

SCHOOL NEWS

Learning, Respect, Community and Faith



29th May 2012

Edition 17

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 30th	Trivia Night
May 31st & 1/6	Athletics Carnival
June 2nd	Harvest Festival
June 6th	Student Free Day
June 8th	Spell-a-Thon
June 11th	Queen's Birthday Holiday



Principal's Pen

PENTECOST



Sunday 27 May is the feast of Pentecost. It is a feast of the universal church which commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles, 50 days after the resurrection of Christ. It is the birthday of the Church and is the beginning of the new church year.

We are officially now in the Year of Grace. In the coming year we will be focussing on how we can be 'gracious' and merciful in our community.

Parents, I wanted to bring to your attention that this is an extremely busy time for the school due to events both within the school and within the wider Babinda Community. Lately we seem to be jumping from one thing to another and staff are doing an enormous amount of extra work in their own time at the moment. I am letting you know so that you can be mindful of the current load. I am sure you are appreciative of all they are doing for the school and the children. Keeping things in routine as much as possible is important with sleep times and healthy lunches. Thanks for your awareness and support.

20 YEARS OF LOYAL SERVICE – JULIE CROSS

The staff of St Rita's joined with family and friends on the weekend to celebrate 20 years of service of Julie Cross to Catholic Education and St Rita's school at a surprise function. Julie first walked through the gates at the tender age of 6 as a student and then returned as a parent with her 3 daughters some years later. As a passionate parent of the school, Julie Co-ordinated many fetes and P&F events in her time and then began working as a Teacher Aide in the classrooms. At the onset of GST she began her work in the office and is now the Administration Officer of the school. "Julie is a keeper of





the flame and holds the story and spirit of St Rita’s. She is a rare and valuable asset to Catholic Education - she has played such a multitude of diverse roles in the school,” We commend her and celebrate this great achievement with her.

TRIVIA NIGHT – THIS WEDNESDAY

This Wednesday evening, St Rita’s hosts the night of nights with the Annual Trivia Night. It’s not too late to join in the fun. Simply call the office to book a table or join one already booked. It starts at 7pm. Parents are asked to assist by providing something for supper.

ATHLETICS FEVER HITS ST RITAS THIS WEEK

This Thursday St Rita’s takes to the field with the Field Events – Long Jump, High Jump and Shot Put. These will be held at the school and will commence at 9am.



Friday morning, we will be heading straight over to the Show grounds for the Track events. A full program was sent home previously and is available on the school website.

Students are able to wear their sports colour shirts for both days (if you can manage the overnight washing) otherwise Friday would be the most important day to wear it.

On Friday we will be taking the lunches over to the oval so please be mindful of that when packing. Pack a drink bottle as well please – named.

Parents are welcome to come along and be a part of the events.

THE WEATHER FORECAST IS NOT LOOKING GOOD, IF SO, THESE EVENTS WILL BE POSTPONED TO NEXT WEEK.

SPELLATHON



No doubt students will be busy learning their lists of words in preparation for the Spell-a-thon which takes place next Friday. This is a part of our week dedicated to the Year of Reading as spelling and sight words are integral to success in Literacy. Students will be receiving certificates for their efforts and there is a prize for the student in each class that raises the most money. This money will go directly back into the children by way of resources.

PARENT SESSION FOR CAIRNS LIBRARY SERVICES AND READING

As a part of the Week of Celebrations for Reading, Fran Hughes

from CES has a presentation to parents about the services that Cairns Library provide for students and how it can enhance what parents and schools are doing as well as promoting reading and books. It is on Thursday 7 June and starts at 3.30pm. Childcare will be available for parents who wish to attend which needs to be registered with the office.



BOY OH BOY PARENT WORKSHOP

What a roll up last week! 37 parents from the community attended the session and feedback has been extremely positive. Thank you to the P&F for supporting the initiative.

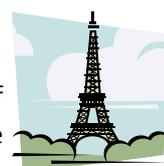
PUPIL FREE DAY NEXT WEDNESDAY 6 JUNE– PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM

Peer Support is an innovative program that the staff of St Rita’s will be trained in next week. It provides school communities with an evidence based, peer led approach to enhance the mental, social and emotional wellbeing of young people. It

- ◆ provides students with a supportive learning environment in which to develop the skills, understandings, attitudes and strategies to improve mental well being
- ◆ develops key skills in resilience, assertiveness, decision making, problem solving and leadership

This initiative fits perfectly for our school plan here at St Rita’s and we look forward to reaping the rewards of the program with the children.

MRS ANTHONY OFF TO FRANCE



Next week, Mrs Anthony will be taking off on a much deserved OS holiday. She will be on leave until she returns to us next term. We wish her well in her travels and thank her for all she does to help children of St Rita’s learn to read and write.

SCHOOLWIDE CLASSROOM PROFILING FEEDBACK

Recently, an independent classroom profiler came into the school and observed teaching and collected data. Last week this data was fed back to the staff and goals set. While the actual profile is confidential to the teacher and profiler, school data is collated. Among the feedback I am pleased to report:

- teachers are frequently using what is known as the “Top 5 supportive strategies” to encourage learning behaviours

- teachers are vigilant in their supervision of students while doing activities
- teachers are not “buying into” behaviour which is not disrupting learning
- teachers are applying consequences for disruptive behaviour
- when compared to last year, positive student behaviour has increased

Apart from the usual popping in and out of classrooms I am currently visiting classrooms and spending time observing teaching and learning. To date, I have been suitably impressed with the quality of learning happening.

In summary the basics of good classroom management are:

1. Have School Wide Behavioural Expectations – refer to them and teach them
2. Give positive feedback to students
3. Use least obtrusive strategies including as many non-verbals to redirect to learning and apply consequences (both good and bad)
4. Follow Through – it’s the certainty not the severity that a consequence is applied with a re-entry discussion that shapes and changes behaviour

I am pleased to report that St Rita’s has the recipe right. There are always areas to improve in and the staff are continually conscious of it and conscientious when it comes to this.

CAIRNS CENTRAL PROMOTION



We are currently in 3rd place. Thank you to everyone who is supporting the initiative. Many of us have enlisted the help of family and friends which is most appreciated. Apart from shopping during the double point times of Thursday evenings and Sundays, purchasing gift cards from shops in the centre and then spending them gives you 2 docket to present. This week’s code word is HISTORY.

COLES AND WOOLWORTH PROMOTIONS

You would know that we are also registered for the Coles Sporting Goods promotion as well as the Woolworths Earn and Learn. St Rita’s benefited last year from these and the children are currently using the sporting equipment and

additional resources earned.

While this is great for the school, we need to continue to be mindful of supporting the local businesses as well. The school has a very healthy relationship with local businesses and we support them regularly.

WINTER UNIFORMS

The winter jacket and track pants are now in stock. These are the only winter items to be worn. Students need to be in the correct uniform at all times as it is part of our school pride and identity.

TERM 2 SCHOOL FEES

Thank you to those who have settled their term accounts. Accounts need to be finalised before the end of term. Accounts can be paid on line, by Direct Debit or deductions can be made through Centrelink.

P&F MEETING – NEXT TUESDAY

The next meeting is next Tuesday 5 June at 7pm. Any agenda items can be lodged at the office or to Christina Forrest - parents need to be present at the meeting to present their item. The major part of the meeting will be reflecting on the Harvest Festival events, Parent Workshop and the State Conference that Julie Parker attended.

BLACK DUCK 2ND WISDOM

“Focus on what is and stay in the present moment”



Ducks live for the moment. When they are hungry they eat. When they feel tired they sleep. When they feel like paddling they paddle. When the weather gets too cold for them they migrate to where it’s warmer. Simple

Humans waste valuable time and energy worrying about that past and “what has happened” and the future “what might happen”. Living more in the “now” can help us all to worry less, stress less and be more content in our lives. PS A packet of Tim Tams can appear to last much longer if you focus on one biscuit at a time. (Maggie Dent - Quietly Improving Lives)

In this busy time, take moments to stop and breathe.

Gavin

REQUEST FROM MRS GREENWOOD FOR SCIENCE

If families have any of the following unwanted **glass** jars, please send them in. For our Science experiments. I need 8 of each :-

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 120ml jar (eg baby food) | 250ml (e.g jam jar) |
| 330ml (e.g salsa jar) | 500ml (e.g pasta sauce jar) |



APRE/SEL News



Pentecost, celebrated over the weekend, launched a significant year for the Catholic Church. The Bishops of Australia have invited the whole Catholic Church to join in a

'Year of Grace'.

"The Year of Grace is an invitation to the Catholics of this nation to join their Bishops on a spiritual journey, a time of listening to the Spirit, a space to recognise God's grace in our lives and encounter Jesus afresh. " (www.yearofgrace.catholic.org.au) If we are called to recognise and celebrate Grace, it is important to start with the question "What is Grace anyway?"

This question is a great question, and an excellent starting point for our journey into the year of Grace. Grace broadly speaking is a relationship of love between God and people. It is God reaching to us, and a free, undeserved gift.

*"Grace is ...
God loving us
At work in us
Renewing us
Inviting us to be
Friends of God."*

(www.yearofgrace.catholic.org.au)

We all have experiences of Grace, and it is worthwhile sharing our rich experiences and perspectives.

Next week you will receive a form to respond to the question "How is Grace witnessed at your place?" Each family will respond through drawing, writing or photos for a display on the office foyer pin board.

This week I leave you with the following thoughts. ☺ Sarah

"But what we can do, as flawed as we are, is still see God in other people, and do our best to help them find their own grace. That's what I strive to do, that's what I pray to do every day. "[Barack Obama](#)

MULTI-TASKING by Tauba Naftal - School Counsellor

We hear it all the time...You MUST get the BALANCE in your life right!

Yes, sure, we know we're supposed to but the reality is that we live under lots of pressure to do lots of stuff and this 'must' about balance can seem like just more pressure!

When I was at uni studying my counselling degree I was presented with an article by a man whose area of speciality was the Future – he's a Futurist. (Yes, there really is a branch of science based on the future – Google it if you don't believe me.) I wish I could find that article again so I could reference it here; but it had such a strong impact on me that I remember the concept he presented as clearly as if it was yesterday.

What this Futurist presented was the concept that there are five areas of work in our lives:

- Paid work – the job we have that earns us money to pay the bills
- Home work – gardening, cleaning, fixing...you know the rest
- Study work – learning more that will add to our knowledge base
- Family work – the time and energy we give to our family unit, the nuclear one and the extended one
- Leisure work – what we do simply because it helps us relax, or we love it, or it's fun

It might sound strange to tack the word 'work' onto the end of these words, but the psychology behind doing this is valid. As a culture/society we value work and give it more importance, higher priority than the other facets of our lives. So when leisure becomes Leisure Work it morphs into something we MUST do and are more likely to schedule into our lives. The same goes with the other areas listed here.

I can almost hear you thinking "But I don't have time to do all of these things every day!"

It's not about every day, it is about BALANCE. So this means you would do all of these things but not all of the time. One possible approach might be:

- Paid work – daily
- Home work – every evening for cooking etc. but **shared** out with others
- Study work – a TAFE course in an area of interest running 1 night a week for 8 weeks
- Family work – Sunday morning picnic brunch on the Esplanade; Saturday afternoon face painting in the backyard; watching your child's first soccer match

