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8 August 2012

St Mary MacKillop Prayer



*Ever generous God,
You inspired Saint Mary MacKillop
To live her life faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ
and constant in bringing hope and encouragement
to those who were disheartened, lonely or needy.*

*With confidence in your generous providence
and through the intercession of Saint Mary MacKillop
We ask that you grant our request.....*

*We ask that our faith and hope be fired afresh by the Holy Spirit
so that we too, like Mary MacKillop, may live with courage, trust
and openness.*

*Ever generous God hear our prayer.
We ask this through Jesus Christ. Amen.*

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Principal's Pen



I wanted to share with you all, an email that I received from a Principal after they attended our Opening last Monday. *"I just want to pass on to you and your staff my heartfelt congratulations on such a successful opening! - I am just so aware at how much time and work goes in to openings. What a wonderful celebration today was. - I am just so envious of what you have achieved at St Rita's. Well done. Please pass onto staff, parents, and (most importantly) students a huge congratulations. A beautiful school with a wonderful spirit. This was just so apparent as you walk through the door.*

I hope now that you can relax and enjoy what has been achieved at your school!! - An outstanding achievement at just so many levels!"



FAMILIES AND SCHOOL DO REALLY MATTER - DOCEMUS AWARDS

I was fortunate to attend the Docemus Awards last week where staff and parents/volunteers of our Diocese are nominated for awards in 5 categories. Here at St Rita's, our staff nominated our much treasured Administration Officer, Julie Cross for her outstanding work for Catholic Education – the children, staff and parents of St Rita's. Unfortunately, Julie wasn't the recipient of the award, however as Julie so humbly said "Being nominated in itself is such an amazing gesture – to think that people believe you worthy is very touching."

The recipients of the 2012 Docemus Awards were

- Lionel Williamson, St Augustine's College Cairns (School Officer)
- Czek Kersevani, St Augustine's College Cairns (Secondary Teacher)
- Andrew Maley, St John's School Silkwood (Leadership)
- Paula Brumley, St Clare's School Tully (Primary Teacher)
- Jodie Cox, St Andrew's Catholic College Redlynch (Volunteer)

Listening to the acceptance speeches, I soon picked up a common theme and that was of **family and schools having a profound effect on the lives of people**. Many of the recipients spoke of their upbringing, and the effect their parents/family had on them as well as their connection with Schools, most Catholic. I was particularly taken with Lionel Williamson's words which came straight from the heart – no piece of paper to read from... he spoke of his absolute passion and joy for his work at St Augustine's and that he lived by the words of Jesus... "I have come not to be served, but to serve". You can access more information about the recipients on the online version of the newsletter.

A NEW FACE IN OUR MIDST



It is my pleasure to welcome Mrs Robyn Chambers to St Rita's who has earned the role of Acting Assistant Principal Religious Education while Mrs Hession is on leave. Mrs Chambers comes to us fresh out of a Year 1 classroom at St Joseph's School, Parramatta and is very enthusiastic about her appointment. She is a very experienced educator and has had leadership roles in curriculum and some time as Acting APRE. I include Robyn's introductory letter for you:

My name is Robyn Chambers, and I have been blessed with the role of Acting APRE at St Rita's. I am a Cairns local; having taught in many Catholic Schools in the Diocese over more than 20 years. Over these years I have taught a range of year levels (Kindergarten and Preschool – 7), been a

Curriculum Support Person, Literacy Enrichment teacher and First Steps Reading Facilitator.

I am proud to part of a school that has secured itself a positive and well-respected reputation in education circles in the Diocese, under the leadership of Gavin and his team of teachers and school officers. I wish Sarah and the Hession family the very best of blessings, as we all await their new arrival to our community, and personally thank her for the time she has given to me to make my transition smooth.

On Tuesday I will be present at the P&F Meeting and look forward to meeting the parents, guardians and/or grandparents of the wonderful little people who put smiles on our faces, and make our days interesting and rewarding.

I have the best of both worlds; I can be found in the office on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and am with Years 2/3/4 on Thursday and Friday. My door is always open, so please come visit if you have any concerns or just want to introduce yourself and say 'Hello'.

Peace and Best Wishes,
Robyn

SUBSCRIBING TO OUR ONLINE NEWSLETTER

The number of parents subscribing to our online version of the newsletter is increasing weekly. We hope to be adding additional material such as video and images in the coming month as well as having the linked School Calendar. I encourage 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.schoolzinewalletters.com/subscribe>

PARENTS GO BACK TO SCHOOL TO LEARN THEIR 1,2,3s

"The maths night was a very worthwhile evening. As a parent and not a teacher it's difficult sometimes to engage in homework on a grade two level. Dot's strategies were certainly easy to grasp and easy to teach" St Rita's Parent



Last Tuesday evening the parents of St Rita's went back to school and learned their 1,2,3s.

Nine parents from the school gathered and were enlightened by the knowledge shared by Ms Dot Shea. Dot was able to engage the parents in a variety of hands-on activities to enable them to have a greater understanding of how we teach children number concepts.

Earlier that day, Dot had modelled teaching from Prep right through to Year 7 as well as facilitating workshops with the School Officers from St Rita's and St Michael's and the teaching staff after school. What I found amazing was how Dot used the same simple resources from Prep-Adult. There was a handout at the parent session for any parents who weren't able to make it.

COLES

Coles are promoting their final week of collecting tokens with a double point system. This is our last chance to collect them as we need all tokens in by Monday 13 August.

WOOLWORTHS

Woolworths Earn and Learn program ends on the 12th of August. Please send in any last minute cards with stickers.

MINDFUL PARENTING TIP #4

Be mindful of your expectations of your children and consider whether they are truly in your child's best interest. Also, be aware of how you communicate those expectations and how they affect your children. (M&J Kabat-Zinn)

FANTASTIC GUEST SPEAKER

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.

ST RITA'S GOT TALENT SHOW

A reminder to start thinking about what act your children can do for the St Rita's Got Talent Show being held on the last day of this term, Thursday 20 September. The staff have begun throwing a few ideas around for their secret act. If there are any parents out there who would like to take up the challenge to "out-do" the staff, they are more than welcome to do an act. Families are welcome to submit an act as well – if the Von Trap family can do it in "The Sound of Music", then perhaps your family can too...

TUCKSHOP

We have been unable to commence Tuckshop this term, due to illness. Hopefully it will be up and running in the next couple of weeks. We really appreciate the position Jenny Stone has been in with family illness, and if there are parents out there who are willing to get the tuckshop going earlier, then please contact the office. We apologise for any inconvenience this has caused.

SOME SICK JOKES TO GET THE KIDS WITH...

Q: What do you call a cow in an earthquake?

A: A milkshake!

Q: What do you call jewellery lost on the golf course?

A: A diamond in the rough.

Have a blessed week...

Cheers Gavin



SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

Good morning St Rita's Community,

I have certainly been blessed with a beautiful day for my first day at St Rita's. The children greeted me warmly this morning at assembly and proudly explained their values of Learning, Respect, Community and Faith.

Wednesday is the anniversary of the death of Mary Mackillop, Australia's first canonised Saint. Mary started the Order of St Joseph's and today her legacy is evidenced by so many taking up her call to 'Never see a need without doing something about it'.

Many times these stories of amazing people only come to our attention once they're gone. There are people around us, truly living the life that God has called them to in a way that changes the lives of people around them for the better. Do you know someone like that? Are you that person? What can you do today to change the life of someone around you for the better?

Peace and Best Wishes,
Robyn

THIS WEEK'S ST RITA'S FAITH AND RELIGIOUS LIFE CALENDAR	
Mon Aug 6	Feast of the Transfiguration
Tues Aug 7	9am Class Mass for Yrs 5/6/7
Wed Aug 8	Feast Day of St Mary of the Cross 10am Mass
Sat Aug 11	7pm Vigil Mass
Sun Aug 12	8am Morning Mass
Next week:	
Wed Aug 15	Whole School Mass for Feast of the Assumption. 9am It is a Holy Day of Obligation.

LIBRARY NEWS

BOOK FAIR

Book Fair is on in the Library from 13th to 17th August. There will be the usual great selection of books, posters and the very popular Variety Tray (pens, pencils, erasers, sharpeners etc). Children will bring home "Wish Lists" of what they would choose. If you agree with their choices/wishes you could send the money in with them or come and see me at another time (if you wanted to keep it a secret). Books can be paid for by cash or credit card. Books purchased allow us to receive more great books for our Library.

Thank you, Debbie Kurucz, Library Aide.

PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS

FATHER'S DAY RAFFLE

It would be great if families could assist us by sending along items suitable for Dad, to make a hamper for the Father's Day Raffle. Please these items in to the office

by Thursday 23rd August.

FUNDRAISING CATALOGUES

Chalk, Toys and More and Parent Direct, Fundraising Catalogues have been sent home to each family. There are some great educational items in these catalogues that are not available in stores. This is a great opportunity to shop early for Christmas. The P & F Association receives a percentage of the sales.

Orders are due back by Friday 7th September.

P&F MEETING TONIGHT

The August P&F Meeting is tonight and starts 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. Amongst the agenda will be: Father's Day, Australian Curriculum Update, Diocesan P&F Meeting Feedback

DIOCESAN P&F MEETING HOSTED AT ST RITA'S ON SUNDAY

On Sunday, St Rita's hosted the Diocesan P&F Meeting with representatives from a lot of the Catholic Schools in the Cairns Diocese. It was great to be able to show the parents around and brag about our great school. They were suitably impressed. Dr Bill Sultmann (Executive Director of CES) addressed the parent body and among other things spoke to the Parent Code of Conduct which has been written and being adopted in the Diocese.

STARS OF THE WEEK



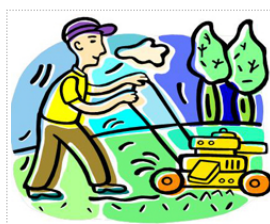
Prep/1 - Melina Musumeci
2/3/4 - Cooper Luce
5/6/7 - Shylah Montague

GETTING ALONG AWARD



Special awards were given to Jacob Bowen and Joshua Villari for displaying great 'Getting Along' skills, during Catholic Education Week activities at St. Michael's School, Gordonvale.

GROUPS 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.

Thought of the week.

Somewhere beneath the rubble of every endeavour gone awry are the tiny seeds of wisdom. Dig for and plant these seeds, and a forest of mighty trees will grow to shade you from the scorching heat of your life's midday, and to shield you from the howling winds of the world's confusion.

DATE CLAIMERS	
AUGUST	
7th Aug	P & F Meeting 7pm
13th 17th Aug	Book Fair
14th Aug	Maths Competition

DATE CLAIMERS	
15th Aug	Feast of the Assumption – Mass 9.00am
20th – 24th Aug	Book Week
24th Aug	Book Character Dress-up Day
28th Aug	Prep –Year 1 Mass 9.00am
SEPTEMBER	
4th Sept	Year 2/3/4/ Mass 9.00am P & F Meeting 7pm
19th Sept	NAIDOC
20th Sept	St Rita’s Got Talent Show
21st Sept	Student Free Day

COMMUNITY NEWS

FOR SALE

2nd hand boy school uniform pieces for sale

- 2 x size 6 boys sports shirts
- 1 x size 6 boys sports shorts
- 1 x size 6 boys school shirt

All \$5 each. Call Rebecca on 4067 2971



Babinata Munro
PICTURE THEATRE

FUTURE SCREENINGS

Fri 10, Sat 11, Sun 12 Aug	7.30 pm Admission \$7.00 . . . 3D movie	M
The Amazing Spider-Man More information		
Fri 17, Sat 18, Sun 19 Aug	7.30 pm Admission \$7.00	M
The Dark Knight Rises More information		