After 21 years of marriage, my wife wanted me to take another woman out to dinner and a movie. She said, "I love you, but I know this other woman loves you too, and she would love to spend some time with you." The other woman that my wife wanted me to visit was my Mother, who has been a widow for 19 years, but the demands of my work and my three children had made it possible to visit her only occasionally. That night I called to invite her to go out for dinner and a movie.

“What's wrong, are you well?” she asked. My mother is the type of woman who suspects that a late night call or a surprise invitation is a sign of bad news. “I thought that it would be pleasant to spend some time with you,” I responded. “Just the two of us.” She thought about it for a moment, and then said..."I would like that very much."

That Friday after work, as I drove over to pick her up, I was a bit nervous. When I arrived at her house, I noticed that she, too, seemed to be nervous about our date. She waited in the door with her coat on. She had curled her hair and was wearing the dress that she had worn to celebrate her last wedding anniversary. She smiled from a face that was as radiant as an angel's.

“I told my friends that I was going to go out with my son, and they were impressed,” she said, as she got into the car. "They can't wait to hear about our meeting." We went to a restaurant that, although not elegant, was very nice and cozy. My mother took my arm as if she were the First Lady. After we sat down, I had to read the menu. Her eyes could only read large print. Half way through the entries, I lifted my eyes and saw Mum sitting there staring at me. A nostalgic smile was on her lips. “It was I who used to have to read the menu when you were small,” she said. "Then it's time that you relax and let me return the favour," I responded.

During the dinner, we had an agreeable conversation - nothing extraordinary but catching up on recent events of each other's lives. We talked so much that we missed the movie. As we arrived at her house later, she said, "I'll go out with you again, but only if you let me invite you." I agreed. "How was your dinner date?" asked my wife when I got home. "Very nice. Much more so than I could have imagined," I answered.

A few days later, my mother died of a massive heart attack. It happened so suddenly that I didn't have a chance to do anything for her. Sometime later, I received an envelope with a copy of a restaurant receipt from the same place mother and I had dined. An attached note said: "I paid this bill in advance. I wasn't sure that I could be there; but nevertheless, I paid for two plates - one for you and the other for your wife. You will never know what that night meant for me. I love you, son."

At that moment I understood the importance of saying, in time, "I LOVE YOU." And to give our loved ones the time they deserve. Because nothing is more important in life than family... and they shouldn't be put off until "some other time."

Don't be too late to say how much you love your parents, your sons, your daughters, and your spouse. Today is a good time to go and say those beautiful words or, even better, to do something so beautiful that they will cherish it forever.
FIRST COMMUNION
Congratulations to our children and their families who celebrated First Holy Communion last Sunday. The children participated beautifully and it was obvious that they had been well prepared by Veronica Hyland, Trina Cambourne and Kate McArthur.

PCG MEETING
Please find attached the minutes of last Monday’s August meeting.

KIDS CONNECT CONFERENCE
As in previous years, Star of the Sea School will be sending a cohort of Year 6 and 7 students to attend the Kids Connect conference on the 26th and 27th of August. Kids Connect is a BCE supported conference organised for kids, by kids. It is attended by many Catholic schools from around Brisbane, and has always been a fantastic experience for all children involved.

This year, Kids Connect will be held at The Edge, State Library of Queensland. The new host venue enables access to recording studios and the Cultural Centre. This year the theme for Kids Connect is ‘Tech on the Edge’. This theme is all about taking your technological skills all the way to ‘The Edge’!

The Kids Connect Organising Committee are very fortunate to have a number of expert facilitators who will teach students skills such as robotics, photography, film, animation and much more!

The delegates selected for this year are:

Resiliency Robbers
Michael Grose is considered a leading parenting educator in Australia. He has coined the term “resilience robbers.” We all know that parents have the best of intentions when raising their kids.

Grose believes that wanting what is best for kids can cause parents to make decisions that are not always in their (children’s) long-term best interests. He says that if you believe that the promotion of resilience is in the best interests of kids then there are some common parenting mistakes that reduce children’s resilience.

He names 7 Robbers of Resilience. Today I share Robber #5 with you:

Let kids give in too easily
Resilient learners link success with effort. They don’t give up because they don’t like the teacher or when confronted with multi-step or more complex activities. Similarly they don’t bail out of a sporting team halfway through the season because the team is not winning or they are not enjoying it.

Resilience notion #5: Encourage kids to complete what they have started even if the results aren’t perfect

Social / Emotional Learning in the Curriculum
Social and emotional well-being is a high priority at Star of the Sea. It is evident in our Bounce Back Program, RESPECT goals, Kids Matter program and School Wide Positive Behaviour Program.

Due to this involvement, we have been invited to participate in a targeted support project so that we can share with other schools and teachers, strategies for embedding social/ emotional learning into the classroom and give students the opportunities to practise social skills regularly.
LEARNING SUPPORT AT STAR OF THE SEA

I wish to advise Star of the Sea families of my leave commencing from the start of Term 4 for a 12 month period. I plan to further my qualifications during this time and will greatly miss my regular contact with the Star of the Sea students and their families.

This imminent break has given me cause to reflect on the amazing work of our teachers and school officers at Star of the Sea. So often we as a staff will receive information from medical or allied health professionals regarding the particular needs of students, whether it be a physical condition, psychological, speech or learning difficulty.

Through support meetings or reading and research, teachers and school officers develop strategies to utilise the strengths of the student to overcome their particular challenges and enable them to engage more successfully. Learning activities are structured that tap into that particular student’s learning style, utilising technology, construction materials, illustrations or verbal interactions, for example.

While there is often limited time to communicate to parents every adjustment for each and every student, no doubt the evidence is in their eagerness to participate and the small and big successes they experience each day.

In recently returning to the area in which I grew up, I have made an interesting observation. While shopping and driving around I have often observed people with particular needs or disabilities whom I recognise from when I was young. What has struck me is the incredible resilience of these people, doing their shopping, using public transport, advocating for themselves, most often independently.

As someone who works closely with families of children with particular needs, this gives me great hope and I trust is an inspiration to all families and teachers who do the same.

Kathy Casley 
Guidance Counsellor

ALTAR SERVERS

If your child has made the Sacrament of First Communion and would like to become an Altar Server, at school and parish masses, please contact the Parish Office to enrol in training. We need students for Sunday morning Mass at 8.30. It would involve serving approximately once a month.

FATHER’S DAY

Star of the Sea’s Father’s Day Sporting Spectacular is on Saturday 31st August at 2:00pm followed by 5:00pm Mass – RSVP’s are due NOW please. This event is a social and not a competition.

A Father’s Day Stall will be held on Wednesday 28th August, all gifts $5.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

A reminder that if your child presents at school wearing incorrect uniform then you must provide written communication as to the reason why.

All BLACK JOGGERS are to be worn every day. Plain sleepers or studs are the only earrings to be worn. Hair should be kept neat and tidy and tied back if long.

BAYSIDE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Letters will be sent home this Friday advising students in Years 4 – 7 what they will be participating in. We have chartered a bus and it will leave here at 8:45am and return at 2:45pm.

Children will be required to wear sports uniform, bring lunch, water bottles and sunscreen.
PREP – This week in Prep we introduced the children to a new start to their week which we have called “Skip into Spring”. This program runs after we have marked the roll each morning. On Monday and Friday mornings in the O'Dea Centre you will find us moving through a series of physical activity rotations that include individual skipping, balance boards, elastics, peg races, Adventure Playground relays and a hop in a hoop game. We look forward to some of our parents joining us to help with our program.

On a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday Mrs Henderson is taking the children on a Yoga adventure through story. The children have loved this part of their morning each day this week.

In literacy we looked at the letter ‘qu’ as in queen and quack. We are about to start looking at the Vowel lines on the Thrass Chart over the next few weeks. In numeracy Mrs Henderson thinks we are becoming experts at addition using counters and the number line to find our answers to our picture problems. Mrs McLucas has begun looking at 2D and 3D shapes with the children.

We thoroughly enjoyed our Arts Council performance on Wednesday and the children sat intently for about 50 minutes.

Don’t forget that Friday is go Red for MS day. That means you can come to school with coloured red hair, red socks, red shirts or red face paint. Father’s Day reminder, please send in a photo of your child with their Dad so that we can include it in our Father’s Day power point presentation. Thank you to those who have already. The presentation looks amazing.

YEAR 1 – In Bounce Back this week we learnt that effort and having a go are more important than how good you are at something. We listened to the story of The Little Red Hen, which stresses the importance of hard work, and followed this up by making stick puppets and acting out the story in the puppet theatre. In order to achieve our goals and have fun we learnt that the value of cooperation is important.

Last week, Luca arrived back to school after his holiday to North Queensland and presented us with the entries he wrote in his holiday journal. He also showed us the drawings he made and told us about the coral at Lady Elliott Island.

The children are very excited about QR Codes and are busy teaching their peers how to write and then scan the codes they have made. Be on the lookout for codes that will be creeping up about the place!

Yesterday the children really enjoyed watching Cents and Sensibility put on by the Queensland Arts Council. The characters Jack and Jenny had the responsibility of buying presents by solving problems and making decisions. The entertainment was enjoyed by all.

YEAR 2 - We had such a fun day last Friday, celebrating Foundation Day. There were so many activities that we got to do like sack races, three legged races, butterfly making, badge making, cup cake decorating and much more! We were very proud of our opening mass song. Our teachers think we did a fantastic job!

This week in year two we have been working very hard! We have begun our working on our plans for our discovery learning projects and are looking forward to further work on these plans. We have nearly completed our work on narratives and have come up with some really interesting and imaginative stories.
Our rotations are new this week and so far we are really enjoying them. A few of the activities this week are hand writing, practising our spelling, counting money and doing some art and craft.

We are looking forward to our day tomorrow; it’s all about raising awareness for Multiple Sclerosis. We are going to be decorating cupcakes and are going to have our faces painted. We will also be reading for 60 minutes. Remember to wear red and bring a gold coin donation! Have a lovely weekend. Love Year Two.

YEAR 3 – Foundation Day Mass and activities were amazing last week - starting with some sacred moments reminding us of our spiritual anchors, then a day of fun and togetherness. Year 3 loved it all but especially enjoyed the face painting (particularly the French Mustachios) and the plastic bag kites. Oh... and sausage sizzle down in the park - awesome day! Foundation Day Mass pictures are available online - click here.

In equally important matters of the classroom, we have been learning about mass, I mean weight. Well we know there’s a difference (you’d weigh less on the moon) but it doesn’t matter in Grade 3. Also we now know that ‘kilo’ just means that you have a thousand of something and ‘milli’ just means that you need a thousand of something to make 1. This works for anything - try it out for yourself.

We’ve also started writing procedures. To begin we performed a procedure - making a 3D shape from paper - then we wrote down all the steps in order. The idea is that someone else should be able to read your procedure and do or make something just as you described, if you’ve described it well enough. We still need more practice.

The Arts Council performed a play yesterday at school on the subject of Money. This was extra timely because we’ll be learning about it very soon. Just as interesting was the way the whole show was put together. It had to be written, then the stage and sets and costumes had to designed, there were digital parts to make and get in there - all before the performance itself. Afterwards we reckoned there were about 15 or 20 different types of jobs involved.

And thinking about the actors and their performance gave us some real clues about our own performances on assembly today. We noticed that there was not one time when the actors didn’t know exactly what to do or where to go and what to have with them. And it went for an hour! Hope our 10 minutes of assembly play acting goes as well.

We know, we know, last week the link to the video of the week wasn’t connected. Hey - you should just bookmark it, you know. But here it is again - click here for ‘Video of the Week’.

Finally, don’t forget our web galleries - click here. They’re updated most weeks with photos, sometimes video, of whatever interesting stuff we’ve been getting into. There’s a link on Moodle too.

YEAR 4 – This week we started off with relief teaches Mrs Oliver and Miss Bell. They were so impressed with Year Four they awarded lots of Dojo points and also left a note for our teachers telling them how great we were and how focused we were.

We have been very busy practising for our liturgy. We had one today and will have another tomorrow at 9:15am. Anyone who would like to come along please feel free to join us. Our theme for our liturgy is "Jesus makes all things grow". We have been talking about the ways that Jesus makes us grow.
Jesus makes us grow in our abilities, our strengths, our appreciation of our family and friends and also in our acceptance of others.

Our Discovery Learning is now in the prototyping phase and we are looking at making websites, sending emails to organisations, creating enclosures for endangered species and even developing apps for kids to use when they visit Australia Zoo. We are very excited about where our learning will take us!

Some of us have also been practising our ball games skills at lunch time with Mrs Bakon in preparation for the Interschool Athletics Carnival next Thursday at Carmel College. Hopefully we will have a fun and successful day.

Remember to join the Star Walkers tomorrow morning at Cafe Arabica from 8:15am, bring your parents and pets and walk to school.

YEAR 5, 6 & 7 - "How fast are the weeks going!" was shared by Abbey this week! "It's going to fast for me!" replied Olivia. Time definitely flies when you are having fun...and we sure have fun in Year 5, 6 and 7. Our Year 7s are starting to realise that time flying, means their time as seniors at SOTS is coming to an end....a big realisation for many this week!

Our Year 6 and 7s stepped up to the plate last Friday at our Foundation Day celebrations, as fantastic leaders and wonderful role-models. They started the day as 'care-takers' of the preps throughout mass, and then were on call to help teachers and students as they moved through a myriad of activities on the oval. Congratulations on your efforts Year 6 and 7, you definitely made us proud again.

The Year 5 children this week worked together on the concept of angles, and measuring angles. Using a protractor to measure angles requires us to be VERY accurate...something we are learning very quickly. Degrees are such small measurements, and we can quickly make a mistake if we rush our measuring!

Our Year 6 and 7s continued with fractions, this week extending their knowledge of adding and subtracting fractions, to multiplying and dividing fractions. We realised it was definitely easier to multiply fractions...we just need to be super quick on those times tables! Dividing is easy, we just need to remember the inversion rule.

The Year 5 Exoplanets are coming along very nicely! The students are very secretive about their planets, and the remainder of the class can't wait for this part of Discovery Learning to be finalised, so they can share more details...their prototypes, research, and constructions look so very exciting!

The Year 67 spent a lot of time moving into the filming side of their Discovery Learning. The children are realising how detailed plans need to be to ensure filming runs smoothly. It is definitely easier to film in one day, as moving scenery, characters and cameras can really affect the look of our films!

This Friday we have Cluster Gala Sports Day, and we can't wait to jump on those buses, and compete in soccer and netball games. We are moving into Week 8 next week, with many many more things to come.

Time is flying, and we know our Year 7s are savouring very second!