

# SCHOOL NEWS

Learning, Respect, Community and Faith



12th June 2012

Edition 19

## 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

June 14th	Athletics—Track Events
June 16th	First Holy Communion & Confirmation 7pm
June 19th	Prep/ Year 1 Mass 9am
June 22nd	Last Day of Term
July 9th	Students Return for Term 3



## Principal's Pen

### BEING GRATEFUL FOR ALL WE HAVE

#### There is so much we have to be grateful for...

we just have to look around and notice it. In this Year of Grace, we are called to be more 'mindful' of the boundless gifts which God bestows upon us. Something so simple which we all experienced this weekend was the fact that we had a long weekend with the most glorious weather. I was certainly feeling that grace when I woke on Monday morning at 7am, over an hour later than my normal time...

when I caught up with an old friend for breakfast on the Esplanade... when I was able to relax and enjoy time walking on the Esplanade with my family, in actually having the time to prepare a meal for the family last evening while at the same time enjoying a glass of something soothing... going for a bike ride with my best mate and his children and mine to the park... then I think about the fact that St Rita's is such a rich and fruitful school and I am grateful for having the privilege to lead it... There are so many wonderful things about St Rita's— the most important of all are the children.

In the past week, I have had relief teachers as well as CES staff who have commented to myself of the welcome and special family feeling we have at St Rita's. They have commended the staff and students for their enthusiasm for learning, the dedication and skill of the staff and the overall positive tone of the school. As Principal, it is heartening to hear such unprompted positive feedback.

In the spirit of Grace and Gratitude, the staff have developed a Gratitude Noticeboard in the staffroom which has been a valuable tool for staff well being and to keep us in the zone of noticing elements of our lives we are grateful for. Next term we will extend this to the broader community.

The challenge is that even when we have things to grumble about and life serves us come curve balls, there is always something to be grateful for.

### ASSESSMENT FOR, AS AND OF STUDENT LEARNING

In this time of assessment and reporting, I thought it valuable to share with parents

Attitude &



Gratitude





some of the key points about it, so as to increase understanding of it and its role in the big picture. The following is taken from the St Rita's English Learning Area Plan which was accredited by Catholic Education in 2011.

Assessment is the process of gathering and interpreting information about students' progress and achievement of standards. Assessment is designed to allow students the opportunity to demonstrate their ability and knowledge and understanding over a period of time. Assessment occurs as a regular part of teaching and learning. Teacher instruction and assessment influence student learning and learning processes over time. Students are assessed in accordance with the achievement of the Australian Curriculum standards, by the classroom teacher and associated members of staff. Assessment Criteria are the standards by which student's work is judged and appraised and moderated. These standards are made explicit to all students. Assessment tasks are developed before teachers plan the learning experiences. Assessment can take many forms including;

- assessment tasks
- checklists
- observations (anecdotal)
- peers assessment
- self-assessment
- verbal responses/discussions

**Assessment information helps teachers to:**

- identify future learning and teaching processes, and resource requirements
- make decisions about students' needs and plan learning and teaching programs for individuals, small groups and whole class
- discuss future learning pathways with students, parents/carers and/or school authorities and specialist teachers

**Assessment for Learning** enabling teachers to use information about students progress to inform their teaching by modifying and improving work programs through their teaching strategies, assessment and evaluation and use of resources

**Assessment as Learning** enabling students to reflect on and monitor their own progress to inform their future learning

Student self-reflection and peer evaluation will also provide valuable feedback to students. Students should be provided with regular opportunities to reflect on their learning.

**Assessment of Learning** assisting teachers to use evidence of student learning to assess student achievement against goals and standards.

Next week I will include information for parents about the processes we use for Reporting here at St Rita's.

**ATHLETICS TAKE 2**

A reminder that we will be having the Track Events **this Thursday** across at the Bill Wakeham Park from 9am. Students are required to wear their House Colour T-shirts and wear sunscreen. We will be taking drink bottles and a healthy snacks across. Please pack separately with names clearly marked. Long jump has taken place today.

The Babinda District athletics is being held next **Thursday 21 June** at Babinda State School. St Rita's nominations are being sorted and parents will be notified of events students are in.

**DANCE FEVER FINALE**



Next Friday 22 June, (last day of term) we will be hosting the Dance Fever finale where parents are invited to come along and watch the moves and grooves learned by the children this term. This has been made possible by the subsidy of the St Rita's P&F.

Prep—Year3	12.40pm - 1.10pm
Year 4-7	1.10pm - 2.15pm

**NATIONAL YEAR OF READING**

Wow!!! What a week the staff, students and parents had last week. We all read til we dropped... Our Teacher Librarian in Residence, Mrs Fran Hughes has prepared a comprehensive report included in this newsletter.

**CAIRNS CENTRAL SHOPPING**

After my family hit Cairns Central as well as many others we are not well positioned 3<sup>rd</sup> and creeping up close to 2<sup>nd</sup>. We have until June 24 – next Sunday – to shop for St Rita's. Keep spreading the word as there are many shoppers out there with no affiliation to a school. This week's code word is **SPELLING**

**PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM**

Last Wednesday schools from the 3 deaneries of the Cairns Diocese met at St Michael's to learn about the Peer Support Program. The staff came away very enthused and motivated to implement it at St Rita's as a part of our school culture and community building with students under the banner of SEL and Health curriculum. Sarah Hession will oversee the

implementation of the program in term 3 across the school. Watch this space.

**MRS KURUCZ on Leave**

Our lovely Library and Prep School Officer, Mrs Debbie Kurucz has taken a much deserved long service leave break and has gone overseas for the remainder of the term. In her absence, Mrs Calcagno and Mrs Parker will be fulfilling her duties. We look forward to her safe return.

**LIBRARY BOOKS**

All Library book need to be returned to the Library by this Friday 15th June. There will be no borrowing in the last week of school.



**CONFIRMATION**

This Saturday evening, 2 of our students, Molly and Caitlin will be receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit at Confirmation. We join with them and their families to celebrate this milestone in their spiritual journey.



**SPELLATHON**

Well done to all students for giving it their best for the Spellathon last Friday. We had some elated students who achieved personal bests, and all students I saw were pleased with their efforts. Parents are asked to ensure that moneys are brought into the school by this Friday 15 June. Thanks parents for you extra support.

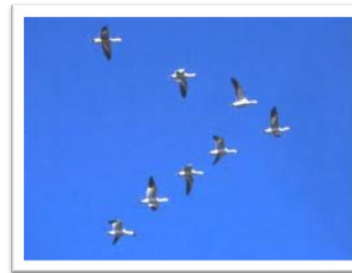
**HEAD LICE**

There are a number of cases of Head Lice in the school. Please check your children and treat immediately. More than one treatment is usually necessary.

**WORKING BEE**

This Sunday morning at 9am we have our Working Bee where we hope to clean the front fence down and lay some pavers in preparation for the Opening in late July. Please refer to the notice sent home last week.

**BLACK DUCK WISDOM**



**Never travel long journeys on your own – always have company**

**When ducks go on a long trip like a migration to a warmer climate they always travel with company. This ensures a**

**safer and faster trip.**

Life is a long journey and is best travelled with company – preferably with people you love and trust. Take turns at leading the way and take turns at resting and letting others lead the way. Remember, being alone and travelling alone for long periods can be unhealthy emotionally and spiritually, Humans are social creatures and benefit from close connections within units called families within larger units called communities.

PS. This of course does not include long trips in cars with children. For their safety is often best to leave them home or to gag them so they cannot ask a million times “are we there yet?” (Maggie Dent)

*Looking forward to a week of blessings.*

Gavin

**Getting to School on Time... It may seem like only a few minutes but.....**

I'm only missing.....	That equals.....	Which is.....	And over 13 years of my schooling that's
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1.5 weeks per year	Nearly half a year
20 minutes per day	1 hour 40 minutes per week	Nearly 3 weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
Half an hour per day	Half a day per week	Nearly 6 weeks per year	Nearly 1 and a half years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	Over 10 weeks per year	Over 2 and a half years

**School starts at 8.40am**



## APRE/SEL News

### Peer Support Program



Last Wednesday the staff of St. Rita's joined St. Michael's, Gordanvale and St. Joseph's, Atherton for training in the Peer Support Program. All present walked away from the day feeling excited by the possibilities that this program has to offer our schools.

#### The Peer Support Program has the following outcomes:

- ◇ Building positive relationships
- ◇ Developing and enhancing communication, leadership and getting along skills
- ◇ Enhancing mental health
- ◇ Taking personal responsibility
- ◇ Fostering lifelong learning
- ◇ Encouraging participation

#### How does the peer support program work?

It empowers young people to support each other and contribute positively to society

It develops leadership skills through a 2 day leadership training program

In primary schools, trained Peer leaders work with multi age groups of 8-10 younger students. For the St. Rita's setting, this means that Senior students will be trained as Leaders early next term. Four multi-age groups will then be formed from the students in Prep-Year 4, and the trained Leaders will run sessions focusing on *Friendship* weekly for 8 weeks.

### Confirmation

On Saturday June 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, Caitlin Ross and Molly Stager will join with ten other children from our Parish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and share in Communion. Our prayers are with these children



Sarah

### **The National Year of Reading is in full swing at St Rita's School**

Reading is really important to future success in life and what's more it can be lots of fun! This year is the National Year of Reading and this past week we at St Rita's went all out to celebrate.

Everyday before school last week, our talented teachers took on

the role of storytellers – dressing up and using props to bring stories to life for our students. Judging by the keen turn out of students each morning this was a popular event.

On Tuesday, we enjoyed a visit from Cairns City Libraries' mascot Dewey and the Children's Librarian Tania Curtis. Tania let the children know about the special online resources available for them and about the activities that are on during school holidays – all of which are FREE! Our teachers spent more time after school on Tuesday looking in more detail, at the online resources they could use with their students.

On Thursday afternoon, parents, grandparents and friends joined us for 'High Tea @ the Library'. It was a very pleasant afternoon indeed – sipping tea, eating cakes and sharing stories.

During breaks on Friday, some of our students got involved in 'Read Out Loud Day'. Volunteers got up on a 'soap box' and read a couple of pages of a book, in their best town crier voices.

The 'Paper Bag Book Club' (i.e. the whole school), gathered on Friday afternoon to talk about books, share book reviews, eat popcorn and listen to another fabulous story "*The Ugly Fish*" read most enthusiastically by Mrs Amber ....

In class this week, students too have been very busy writing, reading and creating. Preps and ones made ebooks that included photographs, text and audio and used lots of prepositions.

Years 2/3/4 created 'ebrochures' - cleverly putting themselves in the pictures with information that they have researched about various famous icons of England.

Years 4/5/6/7 worked on creating persuasive book trailers (which are like movie trailers – except they promote books instead of movies).

This week also saw the launch of a brand new online library and websites search for the school. Want to see if we have any books or websites on your favourite topic? Then go onto <http://stritasbabinda.ces.cmeweb.libcode.com.au/> and check out what we have to offer. You will also find there some photos of the week's activities 😊

A huge thank you goes to the teachers and students who worked to make the week a great success. We all know that this is just the start to embracing more and more reading at St Rita's during the National Year of Reading and beyond.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time working with the children at St Rita's.

Thanks for the opportunity to work with your great kids.

Cheers

*Fran Hughes*

Teacher Librarian in Residence @ St Rita's

(Resource Centre Manager: Catholic Education Services Cairns Diocese)

## **SAFETY MESSAGE.**

The commencement of the 2012 cane crushing season is approaching and as part of South Johnstone Mill's Safety Program, the Company would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and children as to the danger of playing on or near cane trains and railway tracks.

It is of concern that children don't realise the danger they put themselves in when they jump on to bins of moving cane trains, play around railway tracks and even fish from cane railway bridges.

Cane railways are no different from any other rail system (eg QR) and children should not play on or near railways. While cane trains are well marked and safety systems are in place, they carry large loads and have limited ability to brake suddenly. Risk of injury does not only involve children but also applies to South Johnstone Mill's locomotive crews and other members of the public.

Occasionally children are seen playing with the track points that guide the train from one track to another or placing objects on the line. This is extremely dangerous as it can cause the train to derail and result in serious injury to our locomotive crews.

South Johnstone Mill has an extensive cane railway network comprising approximately 500 km of track. Cane trains will be operating 24 hours a day during the crushing season.

Please stay safe and remember

- \* Stay away from locomotives and cane bins.
- \* Don't play around railway lines.
- \* Never walk between cane bins.
- \* Never go on to a cane railway bridge.
- \* Never walk behind a train – the driver will not see you.
- \* If you have to cross the railway tracks, STOP and look both ways, LISTEN and only cross when it is safe.
- \* OBEY Flashing Light signals and Give Way signage at road crossings.



## *Thought of the Week*

*The winners in life's game are not those who have never tasted of failure, but rather those who have failed again and again, but who never gave up. Winners benefit from each failure and see it as a step to victory.*

## **MUNRO THEATRE BABINDA**

Screening at 7.30pm on  
15th, 16th & 17th June, 2012



### **THE LUCKY ONE (M)**

Admission \$7.00

Info line 40671032

### Coming Soon:

### **DR. SEUSS' THE LORAX ..3D Movie (G)**

Screening at 7.30 pm on  
22nd, 23rd & 24th, June, 2012

## **STARS OF THE WEEK**

<b>Prep / Yr 1</b>	<b>Jaxon Saylor</b>
<b>Year 2/3/4</b>	<b>Jacob Bowen</b>
<b>Year 5/6/7</b>	<b>Darragh Stager</b>



## **GROUPS & GARDENS ROSTER**

Thank you to the following families who are rostered on:

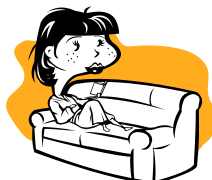


<b>BREADEN</b>	<b>9th - 22nd June</b>
<b>MONTAGUE</b>	<b>23rd June—6th July</b>

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

## **COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS**

**FOR SALE- 2 Arm Chairs and a  
2 Seater Couch now \$75  
Please phone 40672761**



**Queensland FREE Well Women's Clinics –  
Government Babinda**

<b>Babinda Hospital</b>	<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2012</b>	<b>Ph: 4067 8200</b>
<b>Mamu Health Service</b>	<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2012</b>	<b>Ph: 4061 5182</b>

Service includes 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.