

SCHOOL NEWS

Learning, Respect, Community and Faith



17th April 2012

Edition 11

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

April 25th	Anzac Day (public holiday)
June 6th	Student Free Day



Principal's Pen



HAPPY EASTER TO ALL AT ST RITA'S

Wishing you all the joy of the risen Christ in your lives this Easter season

The Catholic Church now celebrates the season of Easter until Pentecost which is Sunday May 27. In this season we focus on the themes of new life, new beginnings and the 'spring' moments of our lives. **Having 'hope' in our lives is crucial for our health and wellbeing** and the belief in the resurrection brings Christian that hope. We are truly fortunate at a Catholic school to be able to explore this aspect of life with the children.

At a Breakfast Seminar this morning by Dr Michael Carr-Greg (Child Psychologist often featured on Sunrise) I was reminded of the utmost importance of wellbeing of our children and the adults in their lives to their learning. Michael emphatically stated that **children cannot learn without the correct amount of sleep as well as the right foods**. Not having enough sleep regularly doesn't allow the child's brain to function optimally during the day. He shared that while in a particular sleeping phase, a child's brain processes and stores what they have learned that day. Certain foods also contain chemicals which enhance brain activity and help reduce stress and anxiety—namely eggs (not fried), yoghurt, avocado, flax seed oil and blue berries. He mentioned that it would be ideal for every child to be taking a fish oil supplement as well. It makes one wonder what purpose processed foods and 'convenience' foods have for our bodies other than satisfying hunger. I will share more with you from the seminar in future newsletters.

Term 2 is looking to be an extremely busy one with a whole schedule of important events.

- ◆ NAPLAN: 15-17 May: Yr 3/5/7 students
- ◆ ANZAC Day Celebrations
- ◆ Harvest Festival: Saturday 2 June. P&F Float



- ♦ St Rita's Trivia Night Tuesday 29 May (TBC)
- ♦ Feast of St Rita: As well as our own school celebrations, on Sunday 27 May there is a major event for the Parish Community.
- ♦ National Year of Reading Celebrations 4-8 June
- ♦ Athletics Carnival Fri 1 June & Combines School Athletics Thurs 21 June
- ♦ Dance Fever each Thursday this term – Parent Finale Fri 22 June
- ♦ Written Reports for Semester 1

Staffing Update—Great News!!!

St Rita's is blessed with a top class staff who often go the extra mile for the children. This term there are some changes to staffing as outlined below.

- ♦ Mrs Jago returns to us from a term of leave and is teaching the 2/3/4 class each Mon-Wed. She will continue her role as Learning Support teacher of a Thursday.
- ♦ Mrs Garside commences the role Indigenous Support Teacher and The Arts specialist teacher each Mon, Tues and Wed
- ♦ Mrs Anthony begins the role of Literacy Support Teacher each Tuesday
- ♦ Mrs Greenwood commences the role Science Specialist Teacher each Thursday
- ♦ Mrs Hession will teach the 2/3/4 class each Thursday and Friday. She will now have each Tuesday and Wednesday in the role of APRE/SEL and School Administration.



Our prayers have been answered!!! I am jumping out of my skin with excitement that Sarah and I have been able to find a replacement teacher for the Prep/1 Class. Mrs Lana Ross will be moving with her family from Launceston to be with us at St Rita's. Mrs Ross will be flying up in the next week or so to meet the children, parents and staff and will be here permanently within a few weeks of that. Thank you to the parents who have been very resilient and understanding and patient as we have worked through this. A positive outcome.

Working Bee Wrap Up

Many thanks to the parents and children who came along on the first Sunday of the holidays and worked hard in the school yard. A lot was accomplished including the removal of unsuitable plants along the fence line, the digging over of the sand in the



playground area, mowing and weeding and the moving of the pavers. Our playground is now that bit safer and cleaner.

The next working bee will be approximately mid term and will involve paving between the edge of the multipurpose court and the playground.

Parents and Friends News

The next P&F Meeting will be held on Tuesday 1 May at 7pm. The 22 May has been set aside for the 'Boy Oh Boy' parent workshop on behaviour management. More information about this and registration as the time draws closer.

Cairns Central Shopping Promotion

A reminder to parents and the wider community to support our endeavour to bring in some much needed extra funding for our school through the Cairns Central Promotion. Last year we won 4th place and our goal this year is to do even better. It starts ????? (need to find out)

St Rita's Promotional Campaign

You may have heard us on the radio, seen us at the theatre, seen us in the Cairns Post and Innisfail Advocate or visited our new website – St Rita's good name is certainly out in the Babinda community and beyond. I am so proud of the community for their involvement in the project and thank the staff, parents and students for the way in which they willingly participated. Many thanks to Catholic Education Services, particularly Mrs Andrea Gregory for her hard work and dedication to St Rita's over the past months. It has been so easy to find good things to promote about the school and the community. Increasing enrolments is one of the intended outcomes of the promotion, however I am extremely pleased with the positive effect it has had on the community and the positive talk around about the school. Word of mouth is the most powerful way to promote our school so keep it up everyone. And there is more to come...

Visit our new website www.stritasbabinda.qld.edu.au and see for yourself.

Parent Feedback – Communication Guidelines

Parent feedback is now sought for a document entitled **Parent Communication Guidelines** which has been attached to this newsletter. This document is couched in the school's Workplace Health and Safety as well as Student Protection procedures and policies. It will also be an appendix to the Catholic Education Parent and Volunteer Code



of Conduct which is currently being developed across the Diocese. Instructions on how to provide feedback are on the form. This is due back by **Friday 27 March**.

School Uniform

Our school uniform is one of the ways in which we express our identity and show respect for ourselves and the school community. At this time I remind parents of the importance of ensuring that children are in the correct uniform. Any variations to this must be explained in writing to the class teacher and can only be temporary. To assist parents I include the uniform requirements as a reminder:

Hats – Royal blue cloth or royal blue legionnaire caps.

Students are required to wear

their hats at all times when they are outside, even when playing in the shade. This is a sun-safe behaviour which is essential in the tropics. No school hat – no play.

Shoes – Black closed in shoes or joggers. Shoes are a necessary item of protection at school for the safety of our children.

Socks – Navy Socks for Day uniform and Navy or White for Sports

Girls Uniform - Navy skorts, teal and navy shirt with school emblem (band optional)

Boys Uniform – Navy shorts, teal and navy shirt with school emblem

Sports Uniform -Navy shorts/Navy skorts, green and navy polo shirt with school logo

Winter Uniform -Navy tracksuit pants and navy taslon jacket

Jewellery and Hair accessories

Watch, earrings (studs or sleepers only)

Plain religious chain/medallion (only to be worn under uniform for safety reasons)

If hair is longer than the shoulder it must be worn up with plain, simple hair accessories of school colours.

Scrunchies are available from the office displaying the colours of the uniforms.

Nails: Nails must be kept short and clean for safety. Nail

polish is not permitted.

2013 Prep Enrolments

I am now calling for Prep enrolments for 2013. If you have a sibling that is eligible for Prep next year (child born 1 July 2007—30 June 2008) then please contact the school office for an enrolment pack. If you know of others in the community who would like to find out about what we can offer in prep at St Ritas, then please direct them our way for an obligation free chat and tour.

Wishing you a positive and successful week.

Regards



APRE/SEL News

Welcome back! Term 2 is set to be a productive and engaging term with many opportunities to celebrate our core values of community, faith, learning and respect.



EASTER

Over the holidays we celebrated Easter. For many families it was a wonderful opportunity to spend time as a family unit, renew and relax and just 'be'. Easter for us puts out an important challenge - to use the message of renewal and place it into the context of our everyday life.

"Take with you the joy of Easter to the home, and make that home bright with more unselfish love, more hearty service; take it into your work, and do all in the name of the Lord Jesus; take it to your heart, and let that heart rise anew on Easter wings to a higher, a gladder, a fuller life; take it to the dear grave-side and say there the two words "Jesus lives!" and find in them the secret of calm expectation, the hope of eternal reunion. "

John Ellerton

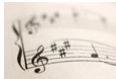
These thoughts are quite timely as we begin a new term ~ how can we take with us the joy of Easter

and grow this throughout Term 2?

ANZAC DAY

As stated in yesterday's note, ANZAC day is an extremely important annual event for our country. St. Rita's will mark this day through both our involvement in the ANZAC day march, and a whole school assembly & liturgy on *Monday April 23rd*. Parents are most welcome to join us at this assembly.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

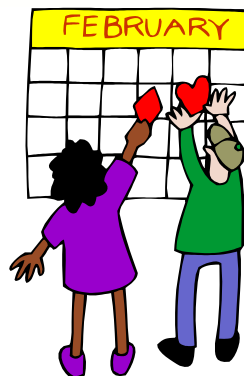
As you would be aware, Gavin and I  were incredibly blessed to attend the L.A. Religious Education Congress late last term. The professional sharing and resources, and access to world class speakers, was truly a humbling experience. Throughout the term I will share some of these learnings with the staff of St. Rita's and with other APRE's from the Cairns Diocese. Naturally, the children of St. Rita's will also benefit from our experience - we have brought back with us lots of ideas about music, art and storytelling to name but a few things. Some beautiful resources including CD's and picture story books have also been purchased while at the Congress.



Yesterday I attended a Professional Development session about Learning and Wellbeing by psychologist, Dr. Michael Carr-Gregg. Michael Carr-Gregg has written many well known books, appears on *Sunrise* and writes for the *New Idea* regularly. He talked about key principles in establishing happiness, resilience and academic success with children. One of the key factors was 'Taking care of your body'. At the beginning of the term this is an important one for us to consider ensuring that our children are getting enough sleep (10 - 11 hours each night for school aged children), and eating 'brain food' (Dr. Carr-Gregg suggested inclusion of foods such as eggs, yoghurt, blueberries and avocado in a well rounded diet)

ORGANISATION

Our Term 2 whole school focus for 'You Can Do It!' is ORGANISATION. Next week I will include further information about how we can assist with the development of this key at home, however this week would be a great opportunity to set up routines in the home to support organisation such as Library days, homework and sports days as term overviews, timetables and class notes are distributed.



Have a fantastic week

Sarah

Over the next month CES will be providing the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) with student addresses to enable the calculation of your school's SES score which then determines your recurrent funding entitlements. We have been asked to inform parents of this and so include the following for your information.



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

INFORMATION REQUIRED TO HELP DETERMINE FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

PRIVACY NOTICE

This notice is from the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), to advise you that DEEWR has requested your child's school to provide the following three pieces of information to DEEWR:

- Students' residential addresses (not student names)
- Students' level of education (primary or secondary)
- Students' boarding school status (boarders or day students)

DEEWR is bound by the provisions of the Privacy Act 1988 (the Privacy Act). Section 14 of the Privacy Act contains the Information Privacy Principles, which prescribe the rules for handling personal information about individuals. DEEWR will not use or disclose the information provided by your child's school other than in accordance with the Privacy Act.

Purpose of collection

DEEWR is collecting this personal information for the purpose of administering funding to non-government schools, and to determine payments of Australian Government assistance to non-government schools, including under relevant legislation such as the *Schools Assistance Act 2008* (Cth). DEEWR will only use this information for this specific purpose.

Disclosure of information

The information provided by your child's school may be disclosed by DEEWR to contractors working for DEEWR for the purposes of verifying the information. The contractors will not use the information for any other purpose.

DEEWR may also provide this information to the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA). ACARA will use this information in developing and evaluating Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) formulas and school values.

In other instances the information will not be disclosed without your consent, unless where authorised or required by law.

Contact

If you have any questions regarding this Privacy Notice please phone the DEEWR SES Funding helpline on 1800 677 027 (free call) or send an e-mail to: SAAMailbox@deewr.gov.au.

All Clip Art photocopied under Part VB

DANCE FEVER

Classes begin for all students this Thursday.

Have fun kids!



STARS OF THE WEEK



Prep / Yr 1 Jaxon Saylor
Year 2/3/4 Kadie Saylor
Year 5/6/7 Iesha Crane

GROUPS & GARDENS ROSTER

Thank you to the following families who are rostered on:



SULLIVAN 14th - 27th April
OLIVERI 28th April - 11th May

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

MUNRO THEATRE BABINDA

Screening at 7.30pm on
20th, 21st and 22nd April, 2012

THE ARTIST (PG)



Admission \$7.00

Info line 40671032

Coming Soon:

MIRROR MIRROR (PG)

Screening at 7.30 pm on
27th, 28th and 29th April, 2012

Admission \$7.00

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 Council 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

YMCA

BABINDA SWIMMING POOL

Opening Hours - Mon, Wed, & Fri

1.00 -6.00pm (excludes Public Holidays)

We are trialling winter hours. Continued winter hours will be dependent on usage.



FREE Well Women's Clinic - Babinda
MAMU HEALTH SERVICE 24th April 201



Queensland
Government

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.

For appointments phone 4067 8200

PLAYGROUP BABINDA BUMBLE BEES



Meets every Monday 9-11 at
St. Rita's School (upstairs). For more info
call Julie Parker on 40672397.

WANTED

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.