Make the Ordinary Come Alive!

Do not ask your children
to strive for extraordinary lives.
Such striving may seem admirable,
but it is a way of foolishness.
Help them instead to find the wonder
and the marvel of an ordinary life.

Show them the joy of tasting tomatoes, apples and pears.

Show them how to cry
when pets and people die.
Show them the infinite pleasure
in the touch of a hand.
And make the ordinary come alive for them.

The extraordinary will take care of itself.

From *The Parent’s Tao Te Ching* by William Martin

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Our theme for 2013 is

“Be Your Best”

Our theme song for 2013 is

“Hall of Fame” – The Script

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STUDENT PROTECTION CONTACTS – Star of the Sea School:

Karen Bakon---------- Principal
Kylie Williamson ------ APRE
Anita Katajamaki ------ Guidance Counsellor

Click on link below for
Brisbane Catholic Education’s Student Protection Process

www.bne.catholic.edu.au/students-parents/Pages/StudentProtection.aspx

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TERM DATES

TERM 4 2013
finishes; 6th Dec 12noon

TERM ONE 2014
29th Jan–4th April
CAR PARK AND TRAFFIC REMINDERS
We have had a great start to pick up and drop off drive through. Please remember that staff supervise until 3:30pm each afternoon so there is no need for all parents to descend on our school at 3:00pm.

If adults could try not to walk through the pick-up area outside the office each afternoon, that would be great. It’s difficult for you to get through and our students are in danger of being stepped on. Please access Longland Street and the main carpark by walking around The Lighthouse past the uniform shop. Another reminder to ensure that your child can secure their own seatbelt.

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHTS NEXT WEEK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>February 10th - Monday</th>
<th>Year 4 Prep</th>
<th>5pm 6pm</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 11th – Tuesday</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>5pm</td>
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WELCOMING SOCIAL FUNCTION
All parents and students are invited to our annual disco on Friday 21st February from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. More details will be coming. BYO food and drinks for adults and children.

HOME READING PROGRAM
We shared some information with parents at the end of last year about a different emphasis on home reading and broadening it rather than the limiting and often disengaging levelled home readers being sent home.

Some more information will be shared at the Parent Information Sessions over the next two weeks but on Monday 24th February from 1:30pm to 3:00pm and 6:00pm to 7:30pm, parents need to participate in some Parent Education being facilitated by Jo Kimmins, a Curriculum Consultant from Brisbane Catholic Education.

**We are aiming for at least one parent from each family attending one of the two sessions being offered**

RESOURCES NEEDED
A major component of our new home reading program will be environmental print and infographics. We are seeking donations of shopping receipts, catalogues, boxes e.g. cereal, biscuits, travel brochures, timetables, menus. We would like the real thing and not just photocopies or downloads from the internet.

PARENT COMMUNITY GROUP MEETING
Our first PCG meeting will be held NEXT Monday 10th February from 9:00am to 10:00am in the Multi-Purpose room (room opposite Prep and next to Year 1). All parents are invited to participate. Our Annual General Meeting is held in March so you have plenty of time to think about nominating for positions -- Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer.

REDLANDS DISTRICT SWIMMING TRIALS
Navrin Kariklis, Ella Montenegro and Anna Bradley have been nominated to compete in these swim trials to be held next Monday at Cleveland Aquatic Centre.

TOONDAH HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL
Attached is some information about this proposal. I have contacted our local councillor Craig Ogilivie to meet with us to discuss any implications this development might have on our school and local residents.

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
Next Thursday and Friday Kylie Williamson, Kate Macarthur and I will be attending a conference. Mrs Wendy Groves will be Acting Principal during this time. However, I am always contactable via email.
PRAYERS PLEASE
We remember in our prayers all those who are sick, who have died and who are in hospital. Please remember especially Ulf Rutberg, father of Ben in Year 5 and Sophie who finished Year 7 last year. Ulf lost his short battle with cancer on Wednesday night. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jeanette, her children and family at this time.

Trina Cambourne who has worked in the Parish Office awaits the results of some tests following surgery last Monday. Trina has Stage 4 melanoma. I also ask your prayers for my dear old Dad who had surgery on Wednesday.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LESSONS
These lessons commence next Tuesday for Years 3 – 7. Year 3 will be split into 2 groups – one group doing keyboard and singing this semester and the other doing guitar and drums. They will then swap over in Semester 2. Students in Years 4 – 7 will remain with the same instrument for the year. If students have guitars at home, they are welcome to bring them to school on Tuesdays.

QUEENSLAND OZTAG JUNIOR STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS
Last weekend saw five of our students play for Redlands Huskies in the annual junior state cup held at the Sunshine Coast.

Tom Noonan, Charlotte McMorrin, Rosie Reinke, Joseph Long and Navrin Karklis trained all through the Christmas holidays in preparation for the state cup and they represented our school very well in their respected age group Redlands Huskies Teams. This is the first year that Redlands Huskies has entered the OZTAG State Cup, however all teams performed very well whilst showing outstanding sportsmanship and teamwork.

The Under 12’s Redlands Huskies Boys team were lucky enough to have our own Mr Bermingham as their coach. He will travel back up to the Sunshine Coast in March for the Senior State Championships as Selector for the men’s Queensland Team. Well done!!

GET STARTED SPORT VOUCHERS
Parents, Get Started is one of three funding programs that comprise the Queensland Government’s Get in the Game initiative to support grassroots sport and recreation. Get Started assists children and young people who can least afford or may otherwise benefit from joining a sport or recreation club.

Eligible children and young people can apply online for a voucher valued up to $150, which can be presented at a Get Started sport or recreation club. Mrs Bakon and Mr Bermingham are happy to be referral agents for you if you would like to access this great initiative. Please view the website here for more information.

SPEECH & DRAMA
Speech and Drama lessons with Mrs Terry Larsen will start back in the Parish Hall on Thursday morning 13th February 2014 at 8:00am. Lessons are $10 per week per student and invoices are sent home through the school’s internal mail system. The enrolment form and additional information is attached to the school newsletter. Please return this form to the school office before next Thursday.

Direct all enquiries to Mrs Larsen at tlarsen@bne.catholic.edu.au  Terry Larsen  Speech & Drama Teacher
A NOTE FROM OUR GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR

Separation Anxiety

When children are very young it is normal for them to experience separation anxiety when leaving their parents. However some children continue to struggle even once they are school age.

When separation anxiety occurs there are a few steps you can take to make the process of separation easier and these include:

😊 Explain beforehand your drop-off procedure so your child is completely aware of what will happen. And then tell them when you’ll be back, and from where you’ll be picking them up.

😊 Spend time discussing with your child the fun things they might be doing at school today.

😊 Some children actually worry about their parents being okay, so you might like to reassure them and tell them the things that you will be doing.

😊 Celebrate their independence and bravery by planning enjoyable things to do after school (e.g. going to the park together). Or set up a reward chart in which your child works towards something special, putting a sticker on each day that they separate from you without too much trouble (aka a Brave Goodbye).

😊 Develop a simple ‘goodbye ritual’. Rituals are reassuring and can be as simple as a special wave through the window or a goodbye kiss.

😊 Stay calm, understanding, and matter-of-fact e.g. "I know you don’t want me to go away right now, but I will be back after school."

😊 Leave without fanfare. Tell your child you are leaving and that you will return, then go and don’t stall. Hanging around often prolongs your child’s distress. Most children settle very quickly after separation.

😊 Do not sneak away from your child. While tempting, this approach may lead to more difficulty the next time you leave.

😊 Maintain control over your own anxieties. Try your best to appear relaxed with a happy or calm expression. If your child senses or sees your distress at leaving, they will believe that there must be something to worry about.

😊 Try not to give in. Reassure your child that they will be just fine – setting limits will help the adjustment to separation.

😊 Involve your child’s classroom teacher in the process. They can help support you and they can also keep you informed about how your child’s ability to settle into the classroom.

There are also a couple of really sweet picture books about the ways in which we are still connected to our loved ones even when we are apart. These are: “The Invisible String” by Patrice Karst and “The Kissing Hand” by Audrey Penn. Sometimes giving your child something like a handkerchief with your perfume on it, to put in their pocket can be reassuring.

When is Separation Anxiety a Problem?

Basically, it can be viewed as a problem when the frequency and the severity is great enough to impact upon your child’s ability to function (i.e. to go to school, participate in activities, have fun, sleep etc.).

If you see any of the following, and if your interventions don’t seem to be enough, it may be necessary to get professional help for your child;

😊 Age-inappropriate clinginess or tantrums

😊 Constant complaints of physical sickness

😊 Withdrawal from friends, family, or peers

😊 Refusing to go to school for weeks

😊 Preoccupation with intense fear or guilt

😊 Excessive fear of leaving the house

If you have concerns for your child, I urge you to speak with their teachers. If we are aware of your child’s difficulties we can support you in the process of getting them to class. If you feel your child requires professional help you may like to visit either your school Guidance Counsellor or your GP for referral to appropriate services.

In Kindness  
Anita Katajamaki - Guidance Counsellor
**SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB**
The best gift any parent can give a child is the love of good books and the joy and benefits of good reading. Children who read at home, or are read to, have a head start on reading success in school.

Did you know that 91% of kids are more likely to finish the books that they choose themselves? The Book Club brochures provide quality, age-appropriate selections from which children can choose their own books. Each order helps earn free books and teaching materials for our school, however there is never any obligation to order.

If you would like to purchase from the Book Club, Issue 1 orders are due by **Wednesday 12th February**. Late orders received after the due date will not be processed.

**PIANO TUITION and MUSIC THEORY**

**STAR OF THE SEA MOTHER’S GROUP**
Mothers’ Group meets once a fortnight during school terms for a cup of tea, chat and for the children to have a play. Mothers’ Group is held fortnightly in the McKinlay Centre from 9:00am – 11:00am.

Please bring morning tea and a drink for your child/children. Tea and coffee will be provided. Everyone is welcome! For more details contact Therese Staley - 0420306774 or Michelle Mair - 0407 700 322.

**Dates for the rest of the term are 21st February, 7th and 21st March, 4th April.**

**CARMEL COLLEGE ENROLMENTS YEAR 7, 2016**
Applications for enrolment for Year 7, 2016 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, 2014. Applications should be received before Friday 31st March, 2014. Enrolment information can be obtained via the Carmel College website [www.carmelcollege.qld.edu.au](http://www.carmelcollege.qld.edu.au) or by contacting Mrs Donna Cook, College Enrolment Secretary on 3488 7791.

Applications are also being accepted for students currently in Year 4. These students will commence Year 7, 2017.

‘LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE’

**SCHOOL BANKING – EVERY TUESDAY**
Tuesday is School Banking day and banking will resume next Tuesday 11th February!

For Preps and New Students to SotS, a Parent Information Pack will be sent home on Friday. The pack will explain how to setup a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver Account, Reward Tracker and Token Redemption Card. For every deposit made at school, no matter how big or small, students will receive a cool Dollarmites token.

Once students have individually collected 10 tokens, they can redeem them for an exclusive School Banking reward item in recognition of their continued savings behaviour. For existing students that have not banked before and would like to start this year, you can pick up a Parent Information Pack from the Office.

For existing student bankers, the new online reward system has not yet been completed but banking will resume again on Tuesday. Once the system is ready, we will be sending out information regarding this and the new Token Redemption Card for 2014.

Rewards for 2014 “Deep Sea Savers” are as on right

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<th>ITEM</th>
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<td>Scented Pencils</td>
<td>Term 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<td>Sark or Penguin Key Ring</td>
<td>Term 2 &amp; 3</td>
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<td>Whale Shark Pencil Case</td>
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<tr>
<td>Money Box</td>
<td>Term 3 &amp; 4</td>
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<td>Swim Bag</td>
<td>Term 3 &amp; 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Projector Cup</td>
<td>Term 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sea Streamers</td>
<td>Term 4</td>
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PREP – Welcome to all our prep families. The prep students have settled very well into Star of the Sea School. We have spent the last week building up and working on our routines for prep.

Over the first 3 days we had wonderful support in our learning area and in the playground by our Year 6 and 7 buddies. We enjoyed them coming and reading with us and taking us to play. During the year we will participate in many activities with our buddies.

We started off Monday morning by going to a P.E. lesson with Mr Bermingham and on Thursday we also had our first music lesson. This term we are focussing on “All About Me’ and many of our activities have been about ‘us’ e.g portraits of ourselves, favourite foods, measuring ourselves... Mrs Groves and Mrs Dunn have been very proud of how well we have settled into our school routines, improving each day.

Don’t forget the Prep Parent Information Night is this coming Monday, 10th February at 6:00pm. All welcome.

YEAR 1 – What a wonderful start to the year for grade 1! Mrs Kirby and Mr Waters are amazed with the great behaviour and super effort all of our wonderful year 1’s are striving to produce. It’s only been a few days but we are already very busy with our Discovery Learning, looking closely at roles in society and how they have changed over time.

We were very lucky to have the first classroom visit in the school from Father Ashley. Father was brilliant, giving us great insight on the acts of service that the church provides, along with reminding us of ways we can show acts of service to others.

We had a great time at our first PE lesson for 2014 with Mr Bermingham and Music with Mrs Hardy. This Friday is also an exciting day with swimming lessons re-commencing.

The Chinese New Year has been very interesting to explore, culminating in a great craft activity where we made our own Chinese Dragons. We have also been talking about a multitude of cultures and how blessed we are to have such great diversity in our school. Mrs Clough coming to our room was another highlight as she enlightened us about the Philippines and the rich culture she experienced when growing up.

YEAR 2 - What a great week we have had in year two this week! We have settled into our new learning area and have welcomed a new friend into year two, Isabel! We have been looking at recounts in literacy and have been skip counting in numeracy.

This week we unveiled our immersion box! It was very exciting and we found out that we are learning about living and non-living things, in particular INSECTS! We have already been looking for worms and ants around the school! We need a nice relaxing weekend after a busy week at school. Have a lovely weekend. Love Year Two.

YEAR 3 – It has been a wonderful start to 2014 for all of us in Year 3. We have had a great few weeks settling in to our new routines and learning.

This week we introduced our discovery learning topic. Our topic this term is “Evacuate! The earth is dying” We have been busy researching all things to do with planet Earth and space and are all very excited to learn more about this topic over the coming weeks!

YEAR 4 – We have had a fantastic start in Year 4 this year. We have started our Literacy and Numeracy rotations and have also started our immersion phase of our discovery learning.

This term our title is "Wipe Out" - we are looking at what happens when one species becomes extinct and what effect it has on other species. The highlight has been our trip to Australia Zoo! We had a great time. The zoo staff spoke to us about what would happen if bees were wiped out. Did you know that lots of our fruit and vegetables need bees to pollinate them to produce seeds? We also toured the Australia Zoo hospital where they care for injured wildlife.

Special thanks to our wonderful parent helpers who joined us for the day.
YEAR 5 - What a fantastic start to the year! The teachers are so proud of the way we have all settled in to being the newest upper school students, and we have taken on the role as upper school leaders and role models with grace and enthusiasm.

We are learning that being in Year 5 means that we need to be independent learners, and to take control of our learning, behaviours and self-organisation. This week, we have focused on skills in Literacy and Maths that we need to master as soon as possible. Mum and Dad, please help us with our times tables….these are used in all Year 5 maths….and in maths from now on! We have enjoyed writing letters to our teachers and making personal goals. We must focus on self-editing ~ our spelling, punctuation and grammar can easily be corrected by ourselves, or with the help of our peers.

We have loved all the art and PE we have participated in….and wow! Our teachers were so impressed with our Discovery Learning enthusiasm! This is going to be a fantastic year!!!

YEAR 6 & 7 - It has been a very busy start to the Year. On the first day Year 6 and 7 were given their Senior shirts by Mrs Bakon. We think getting our Senior Shirts is a huge honour. Being the seniors this year means that we need to take extra care of the preps, so at the start of last week we were given a few prep buddies to look after for the year.

Seniors are doing some class jobs this year. They include being responsible for the flag raising and lowering every day and writing the class news. Finally, different groups of seniors are going to be presenting assembly this year - which will be a big challenge for us all.

Last week we had a debating series. First we had to plan our arguments then we had to write them up. Some people were very nervous but others were fine. It was like a battle – only with words. Some took it very seriously and carved up their opponents by thinking ahead of what they would say.

This term in Discovery Learning we are learning about the Ancient Greeks. We’ve only just begun but so far the ancient Greeks seem really interesting. We are all looking forward to learning a lot more about them during the term.

This morning we went to the Anointing Mass. We sat in with the people from the parish and we met our new priest father Ashley. He is a good priest and he’s funny!

Mr Stone said to mention that our web galleries are now up - click here. We will update with the latest photos and video of the Seniors doing whatever interesting stuff we’ve getting into at the end of most weeks.

Thanks from Travis, Amber & Kayla
Star of the Sea Speech and Drama Program

Star of the Sea would like to offer its students the opportunity to attend before school drama lessons with Mrs Terry Larsen. Lessons will be held in the Parish Hall on a Thursday morning starting at 8 am and finishing at 8.45 am with a cost of $10 per student per week. In a relaxed and supportive atmosphere, the students will be given an opportunity to experience mime, improvisation, role play, poetry and working together to perform in short plays.

Speech and Drama lessons can help students to express themselves clearly and confidently in personal, social, and school situations. Lessons help to develop an understanding of the importance of volume, pitch, pace and pause, emphasis and projection, in producing a clear, effective and natural vocal delivery.

An understanding of these processes together with an awareness of facial expressions, body language, gesture and audience awareness means that students can present effectively and confidently.

Mrs Larsen has been teaching drama for over twenty years in both the school and private studio settings and is passionate about the benefits that drama can give to children.

Terry writes poetry, plays and children’s stories, many of which have been performed by her students at exams, eisteddfods and at showcasing concerts. She is the co-founder of Redlands Young Actors’ Group (RYAG); a group that holds Saturday afternoon workshops here at the Star of the Sea Parish Hall on a monthly basis. She is also a Director, the Chief Examiner and author of St Cecilia’s School of Music Performers’ and Speakers’ Syllabus (PASS).

Please fill in the enrolment form below and return it to the office as soon as possible if you would like to enrol your child in these lessons.

Star of the Sea Extra-Curricular Speech and Drama Program Enrolment Form

Student’s Name: ..............................................................................................................................................
Year Level: ............................................................................................................................................................
Parent/Guardian’s Name: ......................................................................................................................................
Phone: .....................................................................................................................................................................
Email Address: ........................................................................................................................................................
Emergency Contact Person’s Name: ........................................................................................................................
Emergency Contact Phone Number: ......................................................................................................................
Parent/Guardian’s signature: .................................................................................................................................