

Learning, Respect, Community and Faith



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31 July 2012

Principal's Pen



This week my editorial is an excerpt from my speech at the Blessing and Opening of the Buildings...

"The new facilities we are opening this morning have been made possible with funding from the Australian Government's Building the Education Revolution. You may recall that the BER, as it is more commonly known, was a key element of the Australian Government's \$42 billion Nation Building-Economic Stimulus Plan.

There were 2 components to the BER Stimulus Plan. Of the 'Primary Schools for the 21st Century' component, St Rita's received \$471,844 made up of funds directly from the Government as well as additional support from Catholic Education Services, who redistributed funding from a number of larger schools in the Cairns Diocese. I commend Catholic Education Services for this, as without it, St Rita's wouldn't have been able to afford these facilities. There were 2 components to the project, the Multi-Purpose Court which we are sitting in now, and the extension to the Library.

The New Senior Playground Equipment was funded through a combination of the National School Pride Project and School Contribution to a total of \$ 53,901. Of this, the Australian Government provided \$ 50,000 and the school contributed \$ 3,901. I commend and express gratitude to the Australian Government for the release of this funding to all schools, but particularly to St Rita's. I also acknowledge and thank the school for their contribution.

The facilities being opened here today are more than just bricks and mortar to us. While they are certainly impressive and have added value to our plant, they have enhanced the 'life' of the school. What these facilities have enabled by way of teaching and learning is to be celebrated.

It is so nice to be able to show visitors and new families around the school and be proud of the facilities and the Library is one place that I can do this. The learning space created at the end of the Library is highly used by classes with the availability of the Interactive Whiteboard, and the clever use of flexible, funky furniture it can quickly be reconfigured for use for staff professional development and P&F meetings. The possibilities for learning and community building enabled by this project are noteworthy and we are extremely grateful."

As Principal, I believe it is extremely important that the students have a sense of just how many people it takes to undertake projects such as these and so I thank each and every one of you for your attendance here this morning as I believe that your presence and this ceremony has helped to teach them this.

In the words of Catherine McAuley and the Mercy spirit, "Thousands of thanks and praises to His Holy Name." (Principal speech Monday 30 July 2012)

There are so many people to thank for the Opening Ceremony – too many to name. However, I must mention and thank Sarah Hession as she was the co-ordinator of the whole event. This has taken months of planning and Sarah's personal touch was certainly evident in the ceremony. All others were named in the vote of thanks given by Laura Kirwan.

OUR BLESSINGS FOR YOU MRS HESSION

This Friday 3 August, will officially be Mrs Hession's last day before she prepares for the birth of another little Hession. On behalf of the St Rita's school community, I wish Mrs Hession and the Hession family all the best for the pending birth. We look forward to meeting the little brother or sister of Grace and Tom.



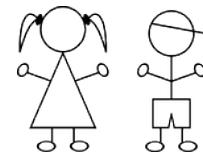
I would also like to thank Mrs Hession for her fine work as a leader of our school and teacher of 2/3/4. Sarah brings a natural ability and deep faith to her role, from which the students, staff and parents have greatly benefited.

SUBSCRIBING TO OUR ONLINE NEWSLETTER

Quite a few parents have subscribed to our online version of the newsletter. I ask that all parents with internet access consider doing the same so as to be able to provide feedback when it is sought. All you have to do is go to.

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

2013 PREP ENROLMENTS



I have all but finished the Prep enrolments for 2013 and have been suitably impressed by the enthusiasm and cleverness of the students. I am also conducting interviews for other year levels for 2013. If you know of people in the community who would like a no obligation chat and tour please ask them to contact the school.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK CELEBRATIONS

A wonderful celebration of Community last week was had by all at St Rita's. The children were stunning and did us all proud with their presentation and behaviour – they were truly living out our values of learning, respect, community and faith. Here we see Darragh and Ieesha representing our school at the Mass at South Johnstone. Many thanks to parents who assisted throughout the week at any of the events – much appreciated. Our children certainly got a sense that they belong to a Catholic Community.



PARENT'S GO BACK TO SCHOOL TO LEARN THEIR 1,2,3s TONIGHT



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Tonight, Tuesday 31 July, Dot Shea is offering a workshop for parents on Maths. It will commence at 7pm. You can still come along even if you haven't responded. The school is providing this for parents free of charge.

P&F MEETING

The August P&F Meeting is next Tuesday 7 August at 7pm. At this meeting, Mrs Robyn Chambers will be in attendance to meet parents as she begins her leadership role in the school as APRE.

DICOESAN P&F MEETING

This Sunday, 5 August, St Rita's is hosting the Diocesan P&F Meeting. It starts at 9 and is expected to conclude around lunch time. All parents are invited to attend. Please see Julie Parker for more information.

CHECKING UNIFORMS

Can all parents please check the name tags of jumpers to ensure they have their own. If your child has mistakenly taken the wrong one home please return it to the school. Thanks.

MINDFUL PARENTING TIP #2

Practice seeing your children as perfect just the way they are. See if you can stay mindful of their sovereignty from moment to moment and work at accepting them as they are when it is hardest for you to do so. (M&J Kabat-Zinn)

FANTASTIC GUEST SPEAKER YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS

On Wednesday 15 August, Celia Lashlie will be speaking at St Augustine's College, Cairns. Her topic is "The World of Adolescent Boys" and costs only \$10. I listened to Celia last year and highly recommend her – worth considering getting a car load of parents to head up. Even if your sons are only Primary aged, the information she shares will put you in good stead for when they are older. She is the author of the book "He'll Be Ok – Growing Gorgeous Boys into Good Men" The flier has been attached to the online version of the newsletter in the "Forms and Documents" section on the left hand side.

SOME SICK JOKES TO GET THE KIDS WITH...



Q: What do birds need when they are sick? A: A tweetment!

Q: How do you make a tissue dance? A: Put a little boogey in it!

Have a blessed week...

Cheers Gavin

APRE/SEL News



Over the past fortnight I have often been reminded, through staff and students actions, exactly what '*The St. Rita's Way*' is. It has been a magical (and busy!) couple of weeks. We have launched our Peer Support Program, participated in Catholic Education Week and officially opened our new buildings.

Last week our **Peer Support Program** got underway. It was an absolute joy to watch our senior students teach children from Prep to

Year 4 about team building and getting along. The team leaders showed compassion to the little kids, included everyone and reinforced our school values of **community, respect and learning**. The younger students were beaming afterwards.

We nurtured our understandings of **faith** and **community** through our attendance at St. Rita's South Johnstone and St. Michael's **Catholic Education Week celebrations**. The Eucharistic Liturgy at South Johnstone was rich in story and symbols and gave our students a sense of belonging to a bigger picture. I am sure that your children came home from both days with many stories about the fun activities they engaged in ranging from sporting events to goop and pirate story telling.

Yesterday we hosted a beautiful celebration of our school identity through the **opening of the Library and Undercover Area**. The day showcased exactly what makes Babinda and St. Rita's special, particularly evidenced by the way so many people helped out to make it great. The children's beautiful singing, Jenny Stone's hard work in catering, Fluer's terrific performance, parental attendance and the hard work of staff: all of this shows what a **connected community** we are.

And so, on this note I go out on a high! I finish at the end of this week to take my maternity leave. I leave feeling excited for the potential of St. Rita's and what great things the school is going to achieve in working towards its vision in the next 12 months, and also of course huge excitement about the journey my personal life is about to take.

Thanks,
☺ Sarah

STARS OF THE WEEK

Prep/1	Adah Naawi
2/3/4	Dion Logan
5/6/7	Calin Brose

Due to the absence of these students, the photo will be in in next week's newsletter



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

GROUNDS AND GARDENS ROSTER

Thank you to the following families who are rostered on:

HESSION 4th – 17th August

MUSUMECI 18th - 31st 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

DANI'S MENDING SERVICE

(for zip replacements & light mending)

DROP OFF/PICK UP @ BABINDA POST OFFICE (with correct deposit)

(now Agents for Dani) (fortnightly service)

Queries on prices? Ask Dani by phoning 40676 197 after hours

FUTURE SCREENINGS

Fri 3, Sat 4, Sun 5 Aug	7.30 pm Admission \$7.00	M
ROCK OF AGES		More Information
Fri 10, Sat 11, Sun 12 Aug	7.30 pm Admission \$7.00 ... 3D movie	M
The Amazing Spider-Man		More Information

Date Claimers

JULY	
31 st July	Parent Maths Workshop 7pm
AUGUST	
5 th Aug	Diocesan Parents & Friends Meeting
7 th Aug	P & F Meeting 7pm
13 th 17 th Aug	Book Fair
14 th Aug	Maths Competition
20 th – 24th Aug	Book Week
24 th Aug	Book Character Dress-up Day
SEPTEMBER	