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6 November 2012

## Principal's Pen



As we head into week 5, I am conscious that the steam train heading towards the end of the school year is picking up pace. Students have been applying themselves well and working hard in class and in the playground and teachers have begun the process of assessing and gathering data on students in preparation for Semester 2 Reports.

In keeping on setting the children up for success here are some friendly reminders:

- **Sleep:** ensure your child is getting to bed early and getting enough sleep
- **Diet:** fresh is best! Avoid foods high in sugar. Send only nutritious food to school. (A reminder that lollies, chips etc are not permitted) High sugar is detrimental to learning, energy levels and mood. **Only send water to school**
- **Speak Positively:** maintain positive talk about school and learning, celebrating achievements and noting areas to strive to improve in
- **Arrive to school on time.** Students who are here on time, start the day off in a positive and organised way. Lateness is disruptive to learning.
- **Down Time:** ensure that your child has some 'unprogrammed' time in their week where they can simply chill.

Let's do everything we can to set our students up for success...

## MELBOURNE CUP FASHIONS OF THE FIELD

One thing I love about St Rita's and will miss is the way in which everyone gets into the spirit of special events – today was no exception. Many students came dressed in attire for the Melbourne Cup and got to strut their stuff on the St Rita's catwalk.

Here are some of the glamour shots...



## MUSIC COUNT US IN

Last Thursday, St Rita's students joined in a simultaneous music event called Music Count Us In. "Well done to the 600,000+ students and teachers who took part in the culminating performances around the country on Thursday 1st November 2012. It was the biggest program yet. It made a loud noise to celebrate

music education in our schools and helped make the call for more of it! Thanks to everyone who took part."

<http://www.musiccountusin.org.au/>

If you're like me you missed it but alas... Mrs Chambers managed to capture some of it and so here it is for you to see. Thanks you Mrs Garside for co-ordinating this great event for the students – another wonderful opportunity of learning.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rdu0uAsOu0M>

## FINAL WORKING BEE for 2013 – Come and have some fun!

This will now be held **this 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



If you are able to give any time it will make it all quicker. Also if anyone is able to provide food for the morning that would also be much appreciated.

## SCHOOL FEE PROCEDURES

Some general information about school fee collection... This is an issue that was discussed extensively at the recent Principal's Conference and the processes are being tightened up across the Diocese.



Parents who pay their school fees by the due date help keep the school budget online and balanced. Fee payment also enables the school to be able to pay for educational activities and resources such as swimming, gymnastics, headsets etc covered in the Curriculum Levy. Thank you parents for making this a priority, especially in these tight financial times.

Those parents who have capacity to pay fees but choose not to communicate with the school about fees by the due date (14 days from the issue of statements), cause the rest of the community to have to 'carry' their child's education. We all forget from time to time and the school understands this. However, parents need to understand that unpaid fees and levies can result in end of Semester Reports being withheld until such times as the issue has been satisfactorily addressed. If this continues over time, then enrolment can be jeopardised.

It is also helpful to know that enrolments into Catholic Secondary Schools or other Primary Schools are not accepted until a clearance of fees is shown from the Primary school.

If payment of term fees cannot be made then there are very supportive processes that can be offered to assist parents in difficult times.

## SOLAR ECLIPSE

Next 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](http://www.EclipseEyeSafety-Australia.org)

## INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARD TRAINING



This Wednesday we welcome staff from Empowered Learning who will deliver some introductory training for our teachers in the use of the Promethean Interactive Whiteboards which have just been installed. Our students have been very excited to see them arrive and

so now we explore ways they can enhance and improve learning for our students.

## 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](mailto: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.

## SWIMMING

A reminder to parents to return the permission form for Swimming by **this Thursday**. The program is based on water safety and will run Mondays and Fridays. Parents are welcome to attend and assist however younger siblings aren't permitted during lesson times.

## POSITIVE TIME OUT – Wet n Wild Afternoon

This Friday 9 November, students who have been making the right choices and consistently doing things “The St Rita’s Way” will be enjoying the last hour of school splishin and a splashin at our Wet n Wild afternoon.

All students will need to bring to school – towel, togs including sun shirt, sunscreen and a hat able to get wet (school hat is okay) so they can be suitably attired.

Students who won't be participating will be told on the day when I visit classes and will be supervised by myself doing work.

We look forward to a great time of reward for our St Rita's stars...

## 2013 PREP PARENT NIGHT

Next Wednesday 13 November starting at 7pm we are having the 2013 Prep Parent Orientation Evening. We anticipate this to be a relaxed, yet informative evening where parents will get to meet the class teacher and learning about for the first time, or brush up on life in Prep. At this point in time we have a healthy number of 11 Prep students for 2013 with further interest being lodged with the school.

While I am unable to confirm the staffing for the whole school, I am able to announce that the Prep/1 teacher for 2013 is Mrs MaryJane Messina. Mrs Messina currently teaches Prep at St Michael's Gordonvale and comes highly recommended and with a wealth of experience. We look forward to meeting her.

## NURTURING THE WHOLE STUDENT

At the moment, Catholic schools are funded at 20 per cent less than government schools. With parents paying fees, this gap shrinks to 10 per cent. With that 10 per cent, every effort is made to make sure that each student's learning needs are maximised, so they can reach their full potential and achieve their best. Catholic schools encourage the importance of community. Principals, teachers, staff and parents work together to develop the whole child: spiritually, emotionally, academically, physically, socially and culturally.



Students in Catholic schools are encouraged to engage with their communities, serve others and embrace social justice for all. Catholic schools need government funding to build strong communities that contribute to a better society.

For more information about Catholic school funding visit [fundinginfo.catholic.edu.au](http://fundinginfo.catholic.edu.au)

A video on Catholic school funding can be viewed by visiting [qcec.catholic.edu.au](http://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>

## INCREASE GOOD FEELINGS AT HOME

Leading Australian Family Expert, Michael Gross suggests “Strong families thrive on good feelings. They are not devoid of conflict or criticism, but generally strong families are pleasant environments to be part of.

**One way to increase good feelings in your family is to increase the number of compliments.**

As a general rule, the ratio of compliments to criticism should be around **five to one**. That is, there should be five times more positive, affirmative comments than negative comments.

In unhealthy families this ratio is reversed. When the ratio gets to around five negative comments for every one positive comment.

For more information visit <http://www.parentingideas.com.au>

## SUBSCRIBING TO OUR ONLINE NEWSLETTER

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

<http://stritasbabinda.schoolzinewsletters.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.

## SCHOOL CALENDAR GOES LIVE

We now offer parents the convenience of an online school calendar. This can be accessed via the school website or the online newsletter.

## FUNNY BONE

Q: Where do you learn to make ice cream?

A: Sundae school!

Q: That did the rug say to the floor?

A: Don't move I've got you covered!

*Have a blessed  
Cheers Gavin*



## SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING...



What do you think of during the month of November? Perhaps it's the need to let the 'mo grow' (that manly means of fundraising), the forthcoming summer holidays or the Christmas season? Our Christian heritage however, tells us that during November, Catholics throughout the world pray for the dead. As we have loved our beloved in life, we do not forget them in death.

The Relic of St Francis is in Australia from September to December, and will be in St Francis



Xavier's Church from Tuesday November 6th. All are welcome to venerate the Relic during the 3 day visit, 6-8th November.

Read 2 Remember Day is an exciting national initiative designed to encourage the wellbeing of children and young people, by engaging them in the importance of Remembrance Day through meaningful literature. Now, more than ever, young Australians need to understand the importance of resilience, and in particular how to build it into their own lives. Whilst honouring Australian servicemen and women, R2R also teaches children and young people that they have the same capacity for courage and resilience that we see in the servicemen and women we all admire. We will gather together Friday morning to recite the Pledge of Remembrance which has been written by Rupert McCall, then listen to the story, "The Quest for Courage" by Angela Bueti.



*Peace and Best Wishes,  
Robyn*

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

November: Month of the Holy Souls	
Tues Nov 6 – Thurs Nov 8	The Relic of St Francis at St Francis Xavier's Church
Friday November 9th	Read 2 Remember Day
Saturday November 10th	7pm: Vigil Mass
Sunday November 11th	8am: Morning Mass.
Tuesday Nov 13	9am: 4/5/6/7 Class Mass
Tuesday Dec 4th	6pm Mass of Thanksgiving

## PARENTS AND FRIENDS NEWS

The Parents and Friends Committee look forward to their final gathering for 2013 this Tuesday with a dinner, where they will toast to the great success of 2013 and organise the end of year events.



Birthday Wishes this week go to Calin Brose. Hope you had a great day Calin!

## STARS OF THE WEEK



Prep/1 - Melina Musumeci

2/3/4 - Grace Hession

5/6/7 - Ieesha Hillard

## 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

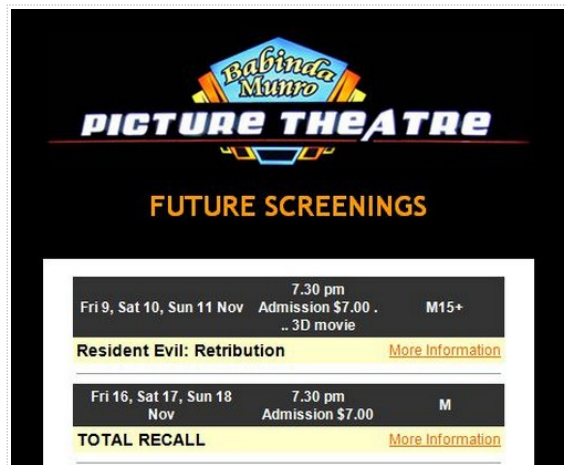
HARRISON - 10TH – 23rd November

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

DATE CLAIMERS	
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	
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
<b>DECEMBER</b>	
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.
2013	
28th January	Australia Day Holiday
29th January	School Commences for 2013



**Babinda Munro**  
**PICTURE THEATRE**

**FUTURE SCREENINGS**

Fri 9, Sat 10, Sun 11 Nov	7.30 pm Admission \$7.00 .. 3D movie	M15+
<b>Resident Evil: Retribution</b>		<a href="#">More Information</a>
Fri 16, Sat 17, Sun 18 Nov	7.30 pm Admission \$7.00	M
<b>TOTAL RECALL</b>		<a href="#">More Information</a>

## THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

*It takes seventy-two muscles to frown, but only thirteen to smile.*

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### 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.*

### Council in our communities

Are there really crocodiles in that stream? What multi-cultural services does the council offer? What do I do in a disaster? The answers to all these questions and more will be available at a public information session at Hambledon House Community Centre on 15 November. This session is the last in a series which has travelled the region – great for newcomers to Cairns or anyone who wants to find out more about Cairns Regional Council facilities and services.

**Hambledon House Community Centre, 15 Bruce Highway, Cairns. 15 November 4-6pm. Refreshments provided. Enquiries to 40443571.**

## TYCs SIZZLING SUMMER DRAMA

### SCHOOL 7yrs - 16yrs:

Don't miss out on TYCs Sizzling Summer Drama School in Cairns these coming holidays. TYCs action packed program is loads of fun as participants make lots of new friends while also exploring acting techniques, costumes, lighting, sound and multimedia elements, then finishing with a creative performance on the final afternoon. Themed programs include Realms of Fantasy (11/12 – 15/12), Glee Christmas (18/12 – 21/12), Horrible Myth-stories (11/1 – 15/1), Game Land (15/1 – 18/1), Once Upon a Time (21/1 – 25/1). Each 4 or 5 day program runs from 9am – 3pm or from 9am - 5pm and costs \$200 - \$245 per program. Please visit [www.theyoungcompany.com.au](http://www.theyoungcompany.com.au) for more information or call TYC on 40 414066.