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04 September 2012

Principal's Pen



IF IT IS TO BE CATHOLIC, A CATHOLIC SCHOOL MUST BE A 'GOOD' SCHOOL

We all have our own criteria upon which we judge a school. When parents choose a particular school, they are looking for something that 'sits well with them' – the majority would choose a school where there are similar values between home and school.

Some look for the latest in technology, some look for good facilities, some look for teachers with particular qualities, some look at NAPLAN results, some look at the specialist programs being offered, some look at the size of the ovals and play spaces. Whatever it may be, the following offers an insight into what a good school is...

"In a good school, each student is seen as a unique and precious human being. They are encouraged to grow into wise, curious and confident adults who develop the gifts they have received. It is more important for them to grow in their humanity than to achieve high academic scores, make big money or become celebrities. In a good school, good values are not simply spoken about. They are visible in the timetable, the curriculum, the priorities of the school and the things that are praised at assemblies." (Australian Catholics, Winter 2012)

When I read this I couldn't help but think about both St Rita's and the Catholic School my own children attend. When I read this, the boxes were being ticked in my mind, but also conscious that we can always do better.

The first sentence, I am sure is a view shared by all parents as we witness to the uniqueness and preciousness of our children daily. Staff in Catholic Schools are called to see each student in their class in a similar light.

The notion of the absolute and undeniable conviction that 'growth in humanity' takes centre stage in the educative process in a Catholic School is one that is adopted by St Rita's. This is evident in our Vision Statement and is being included in the Mission Statement as being 'core' business.

Our values of Learning, Respect, Community and Faith are embedded in all we do – these terms have become a part of our daily language and are infused in all we do – hence we now have a very strong culture of "the St Rita's Way!!!"

What criteria do you use to decide what a good school is?

WELL DONE P&F – Thank you...

A very enjoyable evening was had by all on Friday as the P&F hosted the Father's Day BBQ. The children seemed to enjoy the

game of Tee Ball (the BIG kids too) and the poem and powerpoint about our Dads topped the night off (thank you Mrs Chambers and staff). Thank you to the mothers who organised the evening and cooked the BBQ. Special mention to Julie Parker and Christina Forrest. Thank you also to the parents who sold tickets in the Father's Day raffle and who gave of their time selling them up the street over the past 2 weekends – a real show of community spirit!

INDUSTRIAL ACTION

I refer parents to the communication forwarded to you from Br Paul Hough outlining the pending Protected Industrial Action this Thursday, 6 September by some employees of the Cairns Diocese and in fact, across Queensland. This is a somewhat intense time for the Independent School communities of Queensland as the next round of enterprise bargaining is negotiated. Our hope is that agreement is reached with minimal disruption for all involved. St Rita's will not be involved in protected action this week and classes will run as normal.

P&F MEETING

A reminder that the P&F meeting is being held tonight at 7pm, in the library. All are welcome. Included in the agenda will be the Father's Day wrap up, Term 4 fundraiser, Children's garden and School Funding information.

SCHOOL FUNDING

I invite parents to remain up to date with school funding information, as there is and will continue to be references in the media. To ensure parents of children in Catholic Schools have the 'actual facts' and not a 'version of the facts' please access this site:

<http://www.fundinginfo.catholic.edu.au/>

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

<http://stritasbabinda.schoolzineneletters.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

This week, teachers are sending home letters for you to book a time to 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.

Should parents request an additional meeting outside of this without the child present, then an additional time can be negotiated with the teacher.

BRAIN FRIENDLY FOOD ONLY



Just a reminder to only include food which is nutritious and healthy in the children's lunch boxes as we are attempting to maximise capacity for learning here at St Rita's. A little 'treat' every

now and then is fine and shows children that these foods are okay to have now and then and for special occasions such as birthdays. A reminder that chips and lollies are not allowed. Sweet and cream filled biscuits are high in sugar and are therefore not suitable either. Also watch for convenience products such as jellies as they are often high in sugar. As we move into the warmer weather a water drink bottle is also a wise inclusion. A reminder also to be sending 'fresh fruit and vegetables' for brain break daily. For further ideas on healthy foods for lunches, visit www.freshforkids.com.au

2013 PLANNING

Processes have begun for planning for 2013 and I ask that any parents who know their children won't be returning to St Rita's in 2013 to notify the office. As you can appreciate, budgets and staffing are dependent upon such information. I am attending a 2013 Staffing day this week at CES. Thanks.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATION REMINDER – Hats



No School Hat, No Play. In the harsh climate we live in we can't afford to be complacent about sun safety. St Rita's has choices of school hats which

are sun safe and part of the uniform. Students are expected to wear these while playing or doing sport, even if in the shade. Consequence for not having a school hat is that they must sit out of play. If for any reason, a student has an alternative hat, even for a short time, a letter is required to the teacher.

We understand that from time to time, the notorious 'hat monster' comes and hides hats and they can't be found anywhere. This is frustrating for both parents and staff alike. Upon notification that a hat has gone missing, staff will endeavour to assist the child to find it.

GALA DAY

This Friday, the Senior class will be participating in 'Gala Day', a day of sport. They will travel to the Gordonvale and Edmonton areas and participate, with St Michael's School teams in touch footy, netball and soccer. A wonderful opportunity for our students – thank you St Michael's for including us.

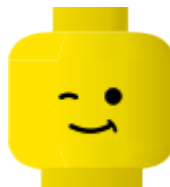
MINDFUL PARENTING TIP #7

Apologise to your child when you have betrayed a trust in even a little way. Apologies are healing. An apology demonstrates that you have thought about a situation and have come to see it more clearly, or perhaps even more from your child's point of view. But be mindful of being "sorry" too often. It loses meaning if you are always saying it, making regret into a habit. Then it can become a way not to take responsibility for your actions. (M&J Kabat-Zinn)

ST RITAS GOT TALENT SHOW

A reminder that the St Rita's Got Talent Show is being held on the last day of term, Thursday 20 September, commencing at 1.45pm. A note has or is going home this week for registrations.

FUNNY BONE



Q: What do you call a woodpecker with no beak?
A: A headbanger!

Q: Why don't chickens play sports? A: Because they hit fowl balls.

Q: What do you call a knight who is afraid to fight? A: Sir Render.

Q: What kind of sandwich is Dracula afraid of? A: A stake sandwich.

I leave you with a vision of very happy children who have welcomed the latest addition to St Rita's. Thank you to Sibby, of Cairns Mulch who donated his time and machinery to dig our new pit. Thanks also to Andrew Luce who is coming in to do the finishing touches.



Cheers Gavin

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING...



Last week we came together to celebrate our fathers and those special father role models. Prep/1 started the week with their reflective mass thanking God for fathers, followed by poem practices and special surprises. The P&F function on Friday night was a wonderful way to end our week. Great t-ball skill was shown, yummy sausages eaten, and judging by all the smiles – the night was a great success!

Thank you God for our fathers and special father role models.

*You are the one who knows how absolutely special fathers are;
You made them that way.*

Amen

Sept 3-9 is Child Protection Week. Every Catholic is invited to be part of making the future safer for children than has been the case in the past. Not paralysed by shame, anger or hurt we seek to build a different future. Mothers, fathers and grandparents are encouraged to be part of this drive for a safer church and safer future for children and young people, along with priests, religious and teachers. To express our solidarity with all in the wider society, who work to prevent abuse of children and young people, we are displaying five white balloons this week in our school office.

In this Year of Grace let us present our prayers to a loving and compassionate God, as we work together to create a safe environment and proclaim our determination to protect young people and to stop child abuse wherever it occurs.

***Peace and Best Wishes,
Robyn***

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

Tues Sept 4	9am: Yr 2/3/4 Class Mass
Tues Sept 5	11:45am: Peer Support
Sat Sept 8	7pm: Vigil Mass
Sun Sept 9	8am: Morning Mass. Child protection Sunday

OFFICE CLOSED

The office will be closed this Friday 9.00am-3.00pm as there will be a skeleton staff present in the school, due to Gala Day and Administrator's Networking Day. The phone will be checked at break time if you need to leave a message.

YEAR TWO STUDENTS

A reminder to the children in YEAR TWO to bring their construction material (anything recyclable like plastic bottles, bottle tops, egg cartons etc.) in this Thursday as they will begin making their toys for Science assessment. The Assessment Task sheet with an added note about bringing in materials was sent home last Thursday.

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
- Dr. Arne Rubenstein
- Mad Scientists of St Rita's
- Creating a Safer World for Children.....
- Winners of the P & F Raffle

HEAD LICE ALERT

Head Lice are once again visiting our school. Please check your children and treat immediately. More than one treatment is usually necessary. Students are not permitted to be at school with live lice – only once treatment has been administered are they able to be at school.

PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS –

"I would like to thank everyone that turned up to our Father's Day Celebration / Raffle last Friday and everyone that helped making it a great evening with lots of fun. I would like to especially thank Robyn Chambers for her effort to prepare a wonderful presentation with the children for their fathers. Also a big Thank You to the parents that helped preparing the BBQ and drawing the raffle. It was a very successful evening overall and we raised close to \$ 800 which we can put straight back into resource material for our students. I feel privileged and it makes me happy to be part of this community, this school and its families!"

Julie Parker, Fundraising Coordinator

Recipe Book

The P & F have decided to create a Recipe Book to sell as a Christmas fundraiser. It would be appreciated if families could send in as many recipes/handy hints as they can. Two or three per student or family would be great. Please include a variety of savoury and sweet or any useful household handy tips. Some may not get selected if there are double ups. E.g. Favourite Christmas recipes, cakes, slices, desserts, lollies, muffins, pies, preserves, nibbles, pastas, entrees, main meals, even play dough and cleaning tips, etc.....

A REMINDER to get your orders in for Chalk Educated Toys, Parent Direct and Toys and More Fundraising. There are some

great educational items in these catalogues that are not seen in stores. If you have misplaced your catalogue, there are plenty more catalogues available from the school office. Christmas shopping made easy!

STARS OF THE WEEK



Prep/1 - Harper Wiles

2/3/4 - Kyle Bowen

5/6/7 - Calin Brose

BIRTHDAY WISHES



This week's Birthday greetings go to Georgina Stone.

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

Laughter is a unique medicine that places your problems in perspective, relaxes your tense muscles, reassures those around you, and helps you to enjoy life even when you don't have everything you want.

DATE CLAIMERS

SEPTEMBER	
4th Sept	P & F Meeting 7pm
7th Sept	GALA Day 5/6/7 Students
18th Sept	Yr 2/3/4 Tjapukai Excursion
19th Sept	NAIDOC Celebrations
20th Sept	St Rita's Got Talent Show
21st Sept	Student Free Day Last day of Term
OCTOBER	
8th Oct	Students return for Term 4
15th, 16th, 17th Oct	Year 5/6/7 Camp
22nd Oct	STUDENT FREE DAY
24th Oct	AVA Pet Visit 10-11am
DECEMBER	
7th Dec	Last Day of the School Year

FREE Well Women's Clinics – Babinda

Mamu Health Service	Tuesdays 18th Sept & 9th Oct 2012	Ph: 4067 1366
Babinda Hospital	Tuesday 25th Sept 2012	Ph: 4067 8200

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.

BABINDA SWIMMING POOL REOPENS

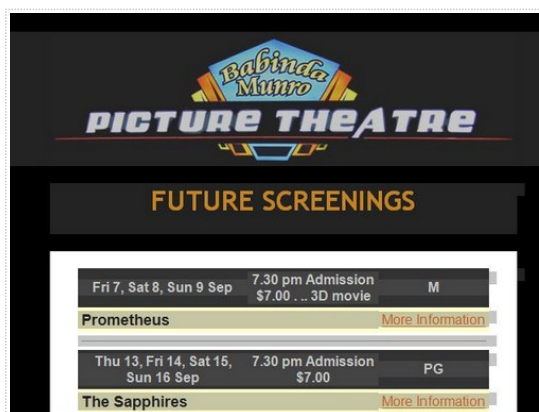
From 8th Sept - 21st Sept (Reduced Hours - Mon, Wed, Fri 3.00 – 6.00pm)

Official Opening: Saturday 22nd Sept 8.00 – 1200

From 25th September:-

Mon – Fri	6am – 6pm
Sat	8.00 – 12.00
Sun	Closed

COMMUNITY NEWS



WANTED

- **VINYL RECORDS** – Large and small in any condition. Please contact Jody Oliveri on 40671688 / 0432068700
- **TOYS** - If anyone has any unwanted small plastic or hard toys e.g. small Barbi shoes, small cars, plastic farm animals or solder's for use in an Art Sculpture. Could you send them in to the school office as soon as possible. It doesn't matter if they are broken or have missing parts. NO soft toys.