do today?"
- Strength of relationships... children will do things for people they believe care about them. At St Rita's it is important that the children know that staff and



parents 'care'

- Self concept... how a child thinks about themselves directly effects behaviour. Where do they get ideas and feedback about themselves from? Us
- How you are feeling... emotional and physical health has a direct effect on behaviour. At St Rita's our SEL and Health curriculum aim to address this. Nutrition, sleep and exercise is a major part of this.
- Opportunity and ability to reflect... learning occurs through reflection and at St Rita's we employ processes of reflection on learning and behaviour such as Circle Time.

In the coming weeks, the children will be revising the values and their application to our school community. We will be celebrating when we see them 'living them out' because 'that's the way we are doing things at St Rita's now.' I invite parents to also use that behaviour specific feedback in the home – eg. "When you help set the table, you were being a community person and that's important in a family."

P&F NEWS

The P&F Meeting is tonight at 7pm in the Library. A jam packed agenda with one of the main topics being the Harvest Festival. Now that St Rita's has been successful in its application for the bar there is quite a bit to organise. This should be a major fundraiser for the P&F and parent support will be needed.



Harvest Festival Float: Many thanks to the parents who responded to the P&F call for volunteers to help co-ordinate the float. With this year's theme of Wet n Wild we are sure to be able to come up with something great.

ST RITA'S SALON AND SPA SPOILING OUR MUMS AND SPECIAL LADIES



All mothers, grandmothers, aunts and special ladies are warmly invited to the Mother's Day pamper session on Friday 11 May here at St Rita's. An invitation is going home this week with the children. Oh and while all you Mums can't know

what it is, Dads and children have been given special Principal homework which is due in Tuesday 8 May – some gentle and supportive reminders might be in order.

PRINCIPAL CONFERENCE

This week I will be attending the Queensland Primary Principal's Conference in Mackay. The theme of the gathering is "Head, Heart and Soul – Creating the Balance" I look forward to establishing some networks with other Principals from around the Nation and bringing back valuable learnings to St Rita's. In my absence, Mrs Sarah Hession will be Acting Principal.

SCHOOL HAT CLARIFICATION



As a school with a conscience about safety and health, we have an expectation that all students wear their school hat. Both styles have been chosen specifically as they provide optimum shelter from the elements. In the event

that a school hat is misplaced, in the wash, been eaten by the dog or taken by the 'school hat monster' that has been seen lurking around, then a note from parents is required and an alternative hat worn as a temporary measure is allowed. Temporary hats should also be fully brimmed and not be a cap to be consistent. We do understand the frustrations that surround hats by parents – this is an organisational skill that we expect the children to learn. In support of parents we regularly get all students to bring all hats in the school to the hub and staff check names.

Recently, I have had one of our students write to me as a preparation piece for NAPLAN, a persuasive argument aimed at convincing me that if they are in the shade then they shouldn't have to have a hat. While this student did an excellent job of stating their reasons, we want the children to learn valuable life-long sun-safety habits of always having a hat with you when you are outside. We all know that skin damage done in childhood, is irreversible and has long term effects. Therefore, the 'No School Hat – No Play' expectation remains and students sit out of play in the hub.



All staff are required to wear a hat on duty as a role model to the students – children see, children do! Thanks for your continued support with this.

NAPLAN IN PERSPECTIVE

In this week's newsletter, I include an article written by our Counsellor Tauba for parents to read. Tauba has drawn on the wisdom of a number of people in her article. I urge you to read it. NAPLAN is on 15-17 May

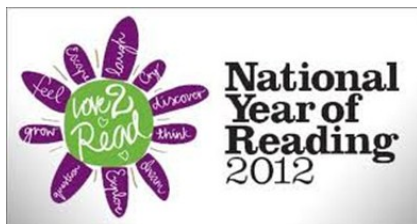
ST RITA'S IN THE TOP 10 OF NORTH QUEENSLAND



Last week I learned that St Rita's has been ranked 6th place in all of the North Queensland Region for its results, including NAPLAN. This is inclusive of all State, Catholic and Private/Independent Schools in the region. This statistic just reinforces and affirms the good quality teaching and learning that takes place here at St Rita's. Parents are a part of that learning and can also take some credit. Well done St Rita's!!!

NATIONAL YEAR OF READING CELEBRATIONS

2012 has been designated the National Year of Reading and St Rita's is marking the occasion by having its very own



"Live in Teacher Librarian" for a week. This will be from Monday 4 – Friday 8 June. Mrs Fran Hughes of Catholic Education

came last week and meet with the staff to plan a whole range of engaging activities for the students for the week. A program is being developed at the moment but will include activities such as-

- Staff/parents Story Telling to students before school
- E-books being developed by students
- Book Trailers
- High Tea and Read aloud session inviting parents and grandparents in
- Speed Dating with Books
- Creating Audio Books

- Spellathon (Friday 8 June)
- Simultaneous Story Time
- Parent Session – looking at resources/services available through Cns City Libraries
- Staff Professional Learning

Given that Wednesday 6 June is Pupil Free, we will be very busy getting through all of that but we believe it is so important that we are prepared to 'just do it!' More information as time draws near.

GUIDELINES FOR PARENT COMMUNICATION

Thank you again to the parents who responded to the call for comments and feedback on the new document we are implementing. Now that we have parent comments, these will be considered by the Leadership Team and go to the staff. We are hoping that this can then be adopted and in place by the end of this term. It will then be positioned under the Diocesan Parent and Volunteer Code of Conduct Policy being developed.

WELCOME THE ROSS FAMILY

What an exciting week it was last week to have the Ross family officially join St Rita's. Mrs Ross who is our new Prep/1 Teacher, and her husband Scott were able to settle Cassie (Yr 1) and Caitlin (Yr 3) into school. Mrs Ross was also able to engage in some induction with myself and with Mrs Rick with Curriculum. Mrs Ross began yesterday and we are delighted to have her and the girls with us.

HEALTHY LUNCHES AND SNACKS

As we know, the food we eat has a direct impact on our body and behaviour. At school, children need every opportunity to be set up for success. We promote this through having a healthy 'brain break' snack at 10am daily where only fresh fruit and vegetables are allowed to be eaten. Parents of St Rita's on the whole provide



nutritious, healthy options for lunch. This is no mean feat as children can be very fussy and at times, hard to please. Below are some guidelines from Fresh Foods for Kids website:

Ensure you include a range of fresh fruit and vegetables and vary the food daily so kids don't become bored.



Top tips for a healthy lunch box

- Always include fresh fruit and vegetables. Vary the selection to keep it interesting.
- Offer a variety of whole grain breads, rolls, pita bread and flat breads.
- Use avocado as a spread instead of butter or margarine.
- Use reduced fat dairy foods. Cheese and yoghurt are ideal.
- Kids need a serve of protein at lunchtime. Ensure you include lean meat, egg, peanut butter, chickpeas or tuna.
- Add a chilled bottle of water and limit juice.

http://www.freshforkids.com.au/lunch_box/lunch_box.html

We do ask that parents refrain from providing chocolate, chips, lollies and other high sugar, salt and highly processed foods in lunch boxes, or if you do make it infrequent and a special 'treat'.

I trust the week ahead will be rewarding and successful for you. Whatever comes your way, know you have all you need to deal with it.

Cheers



Could we all please keep Father Grundy in our thoughts and prayers, on the sad occasion of his sister's passing.

APRE/SEL NEWS

This week we continue to celebrate the **season of Easter** and the resurrection of Jesus. The season begins on Easter Sunday and finishes with Pentecost. Classrooms recognise this through the symbolism of white on our prayer tables, our Curriculum content, and gatherings such as the **Year 2/3/4 Class Mass next Tuesday** which will be linked to the Easter

Season. All in our community are very welcome to celebrate Mass with us, and gather for a coffee afterwards.

The Gospel readings for Mass this week, the 4th Week of Easter, focused on '**God the Shepherd**'. Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd who is willing to die for the



sheep." (Jn 10: 11-18) The image of God as a shepherd is a powerful one. The shepherd in Jesus' time knew each and every sheep in his flock, and he would guide them, lead them and protect them throughout the night. For us today, this calls on our value of **FAITH**. Through faith, we trust in God's guidance, care and leadership.

Have a wonderful week

Sarah

	<h2>Boy, oh, boy!</h2> <p>St Rita's Parents & Friends Association invites you to an informative, relevant and interesting workshop all about BOYS. You will discover the WHAT, WHY and HOW of raising 'super' boys.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Find out why boys are different and unique. ✓ Get some current and relevant information about boy biology. ✓ Discover the most effective attitude, discipline strategies and relationship skills. ✓ Learn how to understand your boys and how to make your house 'boy friendly.' 	<p>About the Workshop</p> <p>About the Presenter</p> <p>Janine Wicks is an experienced and committed teacher, a proud mum, and a passionate and informed workshop presenter. Janine has presented workshops and provided follow up support to teachers, teacher aides, parents and carers - from day care through to high school settings. Janine wants anyone who has contact with kids (and boys especially!!) to utilise the best management skills in order to develop the best possible relationship. With a 'superhero son' and a 'fairy princess daughter', Janine gets plenty of opportunity to practice and develop her skills on the home front as well!</p>
<p>Workshop Details</p> <p>Date: Tuesday 22 May Time: 7pm (takes 1.5 hours)</p> <p>Location: St Rita's School – Church Street Cost: \$5 per person</p> <p>RSVP: Friday 18 May to St Rita's School – 40671467 or secretary.babinda@cns.catholic.edu.au</p> <p>Childcare provided for school aged children upon request (registration required)</p>	

ST. RITA'S TRIVIA NIGHT

WEDNESDAY 30TH MAY 2012

Tables of 8

Don't miss out - BOOK EARLY!!!

Phone 40 671467



STARS OF THE WEEK



Prep / Yr 1 Lila Falchetti

Year 2/3/4 Jacob Bowen

Year 5/6/7 Clifford Stone

GROUNDS & GARDENS ROSTER

Thank you to the following families who are rostered on:



OLIVERI 28th April - 11th May

LUCE 12th May - 25th May

Please be sure to check the roster so that you can organize to pick up and drop the mower key

to the office.

COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

GOOD COUNCIL COLLEGE

ENROLMENT YEAR 8, 2013

Enrolments have opened for those parents wishing to place their children in year 8 at Good counsel College in 2012.

Applications for enrolment may be obtained from the College office at 66 Owen Street, Innisfail or by phoning 4063 5300.

The first round of offers will be made to applicants who have returned their completed application forms and who have attended an enrolment interview by Friday 17th August, 2012

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PET SHOW

Saturday 9th June 2012, 9am - 3pm

SAINT MICHAEL'S SCHOOL



58 MILL STREET GORDONVALE

Great prizes & giveaways

Lucky door prizes

Various stalls & activities

Jumping castle / Face painting

Games & crafts / Refreshments

Pet entry fee & categories:

Pocket Pet \$3.00 / Cuddle Me Pet \$5.00 / Big Step Pet \$7.00

Further info: please contact HELEN (0407 711 501) or JO (0414 330 893)

Thought of the Week

Remember that happiness is a way of travel, not a destination.

MUNRO THEATRE BABINDA

Screening at 7.30pm on
4th, 5th & 6th May, 2012

THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TAT-
TOO (M15+)



Admission \$7.00

Info line 40671032

Coming Soon:

THE BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL (PG)

Screening at 7.30 pm on
11th, 12th & 13th May, 2012

Admission \$7.00

FREE WELL WOMEN'S CLINICS



Babinda Hospital Tuesday 15th May 2012 Ph: 40 678200

Mamu Health Svce Tuesday 22nd May 2012 Ph: 40 615182

Services include Pap Smears, Sexual Health Screening, Breast Awareness—also info on Contraception, Continence, Menopause, Lifestyle Issues, Domestic Violence etc.. All services are provided by a specially trained Women's Health Nurse,

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THE TROPICAL GARDEN FAIR

Cannon Park Racecourse

May 13th 2012 (Mother's Day) 8.30am-3.30pm

Plant, chicken & fish stalls. Live entertainment.

Great food. Gumboot Toss comp. between garden clubs.

Zoo to You. Dog obedience & agility displays. NULEAF

LUCKY GATE PRIZE TO THE VALUE OF \$2000. Kids lucky gate prize. Entry \$7/Aged pension. \$4/Child. under 13 Free.

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Girls, boys and teenagers have fun at the Harvest Festival this year. Be creative and dress up as a BABINDA "RAIN DANCER". 3 prizes to be won for BEST COSTUMES! Phone Judi Van Dycke for further information on 40 672604. Register with Frances Alley @ Babinda Pharmacy.

