God, I pray for my prayer life to become vibrant and strong in this season of Lent. I pray that your voice, even though a whisper, would ring loud and true in my life. I pray for the courage and boldness to follow wherever you lead, to love and serve whomever and however you invite me.
WELCOMING SOCIAL FUNCTION
The annual school disco will be held in the O'Dea Centre next Friday 27th February from 5-7.30pm (see attached flyer). This event is for students from all year levels and their families. The disco is a great social occasion for everyone and an opportunity for new families to our school to meet with others in our school community. It's also a load of fun for the children!

Families are invited to bring along a picnic and chairs/rugs. Pizza and cold drinks will be available for purchase from a catering van, and there will be treats provided for students and their siblings. It is sure to be great night - and it's free!

PARENT COMMUNITY GROUP MEETING
Our first PCG meeting will be held on Thursday 26th February from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. All parents are invited to participate. Part of the meeting will be devoted to more information on the Home Reading Program so it would be great to see our new parents represented.

Our Annual General Meeting is held in March so you have plenty of time to think about nominating for positions – Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.

SWIMMING LESSONS
Lessons for Prep to Year 6 begin on Monday 23rd February (Week 5). Each student will have 2 lessons a week for 3 weeks totalling 6 lessons.

EVERY child needs to bring along to EVERY lesson the following items – all named please:

- Togs
- Towel
- Thongs
- Sunshirt
- Swim cap
- Goggles
- Sunscreen (to be applied before school as well)

Swim caps are available for sale at the school office for $6 each.

FUN RUN - Postponed
The Fun Run was to commence tomorrow however, due to predicted bad weather we will not start until next Friday 27th February at 8:30am on the oval.

Everyone is more than welcome to participate in the 1km course. Remember walk or run, every lap you do will gain one point for your team. Points will accumulate each week and will be added onto the official totals of our Cross Country carnival.

The more laps you do, the fitter you will get, along with aiding your team to hold aloft the coveted SOTS Cross Country Trophy. Last year we had great support from a number of generous parents who kindly donated prizes. If you are able to donate a prize for our weekly draw it would be greatly appreciated. Please drop prizes off at the office.

There will also be a pizza party at the end of the term for the year level that completes the most laps. Can Barinya go back to back after their victory last year?

VOLUNTEER STUDENT PROTECTION TRAINING
All parent volunteers in 2015 are required to complete the latest Student Protection Training for volunteers. Our first group session will be held on Wednesday 25th February at 9:00am in the staffroom. This session will take approximately 30 minutes.

If you are already helping with things like sausage sizzle / sushi, book club, crossing supervision or banking, or you are interested in helping out throughout the year, please attend this or further training offered at school.
CLASS PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

As explained in our Parent Education sessions, we are seeking at least 2 parents from each year level to co-ordinate a social function and other networking opportunities for our parents and families. To date we have the following reps:

Prep.......................... Amaliase Stevens, Monique Fox & Erin Hardy
Year 1........................ Monique Reimer & Amelia Clark
Year 2 ....................... Caroline Farrugia, Kirsty Bell & Erin Hardy
Year 3 ....................... Helen Groombridge, Claire Reid and Rebecca Story
Year 4 ....................... Anna Gregori & Linda Glassick
Year 5 ....................... Donna Denning and Jessica Schwarz
Year 6 ....................... Amelia Clark

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Kylie Williamson, Kate McArthur and I will be away tomorrow Thursday and Friday at our annual regional Leadership Conference. Wendy Groves will be the teacher in charge during these 2 days.

SUSHI

Unfortunately, one of our Sushi helpers is unable to continue after today due to a change in her family circumstances. If there is another parent who can help Monique Reimer out each fortnight, please let us know.

CHILDREN AND THE SACRAMENTS

Children from Year 3 are eligible to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Communion this year. Parents are invited to enrol your child for Reconciliation which will be celebrated in March.

The parents’ meeting will be held in the Parish Hall on 19th February and it is essential that a parent attend this meeting. The meeting will be at 2:00pm and repeated at 7:00pm. Please contact the Parish on 3821 4902 with any queries.

READING TIME

Every Wednesday morning from 8:30am, learning areas will be open so that parents, staff and students can READ, READ, READ!!!! Yesterday we had nannies, grandparents, Mums and Dads, teachers and older students reading to and with our students.

CLASSROOM NEWS

Our Prep teachers have been super impressed with our beautiful behaviour in the church.

We attended our Opening Mass last Thursday with our Year 6 buddies, who led us into the church and sat with us. Thank you buddies for being so helpful and kind and thank you Mrs McLucas and Mrs Clough, their teachers.

Yesterday we went to church again for Ash Wednesday and received our ashes from Mrs Bakon. We have been discussing in class how we can be more like Jesus during our Season of Lent.

We start swimming next Monday (and Wednesday) for 3 weeks. Please help us pack our swimming bag and practise at home getting changed, especially doing our own shoes and socks. Thank you Mums and Dads.

Another big week in Year 1 this week with our Discovery Learning well and truly in full swing.

Our studies on weather have been complemented by the major weather event occurring in Queensland this week. We have made rain gauges and are looking forward to measuring the torrential downpours expected over the next few days.
We have studied the water cycle along with comparing our weather to other countries around the world. Having Ms MacArthur in our room this week for our Literacy Rotations was fantastic. We especially enjoyed making our ‘Silly Socks’.

We reflected on Ash Wednesday and what the season of Lent means to us.

This week in Year Two we have been exploring the Planeteer for Wind! We know that this planter, Linka, looks after the animals in the sky and air pollution around the world.

We have been participating in bird watching, parachuting, paper planes and information study activities. On Friday we will be exploring the Planeteer for Fire! We wonder what Wheeler will teach us about saving the planet.

Next Week we will continue to explore all of these Planeteers and start looking for environmental issues around our school and local community! We will need to put our thinking caps on to design appropriate solutions to these problems!

We are almost half way through the term. Time flies when you are busy! In year 3 this week we had a special visitor. Mrs Casley’s father, Mr Boyle came to talk to us about the history of the Redlands. Wow, was he a wealth of information!

After 30 minutes the lunch bell rang and no one wanted to go out and play. We all wanted to continue listening to Mr Boyle’s stories. Thankfully, he agreed to come back after lunch and continue his talk. We loved the stories of the old dentist and the fire in the farmer’s shed.

This week we have also been focusing on our addition facts and telling the time. Please keep asking us at home to tell the time. This is such an important life skill.

This week is also the beginning of Lent. We attended our Ash Wednesday Mass and spent time in the classroom reflecting on how we could become a better person during the lead up to Easter. So many of us are choosing to help out more around the house, visit and be kind to old relatives and forgiving family members when we have a disagreement. We wrote our promises on leaves to go onto our Lent tree. We hope we will grow and share our kindness and love.

It’s been a busy start to Year 4! We’ve packed a lot in so far but we are always ready for learning and excitement!

In Discovery Learning we are learning about Australia. We decided that rather than hire an Australian box from the Brisbane Museum we would make boxes! In pairs we have been planning what our boxes will contain and have started making some of the items on our lists.

Our writing tasks this term are challenging but awesome! We will be writing children’s storybooks for the children in Kindy at SOTS childcare. We visited the child care centre and interviewed the Kindy children to find out what types of books they enjoy reading. The answers were really varied and random. Some children like Frozen, some cars, some Peppa Pig and some even liked Charlie and Lola.

In Maths we have been measuring area and volume. Miss Mill has been creating sensational lessons for us where we get to measure and apply our learning. We have also been practising our times table multiplication facts. We are getting better every day.

Yesterday we had Ash Wednesday mass to signify the start of Lent. Some of the
sacrifices we are making for lent are giving up sugar, ice-cream, crunchies, complaining, meat and everything that is not good for you, as well as helping our parents and teachers, and also being nicer to our siblings and class mates.

In Grade Five we all have had a magnificent week so far. We have been learning lots of interesting things and researching what we need to know.

In Discovery Learning we are looking at what adaptations are and what that means. We looked into animal adaptations in more detail. What is needed when it comes to their climate, food, prey and predators? We were amazed at the number of creatures out there and what they have had to adapt to in order to survive.

In Maths, we are enjoying using real life scenarios in our Maths lessons. Finding out length and area and continuing our research. Do tall people have big feet?

Another investigation we have been working on is to find out what cereals are the healthiest for children to eat. We are hard at work to bring this information forward to the school to share.

In English we have been learning hard to remember our spelling words through exciting activities. We also had a closer look at what idioms are and there is a task for homework to find out as many as we can and share to the class.

In Religion, it is the time of year called Lent. So we have been establishing a Project Compassion box to help people who are less fortunate than us and collecting money throughout the time of Lent.

This week in Year Six has been another busy one!!! We enjoyed catching up with our buddies on Monday, reading them stories.

In literacy we have been getting great results in our first lot of teacher tests with our spelling words.

In Maths we have been fine tuning our addition skills, adding positive and negative integers. We have also been learning about the Cartesian coordinate system by playing Battle Ships.

We celebrated the start of Lent with Ash Wednesday Mass yesterday morning. Father Ashley had us all thinking hard about what we could give up for Lent and it won't be vegetables!!!

Running assembly each Thursday has been a senior responsibility that we have been really enjoying and we are all looking forward to having a turn as presenters.

Enjoy your weekend - hope it's not too wet!!!

It's Valentines Day tomorrow❤️. Here are our Happy Valentines messages to our Mums!
Star of the Sea

DISCO

FRIDAY 27TH OF FEBRUARY
5:00PM - 7:30PM

• $15 / $10 Roam’in Pizzas
  woodfired pizzas cooked on site in 3 minutes
• Drinks for sale from Roam’in Pizza
• Fun Bag 1 per student - collect at tuckshop
• Fairy Floss 1 per student/sibling

DJ, LIGHTS, PRIZES & FUN for the whole family!