The more that you read, the more things you will know.
The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.

Dr. Seuss

STUDENT PROTECTION CONTACTS
Karen Bakon ----- Principal
Kylie Williamson - APRE
Kathy Casley ------ Guidance Counsellor

Click on link below for
Brisbane Catholic Education’s Student Protection Process
www.bne.catholic.edu.au/students-parents/Pages/StudentProtection.aspx

2015 Term Dates
TERM 1
Jan 28 – April 2
TERM 2
April 20 – June 26
TERM 3
July 13 – Sept 18
TERM 4
Oct 6 – Dec 4 (12noon)

Our theme for 2015 is
“Make today your best day!”
Our theme song for 2015 is
“Best Day of my Life”
– American Authors
A MESSAGE FROM THE GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR

Recently, I spoke about the value of encouraging our children to set goals. The students have been receiving a lot of support from staff over recent weeks to this end, and they are sure to benefit from all this effort.

As parents, we can enhance our children’s love of learning and success at school by helping them to see the connection between their learning and the real world. These connections can be made by helping children to apply what they’ve learnt to everyday activities, like following a recipe (perhaps halving the ingredients!), constructing a vegie garden or getting involved in a community event.

By talking about what your child is learning at school, you can plan activities or conversations to help them make the connections with daily life. For instance, in Grade 2 the students are learning about the different aspects of the environment at the moment, and this may lead to a discussion about which items to recycle at home.

The opportunity to share a book with your child may lead to a discussion about how the story may relate to their own experiences, or someone you may know. As Kathy Seal, co-author of ‘Motivated Minds’ states, ‘these conversations also help develop a trusting relationship between children and parents, which provides the secure base children need to thrive at school.’

Also, by providing children with a range of experiences outside of school, we can motivate children to learn. Family outings, chores and activities can generate depth of understanding and knowledge and this helps children’s language to flourish. By doing these things, we are fostering a belief in our children that learning is achievable, and lots of fun!

PARENT TEACHER ONLINE (PTO)

This year, parents will be able to use an online booking system, to streamline the organisation and scheduling of Parent Teacher Interviews. Interviews will begin next Monday, and will run for 3 weeks.

All families have today been emailed a guide, to assist in using PTO (Parent Teacher Online). The link to access this website is available on our school homepage. Parent access is now available for online bookings. Parents are able to make bookings up until 12noon the day prior to your chosen appointment.

HOME READING DONATIONS

PLEASE continue to donate Home Reading Infographic materials to the office. Our fantastic helper, Monique Fox, has been busily re-bagging new infographic materials this week, so children will have the opportunities from next week, to choose from a wide range of unseen texts.

We have LOTS of packaging and advertising materials, which the kids love, especially the toy catalogues and the chocolate/ lollies packaging!

We are in need of:

- Maps
- Instructions (recipes, toy instructions)
- Travel brochures
- Menus
- Timetables
- Magazines (kid friendly: K-Zone, Sporting etc)
- Cards (Christmas, birthday – used or new)

If you have any of the material listed above, lying around at home, or you are able to pick up a magazine when shopping, it would be greatly appreciated by all our students.
**FUN RUN**
The Fun Run will commence tomorrow morning on the oval at 8:30am. Walk or run, all are welcome to compete. Remember, the more laps you do the more points you will gain for your house color.

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.

**WELCOMING DISCO**
The annual school disco will be held in the O'Dea Centre next Friday 27th February from 5:00pm - 7.30pm. 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!

**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.

**DRUMMING WORKSHOP**
Next Friday 6th March, all students will participate in a drumming workshop as part of their Arts program this year. Sounds like a lot of fun and a lot of noise!!

**PARENT COMMUNITY GROUP MEETING**
Our first PCG meeting will be held tonight 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.

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**CLASSROOM NEWS**

**P** We’ve been learning about the letter ‘d’ in prep this week and it’s been all about dinosaurs! Actually we don't know where our Prep All Stars have gone ... our learning area is full of Triceratops and Pterosaurs, flying reptiles from 228 million years ago!!!

We started swimming this week and we think some of us were just as excited about catching the BIG bus as starting swimming. We were very proud of how independent our preppies were at getting changed for their lessons.

Have fun at our SOTS Disco tomorrow (Friday) night. Maybe we could teach our year 6 buddies the Dinosaur Stomp!
Another productive week in year 1 this week with plenty happening. We were very lucky to have Finnegans Grandparents Mr and Mrs Barker, come in and talk to us about their recent expedition to Antarctica.

We learnt so much about the change of climate they experienced on their travels and also the different style of ship they travelled on, to handle the challenging conditions.

We are sure the information we received from the presentation will help us in Discovery Learning over the next few weeks. Wednesday afternoon we had our first class liturgy of the year.

The reverence and maturity displayed was exceptional, making it a wonderful celebration with Father Ashley.

This Week in Year Two we have been brainstorming the Synthesis Questions 'How might we use the power of heart at school?' Together we thought of so many fantastic ideas for how we can do this.

Mrs Hardy in music is helping us with one of our ideas. We would like to create a 'jingle' or a 'song' to spread the message to others about looking after living things in our community. We really like the 'Captain Planet' theme song tune so we might use this as a starting point!

Tomorrow we have a special visitor coming in from Street Science to help us explore living and non living things with microscopes. In literacy, we are focusing on verbs and writing with correct sentence structure.

In numeracy we have started our daily practice on 'Number of the Day' looking at what the digits look like, how we model that number and how it is spelt. We are also still focusing on place value and simple addition strategies.

Next week in Year Two we are beginning to write our very own information texts about the insects we have been exploring so far in discovery. We will be sorting information into what they look like, what they eat, where they live and some interesting facts.

We are half way through first term already! This week has been filled with the beginning of our literacy and numeracy activities. Wow, have we been busy! During literacy activities we have been investigating Dr Seuss, playing Boggle, comparing information and persuasive texts, reading with Sunshine Online and enjoying some quiet writing time.

Maths has been all about imbedding the skills of addition and time. We have also been focussing on pulling apart word problems. We have discovered that this can be tricky. ‘How many more?’ can actually be asking us to find the difference or take away, even though the word ‘more’ normally means to add.

During Discovery Learning we used Google Earth to find our place in the Redlands. We had to think about where we lived, our suburb, street name and how our house would look from a bird’s eye view. We were able to find our house by looking for other landmarks in the Redlands.

Thank you to those parents who took cutting home to do. Your help is greatly appreciated!!

Last week, on Thursday, Year 4 did their Liturgy and the theme was Harmony. With Miss Mill's help we organised a seamless, beautiful mass which was enjoyed by ourselves, our parents and many parishioners. After the Liturgy we were lucky enough to indulge our taste buds because there were many parents who supplied us with a lovely morning tea.

In Discovery Learning we have been planning and gathering resources to make our Australian items for our Australia information boxes. Some of us went to the Adventure Playground to collect leaves and wood for
construction. Some of us did some painting on didgeridoos and boomerangs. Some of us have been typing up information sheets on our new super-doooper MacBooks.

In Maths we have been practising our multiplication facts again and we are getting better and better at it. Measuring is also a topic we have been exploring. We have measured the perimeter of the faces of objects around our classroom and investigated temperature and volume.

Because we received ten new beautiful MacBooks at the start of this year we have been training with Ms MacArthur in how to use them. As a result many of us now have achieved our Mac Licenses.

In Grade Five we all have had an exciting week so far. It has been fantastic to be learning lots of interesting things and finding out what we want to know.

In Discovery we had our Paper Plane competition held in the O'DEA Centre. We measured our best throws and recorded the distance in our books. We also had to find out why our paper plane went far or short.

We continued to look at animal adaptations, changing them to make some interesting animals and we drew what they may look like.

In Maths, we are enjoying using real life scenarios on our Maths lessons. We are continuing our research, “do tall people have big feet?” An investigation that we have been working on is to find out what cereals are the most healthiest for children to eat.

In English, we have been learning hard to remember our spelling words with exciting activities. We are continuing to look at Idioms and are displaying these all over our classroom for everyone to see.

In Religion, we are looking at what is a community and what it means to be believers in these communities.

We are really looking forward to performing for Assembly and we are sure that everyone will like what we will perform.

We have really enjoyed starting the week with swimming lessons, it has been great to get back into the pool and get our form back in preparation for the Bayside Inter-school swimming carnival in week 9.

In Discovery Learning we have been getting stuck into learning all we can about Antarctica, the Antarctic Treaty, the extreme conditions and what plants and animals are found in Antarctica. We are excited about taking our learning a step further with our own projects.

Some of us are looking into designing a greenhouse that will be climate controlled and able to grow fresh produce in Antarctica, designing eco-friendly ice breakers, while others are producing a documentary that can be shared with the younger grades.

We have started reading new novels in our guided reading groups. One classic novel is ‘The Secret Garden’. Today we will also be coming home with our senior shirts which we have been very eagerly waiting for. Look out for the Seniors of 2015 around the school.

Tomorrow afternoon we are looking forward to having a dance at the school disco at 5:00pm.
Dear Parents,

During Term One, Star of the Sea School invites and encourages all parents to attend a meeting with their child’s teacher, to discuss progress, and student goals for the year. Parent/Teacher Interviews will be held for all students from Week 6 to Week 8, with interviews being of 10 minutes duration. Both Learning Area teachers will be present for the meetings.

For these interviews we are introducing a new internet-based booking system called Parent Teacher Online (PTO). It will save time for parents, staff and students! Using this system, you will be able to book the interview times that suit you best, for all students who attend SOTS.

Please access the system as follows:

- Use this following link to access PTO
- Alternatively, go to the school’s home page: www.staroftheseacleland.qld.edu.au
- Click “Obtain PIN/Password”.
- Enter your email address. Your PIN will be emailed to you. The email you receive will include a link that can be clicked on to log straight into PTO, bypassing the login screen.

Full instructions are provided for you after log in. Please note the following points:

- When you log on, the system displays only your own child / children.
- You will only see time slots that are available at the time you are using the system. As time slots are booked for teachers, those time slots are no longer displayed as available. PTO prevents double-booking of teachers and parents / guardians.
- When you have made all the bookings you require, you can download or email a report of your bookings in time order for printing. You can log in and change bookings any time up to 12noon on the day prior to your interview.
- Other parents may be making bookings at the same time that you are using the system. It is possible, though unlikely, that a time slot is displayed to you as available, but is then booked by another parent shortly afterwards. If you then attempt to book this time slot it will no longer be available and a message will be displayed to indicate this.
- If you encounter any problems using PTO please contact the school office on 3286 2377, or via email: pcleland.qld.edu.au

As always, we would appreciate your feedback on this new system of booking interview times, and we are hoping you find it user-friendly and convenient.