

Subscribe to Online Newsletter! <http://stritasbabinda.schoolzinewslatters.com/subscribe>

28 August 2012

## Principal's Pen



### HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO ALL OUR DADS AND GRANDADS...

In recent weeks I have revisited the book "He'll Be Okay" by Celia Lashie as well as attending Professional Development on Boys Education with Mrs Ross and the Saint Augustine's Open Night and I have been reminded of the great significance of males in the lives of children. We need to celebrate the

roles both men and women play in the lives of children and in this week leading up to Father's Day I thought it timely to speak on males and fathers particularly.



*"We know that raising children is the central experience of life, the greatest source of self-awareness, the true fountain of pride and joy, the most eternal bond with a partner. We know that being a father is life's fullest expression of masculinity."*  
<http://www.psychologytoday.com/articles/200910/fathers-and-sons>

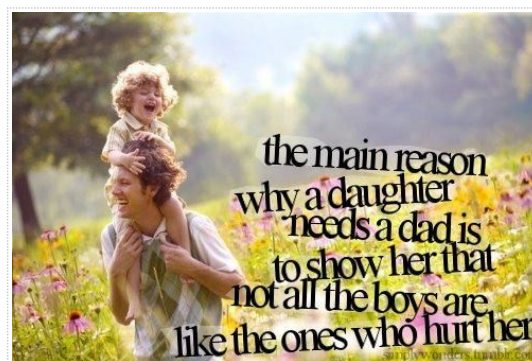
A measure of how one can fully being a man can be expressed in the way one is a father to their children. The role men play in the raising of their children has come back on the radar in recent times, particularly in parenting of young children. In some circles, it has been viewed as 'women's business' whereas we know it is both men and women, who play complementary roles.

C Kelland says *"He didn't tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it."*

This highlights the fact that children learn most from watching and being with their fathers and for this to be of any significance, Fathers need to be 'present' as much as possible. *It is about quantity as well as quality.* This is a constant challenge for myself, to ensure that I am 'with' my children as much as possible – being able to switch off from work and switch on to them!

Other significant males are also pivotal in the lives of children, particularly boys. This includes Grandfathers, uncles, Dad's mates, teachers, coaches... because, according to Steve Biddulph, there

comes a time in a boy's life when their focus turns from their own parents to others. I am experiencing this myself with my 12 year old son, who has been speaking a lot of his grandfather recently as they share an interest in the NRL competition. Boys will watch and copy and learn how to be 'male' and be a man from the males around them.



Fathers also play a pivotal role in the development of their girl's well-being. An aspect of this is illustrated in this image, as research has shown that the relationship a father has with his daughter does have an impact on their own self-concept and how they relate to males in relationships later in life. *"Every father and stepfather can make a huge difference in his daughter's life. A father is the first man his daughter knows. With that potent position of "first man" comes the ability to set the norm of manliness for her—a norm that ultimately can be stronger than what anyone else tells her!"*  
<http://www.thedadman.com/dads-of-elementary-school-daughters>

So here at St Rita's, we hope that all fathers feel welcome in our school. We have invited fathers to come in this and next week to read a story to their child's class or even to have the class ask them questions about their jobs, interests and hobbies. Simply contact your child's teacher.

*We hope that families take up the opportunity to attend the Parents and Friends Father's Day gathering this Friday starting at 5pm. We will gather for a short while in the Library and then enjoy a few games on the oval and a bite to eat.*

In addition, we encourage all families to Mass on Sunday at 8am – a nice way to start Father's Day.

## CHAMPIONS READ

Last Friday St Rita's came alive with the arrival of many book characters at the front gate – from Mulan to Batman to Snuggle Pot and Cuddle Pie and even a Viking. (we couldn't find their names on the roll...) The Kindy children came across and joined in the fun and learning. We paraded our costumes and had our photos taken on the dais in front of the backdrop painted by our talented Mrs Kurucz. Students then rotated through 3 storytelling and book activity stations where they were introduced to 3 of the short listed books which have been purchased by our P&F. We are in the process of uploading the photos onto the website for all parents to see. A wonderful celebration of books was had by all.

## SUBSCRIBING TO OUR ONLINE NEWSLETTER

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

<http://stritasbabinda.schoolzinewslatters.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.

## TERM 3 REPORTING

At the end of this term, teachers will be inviting all parents to come to the school and participate in 3-way Learning Conferences with themselves and your student. In this 15 minutes, your child will be able to show you some of the highlights of their learning and set goals for Term 4. Watch for the booking sheets which will be coming home in the coming weeks. Should parents request an additional meeting outside of this, then a time can be negotiated with the teacher.

## CALLING ALL DADS

In celebrating Father's Day in the coming week as well as being mindful of Book Week last 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.



## TIRED CHILDREN

As we begin the downhill run of the term, it is becoming apparent to staff that some children are exhibiting signs of tiredness and irritability. This is a longer term with another 4 weeks to go so we need to be mindful of this, particularly with the weather warming up. Maintaining an early to bed routine, minimising screen time (computers, TV, xbox etc...) and downtime on weekends is helpful in maintaining children's energy levels. If there has been a lot happening of late, then in my experience some 'catch up time' can be helpful.

## READ FOR AUSTRALIA ACTIVITY



This Wednesday 29 August at 2 pm, St Rita's will participate in the Literacy and Numeracy Week activity of "Read for Australia" in the Library. The text we are sharing is Pearl Barley and Charlie Parsley by Australian author Aaron Blabey.

## WEAPONS (INCLUDING KNIVES) IN SCHOOLS

All Catholic schools in the Cairns Diocese have been asked by our newly appointed Executive Director, Br Paul Hough, to make our communities aware of the newly adopted directive. This directive is intended to provide clear direction on banning weapons, including knives, in schools in order to promote peace and safety in school environments.

## Directive

Under no circumstances are weapons to be brought to school by students. This directive applies to all weapons defined by the Weapons Categories Regulation (Qld) 1997, as well as/including knives, slingshots and replicas of weapons.

In situations where knives or other items regarded as weapons in the Regulation are required for school activities, these will be provided by the school, under strict supervision.

## MINDFUL PARENTING TIP #7

Try embodying silent presence. This will grow out of both formal and informal mindfulness practice over time if you attend to how you carry yourself and what you project in mind, body and speech. Listen carefully. (M&J Kabat-Zinn)

## IESHA DID HERSELF AND FAMILY PROUD

Over the weekend, Iesha Crane competed in a Regatta in Townsville and was up against some stiff competition. At Assembly on Monday morning she was beaming as she wore proudly, her 2 first place medals. Iesha is currently writing an article for inclusion in a future newsletter. We are so proud of her and her efforts. We were particularly impressed when she said that despite her rudder breaking and her boat over turning, she didn't give up... that's a true champion!!!

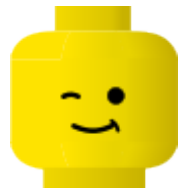
## SOME FUNNY 1 LINERS...

1) "I was raised as an only child, which really annoyed my sister." – Will Marsh

2) "You know you're working class when your TV is bigger than your book case." – Rob Beckett

3) "I'm good friends with 25 letters of the alphabet ... I don't know Y." – Chris Turner

4) "I took part in the sun tanning Olympics - I just got Bronze." – Tim Vine



**By the time I write this newsletter next week, we are confident that the new sandpit will be installed. We have purchased some new sand toys for the children and look forward to seeing them happily digging.**

*Cheers Gavin*

## SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING...



We could feel the 'spirit' of St Rita's at work last week! The Daffodil Day initiative by the Yr2/3/4 class embodied our values of Learning, Faith, Respect and Community. Posters were created, the children shared their conviction with the other classes and school staff, daffodils were made and presented to all, prayers were said, money raised and counted, and to top it all off, the Cancer Council received \$59 in donations. Thank you to everyone for participating in Daffodil Day, and congratulations to Yr 2/3/4!

Your support will make a difference for cancer patients and their families all over Australia.

**\$5 CAN HELP US GIVE A NEWLY DIAGNOSED CANCER PATIENT IMPORTANT SUPPORT AND INFORMATION**

RESOURCES TO HELP THEM THROUGH THEIR CANCER JOURNEY.

**\$10** CAN HELP OFFER FREE EXERCISE PROGRAMS TO HELP CANCER PATIENTS BUILD STRENGTH AND FITNESS DURING AND AFTER TREATMENT.

**\$25** CAN HELP TRANSPORT CANCER PATIENTS TO AND FROM HOSPITAL FOR TREATMENT.

**\$50** CAN HELP THE CANCER COUNCIL HELPLINE 13 11 20 PROVIDE FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION AND SUPPORT ON ALL ASPECTS OF CANCER.



*St Rita's celebrates!*



*Maths in Action as we counted the donations.*

**How can we incorporate the Year of Grace into our lives this week?** As you leave the house each day, or enter, reflect on the importance of that actual doorway to your life - who passes through it, what it means when family come home, or leave.

*Peace and Best Wishes,  
Robyn*

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

Tues Aug 28	9am: Prep / Year 1 Mass
Tues Aug 28	11:45am: Peer Support
Frid Aug 31	5pm: Celebrating Dads and Dad role models at school
Sat Sept 1	7pm: Vigil Mass
Sun Sept 2	8am: Morning Mass. A special welcome for all families to join with us this morning as we thank God for our fathers.



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

Tues Sept 4	9am: Yr 2/3/4 Class Mass
-------------	--------------------------

**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 **Wednesday August 29th**. Preferably, photos can be emailed to [rchambers@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:rchambers@cns.catholic.edu.au). At this stage I have only received 3 photos and



I am in need of these photos to finish the display for the Father's Day Get-together this Friday.

*Thank you for your support,  
Robyn*

**PARENTS AND FRIENDS NEWS**

The September P&F Meeting is being held next **Tuesday, 4 September at 7pm** in the Library. All are welcome to attend. It's always great to see new faces at the meetings. Agenda can be submitted to the Secretary via the office and the person submitting it needs to be present raise it.

Please note the following:-

- Please return ALL raffle tickets, unsold and sold, by tomorrow, Wednesday, 29th Aug. (otherwise we cannot draw the raffle!)
- We would still love some more donations for our Father's Day basket.
- The Father's Day Sausage Sizzle on Friday 31st Aug at 5 pm at the school with the big draw of the raffle with wonderful prizes, PLEASE RETURN THE RSVP FORM
- Please remember to get your orders in for the Parent Direct, Chalk Educated Toys, and Toys and More, fundraising catalogues. Show them to family, friends, and neighbours.

**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. Arne Rubenstein
- Holy Cross Invitation
- Mad Scientists of St Rita's
- Creating a Safer World for Children.....

**LIBRARY NEWS**

A big thank you to all the parents and students who bought books, posters and stationery at this year's Book Fair. Sales reached just over \$1000 and this enabled us to select \$300 worth of new books for the Library. Look out for these on display in the coming weeks.

Thank you so much for supporting Book Fair.

*Debbie Kurucz, Library Aide.*

STARS OF THE WEEK

Prep/1 - Ariah Salvestrin  
 2/3/4 - Nicholas Blonner  
 5/6/7 - Clifford Stone



## COMMUNITY NEWS



**PICTURE THEATRE**

**FUTURE SCREENINGS**

Fri 31 Aug, Sat 1, Sun 2 Sep	7.30 pm Admission \$7.00	M
<b>Snow White and the Huntsman</b> <a href="#">More information</a>		
Fri 7, Sat 8, Sun 9 Sep	7.30 pm Admission \$7.00 ... 3D movie	M
<b>Prometheus</b> <a href="#">More information</a>		

### GROUNDS AND GARDENS ROSTER

Thank you to the following families who are rostered on:

NAAWI	1st – 14th September
ROWE	15th – 28th 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

*As long as you live, keeping learning how to live.*

## DATE CLAIMERS

AUGUST	
29th Aug	2pm Read for Australia
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
7th Sept	GALA Day 5/6/7 Students
19th Sept	NAIDOC Celebrations
20th Sept	St Rita's Got Talent Show
21st Sept	Student Free Day

## 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.

## JOIN THE YOUNG COMPANY'S SUPER SPRING HOLIDAY DRAMA SCHOOL – REALITY GAMES & OUR MAGIC MADE CASTLE

Don't miss out on TYCs Super Spring Drama School; Reality Games (25/9 – 28/9) and Our Magic Made Castle (2/10 – 5/10). TYCs action packed program is loads of fun as participants make lots of new friends while also exploring costumes, lighting, sound and multimedia elements, then finishing with a creative performance on the final afternoon. For more information please phone Leigh Boswell on 4041 4066, email [info@theyoungcompany.com.au](mailto:info@theyoungcompany.com.au) or book online [www.theyoungcompany.com.au](http://www.theyoungcompany.com.au) .