

Learning, Respect, Community and Faith



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17 July 2012

Principal's Pen



"I just thought that I'd let you know that I had the most wonderful week with the students - they were a delight to teach!"

This was in an email sent to me by a teacher last week and is another piece of good news about St Rita's! This, as well as many daily conversations about the students, confirms what I already know and that is that we have a top quality staff here at St Rita's who truly love what they do and genuinely care for the students. This type of feedback exemplifies the

positive school spirit that exists here at St Rita's.

SUBSCRIBING TO OUR ONLINE NEWSLETTER

The prize goes to Trudy Montague for being the first parent to subscribe to our online newsletter. All you have to do is go to:

<http://stritasbabinda.schoolzinenewsletters.com/subscribe>

Similarly, you can send Julie and email and I will manually add you. In reducing printing costs as well as being environmentally minded, our aim is to have as many parents as possible accessing the newsletter this way. It is also possible for other family members to subscribe – both Mum and Dad at work/home as well as Grandparents who might be interested can each have their own subscription. This is a trial and your feedback will be sought.

GYMNASTICS POSTPONED

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances which have taken place with the company, the gymnastics program is being postponed until the beginning of Term 4. Teachers will be covering other areas of the Physical Education Curriculum this term.

Therefore, all teachers have confirmed that sports uniforms are to be worn on Mondays and Fridays, except in week 3 when they wear it on Tuesday instead of Monday.

OPENING OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS



Monday 30 July is an important day for St Rita's when Bishop James Foley will bless and officially open the Library extensions

and the Multi-purpose Court. We are very grateful to the Federal Government and the Cairns Diocese for making it possible for us to have such great facilities. All Parents and Friends of St. Rita's are invited and encouraged to attend and are asked to RSVP to the school office by calling 40671467 or email secretary.babinda@cns.catholic.edu.au. We need to know numbers for catering.

NB. On this day all students are required to wear their best formal school uniform.

WOOLWORTHS AND COLES PROMOTIONS

If you have any Woollies stickers still on hand please send these in to the office by this Wednesday as they need to be sent away this week. Points earned, allow us to choose resources from an Educational supplier.

August 17th is the cut off for the Coles Sports for Schools promotion so continue to send in the vouchers as well. Once we have the vouchers counted, we then get to choose sports equipment.

UNIFORM REMINDER



If your child is out of uniform for any reason, please put it in writing to the class teacher. We understand that clothes and shoes end up in all weird and wonderful places from time to time. When we are visiting other schools and having our Opening Ceremony in the coming weeks we will be expecting everyone to be in their best uniforms with correct shoes, socks etc...

A reminder that nail polish isn't permitted. Uniform is about our identity and school spirit and good the standards we have here at St Rita's.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS MEETING

A reminder that the P&F Meeting is on tonight at 7pm. All are welcome. St Rita's will be hosting a Diocesan P&F Meeting here on Sunday 5 August.

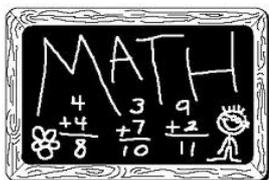
2013 PREP ENROLMENTS

Last week I began Prep interviews – they are always one of the highlights of my year as I get to meet and talk with very excited and

eager children who can't wait to get to 'big school'. I look forward to continuing these this week.

If you are a current parent and have a child eligible for Prep in 2013 and you haven't yet done so, you need to phone the office arrange an interview time by the end of this week please. The confirmation of these enrolments is crucial in the planning process for the school for next year.

PARENT'S GO BACK TO SCHOOL



On Tuesday 31 July, Dot Shea is offering a workshop for parents on Maths. It will commence at 7pm. We will send out a note in the coming week for you to register. This is a great opportunity to find out how children are learning Maths these days. It is hoped that this will assist parents in helping their children at home as well as having a greater understanding of some elements of the maths curriculum.

MINDFUL PARENTING TIP #1

Try to imagine the world from your child's point of view, purposefully letting go of your own. Do this every day for at least a few moments to remind you of who this child is and what he or she faces in the world. (M&J Kabat-Zinn)

ST RITA'S YOU'VE GOT TALENT!!!



On the last day of term, Thursday 20 September, we are showcasing the many and varied talents of our community with a 'St Rita's You've Got Talent' Show. We are giving you a lot of notice so that students can get prepared. This will mainly be 'extra-curricula' and not be specifically taught and assessed. Students can do individual or group acts and families can also do an act together – just like the VonTrap family from Sound of Music!!! All music/songs to be used have to be passed by staff and lyrics checked to ensure the rating is appropriate for primary aged children. We will call for these later in the term. In the meantime, talk with your child about what they might like to do. It can be anything from singing, musical instrument playing, joke telling, magical tricks, dance/gymnastics, martial arts routine etc etc etc...

JUST FOR FUN – GET THE KIDS WITH THESE JOKES...



Q: Why did the cross-eyed teacher lose his job? A: Because he couldn't control his pupils.

Q: What did the boy say after his math teacher assigned four pages of homework.

A: Boy, do I have problems.

Q: Why is a fish easy to weigh? A: Because it has its own scales!

Q: Who does the ocean date? A: It goes out with the tide.

IN CONCLUSION

What surprised you today/ in the last week? This is a good conversation starter for around the table at dinner time.

Cheers Gavin

SEL/APRE News

Peer Support

Last week our Senior Class were involved in Peer Support Leadership training. The training ran over the course of two days, and involved learning about topics such as cooperation, organisation, reflective thinking, feelings and setting goals. The students clearly enjoyed the two days of training and engaged with enthusiasm. It was a joy to watch them challenge themselves and learn about such important life skills.

Following these Leadership training days, 8 students will now be selected as Peer Support Leaders to run our whole school Peer Support sessions. The Peer Support sessions will commence next week, with the module focusing on 'Friendship'. Each session will be half an hour, with eight sessions occurring throughout the term. Staff and students are extremely excited about the possibilities this program offers our school in terms of cross age learning/relationship building, social and emotional growth, opportunities to develop oral communication skills and leadership development.

Catholic Education Week



Next week is Catholic Education Week. As I wrote last week, it is a really special time during which we can celebrate community and our connectedness with other schools in the Diocese. A note has gone home last week detailing the events scheduled.

Building Openings

On Monday the 30th our school will officially open the undercover area and school library. We will be hosting celebrations including the official opening at which the Bishop, CES Leadership, other Principals, past staff and community members will attend. Our children will perform two songs during this opening ceremony, and Fleur McMenamin will perform as a conclusion. Morning tea will follow. Parents are invited to attend our celebrations, and this is a wonderful chance to gather together and celebrate our achievements and resources. Please see the attached invite for further information and rsvp details.

Thank-you

Thank-you to all staff and parents, that contributed towards my Baby Shower last week. I felt very special and lucky to be part of such a wonderful group of people.



Wishing you all a great week



STARS OF THE WEEK	
Prep / Year 1	Joshua Villari
Year 2/3/4	Caitlin Ross
Year 5/	Jordan Lock

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

Great men tell you how to get where you're going; greater men take you there.

HEAD LICE

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



GROUNDS AND GARDENS ROSTER

Thank you to the following families who are rostered on:

SALVESTRIN 7th - 20th July

ROSS 21st July - 3rd August

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



FREE Well Women's Clinic – Babinda Hospital
Tuesday 31st July 2012

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

MUNRO THEATRE BABINDA

Screening at 7.30pm on 20th , 21st & 22nd July, 2012

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING (M)

Admission \$7.00 Info line 40671032

Coming Soon: Men in Black 3 (M)

Screening 27th, 28th, 29th July, 2012

Date Claimers

JULY

13th,16th,18th	Prep Interviews
17th	P & F Meeting 7pm
20th	Cairns Show Holiday
23rd - 29th	Catholic Education Week - Tue 24th Tues 23rd Southern Deanery Mass and Activities at Sth Johnstone (Whole School) - Thursday 26th Diocesan Mass at St Monica's Cathedral (School Captains) - Friday 27th U8's Day and Activities at St Michael's, Gordonvale
30th	Official Opening of the BER Funded Buildings 9am
31st	School Photos English Competition Parent Maths Workshop Tuesday 31 July 7pm

AUGUST

3rd	Gymnastics Program commences for 5 weeks
7th	P & F Meeting 7pm
5th	Diocesan Parents & Friends Meeting
13th – 20th	Book Fair and Book Week
14TH	Maths Competition

SEPTEMBER

4th	P & F Meeting 7pm
19th	NAIDOC
20th	St Rita's Got Talent Show
21st	Student Free Day