

16 October 2012

Principal's Pen



I write this as I am preparing for the senior camp with thoughts of 'what will come to be' over the next few days for the students and staff... my hope is that personal growth abounds, that a change of scenery is refreshing and that new friendships formed, old ones renewed and even hurts healed. The array of activities that are planned will challenge the students to take risks and overcome fear and apprehension. We can't underestimate the quality of learning which

takes place 'outside of the classroom' and in life generally.



ST RITA'S DIGITAL LEARNING BOOST

Recently, St Rita's received a considerable grant under the Australian Government's 'Empowering Local Schools' initiative. I applied for the grant to target the areas of

- Renewal Processes
- Parent Engagement and Participation
- Staff recruitment and Professional Development
- Mentoring Practices for Staff
- Financial Management

Given we are somewhat isolated, in order to achieve the outcomes above, we have had to upgrade our school's digital infrastructure and install digital devices which enable staff, students and parents to engage in learning and communications beyond the school.

Therefore the following is in the process of being ordered and installed:

- 2 Interactive Whiteboards which will be installed in the Prep/1 and 2/3/4 classrooms
- Flat Screen TV and bank of iPads predominantly for use in the Senior Classroom
- Fibre Optic Cabling being run between the 2 buildings to replace Cat5
- Upgrade of the school server and switches
- Upgrade of the school wireless network hardware
- Replacement of some of the student laptops and purchase of laptops for staff

This will allow for online interaction in all of the major learning areas of the school which can be used in class time as well as for staff for Professional Development and for parents to participate in meetings through webcam.

In addition to this, we have been successful in our application for a grant through the Bendigo Bank to the sum of \$2000. This has

enabled the purchase of more iPads which will be used in the P/1 and 2/3/4 classrooms.

Digital and online learning is fast becoming more and more popular and effective as it 'engages' children in learning like no other medium. Our 'digital natives' soak up the content and are stimulated to learn. BUT... they do not replace good teachers and nothing ever will. **So St Rita's has it all – great teachers and latest technology!!!**

POSITIVE TIME OUT – Wet n Wild Afternoon

This term, St Rita's is celebrating and rewarding good choices of behaviour – staff are particularly looking at children who – **consistently make good choices of behaviour and who do things "the St Rita's Way"**. These are the children who are consistently good learners, who are good community members, who show their faith in their actions and who respect themselves, others and school property.

Students who choose not to do things the St Rita's way are given one chance and if there is a repeat of any of our 'Non-negotiables', they will be sitting out/missing out.

The first of these 'positive time outs' will be at the beginning of week 5 when we enjoy a Wet n Wild Afternoon. If you have any 'Slip n Slides' or blow up pools at home and are willing to loan them to us for the afternoon, we will ask you to bring them in closer to the time. We will also ask for donations of Bubble Bath. If anyone has a bubble machine, please also let the office know.

We are planning a 'surprise' positive time out experience for the students, which is to take place in the last week of school. Again, only those who have made good choices, doing things the St Rita's Way will be enjoying the event.

BLACK DUCK WISDOM – STEP BACK FROM LIFE FROM TIME TO TIME. TAKING CARE OF ONESELF IS IMPORTANT AND ESSENTIAL...

When ducks have had enough of the world or feel out of sorts they simply stick their head under the water and wag their bottoms to the sky. Groups of ducks do this too like a group comment on the state of the world. So when all else fails remember to do what ducks do – bums up and duck to you all!!!

Life can be a challenging journey and many humans have times when they want to run and hide. This is both normal and healthy. You call it a 'doona day' or a 'mental health day' and you simply get off the treadmill of life and chill out. This is essential for good health and wellbeing.

P.S. There are many out there in the world who think that the earth will go into a crisis or a complete holding pattern if they were not

around for a day. Get over it and know that martyrdom died in the dark ages.



GETTING FUNDING RIGHT FOR SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS

Governments have never funded students with special needs in Catholic schools in the same way they fund students with the same needs in government schools.

This is despite more and more families with Indigenous, poor or refugee backgrounds, or with children with disabilities, choosing to send their children to a Catholic school.

As part of their social justice mission, Catholic school communities welcome these students, despite the relatively small amount of funding they receive to support them.

Government funding for Catholic students with special needs often falls short of what students with special needs require.

If these Catholic students were enrolled in government schools, they would receive more funding to support their needs.

It's time governments fund students equally, based on their needs, and not the school they attend.

For more information about Catholic school funding visit fundinginfo.catholic.edu.au

A video on Catholic school funding can be viewed by visiting qcec.catholic.edu.au and following the Gonski Review of school funding link, which takes you to: <http://www.qcec.catholic.edu.au/news/videos>

GYMNASTICS



The Gymnastics program starts this week with P/1 and 2/3/4 yesterday. This is a 5 lesson program and will run on Mondays. Students are asked to continue to wear their Sports Uniforms of a Monday and Friday for this term. Parents have already paid for this in the Curriculum Levy and the P&F have subsidised the program 50%. The students of St Rita's certainly don't miss out on great educational experiences!!!

SUBSCRIBING TO OUR ONLINE NEWSLETTER

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

<http://stribabinda.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.

FINAL WORKING BEE for 2013

This will be held on **Sunday 4 November from 9am**. Many parents will make for light work and an enjoyable time while getting some important jobs done. Jobs include finishing off the sandpit, turning over the sand in the senior playground and a clean out of the P&F shed. Please consider coming along to help.



SPONSORSHIP

If there are any parents with businesses or have contacts with local businesses who might be interested in sponsoring our school newsletter, please contact the office for more information.

DR ARNE RUBINSTEIN – PARENTING GEN Y, THE INTERNET AND RITES OF PASSAGE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

THE AUSTRALIAN RITES OF PASSAGE INSTITUTE

A special presentation that will change lives!

THIS THURSDAY EVENING October 18, at Good Counsel College, Innisfail – Presentation starts at 7pm

TICKETS \$10 each: First 50 Families to phone get 1 Ticket Free

For Tickets: Ph: Good Counsel College -406353 30 or Good Counsel Primary - 40612994

Lucky Door Prize \$500 Harvey Norman Gift Voucher
Tea & Coffee provided.

October 19-20 at Good Counsel Primary – Camp Out

For more information visit www.ritesofpassage.com

<http://youtu.be/IbzeKXP28qI>

FUNNY BONE



I do try these out on my own children first – hope you enjoy them.

Teacher: "Give me a noun, Tom?"

Tom: "Dust"

Teacher: "Correct. Now give me a collective noun."

Tom: "Vacuum cleaner."

Q: What do bananas do best in gymnastics?

A: Splits!

Cheers Gavin

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING...



Sunday for me, involved a beautiful drive down to Babinda, then the opportunity to join staff, school families and the St Rita's Parish to celebrate mass. It made for a heartwarming start to the day seeing all those beautiful smiles.

On Tuesday, Yr2/3/4 celebrated their mass with a focus on 'generosity'. Together they prayed:

For those who are mean and selfish, that God's love may soften their hearts and make them generous. God of Mercy, hear us.

For ourselves, that we will never ignore the needs of other people and will be generous in helping others. God of Mercy, hear us.

These timely prayers come as we focus on the Catholic Mission in the month of October. In 2012, fundraising will help children in the Philippines and around the world, as we help restore hope to the lives of a 'special someone' in need. We pray for those who are affected by the extremes of poverty which leaves them so vulnerable and hopeless. In doing so, we can support our brothers and sisters with both material and spiritual support.

At St Rita's we will be having a Crazy Hair and Sock Day to raise money for the missions on



Wednesday October 24th. On this day our school family will come together, reaching out in love to help others with both material and spiritual support knowing that our generosity will enable the Church to bring faith and joy into the lives of others.

If you would like to view the DVD presentation put out for the Catholic Mission, go to: www.catholicmission.org.au/aspecialsomeone and click on the link.



On October 18th at 9am we will unite with one million children around the world to pray the rosary. **Rosary beads are still available for sale at the front office for \$1 in a variety of colours.**

Peace and Best Wishes,

Robyn ☺

ST RITA'S FAITH AND RELIGIOUS LIFE CALENDAR

October	Month of the Rosary Mission Month
Monday October 15	8:40 Praying the Rosary in the library
Tuesday October 16	9am: 2/3/4 Class Mass
Thursday October 18	9am: Praying the Rosary around the world for unity and peace.
Saturday October 20	7pm: Vigil Mass
Sunday October 21	8am: Morning Mass.
Tuesday October 23rd	9am: Prep/1 Class Mass
Wednesday October 24th	Children's Mission Day – Crazy Hair and Sock Day to raise money for the Missions.
Friday October 26th	Day for Daniel – Wear something red and have a red lunch
Thursday Nov 1	9am Whole School Mass. All Saints' Day
Tuesday Nov 13	9am: 4/5/6/7 Class Mass (Please note change of date)

Monday October 22nd is a pupil free day. On this day teachers will be involved in a Consistency of Teacher Judgement Day, where they will join with teachers from their similar year levels from Catholic Schools in Innisfail, South Johnstone, Silkwood and Tully to moderate English, Maths and Science tasks.

UNIFORM ORDERS FOR 2013

A reminder to return uniform orders by Monday 22nd October.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS NEWS

October Meeting: The October meeting was held last night. The main points of discussion included:

- End of Year Function on Thursday 6 December
- Principal Report
- Recipe Book
- Purchase of new oven for Tuckshop
- Working Bee – Sunday 4 November

RECIPE BOOK

Recipes are desperately needed for the P & F Recipe Book 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.....

STARS OF THE WEEK



Prep/1	Jaxon Saylor
2/3/4	Kale Lock
5/6/7	Jordan Lock

GROUNDS AND GARDENS ROSTER



Thank you to the following families who are rostered on:

SCHEP 13th -26th October

STAGER 27th October – 9th November

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.

DATE CLAIMERS

OCTOBER	
15th, 16th, 17th Oct	Year 5/6/7 Camp
22nd Oct	STUDENT FREE DAY
24th Oct	AVA Pet Visit 10-11am
26th October	World Teachers' Day Day for Daniel
NOVEMBER	
4th November	Working Bee
6th November	P&F Dinner
13th November	Prep 2013 Information Evening 7pm
14th November	Total Solar Eclipse

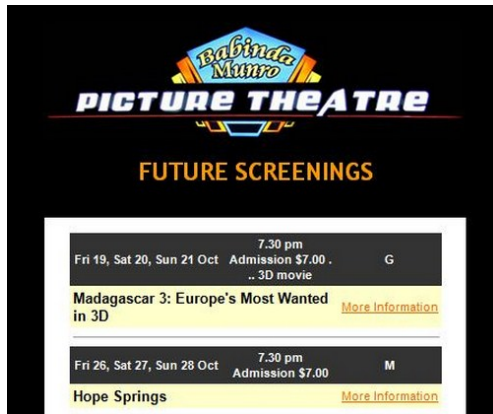
DATE CLAIMERS

20th November	Prep 2013 – ‘ Bump Up’ Morning 8.30am
27th November	Prep 2013 – ‘Bump-Up’ Morning 8.30am
DECEMBER	
4th December	School Thanksgiving Mass and Yr 7 Farewell 6pm
6th December	Christmas Concert and Breakup
7th Dec	Last Day of the School Year finish 12pm.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

No matter what your level of ability, you have more potential than you can ever develop in a lifetime.

COMMUNITY NEWS



BEDWETTING

A new DVD based program, Bedwetting Cured, has been developed by Dr Mark Condon, and Physiotherapist, Margaret O'Donovan. It outlines a successful program for parents to implement at home with their children. For more information and a free Bedwetting Fact Sheet please visit the website:

www.bedwettinginstitute.com.au or phone 1300 135 796

WELCOME TO 2012 NET SET GO PROGRAM

6 Weekly Sessions starting Tuesday 23rd October – 27th November 2012

Sign on will be Tuesday 16th October 4pm to 5.30pm

Sessions are on Tuesday afternoons from 4pm to 5pm

Ernest Street, Bessie Spiller Netball Courts COST: \$50.00

If you are unable to attend the session please phone the Courts on 40614213 or Sandra Posar on 0407611566