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30 October 2012

This week, we invited our APRE Mrs Chambers to write the editorial of the newsletter on this occasion of All Saints...

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING...



ALL SAINTS DAY

Are you named after a saint? How many saints can you name?

On Thursday November 1st we celebrate All Saints' Day. On this day we remember and celebrate all of God's saints – the famous saints and heroes of our Church and the many ordinary people, who have lived good lives and are now with God in heaven. Through the example and intercession of these saints, we

pray that one day, we too, will rejoice as we go to be with God.

Families and friends are invited to share in our Eucharistic Celebration **this Thursday at 9am** as we pray for all saints.

Can you think of a person you know who serves God in a special way? A person who is like a saint to you? A person who follows Jesus' example? This week offer a prayer to thank God for this person.

All Souls' Day follows All Saints' Day on November 2nd. On this day we remember our friends and loved ones who have passed away and offer special prayers for them. It is a time to pray for their souls to assist the souls from Purgatory to Heaven. The prayer of the week is a prayer for All Souls' Day. Try to find time to pray this prayer on Friday.



CRAZY HAIR AND SOCK DAY HELPS THE DISADVANTAGED

A big thank you to the St Rita's School community for participating in Crazy Hair and Sock Day and helping the Catholic Mission raise much needed financial support for our brothers and sisters. The students raised \$38.



Peace and Best wishes,

Robyn

Principal's Pen



NEW MISSION STATEMENT FOR ST RITAS

After an extensive consultation process with staff and parents, I am proud to present to the community the new St Rita's Mission Statement. In contrast to the Vision Statement which is future focused, our Mission Statement describes who and what we are now and what our core business is. Thank you to the parents who responded – all suggestions were discussed and considered by staff.

A small rural school community founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1926, St Rita's mission is to provide holistic, life-long learning grounded in the Catholic Christian faith. Learning experiences are provided to develop the tools necessary for each child's success socially, emotionally, physically, spiritually and academically, leading to a life with purpose and fulfillment. Educating for excellence, St Rita's School aspires to develop resilient children and families who contribute valuably and constructively to local and global communities.

We provide a safe and supportive learning environment, characterized by strong, life-giving and respectful relationships with students, staff, families, parish and the wider community. The school works to develop capacity to witness mercy by living out our core values of respect, community, faith and learning, with confidence, passion, optimism, hope and a sense of connectedness.

This important document is foundational for all we do at St Rita's. We now look at ways we can see this 'visible' in our community.

THANK YOU PARENTS

Last Friday, a wonderful display of gratitude was shown to the staff of St Rita's by the parents and students on the occasion of World Teacher's Day. Staff were delighted to receive the many cards and messages as well as the bouquet of flowers and the afternoon tea. On behalf of the staff, many thanks to all parents who made the effort to offer thanks and gratitude – much appreciated.

SCHOOL CALENDAR GOES ONLINE

We have been able to iron out the glitches and can now offer parents the convenience of an online calendar. This can be accessed via the school website or the online newsletter.

Catholic students achieve more with less funding



On average, it costs the government 20 per cent more to teach students in government schools, compared to Catholic schools.

Even with the fees that parents pay in Catholic schools, it is still cheaper to teach students in a Catholic school.

Even in the toughest communities, and with less money, Catholic schools are acknowledged for sowing the seeds of high expectations and discipline in students, while developing well-rounded learners who get better results.

The Australian Government's NAPLAN results show that, on average, Catholic schools continue to show improvement in their most needy students. These students are more likely to study at university after they finish school.

According to the *My School website*, the success of Catholic schools comes at a saving to the Australian taxpayer of around \$2.2 billion each year.

Catholic school funding must keep pace with rising government school costs. Catholic schools cannot afford to have their funding frozen, as any funding freeze would really be a cut. This is unfair to Catholic school parents because their schools are already saving the government money.

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>



Everyone understands how important teachers are and how tough their work can be. But how often do we take the time to say thank you for the wonderful job they do? This is a great way for local communities to show appreciation for their teachers.

This year the prize pool includes:

A \$20,000 staffroom makeover for the winning school

Deluxe coffee machine, coffee grinder and coffee supplies for five runner up schools

An Apple iPad and iTunes gift cards for participants

Instead of voting for their school, this year, participants are invited to give a virtual apple to their teachers. Participants can visit the website – <http://www.staffroomforimprovement.com.au/> – once a day and each time they visit their apple giving power will increase. The competition will run until 5 November.

If you have any questions about this year's competition, email staffroomforimprovement@qtm.com.au To view a short video of

previous winners go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FcbzkMngGEI>

GET IN THE GAME INITIATIVE

The Queensland Government announced funding of \$18 million to support the Get in the Game initiative. Get Started is one of three programs within this initiative that aims to assist children and young people who can least afford to join a sport and recreation club.

'Get Started' Program

Eligible children and young people are provided with a voucher up to the value of \$150 for the payment of membership and/or participation costs.

To be eligible for the program, the child's parent/guardian must hold a Centrelink Health Care card or a Pensioners Concession Card. To assist other children and young people identified as benefiting from the program whose parent/guardian does not have a Health Care or Pensioners Concession Card, a referral agent process has been incorporated into the program. Two referral agents are required to endorse an application for a voucher and they both must have known the child/young person for a minimum 12 month period. Principals, teachers and guidance/career counsellors can act as referral agents.

As a referral agent, teachers, principals and guidance/career counsellors support children and young people who would benefit from participation in sport and recreation and require assistance with the payment of membership and/or participation fees. The referral agent is required to provide the parent/guardian/carer of the child with a copy of the Get Started Parent/Carer/Guardian Fact Sheet and include their full contact details which are then lodged by the parent.

SOLAR ECLIPSE

On Wednesday 14 November, we will observe one of the most spectacular solar system events: A Sunrise Solar Eclipse. I have included a pdf document of the safety aspects of this for parents which can be accessed at the Documents section of the newsletter. Alternatively you can access more information at www.EclipseEyeSafety-Australia.org

CHILDCARE REBATE FOR PREP FEES

Prep parents who are eligible for the Government Childcare Rebate are reminded to formally request in writing to the office to have an attendance register generated. (secretary.babinda@cns.catholic.edu.au) The school does not automatically generate these documents and they are done only once fees are paid in full for the term. The previous batch sent out to all parents was done in good faith for all parents to raise awareness of the rebate. For more information contact Centrelink.

SCHOOL FEE ACCOUNTS

Term 4 School Fees accounts were sent home and are now due. Thank you to the families who have promptly paid their accounts. It is greatly appreciated.

As we are nearing the end of the year, all accounts need to be finalised by the due date.

SUBSCRIBING TO OUR ONLINE NEWSLETTER

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.

FINAL WORKING BEE for 2013

This will now be held on **Sunday 11 November from 9am**. Some of the jobs flagged for the working bee include

- Finishing off the sandpit
- Cleaning out the P&F Shed
- Digging over the sandpit around the senior play equipment
- Tidying up behind the senior playground area



PLANNING for 2013

Currently, staff are beginning to plan for 2013. We have begun discussing matters such as booklists, classes, budget and curriculum levies. Until staffing is finalised, I am unable to let parents know who the class teachers will be. The other important staffing matter will be the new Principal of St Rita's. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

WELCOME ISAIAH

Today we welcomed Isaiah Graham to the Prep/1 class. Isaiah and his family have relocated from Western Australia. I am sure that everyone will welcome them in the usual friendly 'St Rita's way'.

FUNNY BONE

Q: What game do cows play at parties?

A: Moosical Chairs.

Q: What's a flea's favourite way to travel?

A: Itch-hiking.

*Have a blessed
Cheers Gavin*



ST RITA'S FAITH AND RELIGIOUS LIFE CALENDAR

October	Month of the Rosary Mission Month
November	
Thursday November 1st	9am All Saints' Day Whole School Mass
Friday November 2nd	All Souls' Day
Saturday November 3rd	7pm: Vigil Mass
Sunday November 4th	8am: Morning Mass.
Tuesday Nov 13	9am: 4/5/6/7 Class Mass
Tuesday Dec 4th	6pm Mass of Thanksgiving

MELBOURNE CUP DAY CELEBRATIONS

Every year on the first Tuesday in November, Australia celebrates the Melbourne Cup. This is a major event for the nation and as such we engage the children in the spirit of the event. At St Rita's we love the opportunity to have fun and party, so on Tuesday November 6th **come dressed to celebrate with us**. Come dressed as a jockey, a trainer, or be ready to take part in 'Fashions on the Field'.



Some Melbourne Cup maths to make you think:

1. If the race is held at 3:00pm in Melbourne and they're an hour ahead of us, what time will we have to watch the race in Babinda?
2. Sam attended the Melbourne Cup. The first race started at 10:20am and the last race was 5:15pm. How long was Sam at the race?
3. The winner of the Melbourne Cup will run for approximately for 3 min 20 sec. How many seconds is that?
4. The record is 3:16.3 by Kingston Rule in 1993. If the winner this year runs the race in 3:16.4. Who will hold the record?



UNIFORMS

UNIFORM SALE

In an effort to clear some stock before placing next year's order, the following items have been reduced for this week:

Girls Skirts	\$10
Girls Skorts	\$15
Unisex shirts	\$30
Girls Shirts	\$30

If you have not yet returned your order form for new uniforms for 2013, please do so this week.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS NEWS

The Queensland P&F have released a new online Parent Newsletter called Parent Chatter which is available at <http://www.pandf.org.au/2012/20120914/index.html>

I encourage all parents to visit this and subscribe to the newsletter at www.pandf.org.au

STARS OF THE WEEK



Prep/1 - Lila Falchetti
 2/3/4 - Cooper Luce
 5/6/7 - Jamaica Rowe

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

Don't make a permanent decision for your temporary emotion.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Babinda Munro
PICTURE THEATRE
FUTURE SCREENINGS

Fri 2, Sat 3, Sun 4 Nov	7.30 pm Admission \$7.00	M15+
TAKEN 2		More information
Fri 9, Sat 10, Sun 11 Nov	7.30 pm Admission \$7.00 ..3D movie	M15+
Resident Evil: Retribution		More information

GROUNDS AND GARDENS ROSTER



Thank you Schep family for mowing last weekend.

Thank you to the following families who are rostered on in the coming weeks:

STAGER - 27th October – 9th November

HARRISON - 10TH – 23rd November

Please be sure to 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. Thanks

DATE CLAIMERS

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NOVEMBER	
1 – 2 November	Principal Conference
6th November	P&F Dinner
11th November	Working Bee – New Date!!!
13th	Prep 2013 Information Evening 7pm
14th November	Total Solar Eclipse
20th November	Prep 2013 – ‘ Bump Up’ Morning 8.30-11am
27th November`	Prep 2013 Visit 8.30-11am
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.

TO GIVE AWAY TO A NICE HOME

A placid, silver coloured Guinea Pie named Snuggles. Snuggles comes complete with her home, a Timber Hutch and a supply of food.

If you can give her a loving home please see Mr. Garside or enquire at the school office.

BABINDA COMMUNITY KINGERGARTEN OPEN DAY

The Babinda Community Kindergarten is having an Open Day on Saturday 3rd November for families with 3 to 5 year olds in 2013. The Open Day will be from 10am to 12pm and will give prospective parents and carers the opportunity to experience some of the activities which happen during a kindy day.

Lorinda and Sharleen will be present to chat to parents about the kindy program and the benefits for your child attending a C&K affiliated kindergarten. Morning tea will be provided and bring a hat.

Contact the kindy on 4067 1294

TACKLING TEENS WORKSHOP

Strategies for parenting pre-teens and teenagers.

Workshops show parents how they can help their child make the right choices and guide them successfully through the often difficult times of physical, social and emotional change. Parents have more power than they may think to influence their child's choices.

Workshop are based on the book of the same name by local author Denise Bewert.

Date of Workshop: 7th November 2012

Time: 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Venue: Aloomba State School Resource Centre

FREE – ALOOMBA State School P & C funded – All welcome!