The Whale

A female humpback whale had become entangled in a spider web of crab traps and lines and was weighted down by hundreds of pounds of traps that caused her to struggle to stay afloat. She also had hundreds of yards of line rope wrapped around her body, her tail, her torso, a line tugging in her mouth.

A fisherman spotted her just east of the Farralone Islands (outside the Golden Gate) and radioed an environmental group for help.

Within a few hours, the rescue team arrived and determined that she was so bad, the only way to save her was to dive in and untangle her..... a very dangerous proposition. One slap of the tail could kill a rescuer!

They worked for hours with curved knives and eventually freed her.

When she was free, the divers say she swam in what seemed like joyous circles. She then came back to each and every diver, one at a time, and nudged them, pushed gently around - she thanked them. Some said it was the most incredibly beautiful experience of their lives.

The guy who cut the rope out of her mouth says her eye was following him the whole time, and he will never be the same.

May you, and all those you love,
be so blessed and fortunate ....
to be surrounded by people
who will help you get untangled
from the things that are binding you.
And, may you always know the joy
of giving and receiving gratitude.
TERM 2 BEGINS
It would seem that all students and staff had a great break and have come back eager and ready to learn. I have been very impressed as I have visited learning areas this week. Our students are very settled and focussed and are showing great excitement for their learning, particularly Discovery Time.

We also welcome 4 new students to our school – William Harpour (Year 5) and Georgina Harpour (Year 4), Brody Linderberg (Year 5) and Holly Linderberg (Year 2). We look forward to working with them and their families.

BABY NEWS
One of our Prep teachers, Sally Thompson, announced to the staff this week that she and her husband Mike are expecting their first child. We are thrilled for them. Sally is due in October.

PCG MEETING
Next Monday’s PCG meeting has been rescheduled for Monday 29th April 9:00am. Please forward agenda items for General Business by Friday 26th April. In order to contextualize the agenda item, it is important that a parent attends the meeting and can speak to the item.

ANZAC DAY
Thursday 25th April is a public holiday and the school will be closed. Next week each child will receive a tattoo to remind them of the significance of the celebration.

At the Dawn Service in Cleveland, Darcy and Riley Heilbronn will represent Star of the Sea School during the Laying of the Wreath Ceremony. All students are welcome to participate. It would be great if they wore school uniform as well.

PREP 2014
Enrolment interviews for Prep 2014 commenced this week. If you have a child ready for Prep next year, please drop a completed application form into the office as soon as possible.

CROSS COUNTRY
Training has commenced for cross country. The more enthusiastic students will also be training from home as well. Tomorrow, Friday, Navrin Karklis from Year 6 will be representing our school in the Redlands District Inter-School Cross Country Carnival. Our Inter-House Carnival will be held on Wednesday 1st May.

HOUSE SPORTS SHIRTS
This year for the first time we have available from the Uniform Shop polo shirts in the house colours of red, yellow and blue. Children will be required to wear these on Cross Country day with their blue sports shirts.

SCHOOL MASSES
We have some major celebrations this term. Our school is hosting the Saturday evening mass on 11th May. Confirmation with Archbishop Coleridge will be celebrated on Saturday 25th May at 5:30pm followed by Mass on Straddie at 9:00am on Sunday 26th May. We will celebrate the end of Semester One with a whole school mass on Friday 14th June. The school term ends on Friday 21st June.

EARN 2 LEARN
Star of the Sea has registered again for Woolworths Earn 2 Learn promotion. When you shop at Woolies, you will receive stickers which you add to a sheet. Once the sheet is full, please drop it into the box located in the Student Entry.

LOST GUITAR - there is one in my office which has been here since the end of last term.
LAUNCH OF KIDS MATTER

The staff at Star of the Sea are gearing up for a very exciting and important event for our school community. From 9:00 - 9:45am on Monday, 6th May our school will be hosting a special assembly in the O'Dea to officially launch KidsMatter. All members of the school community are invited to attend this special occasion.

Following the assembly, children will participate in fun rotational activities organised by the teachers to support and promote positive mental health, such as relaxation, singing fun songs, playing group games etc.

KidsMatter is a Federal Government Initiative aimed at supporting the mental health and wellbeing of students. This initiative supports school staff and parents in providing a positive school community, social emotional learning for all students, parent education and early identification of mental health difficulties.

At Star of the Sea, there are many things that we already do to support positive student mental health and wellbeing. We provide regular opportunities for social and emotional learning, particularly through the 'Bounce Back' program. We pride ourselves on the environment we create for our students that allows them flexibility in their learning approaches and choices. In all aspects of school life at Star of the Sea, the emphasis is having fun learning - whether in the learning areas or on the playground.

For more information on KidsMatter, please visit their website http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au

Please save this date!

What: .................. KidsMatter Launch
When: .................. Monday, 6th May – 9:00am
Where: .................. O'Dea Centre

We hope to see you there.
Kathy Casley Guidance Counsellor

COMMONWEALTH DOLLARMITES PRIZES

If your child does school banking and makes three or more deposits during Term 2, he or she can be in the running to win some great prizes. Major prizes include a family holiday voucher valued at $5000, $5000 cash, adventure packs and prepaid debit cards. For more information, visit www.commbank.com.au/personal/youth-students/school-banking/school-banking-term-2

HELP NEEDED

We have a plan to fasten a STAR for each student to our fence. A template made from plywood has been made but we need about 6 Dads who are proficient with a circular saw to cut out the stars. The plywood would be delivered to the school so that the work can be undertaken on site. Please let us know if you can help out in the next couple of weeks.

UNIFORM CODE

Please check the uniform policy located on the school website. Some students have returned with nail polish, inappropriate jewellery and incorrect shoes. Black joggers are the only shoes to be worn. With the weather becoming cooler, students may wear singlets or red T-shirts under their shirts. Further investigation has revealed that a red vest will not be added to the uniform.

THE DIAMOND

The staff is receiving both negative and positive feedback on our new “Diamond” system for managing behaviour. A parent forum will be conducted to enable parents to share their perspective. Date and time will be advised.
**CHOOK PEN**
Unfortunately due to new Workplace, Health and Safety Regulations, we cannot have the egg hatching program or the chooks. The new regulations prohibit children in Prep to Year 2 from touching the baby chicks and grown chickens. If anyone is interested in taking the chook pen materials, please contact the office.

**SCHOOL PHOTO DAY**
Our School Photo day is **Monday 13th May 2013**. A Flyer/envelope for each of your students explaining the products available will be sent home tomorrow.

Please ensure that each student returns his/her own envelope even if payment is made in the eldest child’s envelope. Envelopes are not to be placed inside other envelopes. **Students are to bring envelopes BEFORE Friday 10th May. NO photo envelopes will be accepted by the school office on the morning of photos.**

Advanced Life Photograph has an automated system for payments by credit card. You can go online to [www.advancedlife.com.au](http://www.advancedlife.com.au) for easy to understand payment instructions. You will receive a receipt number which **MUST** be written on the order envelope in the space provided. You can also make payments by cash, cheque or money order.

Sibling Photos are also available for students at the school, please collect a “family order envelope” from your school & return it to the office. Please don’t hesitate to contact Advanced Photos at the above email address if you have any queries.

**MOTHERS’ GROUP**
The first Mother’s Group in Term Two is on **Friday 26th April**. The dates for the rest of the term are as follows: Friday 26th April, Friday 10th and 24th May, Friday 7th & 21st June. Mothers’ Group meets once a fortnight during school terms for a cup of tea, chat and for the children to have a play. Mothers’ Group is held fortnightly in the McKinlay Centre from 9:00am – 11:00am.

Please bring morning tea, a drink and hat for your children. Tea and coffee will be provided. Any questions or would like to join us please contact Therese Staley 0420 306 774 or Michelle Mair on 0407 700 322.

**UNIFORM SHOP**
The Uniform Shop now has a good stock of winter jackets in size 6. The shop will be open each Monday for the next few weeks.

Don’t forget to pick up you house sports shirt from the Uniform Shop if you ordered one. They also have a few extras for each house!

**SPEECH & DRAMA NEWS**
Drama lessons began again today in our new home in the hall of the Parish Centre. It was quite exciting to have so much space and to be able to use the stage. This term there will be 9 lessons. Please notify Mrs Larsen at tlarsen@bne.catholic.edu.au if your child would like to join drama or if they’re not continuing with lessons this term. It is an expectation that enrolment of your child will mean a full term’s commitment.

There are still several outstanding Term 1 accounts and the immediate finalisation of these accounts would be appreciated. **Terry Larsen Speech & Drama Teacher**

**CONFIRMATION PARENT INFORMATION SESSION**
Just a reminder that there will be Parent Information Session next Monday 22nd April in the Parish Hall at 7.30 pm. You can only attend this session if you have already enrolled your child to make their Confirmation this year through the Parish Office.
Green Living - Practical Ideas by Year 4

You may have heard that Year Four is immersed in the topic *Where is Tomorrowland?*

After watching the movie *Wall E*, we were determined not to let our planet end up in ruins because of pollution, rubbish and consumerism.

We have been looking closely at practical ways that we can help to preserve our planet and live healthier lives. Each week we would like to increase awareness of ‘green’ living for families at SOTS. This week we have been focusing on farming. Here are some ‘green’ choices that you can make at home to care for the Earth and your family.

✔ Check out your local Farmers’ Markets for fresh fruit, vegetables and meat

Real food is fuel for the body and the planet. By following the green eaters’ mantra - eat seasonal, local, organic foods - you can enjoy fresher, taster foods and improve your family’s personal health.

According to one study, organic milk has 68% more beneficial Omega-3 fatty acids than conventional milk.

Making green food choices also has global consequences. Buying local means supporting the local economy and reducing the greenhouse gas emissions required to get food from its origin to your plate.


✔ Choose Free Range or RSPCA approved eggs

These eggs are farmed using no cages, no chemicals and sustainable methods. Not only is it more humane, it’s also better for you and enhances the quality of life for farmers.
PREP – Welcome back to Term 2 in Prep! The children have settled back in beautifully to the routine and we already have more than 10 students with their first stamp in the office book!!! We are not sure what the surprise is at the end of this term yet – what does Mrs Bakon have organised??? We will have to wait and see!

This week we have started our Discovery Learning. We are looking at lots of different countries from around the world starting with Australia. During this time the children will be able to further investigate topics that really interest them. We look forward to sharing lots of exciting ideas with you all.

We are back into the swing of our Literacy and Numeracy groups too. We are asking for more parent volunteers to help out during these sessions. We need volunteers for Wednesday and Thursday (commencing Week 2 for 4 weeks). If you can spare about an hour of your time (from 9.15am) on either of these days, please email us at pcleland@bne.catholic.edu.au We would love for you to see what your children are up to during the day!

We warmly welcome Mrs Leisa Henderson to our team this term. Leisa is doing her final teaching prac with us for her Bachelor of Education (Primary). Leisa will be involved in all the planning and teaching for this term. Please feel free to introduce yourself to her. The children are already enjoying the wonderful activities that she has planned.

Would you please mark the following dates in your diaries – we are presenting a special Mother’s Day assembly on Thursday 9th May at 2.30pm in the O’Dea Centre. We would love as many Mums there as possible! We will also have our first Liturgies of the year.

The class will be split into 2 groups for these liturgies. Red, Orange and Blue groups will lead the Liturgy on Thursday, 16th May and Yellow, Green and Purple will lead the Liturgy on Friday, 17th May. Parents are most welcome to join us on their child’s Liturgy day. We ask you to please bring a small plate of food to share for a special morning tea afterwards.

YEAR 1 – Welcome back to Term 2. We hope you had a happy, holy and restful Easter. The children have come back into the learning area, bright and ready to participate in all activities. We have been so proud of how quickly they have settled into the routines of Year 1.

We started off the week with a lively song or jig about The Three little Pigs. We listened and joined in the repetitive parts. This helped us start to learn about narratives. Narratives are made up stories that entertain and we explored the title, characters, setting, problem and solution of The Three Little Pigs.

During literacy rotations we looked at how sentences are made up. We learnt that words have a special part to play in each sentence. Nouns are naming words, the names of people, places or things. We found our room was full of nouns! In the story “The Three Little Pigs”, we also found many nouns, pigs, straw, sticks, bricks.....

In Maths rotations, we have also revised place value and started subtraction. We did so well using MAB blocks that we started recording them also. Number sequences and skip counting by 2s, 5s and 10s have also been our focus. Students counted to and from 100 and located numbers on a number line.

This week we started morning reading with lots of helpful Mums. The students were excited to read with someone different and we are sure the extra practice will have great results in the children’s reading. Thanks to all our volunteers.

Looking forward to a wonderful term!
YEAR 2 – We hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday! We are refreshed and ready for a new term! We have so much on this term and have hit the ground running with all of it.

We are beginning to explore different environments. This week we are looking at the rainforest - what it looks like, the weather, animals and much more. These environments are making up our discovery learning immersion.

During numeracy, we have started to look at fractions and what they are. We are learning what a half, quarter and eighth look like. We have been able to show what each of these are through play dough, shading shapes and also labelling shapes.

We have been looking at the components that make up a procedural text during literacy. They are, a title, materials and method. Together, we were able to talk about what each of these have in them. We are continuing to look at these over the next couple of weeks, so cooking on the weekends or playing a game with instructions will definitely help us!

The teachers decided that this week it would be a good idea to make pizzas (to help with our fractions and procedural texts of course)!

We can't believe it is already the end of week one!! Talk to you soon. Love Year Two

YEAR 3 – In Year 3 we have had a flying start to the Term! Or maybe it would be better to say that our teachers are very impressed at how we have kept our rhythm over the holiday. The time we spent establishing our routines at the start of Term 1 is starting to pay off now.

Our guiding theme in Term 2 centres around Aboriginal Culture, especially things of cultural significance of the Quandamooka people.

Did you know that The Queensland Museum allows schools to borrow kits of Aboriginal Tools and Aboriginal Lore artefacts? We had a great day of very free exploration and discovery on Tuesday with a couple of these kits which really are a rich resource.

It was just pure immersion to start with. The idea is that we will start to think about an interesting aspect of aboriginal culture to research. Hopefully each student will come up with an area of Aboriginal history that they personally find exciting, about which they will become the “expert” and, eventually, present on.

So, this week we went in search of questions instead of answers - and we found plenty! There should be a new video of what was a very interesting day up soon on our gallery pages - click here.

We’re doing our spelling a little differently this term. We need to work on spelling words that we have experienced difficulty with in our writing and other class tasks. So, that means (you might be relieved to hear) that there will no longer be a spelling homework book as well as a regular homework book to deal with.

Spelling will still be a feature of homework, but it will be simpler and it will be done in the same book as the other homework. Once we’ve got in the groove with our new ways-of-working in spelling, one of the homework tasks might be to explain those ways to you all at home. Get ready for that!

And speaking of Homework, in this term it will go home on the Monday of even numbered weeks and come back on the Friday of odd numbered weeks. So homework holiday this week and back into the fortnightly routine starting next Monday!
YEAR 4 – Welcome back to school everyone!!! This week we found out our new discovery learning topic is... Where Is Tomorrowland?

We started off watching Wall-E, it was really good because when the earth overflowed with rubbish the president took people to space for 700 years instead of 5 years. When a robot found life on Earth the captain took them back.

This week we have looked a lot at being green and recycling and we are thinking about growing our own vegie patch to eat for Munch and Crunch. We also created some recycled art made from scrap paper. They are really ‘green’. We have been researching how to save the Earth and we decided that we should try to get more people to recycle and be ‘green’ so we are writing a weekly paragraph in the Newsletter... so check it out to get some green ideas.

On Tuesday we had our first music lesson of the term. Some of us changed groups and moved into higher ability groups. We are really improving our music skills. We have been working hard on our Maths and Literacy activities every day. Some of the activities for Literacy are spelling, grammar and handwriting. We are working on Persuasive Texts this term so look out at home because we’ll be trying to persuade you do things or buy things for us.

In Maths we are learning about symmetry, perimeter and revising addition and subtraction. There is an awesome app on the iPads that everyone loves called SymmetryLab. Everyone rushes to get to the iPads to have a go. Today we had Discovery Learning and this afternoon we have Assembly. Tomorrow the Reverse Garbage people are coming in to do a workshop and we can’t wait to see what we will do with them!!!  Your reporters Rosie and Ella.

YEAR 5, 6 & 7 - Agent B made a dramatic appearance in Year 5, 6 and 7 this week....He was delivering the Term Two Immersion Box, and also conducted a QR Code check among the students. Ask your children: were they accepted; pending; or denied? The Immersion Box created a lot of interest within the room. There was an overall theme of computer code, security and access.

On Tuesday the students began their Discovery Learning Projects...What if Star of the Sea School had no digital security? The children have come up with some amazing answers to this question; creating QR Code ID cards for every child, creating scanner boxes that help teachers with the role every morning; and anti-hacking devices, just to name a few.

It was lovely to all be back together this week! We have a change to Literacy Groups, which is aiming to increase independent working skills. Children will be responsible for their term reading and writing contracts, so learning to organise their time, and choosing appropriate activities will be high on the list this term.

This term we have A LOT going on! Cross Country Inter-house carnival in May, many new and exciting Discovery Learning Tasks, Liturgies, Confirmation for our Year 6 and 7s, Instrumental Music Lessons, AFL Clinics, Naplan, Featuring in the EduTech Conference, Senior Leadership Committees, Bayside Cross Country, Netball Clusters, Tee Ball Clusters, Bounce Back, Sparkles is back too!