The First Day

I gave you a little wink and smile
As you entered my room today.
For I know how hard it is to leave
And know your child must stay.
You’ve been with him for five years now
And have been a loving guide,
But now, alas, the time has come
To leave him at my side.
Just know that as you drive away
And tears down your cheeks may flow
I’ll love him as I would my own
And help him learn and grow.
For as a parent, I too know
How quickly the years do pass
And that one day soon it will be my turn
To take my child to class.
So please put your mind at ease
And cry those tears no more
For I will love him and take him in
When you leave him at my door.

~Author Unknown
WELCOME to 2015
All our students certainly grew up over the holidays. It was great to see their smiling, happy faces yesterday. We will officially open the school year with a whole school mass on Thursday 12th February commencing at 9:15am. Parents, grandparents and friends are most welcome.

Part of the celebration will include the induction and blessing of our new school leaders so we especially invite the parents of our Year 6 students. Could parents please bring a plate to share at morning tea in the O’Dea Centre after Mass?

CAR PARK AND TRAFFIC REMINDERS
- Do not park on the nature strip in Longland Street or Queen Street. If you are caught by a Council parking officer it is a $50 on the spot fine!!
- Do not park in Passage Street where a crossover has been constructed.
- If you park in the main car park before school and after school, be aware that once the drop off and pick up zone is running that you will find it difficult to get out.
- There is plenty of parking in the side streets on the other side of Passage Street.
- The 4 car spaces parallel to the Administration Building are used for drop off and pick up zone from 8:30am to 9:00am each morning and 2:45pm to 3:30pm each afternoon. Do not park in these spaces during this time and leave your car. Parents do not get out of their cars during pick up and drop off. Staff will help your child into the car.
- Prep children who have no other siblings can be collected in the drive through zone from 2:45pm for TERM 1.
- If you do not have a child in Prep, please do not enter the car park until the bell has rung at 3:00pm. The drive through is totally ineffective if you are waiting for your children who have not even entered the pick-up area. If your child is not at the pick-up area, you will be sent to do the loop.
- As we supervise this zone until 3:30pm, it would be most helpful to staff and less stressful for parents if you timed your arrival at the zone after 3:15pm.

PICK UP SIGNS
All Prep students and new families throughout the other year levels will receive a laminated family name card. If you are collecting your child in the pick-up zone, please display this card on your visor.

WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY
We hold a whole assembly every Thursday commencing at 2:30pm in the O’Dea Centre. Everyone is always welcome.

WELCOMING SOCIAL FUNCTION
All parents and students are invited to our annual disco and barbecue on Friday 27th February from 5:00pm to 7:30pm. More details will be coming.

PARENT COMMUNITY GROUP MEETING
Our first PCG meeting will be held on Thursday 26th February from 7:00pm to 8:00pm 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.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
We need one more parent to help Sharon Gillies with Book Club. We also need parents to help with the School Banking on Tuesday mornings. We have sushi every second Thursday starting Week 3 for the children. The sushi is delivered to the school and we need 2 parents to sort the rolls into year level boxes and deliver to the learning areas. If you are willing to be involved in any of these roles, please let the school office know.
**PARENT EDUCATION NIGHTS**

Parents are invited to join our teaching teams for some information sessions. We are aiming for 100% attendance for each year level as we have some important information to share about:

- New Spelling Process
- Home Reading Program
- Communication
- Homework Grid
- Building Resilience
- Student Protection – changes to legislation

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| February 5<sup>th</sup> – Thursday | PREP | 5pm |

**COMMUNICATION WITH TEACHERS**

Please add this address to your contacts - pocleveland@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.

**ATTENDANCE, ARRIVING LATE or LEAVING EARLY**

Electronic Rolls are marked as soon as possible after the bell each morning. If you arrive after the bell you need to come to the office and sign your child in. Any child not here when the bell is rung or not signed in will be marked absent with “unexplained” as the reason.

An SMS for all unexplained absentees will be sent at 10:00am. The message will go out to the mobile that is marked priority “1” on your records.

The first bell rings at 8:55am each morning. This enables the children to move into classrooms and be settled to start the day at 9:00am. Families who are arrive after 9:00am cause distress to their child (they don’t want to miss out on anything) and disruption to their classroom.

If your child is late for any reason e.g. specialist appointment parents are to come to the office with your child so that they can be signed in. Children are then to move to their classrooms. There is no need for parents to escort their child to a classroom.

The reverse applies in the afternoons if you are picking up your child early – arrive at the office, sign your child out and your child will meet you in the office area.

**WEBSITE**

Our website is a vital tool for you to access the latest information and dates for the whole school. All of our Policies and Forms are available for your convenience. You log-in to Moodle, our eLearning Portal here to get more detailed information for your child/ren’s class.

Please familiarise yourself with our website and get into a habit of checking the website on a regular basis for vital dates etc. Have a read through our Policies!

Save this link into your favourites [http://www.staroftheseacleveland.qld.edu.au](http://www.staroftheseacleveland.qld.edu.au)
**SCHOOL FEES AND OVERDUE BOOKS**

Term 1 school fee accounts will be sent home electronically in Week 4. Last year we implemented a policy of adding $10 per library book to the school fees when they are not returned. Overdue notices have been given to students today. Families have until the end of Week 3 to return the missing books or have the $10 added to the school fee account.

Since introducing this policy, we have had less and less non-returned books. Today, overdue notices were sent home to only 7 students out of the whole school. This is fantastic!!!!

**ICLT and INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENTS**

Every student will be given a form to bring home that must be signed before your child can have access to our ICLT equipment and the Internet. There are two pages to this form. Please read through, explain to your child the content. KEEP the first page (on letterhead) and return the signed second page to the school IMMEDIATELY.

**SPEECH & DRAMA**

Speech and Drama lessons with Mrs Terry Larsen will start back in the Parish Hall on Thursday morning 12th February 2015 at 8:00am. Lessons are $10 per week per student and invoices are sent home through the school's internal mail system.

An enrolment form must be completed and returned to the office before the first lesson. The enrolment form and additional information is attached to the school newsletter and there are also forms available in the school office. Mrs Larsen can be contacted at tlarsen@bne.catholic.edu.au Terry Larsen Speech & Drama Teacher

**9 TIPS TO HELP MAKE THE TRANSITION BACK TO SCHOOL A LITTLE SMOOTHER!**

1. Ensure your children go to bed early and get plenty of sleep! Settling into a new routine can be tiring. This might apply for the adults too!
2. Get organised the night before (uniforms and lunches ready) to ensure a smoother, more relaxed start to the day.
3. Allow extra time to get ready in the morning so that you’re not rushed. That way your child can arrive at school feeling calm and ready.
4. Model calmness and confidence to your child because this will help them to feel calm and confident also.
5. Talk positively about what will happen at school and reassure your child you will see them at the end of the day.
6. Try to avoid scheduling too many big activities during the first weeks back to school. Best to include some quiet and relaxing activities at home.
7. Avoid overwhelming your children with too many questions straight after school, instead just follow their cues.
8. For kids just beginning school you might like to celebrate their first day or week at school with something like a special dinner or trip to the park.
9. Starting school is a transition that continues well after the first day of school. There can be ups and downs until children settle however, if you have any concerns for your child, please make an appointment to talk with their teachers.

**UNIFORM REGULATIONS**

Star of the Sea has a school uniform that provides adequate sun protection, is suitably modest, allows freedom of movement, is comfortable and durable and purchase does not impose financial burdens on parents. The wearing of full school uniform is compulsory and we see the enforcement of this policy as a shared responsibility between home and school.

1. Religious medals and crosses may be worn. No other jewellery is to be worn with the school uniform except for watches and plain studs or small sleepers in pierced ears.
2. No nail polish is to be worn with the school uniform.
3. Long hair is to be neatly tied back.
4. Any additional headwear (e.g. headbands, ribbons, and scrunchies) must be in school colours – red, blue, yellow and/or white. There are girl’s hair accessories available for sale at the school office.
5. During all outdoor activities school hats are to be worn. Children will not be allowed to play outdoors if they do not wear their school hat.
6. Children essentially need one pair of shoes and that is sensible, fully enclosed, lace-up or Velcro BLACK joggers or BLACK sandshoes. These shoes can be worn for the five school days. NO buckles, Mary-Jane shoes or open shoes allowed.
7. If a child is not in full, correct uniform, parents are asked to notify the child’s teacher or the Principal as to the reason by email, by telephone or in person.
UNIFORMS
Every item must be clearly named!

Prep (Mon - Fri)
- School Sports uniform
- blue shorts
- red, blue, yellow shirt
- red socks
- black shoes with Velcro fasteners
- (No buckles or Mary-Jane girls shoes)
- school hat

Years 1 - 6 (Mon & Wed)
- School Sports Uniform
- blue shorts
- red, blue, yellow shirt
- red socks
- black shoes (No buckles or Mary-Jane girls shoes)
- school hat

Years 1 - 6 School Formal Uniform (Tues, Thurs & Fri)
- red button through shirt
- navy culottes (girls), shorts (boys)
- red socks
- black shoes (No buckles or Mary Jane girls shoes)
- school hat

LOVE TO SKIP?
WANT TO LEARN TO SKIP?
THEN COME JOIN US AND SEE WHY ROPE SKIPPING IS ONE OF THE MOST FUN AND DYNAMIC SPORTS FOR CHILDREN!

Our recreational program includes individual single rope skipping tricks like crougars, switch cross and EBs as well as backwards skipping, speed skipping skills; a showcase display choreographed to music as well as double dutch skipping.

Cleveland Air Magic
Australia's premier rope skipping club
Affordable classes for all. Classes for children 5 to 13 years of age.
Contact Melissa on 0409 267 806 or email secretary@clevelandairmagic.org
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 8:00am and finishing at 8:45am 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 Terry 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. She writes poetry, plays and children’s stories, many of which have been performed by her students at exams, eisteddfods and at showcasing concerts.

Terry 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 the Australian Performers and Speakers Syllabus (APASS) formerly known as 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.

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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: ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

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