Life’s Bank Account

Imagine there is a bank account that credits your account each morning with $86,400. It carries over no balance from day to day. Every evening the bank deletes whatever part of the balance you failed to use during the day. What would you do? Draw out every cent, of course?

Each of us has such a bank. Its name is time. Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off as lost, whatever of this you have failed to invest to a good purpose. It carries over no balance. It allows no over draft. Each day it opens a new account for you. Each night it burns the remains of the day.

If you fail to use the day’s deposits, the loss is yours. There is no drawing against “tomorrow”. You must live in the present on today’s deposits. Invest it so as to get from it the utmost in health, 

The clock is running!

Make the most of today!

Assembly tomorrow -
Friday 2:30pm
O’Dea Centre
ALL WELCOME!

2012 TERM DATES

TERM 1.....Jan 24 – March 30
TERM 2.....April16 - June 22
TERM 3.....July 9 - Sept 21
TERM 4....Oct 8 - Dec 7 (12noon)
(Term 4 PUPIL FREE DAY – 22nd Oct)
**VISITORS**
Today we hosted a team of teachers from St Mary MacKillop School, Birkdale. As well as spending time in the learning areas, they were particularly keen to observe our discovery learning and use of mobile devices in the areas.

**SYDNEY CONFERENCE**

ACER (Australian Council for Educational Research), runs yearly conferences, based around research relevant to P-12 schooling. This year, the conference was entitled *School Improvement: What does research tell us about effective strategies?* Danielle and I spent the two days mingling with teachers, leadership teams, and university researchers from around Australia, and we found that our knowledge and understanding of innovative teaching and learning, all the way from tiny Cleveland, was a very sort-after concept.

During the variety of keynote speeches, from stakeholders in education from around Australia, it was evident that recent research from around the globe is looking at students’ achievement standards, and how the teaching and learning environments effect those achievements. It was very affirming to hear that innovative international schools are trying learning environments that are open and student centred.

Learning that involves student negotiation and questioning of learning is proving to increase all student motivation and learning across all year levels and systems. Schooling must no longer be the archaic structure of a one teacher classroom, where children are to be filled with knowledge. Schooling must be negotiated!

To increase student motivation to learn, and to ensure they become participants in a society where they must continually learn, we must teach children to source their own knowledge, to find what they are passionate about, and to take the initiative to drive their own learning. This is what we are experts at here at SOTS. Our Discovery Learning time and negotiated curriculum allows students to become productive self-driven learners, using the curriculum to suit them!

Danielle and I were so incredibly excited to be able to see the changes schools are trying to make, as already existing within our school. Our learning environments, being fluid, non-structured environments, allow for students to negotiate their learning...a real challenge for many of the private, independent, religious and state schools that were represented at the conference.

Also, the challenge of finding teaching staff who have the confidence to work collaboratively, with their skills, ideas and practices being on show. Our staff are expert collaborators: we plan, organise, assess, critique and motivate the children in our learning areas, together.

The conference provided Danielle and I with so much confidence and pride in what we are doing for the children here at Star of the Sea. We are providing our kids with an education that all schools are looking for ways to achieve. We are providing a quality of education that is giving the children skills to think, rather than be told what to think.

It is very easy to become blasé about what we see as day to day learning at SOTS, however, we need to be proud of the learning we have the opportunities to be involved in, and be proud of the innovative ways in which we are allowing all children to access the curriculum.

*Thank you*  
Kate MacArthur

**SAN SISTO COLLEGE**
San Sisto College is currently taking enrolment applications for students currently in Year 3, wishing to enrol in Year 7, 2016. Please contact the college on 3900 9800, as a matter of urgently, for your enrolment package.

Interviews will be conducted early 2013.
FATHER’S DAY
The stall was very popular today. Children and / or mums will have an opportunity to purchase additional gifts after assembly on Friday and before school tomorrow. Unfortunately, a function here for our Dads was not able to be organized this year. Maybe the degree of illness in the community this term was a factor in not gaining sufficient volunteers to organize an event.

I am sure that our Dads will be suitably spoilt by their families over the coming weekend. Happy Father’s Day.

WORKING BEE
So far, only 1 Dad has emailed me to advise that he can help out on Saturday 8th September from 8:00am. The plan is to build a gravel bed for a shipping container to be sat upon. The shipping container “Our Spare Parts Shack” will hold items for children to use during creative play at break times.

I need at least 6 Dads for the working bee to happen. Please email me if you can help. It should only take a couple of hours if we get the helpers.

FRIDAY SPORT
Our Year 5 and 6 boys will be playing soccer at Capalaba Soccer club tomorrow and our girls will be playing netball at Pinklands. They are really looking forward to the day with other schools.

FRANK’S HOLIDAY
Fr Frank is on holidays for the month of September. During this time we will be looked after by Monsignor John Butler.

PRIMARY SENIOR LEADERS CONFERENCE
On Tuesday and Wednesday Kyle participated in a conference at the Gold Coast for APRE’s and APA’s (Assistant Principal – Admin). It was a jam packed two days on the topic of Leadership in the Year of Grace.

There were a number of keynote speakers – including our Executive Director Mr David Hutton, International Educational Development Consultant Mr Dean Fink, Director of Employee Services Mr Peter Hill, Associate Professor at the University of Canberra Mrs Janet Smith, and Rachael Robertson who ‘accidentally’ found herself leading a 12 month expedition to Davis Station in Antarctica. She led a small community of 18 very diverse people in total isolation.

The intensity of the leadership role, where the leader is on-duty all day, every day, for 12 months with no respite, gave Rachael the opportunity to consolidate her existing abilities and learn a few new tricks! It was a ‘leadership laboratory’ in the most extreme, hostile environment on earth. Rachael’s presentation focussed on ‘Extreme Teams – leading through adversity and change’ and was an inspirational and humorous story!

The conference delegates also shared Mass at St Vincent’s Church at Surfers Paradise.

EWAN MCINTOSH AND DESIGN THINKING PROCESS
Earlier this year a number of our teachers were given the wonderful opportunity of working with Scottish educational scientist, Ewan McIntosh. Next Friday, some of our team will again have the opportunity to work with Ewan and his American based partner Tom Barrett. Both Tom and Ewan are avid followers of our school on Twitter. Their design thinking process underpins our discovery learning at SOTS.

Ewan has informed us via Twitter that Star of the Sea is featuring in a number of conference keynotes that he is presenting...the most recent being at a conference in Dallas!!
A MESSAGE FROM THE GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR

In Bounce Back at the moment, we are looking at the skill of ‘Thinking Positive’. In considering such a skill, it is helpful to look at patterns of pessimism and optimism through history to gain further understanding of these schools of thought.

The ‘whistle a happy tune’ optimism of the 1940s and 50s was a forced, media and politically driven campaign in response to the Great Depression and World War II. But the ‘accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative’ attitude contributed to an emotional blindness as people strived to ‘don’t mess with Mr In-Between’.

In the 60s educated Americans were taught scepticism as a scientific way of looking at the future, where people prided themselves on looking unpleasantness in the face and false ‘boosterism’ got a bad name.

By the 1970s, pessimism escalated and was passed on to the next generation. In ‘The Optimistic Child’ Seligman writes, “The pessimism of our children is not inborn. Nor does their pessimism come directly from reality. Many people living in grim realities... remain optimistic. Pessimism is a theory of reality. Children learn this theory from parents, teachers, coaches, and the media, and they in turn recycle it to their children. It falls to us to break this cycle.”

Seligman goes on to state that, based on his twenty years of research, pessimism can have devastating effects on the individual. As he states, “Pessimistic people do worse than optimistic people in three ways:

- First, they get depressed much more often.
- Second, they achieve less at school, on the job, and on the playing field than their talents augur.
- Third, their physical health is worse than that of optimists.”

He further states that pessimism is, “particularly damaging for a child, and if your child has already acquired pessimism, he is at risk for doing less well in school. He is at risk for greater problems of depression and anxiety. He may be at risk for worse physical health than he would have if he were an optimist. And worse, pessimism in a child can become a lifelong, self-fulfilling template for looking at setbacks and losses. The good news is that he can, with your help, learn optimism.”

(“The Optimistic Child” by Martin Seligman – available from Snug Harbour)

The Bounce Back program is specifically designed to meet this goal. Please speak with your child about the program so that, together, you can follow up on these important skills at home.

**Week 9**

*Bounce Back Topic ............... Being Thankful (suggestion – make a family gratitude diary)*

*Sparkles’ Target Behaviour ... Saying ‘Thankyou’*

**Kathy Casley**  Guidance Counsellor

**FUTSAL CLINIC**

Next Wednesday, our Year 3 – 6 children will participate in a clinic learning the skills and rules of the game of futsal. Futsal is an indoor soccer game.

**BOOK CLUB**

All book club orders are to be returned to the office by Friday 31st August 3:00pm. No late orders can be accepted.
STAFF PROFILES

NICOLE CLOUGH – Year 4, 5 & 6 TEACHER

Schools I have worked in:
I worked at Dunwich State School (as a Teacher Aide before I studied to become a teacher) and Star of the Sea

About my family:
I grew up as an only child but had very close relationships with my German Shepherd Bingo and my white cockatoo Fonzie. I am married to my husband Storm and have two sons Treyvaughn and Jamahl.

My hobbies:
I love reading, drawing and painting. I also enjoy going to the beach for walks and also to watch my husband and sons surfing.

My favourite movie:
I have many favourite movies, one being The Lion King.

My favourite music:
I like listening to all different types of music from rock, soul, R & B, hip hop, regae and alternative.

My favourite sport:
I enjoy watching the NRL and the tennis.

My favourite food:
I love Asian food, sea food, chocolate and champagne.

KATHY CLARK – PREP and LIBRARY AIDE

Schools I have worked in:
St James School Coorparoo Star of the Sea Cleveland

About my family:
I have my husband, Glen and two boys – Jacob aged 18 and Harry who is 14 year old. The only other girl in the family is my dog Stella!

My hobbies:
Reading and going to the movies.

My favourite Movie:
Officer and a Gentleman or anything else with Richard Gere in it!

My favourite music:
Anything from the 60’s through to today.

My favourite Sport:
Walking my dog.

My favourite Food:
Chocolate, Thai food and did I say chocolate??!!
KIDS CONNECT CONFERENCE
Ten of our Year 5 and 6 students have been selected to participate in a technology conference at The Powerhouse in Teneriffe next Wednesday and Thursday. Over the 2 days they will learn new tools which they can teach staff and students upon their return.

The students selected are:

Olivia Clarke  Tyler Torino  Sharnie Bennett  Sydney Brand  Sophie Rutberg
Claire Nolan  Ashleigh Dunn  Myles Chance  Patrick Robinson  Alicia McGill

THURSDAY LUNCHES
We now have plenty of serviettes for Thursday lunches, thank you. The only thing we need now is tomato sauce please.

CLASSROOM NEWS

PREP – This week we have been busily working on our father’s day presents. It is a BIG secret so we can’t tell you anything!! However, we know our Dads are going to LOVE their pressies and we are so excited to give them to them!

We planted giant sunflowers in week five of this term and we have been watering them every day. Sometimes, we have been watering them a little too much – all through love of course!! They are getting bigger each day. We are looking forward to seeing them turn into beautiful sunflowers.

We have finished learning all the letters and sounds of the alphabet!! So this week we started learning that sometimes two letters can be put together to make one sound- we call this a digraph. This week we learnt that s and h together make the sound sssshhhhhhh (just like when you’re telling someone to be quiet).

We are doing more and more writing in class and so many children are now starting to use their knowledge of the sounds letters make to phonetically sound out words independently. Mrs McLucas and Mrs Thompson are VERY impressed. As we say to the children – ‘It doesn’t matter if it’s not right, it is all about HAVING A GO!!!’.

On Wednesday we read a book called ‘When I’m feeling scared’. We discussed what it meant to be scared or worried. We discussed what kinds of things might scare and worry us. We also talked about what we might feel if we are scared or worried – a pounding and racing heart, sore or butterfly tummy, shaking, wanting to be somewhere safe or with someone familiar and feeling sad are some signs.

If we feel any of these feelings we can talk to Mum and Dad, Nanna or Grandad, a teacher, a friend or a brother or sister. It is ok to feel scared and worried sometimes and EVERYONE feels scared or worried sometimes. If we talk to someone we can fix it!!
**Year 1** – This week in Year One we have been continuing our focus on halves, subtraction, 3D shapes and directional language. We are still looking at the same literacy topics but it is getting harder and harder each time! Can you believe that there are only 3 weeks to go in this term? Time has just flown by this term, we must have been having way too much fun!

If you think about it, looking back on this term we have been incredibly busy! We have had para-liturgies, assembly performances, athletics carnival, ekka holidays, foundation day celebrations, book week and not to mention all of our classroom learning! We really deserve those 2 weeks off coming up, what are you going to do on your break? Oh dear, we have become side-tracked thinking about holidays.....back to the news:

Thank you so much to Mrs Hyland and Mrs Kerr for coming into Year One on Monday while our teachers were planning and looking after us for the day. Unfortunately part of our week has been taken up with Father’s Day activities that we really can’t talk about just yet....it will spoil the surprise! But here is a little something for all of those very special Dads out there reading this newspaper. We love you all so much!

**Daddy**

Daddy I love you with all of my heart,
and I think you are so smart.
Every time I cry a tear,
you are somewhere near.
If I have a problem,
you are always there to solve 'em.
When I get in trouble,
you are your right there on the double.
And I thank God that He,
gave such a great daddy to ME!
Oh daddy I hope you can see,
that you mean the world to me.

We hope you have an amazing weekend with your families and HAPPY FATHERS DAY!!!!!!!
Love Year One.

**Year 2** – It has been another exciting week in year 2! We ended last week with an informative and hands on session with the Mini-beast people. We watched how honey is made and then got to hold a stick insect. Many of us bought the yummy, organic honey...delicious!

This week on Tuesday and Wednesday, both groups participated in their paraliturgies. Our topic of reflection was ‘Being responsible for our world.’ All the children spoke and acted beautifully. Mrs Kirby and Mrs Porter were very proud of them.

In numeracy we have continued with number, chance and data and money topics. We have enjoyed doing coin rubbings and exploring the features of the coins.

We also learnt that a twelve-sided shape, like the 50 cent coin, is called a ‘dodecagon.’ Rolling die and playing heads and tails games has also been a lot of fun.
Our report writing is improving each week. This week, many of us wanted to add diagrams, informative captions and even glossaries to our animal reports. We are really showing our teachers what a good information report looks like.

Apart from all this exciting news, the highlight for this week would have to be the return of our dear friend, Hamish. We were all very excited to have him back at school. To celebrate his return, we decided to have a Lego party. It was so much fun!

**YEAR 3** - Go carts, hockey sticks and motor bike stories in the classroom! Have we lost our marbles? No because there were a few of those too. These are just some of the topics that have featured in our recent ‘Speaking and Listening’ presentations on a Friday.

Students are given at least a week to prepare on topics such as my favourite holiday, something I’ve made and a mystery bag. They have three minutes to speak and must show all the skills of a good presenter such as eye contact and appropriate volume. We have been amazed at the response and look forward to see what happens tomorrow.

Our exploration of space continues with groups creating posters about features of the solar system. These posters will feature in our assembly tomorrow. Keep your eyes peeled for the possible next winner of Australia’s Got Talent supporting our singers. The fun begins at 2.30pm.

We’re also busily getting ready for our liturgy on Thursday the 6th. This will be a whole class liturgy about positive thinking and being thankful. One of the things that our class is thankful for is our school grounds. So we will be celebrating our liturgy on the slope next to the adventure playground if the weather looks fine. Otherwise we’ll be in the classroom. The liturgy will begin at 9.15am.

**YEAR 4, 5 & 6** - We are so very excited about Sunday! We can’t wait to share our very personal Father’s Day gifts with our Dads and other family members. We know that everyone will be impressed with how good our presents taste! Thank you so much Mrs Clough, our chief chef, for helping us in making 120 yummy gifts for our Dads and family members.

A big week with literacy and maths...with a focus on measurement and number, both within the Year 4 and the 5/6 area. Our Year 5/6 children continued with their paragraph writing skills, and will next week, learn how to import their writing into a Wiki pages, so that all the class can view their research. Using a Wiki is a great way to collaborate and use experts within the class to gain knowledge. The Year 4s have written fantastic persuasive texts, that we also look forward to displaying online.

Our Year 4s are so proud of their kitchen garden. Bunnings have been so helpful in educating the children, and providing resources to make our garden so successful. Keep following Twitter to watch the growth in action.

Our Year 5/6 group are very excited about the cluster sports day tomorrow. The boys will be participating in soccer and the girls, netball. Good luck to all our kids, you always make us proud with your enthusiasm and sports spirit.