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

Our theme for 2014 is
“Hear me ROAR”
Our theme song for 2014 is
“Roar” – Katy Perry

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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2014 TERM DATES
TERM 1
January 29 - April 4
TERM 2
April 22 – June 27
TERM 3
July 14 – September 19
TERM 4
October 7 – Dec 5 12noon
WELCOME
It was great to see everyone’s smiling faces again first day back. I was pleased to see all our students settle quickly and calmly into their school routines. Everyone seemed to have a very relaxing and enjoyable holiday.

Our team of staff have bonded well over the past couple of weeks as we planned for the new school year. Our three new staff members, Caroline Bell, Sarah Ward and Jason Waters, have demonstrated very quickly that they will complement our team well.

We have chosen Katy Perry’s song “Roar” as our theme song this year. It is an uplifting song and urges all of us to be stronger, more confident, to speak up and to stand our ground.

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 today. If you are collecting your child in the pick-up zone, please display this card on your visor.

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHTS
Parents are invited to join our teaching teams for some information sessions.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 6 and 7</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 3rd - Mon</td>
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<td>Prep</td>
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<td>Prep</td>
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<td>February 12th – Wed</td>
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WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY
We hold a whole assembly every Thursday commencing at 2:30pm in the O'Dea Centre. Everyone is always welcome.

OPENING OF THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR MASS
Please join us to celebrate the new school year on Thursday 20th February at 9:15am in the Church. All year levels will participate and you are invited to join us for morning tea afterwards in the O'Dea Centre.

HPE AND SPORT THIS TERM
Mr Bermingham will focus on cricket and basketball skills and cross country training this term in PE lessons for Prep to Year 7. To complement this program of skill development and fitness, Dave has organized after school cricket clinics with Cricket Queensland this term commencing Monday 17th February. More details coming soon.

YEARS 3 – 7 INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM
Next Tuesday 4th February at 9am all Year 3 students and new students in Years 4 – 7 will gather in the O'Dea Centre for a demonstration of the 4 choices for the instrumental music program – Singing, Drums and Percussion, Keyboard and Guitar. Parents are also welcome to join us.

P - 2 CLASSROOM MUSIC
Music lessons will begin next Thursday for Prep to Year 2. We welcome Mrs Erin Hardy as our music specialist. We will also be speaking to students about choirs. Our Prep to Year 2 students have always been keen to participate in choir practice but we are keen this year to develop a Senior choir as well as our Junior choir.

WELCOMING SOCIAL FUNCTION
All parents and students are invited to our annual disco and barbecue on Friday 21st February from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. More details will be coming.

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.

SPORTS UNIFORM DAYS
All year levels---------FRIDAYS
Years 1, 2 and 6/7-----MONDAYS
Years 3, 4 and 5------WEDNESDAYS

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
Our staff will be offering some additional co-curricular activities this year during particular terms. These include chess club, sewing, art and craft, skipping, sports training, robotics, yoga, cooking, zumba and hip hop and fun runs. These will occur over the year before school or at first break.

This term commencing next week Ms Foy will take cooking at lunchtimes on Thursdays, Mr Stone will take Chess Club on Wednesdays at first break and before school beginning Week 5 Fun Runs will be organized by Mr Waters, Mrs Kirby and Mrs Groves.

PARENT COMMUNITY GROUP MEETING
Our first PCG meeting will be held on 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.
SWIMMING LESSONS
All students commence swimming lessons next Friday 7th February. All children participate. Students travel to and from the school by charter bus. Lessons are run by qualified coaches at the Cleveland Aquatic Centre while being supervised by Year level teachers and aides. In Term 1 all children will have 6 swim lessons.

Children must have a NAMED swim cap, goggles, sunshirt over their togs, thongs and sunscreen. We have lycra swim caps available for sale at the office for $6 each.

We are encouraging independence in all students from Prep to Year 7 so we do not need parents to help with changing or lessons. Below is the timetable:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:30am – 10:10am</td>
<td>Year 6 and Year 7</td>
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<td>10:15am – 10:55am</td>
<td>Year 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00am – 11:40am</td>
<td>Year 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45am – 12:25pm</td>
<td>PREP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30pm – 1:10pm</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:15pm – 1:55pm</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00pm – 2:40pm</td>
<td>Year 3</td>
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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 and there are also forms available in the school office. Direct all enquiries to Mrs Larsen at tlarsen@bne.catholic.edu.au  Terry Larsen  Speech & Drama Teacher

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.

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.
A NOTE FROM THE GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR

Welcome back to school! It’s a busy time as we all transition back into the school routine. Here are my top 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.

Wishing you all a smooth journey into the 2014 school year! I look forward to working with the Star of the Sea school community again this year.

In Kindness    Anita Katajami - Guidance Counsellor

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!

Mothers Group starts back on Friday 7th February. Dates for the rest of the term are 21st February, 7th and 21st March, 4th April.

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.
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 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 note, by telephone or in person.
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.

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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: ........................................................................................................................