I used to say...“Don’t sweat the small stuff – not even the big stuff.”
At the end of the day, none of it matters but your own joy, your own spiritual journey that you go on, God, your loved ones, your friends, your animals. These are the things you’ve got to cherish and love and embrace.

Christina Applegate
OPENING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR MASS

Although it was very hot again today, our students participated beautifully in our Mass. We are very proud of our Seniors and we know they will have a great year together.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS

Next Wednesday, 10th February at 9:15am, all students and staff will gather to celebrate the beginning of the Season of Lent. Year’s 3 – 6 students will stay for the whole Mass and Prep to Year 2 students will leave after they have received the ashes which will be placed on their forehead. The ashes are made from blessed palm branches.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ’s Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday, and is chiefly observed by Catholics, although many other Christians observe it too.

Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us.

As the priest applies the ashes to a person’s forehead, he speaks the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Alternatively, the priest may speak the words, "Repent and believe in the Gospel."

ARTISTS NEEDED

We would like to paint a simple mural on the wall of one of our buildings. Paint supplies will be provided but we need some artistic parents who could help out. Please let me know if you can assist.

LEARNING EXPO

At the end of each term, we hold a Celebration of Learning where parents and relatives are invited into their child’s learning area. This year we are trying something a little different in Term 1 and 3. On the Wednesday of the last week of Term 1 and 3 from 8:30am until 9:00am, all students will be hosting a Learning Expo.

Each will have a space in their learning area where they will show parents and relatives, selected samples of work, photos etc. which will showcase their learning during these terms. At the end of Term 2 and 4, parents receive a comprehensive written report.

FAREWELL

Due to a change in family circumstances, Therese Jaffray, one of our teacher aides working in the Year 1 area, tendered her resignation to Brisbane Catholic Education Office yesterday. The rumour circulating the community that Therese resigned because “she was very unhappy here” is just that – a rumour. We say farewell to Therese on Thursday 11th February.

I have advertised for two teacher aides to work in the Year 1 area from Tuesday 16th February. I, frequently each year, meet with Mums from Star of the Sea School who have completed their Certificate III in Education Support or are commencing it, and would like to be considered for positions here. As we don’t have lots of jobs available and I don’t wish to be seen as playing favourites, my position has been not to employ Mums in an ongoing capacity.

We have employed Mums for relief aide work and for short term funded contracts.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM – YEARS 3 - 6

It is recommended but not mandated that students who are learning the guitar or piano have access to a guitar or keyboard/piano at home for home practice. There are no instrument requirements for students taking singing or drum lessons.

All students will need a display folder for their lessons.
**THURSDAY ASSEMBLY**

When you check your Year Level’s Moodle regularly, you will find the date that your child will be presenting on assembly with their year level. Assemblies commence at 2:30pm unless you are notified in advance of an earlier start.

Next week we welcome a representative from School Banking to explain this to students and parents. All students will receive information to take home.

**SWIMMING LESSONS**

All students from Prep to Year 6 participate in swimming lessons at the Cleveland Pool. They will have 6 lessons in Term 1 and 6 lessons in Term 4.

*Commencing WEEK 5*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lessons</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22nd Feb</td>
<td>Year 6 down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24th Feb</td>
<td>Lesson 9:30 – 10:10</td>
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<tr>
<td>29th, 2nd March</td>
<td>Year 5 down Lesson 10:15 – 10:55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th March</td>
<td>Year 6 back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th March</td>
<td>Year 4 down Lesson 11:00am – 11:40</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 5 back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PREP down Lesson 11:45 – 12:25</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Year 4 back</td>
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<td>PREP back</td>
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<td>Year 1 back</td>
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<td>Year 3 down Lesson 2:00 – 2:40</td>
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<td>Year 2 back</td>
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<td>Year 3 back</td>
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**PICK UP ZONE**

Please be reminded not to enter the pick-up zone until 3:00pm or after. Cars should not be queued inside the carpark waiting for the bell to ring. The zone is supervised until 3:30pm so it would be great to see a more staggered pick up.

**DATE CLAIMERS**

*Welcome Disco ... Friday 19th February from 5:00pm to 7:00pm.*

Parents are invited to BYO drinks and food, picnic rugs and folding chairs. The Disco will be held in the O’Dea Centre. A wood fired pizza van will be on site for those who would like to take advantage. Poppers, popcorn and Zooper Dooper iceblocks will be provided to all students and their siblings.

The theme is “TROPICAL” so we invite all adults and children to dress up and join in the fun. The function which is open to all families is funded by the Parent Community Group (PCG).

*Working Bee....... Saturday 20th February from 7:30am – 9:30am.*

The more helpers we have the quicker we will be. I envisage that this will be our only working bee this year. We have sanding, painting, mulching and planting to be undertaken. A great way for Mums and Dads to get to know others in our school community.
SPEECH AND DRAMA LESSONS
Please return enrolment forms. This was attached to last week’s newsletter. Lessons will commence next Thursday 11th February from 8:00am to 8:45am in the Parish Centre.

SUSHI
Sushi orders for next Thursday need to be brought in on Wednesday. Please mark the zip lock bag or paper bag with your child’s name and their order. The varieties are listed below:

- **Chicken**
  - Chicken Teriyaki
  - Chicken Cream Cheese
  - Grilled Chicken Avocado
- **Fish**
  - Crumbed Prawn Avocado
  - Fresh Salmon Avocado
  - Tuna Avocado
  - Tuna Mayo
- **Vegetarian**
  - Salad
  - Avocado
  - Vege Tempura

2016 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM
Students in Years 3 to 6 are invited to participate in the Parish Sacramental Program this year. The program begins with the Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation), followed by Confirmation and concluding with First Eucharist. Dates are as follows –

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>RECONCILIATION</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent Meeting</td>
<td>Thursday 18th February 2:00pm OR 7:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commitment Mass</td>
<td>Weekend of 20th / 21st February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sacrament</td>
<td>Thursday 17th March 7:00pm OR Friday 18th March 4:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>CONFIRMATION</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent Meeting</td>
<td>Thursday 28th April 2:00pm OR 7:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commitment Mass</td>
<td>Weekend of 30th April / 1st May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sacrament</td>
<td>Thursday 9th June 5:00pm or 7:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>EUCHARIST</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Parent Meeting</td>
<td>Thursday 21st July 2:00pm or 7:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commitment Mass</td>
<td>Weekend of 23rd / 24th July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacrament</td>
<td>Saturday 3rd September 5:30pm OR Sunday 4th September 8:30am OR Saturday 10th September 5:30pm OR Sunday 11th September 8:30am</td>
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</table>

Please see the Parish Office for further information and for enrolment forms. The School Office also has hard copies.

WINTER UNIFORMS
The uniform shop does not keep a large stock of winter items. Therefore, early ordering is the key to having items ready for the cooler months. At the end of this newsletter you will find the “Winter Uniform Order Form”. Please complete and return to the office.
PROJECT COMPASSION
We will continue to support the work of Caritas through Project Compassion during the season of Lent. Project Compassion celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. Each student will be bringing home a box for donations.

We suggest families discuss how students can add to the box such as donating part of their pocket money, doing extra jobs around the house, forgoing an ice block and donating the money instead, etc. Please ensure all money is returned to the School Office no later than Wednesday 22nd March.

If you require a receipt, please complete the information on the lid of the box and return directly to Caritas.

COMMUNICATION WITH TEACHERS
Please add this address to your contacts - pcleveland@bne.catholic.edu.au All emails are viewed by Karen Bakon and forwarded to the necessary personnel for a response. Emails are forwarded to and from Parents between the hours of 8:00am and 4:00pm only. Any emails arriving after 4:00pm will not be sent on to staff until the next day.

Before school, teachers have a duty of care for their students. It is inappropriate for parents or carers to come into the learning areas after the bell has rung. Staff need to settle the students into their morning routines. If you need to give messages to staff, please email, phone the office or use other methods such as the whiteboards outside. Staff are always willing to discuss any concerns and your child’s progress but please make an appointment.

CALLING ALL PARENTS! – MORNING TEA AND SPELLING PACK WORKING BEE
Our Words their Way spelling packs need to be re-created and we need your help! All you need to be able to do is cut spelling packs and put them into bags!

Every Monday and Friday from next week each year level of parents, starting with Prep, will be invited to please join us for the working bee and morning tea. It will be a great way to enjoy the company of your fellow parents and help the school create this amazing resource to assist your children’s spelling skills and understanding.

This term the working bee/morning tea will occur at the following times. You can assist for as much time you can spare and this will be greatly appreciated.

Friday February 5 ..........8.45am – OSHC/Music Room ..........PREP PARENTS
Monday February 8 ..........8.45am – OSHC/Music Room ..........YEAR ONE PARENTS
Friday February 12 ..........8.45am – OSHC/Music Room ..........YEAR ONE PARENTS
Monday February 15 ..........8.45am – OSHC/Music Room ..........YEAR TWO PARENTS
Friday February 19 ..........8.45am – OSHC/Music Room ..........YEAR TWO PARENTS
Monday March 7 ..........8.45am – OSHC/Music Room ..........YEAR THREE PARENTS
Friday March 11 ..........8.45am – OSHC/Music Room ..........YEAR THREE PARENTS
Monday March 14 ..........8.45am – OSHC/Music Room ..........YEAR FOUR PARENTS
Friday March 18 ..........8.45am – OSHC/Music Room ..........YEAR FOUR PARENTS
Monday March 21 ..........8.45am – OSHC/Music Room ..........YEAR FIVE/SIX PARENTS
Tuesday March 22 ..........8.45am – OSHC/Music Room ..........YEAR FIVE/SIX PARENTS

If you need more information please see Mrs O’Donnell through the school office.

THANK-YOU TO ALL THE GENEROUS PREP PARENTS THAT VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME ON MONDAY THIS WEEK!!!

WEDNESDAY READING
Each Wednesday from 8:30am, we open the learning areas for “READ, READ, READ”.

Parents, grandparents, older and younger siblings are invited to read to or be read to by our students. Please join us.
Applications for enrolment for Year 7, 2018 are invited from parents of students who are currently in Year 5.

Carmel College’s enrolment process for this year level will begin Term 2, 2016. Applications should be received before Thursday 31st March, 2016. Applications received after this date may be placed on a ‘wait list’.

Enrolment information can be obtained via the Carmel College website www.carmelcollege.qld.edu.au or by contacting Mrs Donna Cook, Carmel College Enrolment Secretary on 3488 7791.

Applications are also being accepted for students currently in Year 4. These students will be the intake for Year 7, 2019.

BOMB HOAXES

You would be aware that a number of schools in Queensland and interstate have been the subject of bomb hoaxes this week. Police believe the calls have originated overseas and are designed to cause disruption and alarm.

Should such a threat be received at our school, we have a critical incident management procedure which would be implemented immediately. The safety of students and staff is always our first priority.

Dependent on the nature of the threat, students are either evacuated from buildings to safe areas (which is generally the procedure that would be followed in the event of a bomb threat) or the school is placed into lockdown (in the case of the threat of an intrusion). Students and staff take part in drills each year to practise such scenarios.

Should such an situation arise, we follow the directions of Police at all times. We would endeavour to contact parents by SMS to alert you to the situation and any action which Police may request.

It’s unfortunate that a spate of these irresponsible hoaxes has occurred, especially during the very hot weather this week, causing further distress for students in those schools involved. Nonetheless, please be assured that we will always take any such threats seriously and do everything in our power to ensure the safety of all members of our school community.

What a wonderful start to Prep! The children have settled in well to the routines and transitions of our classroom. We have spent the week getting to know each other and have had so much fun in doing so.

We have already started our literacy and maths rotations. During literacy, we have looked at our sound chart and our special focus for this week is the letter ‘S’.

We have been sorting items that begin with the letter ‘S’, practising to write this letter and have been ‘S’ detectives by finding words that begin with the letter ‘S’.

In maths, we have been looking at the number one and two as well as learning how to represent these numbers as a word, picture and numeral. We have also been looking at patterning and have been using different materials to make the ‘AB’ and ‘ABC’ patterns. The children enjoyed using beads and pipe cleaners to create their own snake pattern.

We hope you all have a lovely and restful weekend! Love Prep
On Tuesday we were very excited as we opened our immersion box and discovered that all the items inside it were from the past. We found old phones, stamp albums, records, big and heavy mobile phones, a wooden tennis racquet, cassettes, old books and toys.

We wondered about these things and posed some questions about the past e.g. Did people go to school in the past? Did they have heavy metal bands in the past? Did people go fishing? What kind of games did they play? Over the next few weeks we hope to answer many of these questions as we look at SOTS News Flashback!

This week we also began our math and literacy rotations. We have been reading books, writing recounts, recording numbers, building number towers and working out the missing numbers in a sequence of numbers. We don’t think people from the past had as much fun at school as we do in our learning areas at Star of the Sea!

Year Two! What a start to the year, new students, new teachers, new classroom and lots of fun. We have started our rotations and are almost getting the hang of our ‘Information Wall’ where we can remind ourselves of where we need to be in the classroom.

Our favourite things so far have been learning our new school theme song Flashlight, painting and decorating our books, writing recounts of our holidays and playing the number skewer addition game.

We wonder what week three will involve.

Welcome to the 2016 school year! We have really hit the ground running in Year 3, with lots of fun activities, team building games and hard work!

This week in Discovery Learning, we opened our immersion box! There were lots and lots of objects in there such as Redlands newspapers and magazines, a Mud crabs jersey, strawberries and a beach towel. We guessed that we must be learning about our community, the Redlands this term, in a unit called ‘Redlands Rewind’!

During Literacy this week, we have been reintroduced to persuasive writing. We remembered lots of the skills and ideas from when we wrote persuasively in Year 2, which was excellent to see!

We read a book called ‘Click, Clack Moo!’, where we had to state reasons for why the farm animals should have an electric blanket in the barn! There have been some very strong arguments so far! Well done, Year 3!

Throughout Mathematics lessons, we have been practising skip counting and counting patterns. We traced around our hands and skip counted in 5s, and then used pairs of coloured socks to count by 2’s. We have these hanging up in our classroom!

We also had our first reading morning this week on Wednesday, where we had a great turn out of parents - thank you for coming in to read with us!
Year 4 had an amazing start to the school year. The children enjoyed settling into their new classroom and discussing their holidays. We discussed our classroom rules and created a “Monster Name Art.”

We asked the children what they enjoyed most about their first day of Year 4.

Alex C - I enjoyed meeting our new teachers and making the monster art.

Zachary S - I enjoyed meeting everyone and making some new friends.

Isabel H - I really loved making the monster art out of my name. I liked playing the “All about me game.”

Olivier R - I loved seeing my friends again after the holidays.

Sean B - I liked making my monster name. I put soccer boots on my name character.

We couldn’t have wished for a better start to the year than what we have had in the year 5/6 learning area over the past week. The behaviour and maturity shown by the whole group has been exceptional, along with producing high quality work.

The year 6 students were very excited about seeing their buddies again and supporting them during playtime. The seniors have shown tremendous leadership qualities so far this year and have been great role models for the Prep students.

Already there is a team feeling among the year 5 and 6 students, which is bound to make for an amazing year.

Follow us on Twitter @Year56SOTS
The winter uniform items are listed below – Please fill in your order and leave at office or email: joygroth@bigpond.com.au.

As limited stock is kept on hand we need numbers as soon as possible.

**ORDER CLOSING DATE IS THE 19th FEBRUARY 2016.**

You will be advised in the school newsletter of pick up date.

NAME:_________________________CONTACT NO:________________

Students Name:_________________ Class:_______________________

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<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
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<th>PRICE</th>
<th>SIZE</th>
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Please send to my child’s class: YES  NO  (PLEASE CIRCLE)

Payment by credit card:

CARD NUMBER:_____/_____/_____/_____  EXP DATE: ____/____

NAME ON CARD:______________________________

PHONE CONTACT:____________________________

TOTAL AMOUNT OF ORDER: $_______________

SIGNATURE:_______________________________  DATED:__________
MISSION
In close partnership with our parish community, Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School is committed to being an open and inclusive environment where people work together to:

- Encourage individuals to reach their fullest potential spiritually, intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally
- Join and enrich Star of the Sea parish community
- Establish a culture that is welcoming and belonging
- Encourage openness and understanding of Catholic spirituality and Aboriginal spirituality
- Promote lifelong, independent and responsible learning
- Promote tolerance and interest in the welfare of others
- Use flexible class structures to promote an effective learning environment with a family orientation
- Recognize the uniqueness of our bay side environment as part of God’s creation

VISION
Star of the Sea School is a small, family oriented school where children enrich their Catholic values and develop a lifelong commitment to the practice of their faith. We are a Christ-centred community that aims to unite faith, culture and learning into harmony. Whilst striving for excellence we are guided by Christ’s values and endeavour to reflect them in our education processes to provide a child centred, diverse and innovative curriculum.