THE ASCENT OF THE TEACHER

A REAL TEACHER - likes the smell of books. can write standing up. makes sense of illegible writing. always waits for the holidays to get sick. can cope with difficult surnames.

A GOOD TEACHER - can tell the difference between the truth and a lie. Knows all about the stages of growing up. instinctively knows when something is wrong. is slow to anger and slower to judge. never gets names mixed up.

A GREAT TEACHER - can read students' work from any angle. stays awake during meetings. gives three directions in one breath. can predict the future of students. can remember everyone's names.

AN EXCELLENT TEACHER - knows that questions are more important than answers. believes that every student has something to share. can recall challenges from their own schooling. gets nervous on the very first day. remembers students' names even after ten years.

THE BEST TEACHER - is someone a student wants to be like when they grow up. is someone who has faith in students. even when students have little faith in themselves. is someone whom students talk fondly about. long after they have left school. can continue to care. despite the challenges.

dear god, we strive to be the best we can. some days it's more difficult than others to do this. help us to be quality teachers, that not only help students with their grades, but also with their souls. amen.
Prep
This week in Prep we began the Daniel Morcombe curriculum. We are learning how to recognise, react and report things that are unsafe. We have participated in discussions about what safe and unsafe mean and gave many examples of these.

There are three senses that we can use to recognise unsafe situations; look, hear and smell. There were many different picture scenarios that we had to look at and be safety detectives by using our senses to find the things that were unsafe.

We were very good at this and were able to show our teachers just how much we already knew about safety. We then talked about when we feel safe...

Isabelle: I am safe when I wear my seatbelt when my Mum and Dad are driving.
Piper: I am safe when I am with my Mum at the park.
Emma: I am safe when I cross the road with my Mum at the zebra crossing.
Ava: I am safe when I am with my teachers.
Claudia: I am safe when I am at home.

We hope you all have a safe and happy weekend!

Year 1
It has been World Teachers’ Week in Year One! We have spent all of Week Four celebrating not just our teachers in the classroom, but also our first teachers, our parents!

From the very beginning of the week we have been preparing for our assembly performance and liturgy, both celebrating all of the teachers in our lives.

For our assembly performance we wrote acrostic poems for each teacher in the school. We began by brainstorming adjectives for each letter of the alphabet to describe teachers.

We came up with words like clever, wonderful, mighty, brilliant, and Mrs Bennett and Mrs Kirby’s favourite, beautiful. The teachers were so happy to receive their bespoke poetry, and we were so happy that we could thank them for all of their hard work each day.
Today we celebrated our first teachers, our parents, and some of our beautiful mums were able to join us for a special liturgy.

They were lucky enough to receive a very special blessing from us and we all enjoyed a lovely morning tea down at the adventure playground.

A very big thank you to everyone who brought in World Teachers Day gifts for Mrs Bennett, Mrs Kirby and Mrs Davis. You are very thoughtful and we are very grateful!

**Year 2**

Year 2 had a fantastic day at the Science Centre last Friday! There was so much to do and see and we were so excited. We tried the spinning chair (a few of us felt a little sick after it), the race track, the huge table and chairs and we saw a mini whirlpool!

We also saw a fantastic light show and loved watching a huge shadow spider crawling across the ceiling above our heads. After our lunch we walked along South Bank and wandered through a rainforest.

We found a fantastic new playground to stretch our legs before getting back on the bus. Thank you to our wonderful parent helpers – it was lovely to share the day with you.
Year 3

Literacy
This week during our literacy lessons, we have been learning more about apostrophes, and when to use them! We looked at using apostrophes to show ownership and for contractions. We played the game ‘Break it up’, which is an online game that allows us to add in the missing contractions – some were super tricky!

Mathematics
This week during math lessons, we have been focusing on new strategies for adding larger numbers. We tried out the strategy called the ‘Split Strategy’. Ask us to show you how to do it! We have also been practising our multiplication facts and division problems.

Morning Prayer
During prayer this week, as well as saying lots of prayers for our friends and family, we have been keeping in our thoughts the tragic accident that occurred at Dreamworld. We continue to pray for these families in this difficult time.

Story Time!
This week, instead of the teacher reading a book to the class, Emma was chosen to be the teacher! She read us the book called ‘Gorilla’ and the children were very entertained! Emma did a beautiful job! Take a look at the photo! I wonder who might be chosen next?

Year 4
This week in year 4 we started the “Daniel Morcombe curriculum.” We discussed what a high risk is and what a low risk is. The students were introduced to the Keeping Safe educational DVD. This DVD highlighted 3 key safety elements that children can remember.

Recognise- Respond- React
We will continue next week, discussing risk taking and rules and responsibilities that we all have in our community.

The students have been enjoying gymnastics lessons during P.E. over the past few weeks. “Bounce for Kids incursions” have been teaching the children some fantastic new skills.

During English we discussed a variety of poems and poetic devices. These included homophones, spoonerisms and colloquial language. Next week in English we will continue to look at the use of nouns, verbs, adjectives and emotive mood
words, that are used to describe an experience.

We were thoroughly entertained by the Guardian Angels Ashmore band. The students loved hearing the band performing and singing along with the music.

We are all looking forward to Bandana Day on Friday, to help support our Lighthouse keepers project for this term - CanTeen.

**Year 5/6**

It is amazing to think we are already 4 weeks into the last term. We are coming into such an exciting time of year, though we feel a little sadness that such a great year is quickly coming to an end.

Once again Mrs Clough gave us an opportunity to show our artistic skills as she prepared an awesome art activity. We love doing Mrs Clough’s art activities as they challenge us, though make us realise how talented we are.

We are enjoying working on Probability in Maths. We are also gathering data and transferring our findings into graphs. We have even learnt how to create graphs in Excel on our iPads.

In Discovery Learning we have finished our letters on whether or not major developments should happen in Cleveland and on Stradbroke Island in the future. We are now gathering more information to back up our argument, focusing on endangered species in the area.

It has been a wonderful way to finish the week with Bandana Day, Day for Daniel and World Teachers Day all happening today.
PCG NEWS

At this month’s PCG meeting on Monday evening, the items below were approved to be paid for out of PCG fundraising monies. We thank the parents for their financial support of the school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PCG bequest to families in need 4 terms x $250</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCG donation to crossing supervisor’s payment – whole year</td>
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<td>Contribution to camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contribution to P-4 science incursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classroom resources - $500 per year level</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contribution to senior shirts</td>
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<td>Contribution to Staff World Teachers Day lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contribution to hall data projector and cage</td>
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<td>2 additional marquees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purchase of school trailer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trailer and rego annual fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>½ the cost of koala friendly fencing in back playground</td>
<td>$2,343</td>
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<td>TOTAL:</td>
<td>$26,455</td>
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NEXT PCG MEETING
MONDAY 14th NOVEMBER 6:30pm – 7:30pm

RE VALIDATION

All schools in the Brisbane Archdiocese were required to have their Religious Education program validated by a panel. Star of the Sea was validated yesterday. The presentation team included Kylie Williamson, Danielle Bennett, Nicole Clough, Bridie Willis and Sarah Gibbs.

The team has become the “face of validation” with a photograph being taken yesterday with Archbishop Mark Coleridge and Brisbane Catholic Education Office’s Executive Director Ms Pam Betts. I’m sure we will make the Catholic Leader soon. The process of validation has taken the year to compile the documentation required.

The presentation team are congratulated on their outstanding commitment to this process and all of the staff are congratulated on their contribution, not only to the process, but to the religious life of our school.

INTER-HOUSE SWIM CARNIVAL: WEDNESDAY 9th NOVEMBER - CLEVELAND POOL

Nominations are due back on Monday at the latest.
**MUSIC SHOWCASE**

It has been difficult finding another date that suited the school, Erin Hardy and Creative Kidz on Stage for this showcase. Some students will be performing on assemblies before the end of the term. Parents will be notified by Dave and Kath Smith if their child is performing.

**NEW FAMILIES ORIENTATION**

New families for Prep and other year levels will be held on Monday 21st November from 6pm - 7pm. CPR's are invited to attend to make our new families feel even more welcome.

**END OF YEAR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**

All families are invited to celebrate the end of the 2016 school year on Thursday 1st November from 5pm - 7:30pm. The event will be a BYO everything and be held in and around the O'Dea Centre.

Our students will be entertaining us with Christmas carols. Our Junior and Senior choirs will also be performing.

**GRADUATION CELEBRATIONS**

This event is for Year 6 students, their parents and staff. The ceremony in the Church will commence at 5pm on Thursday 24th November. Everyone will then move to our Lighthouse for a social celebration.

**TRANSITION DAY – YEARS 1 - 6**

Each year we help our students to transition to the next year level by providing them with the opportunity to spend the day in their new learning area for the next year and with their teaching team.

This event is scheduled for Friday 25th November.

**STAFFING 2017**

This week we have held meetings with next year’s Year 3 parents and 5/6 parents. The tone of the meetings was extremely positive and I want to thank these parents for their willingness to be active partners in their children’s development and progress and in their support for our school staff.

Some staffing is still to be finalized. The year levels below have only been confirmed for next year:

- **Prep:** Laura Rogers (Robinson) and Sarah Gibbs
- **Year 3:** Tanya Porter
- **Years 5/6:** Louise McLucas, Nicole Clough and Jason Waters

This year we were able to maintain 2 teachers in Year 2 even though the teacher-student ratio was very low. As discussed with Year 2 parents this year, this was not workable for next year.
RESIGNATION

Miss Lauren Mill met with me this week to tender her resignation. In our Brisbane Catholic Education system, teachers must work three years full-time continuing to be able to apply for 12 months leave. Lauren came to us as a graduate and has worked here for 2 years.

The opportunity to live and work in Canada next year has been too wonderful an opportunity for her to miss at her age. We shall miss her lovely presence around our school. Lauren’s resignation has made finalizing staff not possible at this stage.

We also have Paul Holmes, Olivia Horn and Erin Hardy on contracts and again under Brisbane Catholic Education Office’s policy, contract positions must be advertised and a selection and interview process must be conducted. I must abide by Head Office’s policies, processes and timelines.

As soon as I can confirm the rest of the year levels and their teaching teams, I will communicate this to the community.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD’S LEARNING FROM THE PRIMARY LEARNING LEADER

Assisting your Children with Problem Solving in Mathematics

Learning the skills of problem solving in Mathematics is often challenging for our children and students. It involves applying the knowledge and skills from the different areas of Mathematics, as well as comprehending mathematical language and, therefore, requires practicing skills of lateral thinking.

As parents and teachers we can assist our children and students by providing them with various questions that they can ask themselves when faced with Mathematical problem solving, such as:

1. What do you need to find out?
2. What information do you have?
3. What strategies are you going to use?
4. Will you do it mentally? With pencil and paper? Using a number line?
5. Will a calculator help?
6. What tools will you need?
7. What do you think the answer or result will be?
8. How would you describe the problem in your own words?
9. What do you know that is not stated in the problem?
10. What facts do you have?
11. Is there any information that is not needed to solve the problem?
12. How did you tackle similar problems?
13. Could you try it with simpler numbers? Fewer numbers? Using a number line?
14. What about putting things in order?
15. Would it help to create a diagram? Make a table? Draw a picture?
16. Can you guess and check?
17. Have you compared your work with anyone else? What did other members of your group try?
SCHOOL SPONSORED PARISH MASS

Our Year 2 and 4 groups will be leading mass on Sunday 13\textsuperscript{th} November at 8:30am. Information will be coming home soon requesting students to take on particular roles.

VOLUNTEER MORNING TEA

On Friday 18\textsuperscript{th} November at 9.30am we invite all members of our community who have volunteered in any capacity to our special morning tea.

We will confirm the location for the morning tea at a later date!

Please allow us this opportunity to thank you for your contribution!

STAR OF THE SEA YOUTH GROUP

The Redlands area High School Youth Group will be leading a Primary-aged Youth Group (years 3-6) of the Redlands area in various activities.

This will take place at the Star of the Sea Parish McKinley Centre from 4-5:30pm on Saturday, 22 October, as well as several other dates during Term 4.

There will be a sign-up/information session at the beginning and a snack time, so it is requested that each youth bring $3 or a plate to share for snack time.

A reminder that the Youth Group is open to all primary-aged youth from years 3-6, not just Catholic school students.

For more information about the Youth Group, please contact Lee Brand, Carmel College staff member (Lee.Brand@carmelcollege.qld.edu.au).

Youth are invited to attend the 5:30pm mass at Star of the Sea parish that will take place following the youth group session. The following indicates the Term 4 activity schedule for the Youth Group.

- **Saturday, 5 November**: Youth Group meeting at Star of the Sea Parish Hall 4:00-5:30pm
- **Saturday, 12 November**: Youth Group (primary age mixed with high school aged) Movie Night at Star of the Sea Parish Hall 6:30-8:30pm
- **Saturday, 26 November**: Youth Mass hosted by Youth Group at Star of the Sea Parish for 5:30pm mass...all youth invited to mass, need youth group volunteers for choir, musicians, readers, greeters, gift/cross bearers.
INTER-HOUSE SWIMMING

On Wednesday the 9th of November we will have our 2016 Inter-house swimming carnival. It will be another amazing day, as it always is down at the Cleveland Aquatic Centre.

Nomination Notes
Just a reminder that the swimming nomination notes are due back in to school TODAY the 28th of October. If notes were not in by this date, your child will not get in all of the races that they have nominated for, and it will delay the release of the marshalling document to parents.

Parent Helpers
We do require parent helpers in the pool for the Kickboard and Noodle races on the day. If you would like to be a helper, please email pcleveland@bne.catholic.edu.au or just turn up on the day with swimmers on and let me know that you’re happy to help.

SOTS TOUCH TEAM

The school touch football team has been training hard over the last couple of months as the QLD Primary All-Schools Championship is near.

Yesterday we played some trial games against St Anthony’s boys and girls teams and the St Rita’s boys team. It was great preparation ahead of the QLD Primary All-Schools Championships which are held on the first weekend of November at the Cleveland Showgrounds.
Because of its huge success in 2016, we have decided to continue with the BYOD Program in 2017. Like this year, in 2017 the program will take place in the Grade 5/6 learning area only.

Year 5/6 parents for 2017 will receive more information about the BYOD program before the end of the year.

A new addition to BYOD @ SOTS is a ‘FAMILY FUNDING PROGRAM’ with Apple Store Carindale,

The ‘Family Funded Program’ will provide in-store, telesales and our custom online store with pricing only available for parents of Star of the Sea. This covers discount iPad pricing for students attending our school, AppleCare+, accessories personal set up of the iPad including family sharing for the parent and your child(ren). This initiative is an option only.

If you are purchasing a new iPad or any Apple product from the Carindale Apple Store or over the phone just let the Specialist know you are parent of Star of the Sea to access these pricing arrangements.

If you wish to purchase online, the custom on-line store offers all the same features of the regular Apple Online Store, like free delivery and engraving.

The link to the custom on-line store should be available from later this term from the Parent Portal.