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22 August 2012

## Principal's Pen



### AN EMAIL FROM 2/3/4 CLASS

Last week I received the following email from the 2/3/4 class:

*Dear Mr Rick,*

*We want to help people who have cancer by raising money for Cancer Research. To do this we would like to hold our own Daffodil on Thursday August 23rd.*

*On this day we would like everyone to wear yellow and bring along a gold coin to go*

*towards the Cancer Foundation.*

*We think it is a great way to 'live' our values and do more for others.*

*Please consider our request.*

*Thank you,*

*Yr 2/3/4*

This 'call to action' has come directly from the children's Religious Education Unit and in my opinion, epitomises the strength and depth of an authentic Catholic Education. When 'raw curriculum' creates a desire for students to actually "do" something, it is just so powerful. These are moments where teachers are affirmed in what they are doing to try and help 'make a difference' in the lives of others. So, I fully endorse and support the 2/3/4 class in their endeavour to help those with Cancer and urge you all to be involved. **This Thursday 23 August**, the students can wear yellow clothes and/or accessories (scarves, socks, hair ties, wrist bands, etc) and bring a gold coin in to donate to the Cancer Council of Australia. When I told my own children of the email, they were insistent that we purchase merchandise for Daffodil Day – children have a way...



It is timely that this should occur, as the staff are currently praying a Novena prayer for 3 members of the Catholic Education Community who are fighting Cancer – Mr Tim Devlin (Assistant Director – School Development), Mr Paul Daghish (former Principal and CES staff member) and Lana Ross' mother in law, Jacqui.

We pray through the intercession of St Mary MacKillop for their healing...

## SCHOOL FUNDING

I strongly encourage all parents to take note of the following notice sent out from the Queensland Catholic Education Commission (QCEC). With the change in State Government, funding for education is under the spotlight and it is vital that parents have the real facts.

The Australian government is currently reviewing funding for all schools and it is likely that the government will soon propose new funding arrangements that will be debated in the Federal Parliament later this year.

These new arrangements could have significant consequences for the funding received by our school. I believe it is vital that you are aware of the facts about school funding and are able to actively defend the right of our school to the funding it needs to continue to offer a quality education, while keeping our fees as low as possible.

There has already been a lot of misinformation about school funding in the media. In particular, claims have been made that Catholic and other non-government schools receive more funding than State schools. These claims are simply wrong. Students in Catholic schools on average receive only about 80% of the government funding provided to students in government schools.

I encourage you to view the video Catholic school funding in Australia prepared by the Queensland Catholic Education Commission. If you are reading this in hard copy rather than electronic form, please copy and paste the following URL.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xWyO-iaobfA&feature=youtu.be>

Over the coming weeks, I will also provide you with more detailed information about funding in our school newsletter. I encourage you to take an active interest in this information and be ready to participate in this funding debate.

More information about Catholic school funding can be found at: [www.fundinginfo.catholic.edu.au](http://www.fundinginfo.catholic.edu.au)

## CRAZY SCIENTISTS EVERYWHERE



St Rita's turned into a hub of activity last Thursday when we celebrated National Science Week. All of the staff came in character

as self-professed “Mad Scientists” and the children joined in the spirit by dressing up in their white shirts and creating a “professor” look of their own. These mock lab coats were definitely needed as the morning session kicked off with the children rotating through a series of science experiments filled with chemicals, colour, mess and loud explosions.

The morning was the highlight of the day with the science experiments. The children, sorry ‘Scientists’, were investigating aerodynamics, chemical reactions, acidic and alkaline solutions and differences in matter.

The fun continued for the remainder as Professor GEE (aka Mrs Greenwood) took each group through a series of both Technology based scientific activities and some classic hand’s-on tricks like rubber eggs, instant ice and ‘Curiosity Show’ Coin puzzles! You can find a full report of the day in the ‘Forms & Documents’ section of the online newsletter or contact the office and we will print one off for you.

A HUGE thank you to Professor Gee (aka Mrs Greenwood) for organising the day.

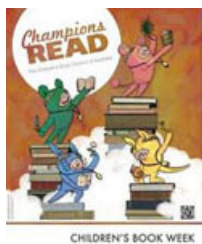
## SUBSCRIBING TO OUR ONLINE NEWSLETTER

To subscribe, simply go to this URL or email/call the office and we can add you.

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

From the online version, you are able to easily access the latest school calendar and website. You also have access to the full version of attachments, advertisements and community notices.

## BOOKWEEK : CHAMPIONS READ



This week, we celebrate Book Week and the theme of the week is ‘Champions Read’. Teachers will be focusing on this in class this week and we will culminate with a Dress Up Day on Friday (24 August). The Kindy children are coming across at approximately 9.15am for the Book Parade and an activity. All students are encouraged to come to school dressed as a character from a book and if possible, have the book with them. They can change into their Sports Uniforms at first lunch should they need or desire to do so.

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## CALLING ALL DADS

In celebrating Father’s Day in the coming week as well as being mindful of Book Week, we are asking Dads to come in to the school if and when they can to read a story to their child’s class. The theme ‘Champions Read’ is very appropriate as all children think their Dad is a champion in some way or another!!! Dads, if you are able to come in, simply make direct contact with your child’s teacher or call the office.

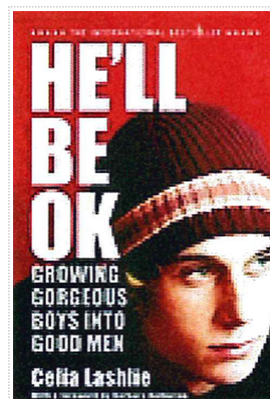


## MINDFUL PARENTING TIP #6

When you feel lost, or at a loss, remember to stand still and meditate on the whole by bringing your full attention to the situation, to your child, to yourself, to the family. In doing so, you may go beyond thinking, even good thinking, and perceive intuitively, with the whole of your being, what needs to be done. If that is not clear in any moment, maybe the best thing is to not do anything until it becomes clearer. Sometimes it is good to remain silent. (M&J Kabat-Zinn)

## HE’LL BE OKAY - Growing Gorgeous Boys into Good Men

A review of the talk held at St Augustine’s last week by your P&F Secretary Christina Forrest...



*Celia was certainly worth the trip, I just love her big personality and tales of her experiences with boys. Her personal insight into the minds of boys and men (and women actually) truly resonated with everyone and really reminds you of just how important men and particularly fathers are, in the lives of boys.*

*She speaks about relationships in general (husband\wife, siblings, friends, colleagues....) and how men and women relate to and can get the best from each other. Some of what she said actually reminded me of the book I once read Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus.*

*Anyone who went, whether they are a parent of a boy or not would have taken something away ( even if it was just a smile). I think what she says needs to be heard.*

*I laughed, cried and listened intently.*

*As parents I think we all need as much help as we can get with raising our children (perhaps particularly boys) I think she's great to listen to and just very sensible really. I will be buying her book now, big fan. Thanks for introducing me to her. Christina Forrest (P&F Secretary)*

## HEALTH MATTER

Just to inform the community that there has been a member of staff who has recently contracted Shingles. This person has been given clearance by their doctor to be at work and poses no risk to students. By way of procedure we have checked student immunisation records. **A timely reminder to ensure that these are up to date.** However, we inform the community in the event that there are women who are pregnant that we don’t know about and who have babies under the age of 18 months as these are the high risk groups.

## FORMS AND NOTICES

If you require the full version of the following forms and notices, they are available on the online version of the newsletter. For parent convenience these are also displayed on the noticeboard.

- Child Safety Advertisement
- Cricket Sign-on
- Docemus Awards Recipients
- Dr. Anne Rubenstein
- Holy Cross Invitation
- Mad Scientists of St Rita’s
- Creating a Safer World for Children.....



## SOME SICK JOKES TO GET THE KIDS WITH...

Q: How much does a grand piano cost?

A: \$1000.

Q: Why do golfers carry two pairs of trousers with them?

A: Just in case they get a hole in one.

Q: What do you get if you cross a cocker spaniel, a poodle and a rooster?

A: Cockerpoodledo!

Q: Why do dogs run in circles?

A: Because it's hard to run in squares!

**I leave you this week with a sneak preview of the new addition of the Hession Family... we join Matt, Sarah, Grace and Tom in celebrating this little miracle...**



**EDWARD (NED) PATRICK HESSION born 15 September 2012**

*Cheers Gavin*

## SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING...



Yr 2/3/4 have been learning about different acts of human goodness and kindness from all over the world. In groups they investigated, then presented, information on Caritas, World Vision, Daffodil Day, Clean up Australia and Day for Daniel. This influenced the children to email Mr Rick and organise their own Daffodil Day at St Rita's, on Thursday 23rd August (The rest of Australia will be celebrating on Friday 24th August, when we have Book Week Dress-up Day).



Daffodil Day is organised by the Cancer Council to raise funds to grow hope; Hope for better treatments, hope for more survivors and hope for a cancer-free future. So on Thursday 23rd August, come dressed in yellow and bring along a gold coin donation to help beat cancer.

**How can we incorporate the Year of Grace into our lives this week?** Take one extra minute before you step out of your car each day to reflect on the deep graces that fill your life.



*Please help us beat cancer.*

Peace and Best Wishes,

Robyn ☺

## THIS WEEK'S ST RITA'S FAITH AND RELIGIOUS LIFE CALENDAR

Sat Aug 18	7pm Vigil Mass
Sun Aug 19	8am Morning Mass
Tues Aug 21	11:45am Peer Support
Thurs Aug 23	Celebrating Daffodil Day at St Rita's (Yellow clothes and a gold coin donation).



## NEXT WEEK'S ST RITA'S FAITH AND RELIGIOUS LIFE CALENDAR

Tues Aug 28	9am Prep/1 Class Mass
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## FATHER'S DAY

A special request is going out for all children to bring in a photo of themselves with their Dad or that special Dad role model by **August 24th**. Preferably, photos can be emailed to [rchambers@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:rchambers@cns.catholic.edu.au).

Thank you for your support,

Robyn ☺

## LIBRARY NEWS

### BOOK FAIR – 'Luau'

Book Fair concludes this Wednesday. It has been very successful with children and parents frequenting the Library really enjoying browsing and shopping.

### BOOK WEEK – 'Champions Read'

A reminder that Book Character Dress up day is this Friday 24th Aug. Get in the spirit and come dressed as your favourite character. Don't forget that you will need to bring along your favourite book. The Kindy will be joining in our parade which will commence approx. 9.15am

*Thank you, Debbie Kurucz, Library Aide.*

## BIRTHDAY WISHES

This week's Birthday Greetings go to Montana Oliveri and Vito Musumeci



## STARS OF THE WEEK



Prep/1 - Mitchell Forrest  
2/3/4 - Leon Schep  
5/6/7 - Shylah Montague



### GROUNDS AND GARDENS ROSTER

Thank you to the following families who are rostered on:

MUSUMECI 18th - 31st August

NAAWI 1st – 14th September

Please be sure to check the roster so that you can organize to pick up and drop the mower key to the office. Also let us know if the fuel tank is low or any maintenance needed.

## Thought of the week

“Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counsellors, and the most patient of teachers.”

## DATE CLAIMERS

AUGUST	
20th – 24th Aug	Book Week
24th Aug	Book Character Dress-up Day
28th Aug	Prep –Year 1 Mass 9.00am
30th Aug	Fr Grundy’s B’day
31st Aug	P&F Father’s Day BBQ
SEPTEMBER	
3rd-4th Sept	Leadership Team Professional Development – Mr Rick and Mrs Chambers

4th Sept	Year 2/3/4/ Mass 9.00am P & F Meeting 7pm
19th Sept	NAIDOC Celebrations
20th Sept	St Rita’s Got Talent Show
21st Sept	Student Free Day

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### FREE Well Women’s Clinic – Babinda Hospital

Tuesday 28th August 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

### PICTURE THEATRE

#### FUTURE SCREENINGS

Fri 24, Sat 25, Sun 26 Aug	7.30 pm Admission \$7.00 ... 3D movie	PG
Ice Age 4: Continental Drift <a href="#">More Information</a>		
Fri 31 Aug, Sat 1, Sun 2 Sep	7.30 pm Admission \$7.00	M
Snow White and the Huntsman <a href="#">More Information</a>		

## WANTED

If anyone has any unwanted small plastic or hard toys, for use in an Art Sculpture, could you send them in to the school office . It doesn’t matter if they are broken or have missing parts. NO soft toys.