

# SCHOOL NEWS

Learning, Respect, Community and Faith



15th May 2012

Edition 15

## 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 Konzsky
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

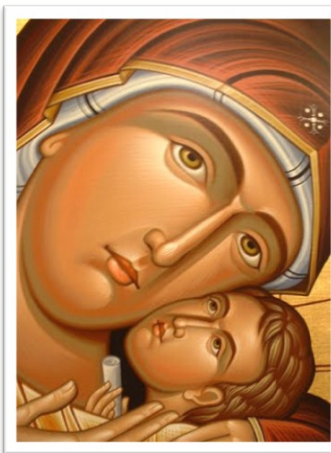
## DATES TO REMEMBER

### Term 2

May 15/16/17th	NAPLAN Testing
May 22nd	Mass -Feast of St. Rita 9am
May 30th	Trivia Night
May 31st & 1/6	Athletics Carnival
June 6th	Student Free Day
June 11th	Queen's Birthday Holiday



## Principal's Pen



**We pray that on this Mother's Day  
You'll have some time for 'You'  
To be able to do those special things  
You've always wanted to.  
We pray you'll feel the closeness  
Of the Lord God above  
And know how much you're  
thought of  
And how much that you're loved.**

**M<sup>S</sup> Lowndes**

*On the week of Mother's Day, I offer you the following extract for reflection:*

*"Being a mother provides meaning to life we would not experience otherwise. It's not always easy or enjoyable, but life without children would be empty. Lessons we learn while raising children are not taught in school: lessons on how to endure a long day after being up all night with a colicky baby, or how to get rid of lice without setting your child's hair on fire. We learn lessons on how to stay calm when the attendance office reports our teenager has skipped school all day, or how to pay for unexpected accidents with a new driver. And as our kids grow older, we learn how to let go when our 18-year-old leaves for college or our young adult announces wedding plans.*



*Being a mother is much more than giving birth to a child. Mothers provide love, encouragement, hope, counsel, discipline, and understanding. As mothers, we don't give up when our child goes astray, or turn our back when our child rebels. We endure heartache and disappointment; we*



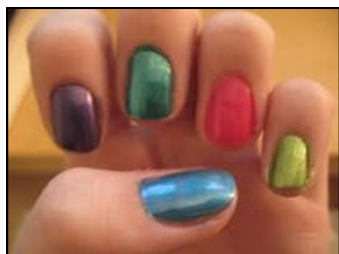
celebrate victories and accomplishments. We offer unending selflessness, knowing there are no guarantees of the end result.

As a mother, celebrate your role today and give thanks for the honor you've been given. Affirm your value and commit to be a positive influence as you guide and nurture your children."

Gayla Grace (Article Source: <http://EzineArticles.com/4220293>)

## ST RITA'S SALON AND SPA

The mothers and grandmothers of St Rita's devoured the attention and love that was lavished on them on Friday afternoon when our school transformed into a Salon and Spa. The attendance was tremendous and the spirit in the room was



magic as our children showed their mums how much they care. Thank you to the staff for the effort in organising the afternoon. One of our parents emailed in "Thank you and your staff so much for organising the Mother's Day activities on Friday. Once again it was very enjoyable and I think a great afternoon was had by both the mums and students. This is another one of the reasons why we have chosen a Catholic school for our children, everything isn't about abc, 123."

## NAPLAN

We remember and pray for our students in Years 3, 5 & 7 this week as they sit the NAPLAN tests. A letter was sent to parents last week with suggestions for preparation including good night's sleep and nutritious food. Being at school on time and in a relaxed state of mind is also helpful.

## WELCOME BACK MRS CROSS

Yesterday we welcomed back a familiar face to St Rita's after a month of leisure - our skilled and dedicated Administration Officer Julie Cross. From all reports, Julie had a wonderful time in Tasmania and relaxing with her family.

## JOB'S TO DO



As we prepare the school for the Official Opening of the Library extensions and the Multi-Purpose Court, there are a few jobs that need doing. There will be a **Working Bee on Sunday 17 June** to tackle some paving off the court, however some other jobs in need of doing are on the list. If any parents have any spare time at all and are willing to help out we need:

- The front fence cleaned from mould
- The externals of the Library cleaned in preparation for painting.

You might have an hour here and there or a day up your sleeve – any time is appreciated. If you are able to help out please let the office know. We want our school looking the best it can be for the Opening early August as well as for our students all the time.

## JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH

The Year 2/3/4 Class are currently organising an excursion to see the live concert of 'James and the Giant Peach', linking with our English Curriculum. We will attend the play on 15/6/2012 at 11am and the cost will be \$12 per child.



## PARENTS AND FRIENDS NEWS

Harvest Festival Float: A very productive meeting was held yesterday afternoon to make plans for the float. Please see attached permission form.

## WINTER UNIFORM ORDERS

Orders for Winter Jackets and Track Pants are now ready for collection. Jackets \$28 and Track Pants \$24.





## BOY OH BOY WORKSHOP

A reminder to register for the parent workshop on Boys which is coming up next **Tuesday 22 May**. Cost is \$5 and is payable upon registration at the School Office. The session is also open to parents from other schools and the community. Child minding is available for school age children which has to be registered when booking your place. Food and drink for the students has to be provided by parents.

## ST RITA'S TRIVIA NIGHT

On Wednesday, 30 May, the staff of St Rita's put on a fabulous night of fun and facts with the annual Trivia Night. **Get a table of friends together and come along.** To register simply call the school office or email [secretary.babinda@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:secretary.babinda@cns.catholic.edu.au) Last year was my first one in Babinda and I thought it was a great night – bit of healthy competition never hurt anyone!!!



## SOME PARENTING TIPS TO HELP BUILD CONNECTION WITH CHILDREN



In her talk that I attended recently, Maggie Dent (parenting and resilience specialist) spoke passionately about the need for children to feel

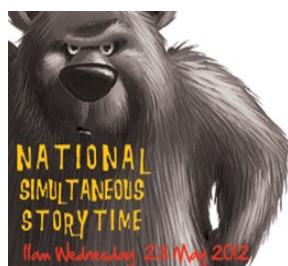
connected – I'd go so far as to say that ALL people need to feel and experience connection. Healthy Connection between parents and their children can assist children to be emotionally and socially 'well'. There are a considerable number of children today, who, for whatever reason, are not getting that sense of connection from parents. We see the effects of this in schools when children exhibit insecurity and anxiety, have social issues and low

resilience. Maggie was stating that it starts at birth and develops through positive and loving interactions. She offered some very simple and practical suggestions:

- Give your child a small symbol or object to hold on to in your absence
- Use rituals to build and reinforce connection, particularly at bedtime eg. Story, prayers of gratitude, hand massages
- Parting rituals such as kissing the palm of your child's hand and the other parent kissing the other when saying goodbye and when they need to they can place their palms on the heart
- Play "I love you more than..... the stars in the sky, hairs on a bear, grains of sand on the beach..." getting them to come up with some
- Spray Dad's cologne on a hanky (not Old Spice though!!!)
- Surprise notes in their lunchbox
- Take a bite out of their sandwich
- Surprise tickle attacks on the couch or bed (leave unexpectedly and let them experience the rush without you there)
- Take every opportunity you have to play with and talk with your children – remove digital distractions and work.

To check out her practical, no nonsense tips on her blog <http://www.maggiedent.com/>

## SIMULTANEOUS STORY TIME



Next Wednesday 25 May St Rita's will participate in the National Simultaneous Story Time. This year the shared text is The

Very Cranky Bear. By Nick Bland Our school will gather at 11am in the School Library, for the public sharing of this much loved story. Parents are most welcome to attend.



### HEALTHY LUNCH BOX REMINDER

A plea to parents to be providing food of the highest nutritional value in lunch boxes only. We know that food has a direct effect on children’s learning and that foods high in sugar are not suitable – save these as treats for after school please. Fresh fruit and vegetables, yoghurts and healthy sandwiches are strongly encouraged.

Have a blessed week – do something you love ‘just because’.

Gavin



### TUCKSHOP

A reminder that tuckshop will recommence this Friday 18th May 2012. The new menu is as follows:

Ham & P/apple mini pizza		\$3.00
Ham, Salami & Cheese mini pizza		\$3.00
Sausage Roll	sml	\$1.20
	lge	\$1.70
Toasted Sandwich -	Ham & Cheese	\$3.20
	Chicken & Cheese	\$3.20
	Cheese	\$2.40
Jelly Cup		\$1.00
Jelly Cup (with custard)		\$1.20
Muffin		\$0.80

**Please remember to write lunch orders on the front of a paper bag and if possible, enclose the correct amount of money. Orders need to be in by WEDNESDAY.**

Can you please make sure that orders clearly show:

1. Student’s name
2. Class
3. What is being ordered
4. Amount of money enclosed

### APRE / SEL NEWS

Last week’s reading is one of the Gospel’s most beautiful, simple and important lessons:

**“Love one another, as I love you.”** (Jn: 4-7)

The reading goes on to say:

“The greatest love a person can have for his friends is to give his life for them. I do not call you servants any longer. Instead, I call you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. This, then, is what I command you: love one another.”

This reading gives us the chance to stop and reflect about what makes a good friend. A friend is someone who’s treated as an equal, someone with whom we share our inner thoughts and feeling without fear. In the fast pace of life, this week take some time to stop and be grateful for our friends. As adults, they strengthen and enrich our lives so greatly. Below are some tips about friendship that we can share with our children.

### Raising friendly kids

By Michael Grose First published: January 17th, 2010

Children are much happier if they know how to make friends and be social. But how do you point them in the right direction? Children who are able to form friendships when they start school are happier and also learn better. More significantly, positive friendships have long-term implications for social and, indirectly, academic success. Friendships skills are generally developmental, but they don't develop in isolation. Kids acquire these skills when they play with their siblings and interact with children and adults outside their family.

Here are seven skills to help children develop.

1. Ask for what you want This means children don't throw tantrums, whinge, sulk or expect parents to guess what's on their minds. While we need to be patient with toddlers, we also need to give older children the chance to ask for what they want. Sometimes we need to ignore shrugs and grunts and expect them to articulate their wishes. This is the basis of civil behaviour and a basic human skill.
2. Good manners Teach kids good manners, in particular the three "power words": your name, please and thanks.
3. Sharing Very young children like to keep their possessions to themselves. As they get older, the notion of sharing becomes a prerequisite for forming relationships with others. Other children like to be with those who share their time, possessions and space with them. Sharing is the start of empathy as it shows sensitivity to other people's feelings.

4. Holding a conversation Conversations require self-disclosure, which can be challenging for some children. Good conversationalists give of themselves, but also take an interest in the person they are talking to. Children need to learn to ask questions, to take turns to speak and to show they are listening by making eye contact and not interrupting.

5. Winning and losing well Kids need to learn to win without rubbing others' noses in it, throwing tantrums or making excuses. Wanting to win is natural, but they need to maintain a relationship with other players. Losing may make them feel bad, but they need to learn to control their feelings.

6. Approaching and joining a group The ability to approach strangers in social situations is a skill that opens many doors. This can be learned during childhood, so that it becomes second nature in adulthood.

7. Handling fights and disagreements It's important to get across to kids that having a disagreement doesn't mean a friendship is over. The results of a number of studies indicate that children can be taught friendship skills. The strategies are simple and revolve around teaching children a range of friendly behaviours such as talking with others while playing, showing an interest in others, smiling, offering help and encouragement when needed, a willingness to share and learning how to enter a game or social situation.

Get more ideas to help kids become more social at [www.parentingideas.com.au](http://www.parentingideas.com.au)

Sarah



### WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN PROGRAMME

From Wednesday 9th May, simply start collecting stickers at the checkout of your local Woolworths supermarket (self-service too) to place on your child's sticker card. There'll be one sticker for every \$10 spent, excluding purchases of liquor smoking/tobacco products and gift cards. Once completed, simply drop the sticker card into a collection box, either at your school or at your local Woolworths.

## ST. RITA'S TRIVIA NIGHT

WEDNESDAY 30TH MAY 2012

Tables of 8

Don't miss out - **BOOK EARLY!!!**

Phone 40 671467



### CAIRNS CENTRAL—SHOP FOR CAIRNS KIDS PROMOTION



14th May—24th June

The promotion has begun and you can help by visiting [www.facebook.com/cairnscentral](http://www.facebook.com/cairnscentral). There you will find the St Rita's movie asking people to support our school. If you have a Facebook account click on 'share' and it will then be shared with your FB friends. This is a simple way to spread the word. Imaging what we can do with \$10000...

### STARS OF THE WEEK



Prep / Yr 1	Roisin Stager
Year 2/3/4	Nicholas Stone
Year 5/6/7	Calin Brose

### GROUNDS & GARDENS ROSTER

Thank you to the following families who are rostered on:



LUCE	12th May - 25th May
HELP NEEDED	26th May—8th June

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



## TRIVIA NIGHT BOOKING FORM

We wish to book a table for the St Rita's Trivia Night.

Our Team Name is:- \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

