May you have the gladness of Christmas, which is HOPE.

May you have the spirit of Christmas, which is PEACE.

May you have the heart of Christmas, which is LOVE.
TERM FOUR CALENDAR
Some dates to lock into your calendars now….

Dance Fever Concert........................................... TONIGHT 5:00pm – BYO Picnic – WEAR CHRISTMAS CLOTHES!
End of Year Mass ............................................. TOMORROW 4th November at 11:00am - Carols at 10.40 am!
School Closes.................................................. TOMORROW 4th November at 12 NOON!

MESSAGE FROM MISS WILLIAMSON
We’re almost there…..congratulations to every member of our Star of the Sea Team for another amazing year! We are so blessed to have students, parents and staff who turn up every day with the intention of making it “the best day of your life”. I’d especially like to thank our staff for their support this term. It was an incredibly busy nine weeks, and amidst the chaos, they never lost sight of why we do what we do.

To our graduating students, we wish you a lifetime of luck, laughter and love. We hope that your time at Star of the Sea has helped to set your course – allowing you to weather the storms and sail the high seas with Christ always lighting your way….
Whenever you feel lost or unsure, look to the stars and know that we are thinking of you.

Merry Christmas everyone and a safe, happy and healthy New Year!

REPORTS
Reports and Digital Portfolios were sent home with students today.

STAFFING 2016
We are pleased to share the following information about our Teaching Teams –

Prep – Laura Robinson and Sarah Gibbs
Year 1 – Sally Kirby and Danielle Manicaros
Year 2 – Danielle Golle and Paul Holmes
Year 3 – Tanya Porter and Bridie Willis
Year 4 – Olivia O’Donnell, Lauren Mill and Dave Bermingham
Year 5 and 6 – Louise McLucas, Nicole Clough and Jason Waters

Sarah Gibbs is an experience teacher who is currently working at St Peter and Paul’s at Bulimba. She has a specialisation in Early Childhood and is currently studying her Masters of Religion at ACU.

Paul Holmes is also an experienced teacher having recently taught at Jubilee and Mary Immaculate, at Annerley. Paul is passionate about Sport.

Thank you to Angelique Mackillop, Therese Staley and Chris Azzapardi for their time with us this year. Ange and Therese will continue to work as part of our teaching staff in a relief capacity. Chris has accepted a Year 5 position at St Rita’s next year.

We wish Nicole Cantwell all the love in the world as she takes maternity leave to look after her new baby boy!

Kathy Casley will be leaving us as she has accepted a shared Guidance Counsellor role at St Anthony’s, Alex Hills and St Peter’s, Rochedale.

We will also be farewelling Kate Macarthur, who is a Foundation Staff Member. Kate has accepted the position of Assistant Principal – Administration at St Oliver Plunkett School, Cannon Hill.

School Officer allocation to year levels is yet to be organised.
**GRADUATION**

Every guest at last Thursday's celebration was beaming with pride as we congratulated our Senior Students on their Year 6 Graduation.

A special thank you to our Year 6 teachers, Louise McLucas and Nicole Clough, for organising such a meaningful and memorable liturgy and also for their commitment to the celebration in our Lighthouse.

Each student was given a Photo Book full of memories and the students presented the school with a canvas of names. None of this happens without thought, time and dedication. Thank you Louise and Nicole!

Another special thank you to the hard working team of parents who have been planning the event for months, and to the Staff, Students and Year 5 parents for their help on the night and the next day. It was an incredible team effort and indeed 'a night to remember'!

Congratulations to the following Award Recipients –
- Rotary Award: Tahlia Henderson
- All Rounder Awards: Anna Bradley and Ella Montenegro
- Knights of the Southern Cross Award: Year 5 Student – Liam Spence

**PIZZA PARTY**

Congratulations to Year 3 for taking best care of our environment this term! They celebrated with a Pizza Party today!

**VACATION CARE**

Unfortunately we did not receive adequate numbers to facilitate a program at Sots for this Christmas break. The YMCA at Victoria Point and St Mary Mackillop at Birkdale, to name a few, offer a vacation care program.

**NEEDED FOR DAY ONE 2016**

- School Bag——— NAMED with distinguishing keyring
- School Hat——— NAMED
- Lunch Box——— *including fruit for munch and crunch* - NAMED
- Drink Bottle ———— NAMED
- Red Satchel (*daily*) —— new students will receive theirs on the first day!

**Prep and Year 1**

All resource equipment, ie. pencils, crayons, paper etc. will be supplied. No pencil cases or scrapbooks will be required from home.

**Year 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6**

Please come with a fully stocked pencil case with the following NAMED items;

- 6 lead pencils
- 2 rubbers
- 2 sharpeners
- 12 textas (1 packet)
- 2 glue sticks
- 12 coloured pencils (1 packet)
- 1 pair scissors
- 2 rulers

The pencil case must be able to fit inside a tidy box. Novelty items are NOT to be brought to school. Some of these named items will be collected on day 1 and stored for when a student’s supplies runs down.

**TERM ONE 2016**

The first day of school next year is Wednesday 27th January 2016 at 9:00am. Our Staff will be gathering for Professional Development from the 20th to the 25th January.

The Australia Day Holiday falls on Tuesday 26th January.

Preppies can be collected at 2:45pm each afternoon for Term 1. Preppies supervised by their teachers can be collected from the pick-up area outside the school office or in the drive through. If using the drive through, please ensure your child can secure their own seatbelt as parents *are not to stop their car and get out.*
MESSAGE FROM SNUG HARBOUR

As previously mentioned, I will be moving on from Star of the Sea next year to work in 2 new schools as Guidance Counsellor.

I will greatly miss the connections I have made in the SOTS community, but have faith that the great work that we have achieved together will continue. During my time at SOTS we have established a Student Wellbeing committee guided by the KidsMatter initiative, which has supported the personal and social development of all students.

In 2016, there will be a focus on support for parents, and if you would like to be involved as a parent, be sure to make contact with a member of the committee. We have also established a Behaviour Support committee, guided by the Positive Behaviour for Learning initiative of Brisbane Catholic Education.

Next year staff will continue to review whole-school behaviour support practices, as well as those to support individual students with ongoing behaviour support needs. During my time, I have particularly valued working with parents to achieve the best possible outcomes for our students, and am always encouraged by the dedication and perseverance of parents who never give up, sometimes in spite of significant challenges.

I wish you all a peace-filled and joyous Christmas break and encourage you to take the time to connect with the people most important to you. And after being at the school for several years, I definitely hope to stay in touch with the SOTS community. All the best for 2016!

Kathy Casley   Guidance Counsellor

MY LOCAL VET - OPEN DAY

I would like to invite the children of Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School and their families to attend the My Local Vet Practice Open day to be held on Saturday the 12th December from 11:00am – 2:00pm at 195 Vienna Rd, Alexandra Hills.

The event promises to both educational and entertaining for all ages with tours of the surgery, demonstrations and career advice with plenty of friendly veterinary staff to talk to.

The tours will take visitors behind the scenes of veterinary practice and provide a good insight in to the day in the life of a veterinarian and vet nurse.

There will be some fun doggie competitions as well as baby farm animals and free face painting to keep the younger ones entertained!

Please extend this invitation to the parents and friends of the school and local community so they can come along and experience the My Local Vet Open Day next Saturday.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS REHEARSALS

Star of the Sea Parish invites school children and our youth group to lead the Christmas Carols and Mas on Thursday 24th December at 5:30pm. REHEARSALS are at 3:00pm on Saturday 12th and Saturday 19th December. Please RSVP to Bernie Callum @ 0439 636 014

BYOD

Parents of students in Year 5 and 6 in 2016, please remember to return your signed BYOD Policy form by tomorrow, Friday 4th December.

This will ensure we resource the school sufficiently for 2016. We have had such a positive response to the program thus far, and can’t wait to see the student involvement in 2016.

By mid-December, the school website will have a tab entitled: BYOD Portal. This portal will assist all families to set up iPads for school use. Please ensure this is all completed by Day One 2016.
THANK-YOU TO THE SOTS COMMUNITY

As the end of term has drawn closer and closer, the reality of having to leave this fantastic school is becoming incredibly real. It will be a very hard day tomorrow, saying good-bye to the beautiful staff and students that make this school such a fantastic place to teach and learn.

I have loved being a part of your families for the past seven years, watching your children grow and learn, and look forward to hearing about all the achievements and successes that your children experience in 2016 and beyond.

We have the most fantastic school and team, and it is for this reason, that I have been asked to join the school community of St Oliver Plunkett’s. A comment made by the parish priest of St Oliver Plunkett’s at the end of my interview was, “you seem to very much love your school, Star of the Sea…do you really want to move on?” and my answer (after taking a deep breath and trying not to cry) was…. No, I don’t want to leave and would be incredibly upset if and when I have to leave, but some opportunities only come along once, and are meant to be.

I feel this new role is meant to be, and know that the friendships I have made here at SOTS, with staff and families will ensure I am still a part of the SOTS community.

Thank you all for your support and friendship over the years. Have a wonderful Christmas and holiday. Kate

STAR OF THE SEA TOUCH FOOTBALL

Congratulations to the SOTS touch team on ANOTHER premiership. Last Friday night the team won the mixed premiership at Redlands Junior Touch. This is a club competition and doesn’t just includes schools, but includes teams that have been together for years, as well as teams stacked with junior Redlands Representative players.

Our SOTS players have very little Representative experience, for some of them, it was the first time playing touch. The success of this team has come from the great bond that these students share which reflects in how well they work as a team.

The positive attitude shown; and ability to come back when they are down, shows how well this group worked together. In every competition that the team has been entered into this year, they have been underdogs, but that hasn’t stopped this group of determined kids from giving it their best and showing the other teams what they are made of. A lot can be learnt from this team.

They are a champion team, and in 2015, this team has also won the mixed division at The All-Hallows touch competition, as well as the mixed plate division at the QLD Primary ALL-Schools Championships. They are to be highly commended for their achievements!

The SOTS touch team has been a huge venture again this year and we need to thank Coaches Steve and Kelly Gough, the close support and guidance of Sharon and Craig Searston as well as the fantastic support from the parents – what a great group!

Thank you to all involved! Regards, Dave Bermingham Team Manager

NOTE FROM THE PREP TEACHERS

We have finished the year with such excitement! What a lovely Nativity Play we shared this morning; each child shone in their role in our Christmas Story about the "Little Owl and the Star".

Thank you to all our families for all your unwavering support throughout the year. Your children are truly Prep All Stars and we wish them all the best as they move to Year One next year.

We have thoroughly enjoyed teaching your children in their very important first year at school and getting to know each and everyone of their unique personalities. They really have shown us that they are ready to shine again in Year One.

Merry Christmas and enjoy this special time with your beautiful families. Best Wishes, Therese and Angelique
If you look for me at Christmas, You won't need a special star. I'm no longer just in Bethlehem, I'm right there where you are. You may not be aware of me amid the celebrations. You'll have to look beyond the stores, and all the decorations. But if you take a moment, from your list of things to do and listen to your heart, you'll find I'm waiting there for you. You're the one I want to be with, you're the reason that I came. And you'll find me in the stillness . . . . .
as I'm whispering your name.

Love, Jesus