LAUGHTER

Jesus, you came to bring us grace.
You lived and breathed as one of us.
You know how we can be filled with laughter;
In a world filled with every reason for sadness and depression,
Remind us how to laugh, to see the hope we have in you.
Open our mouths for more than questions or condemnation,
Let our laughter rise to the heavens.
Purify our being through the release of tension, and congeniality.
Let us praise you. Let us be joyful.
Let us laugh in love and gratitude.

Amen.

Our theme for 2015 is "Make today your best day!"
Our theme song for 2015 is "Best Day of my Life" – American Authors

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)
The foundation of our beautiful school will be celebrated on Friday 14th August. We will commence with a whole school mass commencing at 9:15am. Parents, friends and parishioners are welcome to join us. Following Mass, we will have munch and crunch. The remainder of the day will be even more fun.

We have a wonderful sub-committee of parents who are co-ordinating a MINI-EKKA for us. More details will be coming.

I was absent from school last Monday and Tuesday due to the sudden hospitalisation of my Dad last Saturday morning. I really appreciate the prayers and good wishes of the school community. Our staff and students are so amazing that they did not miss a beat during my absence!!

During the first week of the holidays, I was officially advised by Brisbane Catholic Education Office that Wendy Groves had resigned from the system. I was able to advertise the Thursday of the first week of the holidays and we must post the ad for 5 working days.

The ad closed at 8:30am last Thursday. We received 7 applications. I am very pleased to announce that Mrs Therese Staley was successful in her application and we look forward to sharing in our Prep team’s progress for the remainder of this year.

The Change of School or transfer process ended on the last day of Term 2. Mark Stone’s plan for he and his family to travel and work overseas this year did not work out as hoped. They have put any further plans on hold. Mark has been successful in securing a change of school to St Peter and Paul’s Bulimba. This school is in Mark’s parish.

I am delighted to announce that Mrs Sarah Gibbs will be joining our team from next year. Sarah and her family have moved to the Thornlands area after spending the last 15 years teaching at St Peter and Paul’s, Bulimba. It is such a small world because when Sarah visited us at the end of the term, we discovered that she had taught Kate MacArthur’s son, Ollie in Prep! Kate’s feedback is that Sarah was a fantastic teacher and person.

Jenny Dunn’s 12 month contract at St Edward’s Daisy Hill may not be renewed next year due to the teacher she was replacing this year returning. Jenny has not been successful so far in gaining a school closer to their new home on the Gold Coast. Jenny has full-time continuing status in our system so if she is doesn’t find a school on the Coast, she may be returning to Star of the Sea School next year.

I do hope to have as much of the staffing finalized before I commence my leave in Term 4. However, I am back in the country 2 weeks before the end of the school year, if there is a need to make any changes or adjustments.

First Communion Masses ............... 5th September, 6th September, 12th September, 13th September
Multi-cultural Mass and Expo ........... Sunday 30th August from 8:30am

Parent Meeting for children preparing for First Holy Communion is next Thursday 23 July at 2:00pm or 7:00pm, in the Parish Hall. Commitment Mass will be on the weekend of 25th and 26th July.

Next Tuesday evening from 7:00 -8:00pm, we are making a presentation to parents at our SOTS ChildCare Centre. We shall be sharing information about our school, providing some tips and strategies to parents whose children will be entering Prep in 2016, as well as answering any questions from the floor. Hope to see some familiar faces there!!

Schools in the Redlands will be closed for the Show Holiday on Monday 10th August. Our school has a normal school day on Wednesday 12th August!
PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE
Each of our students from Prep to Year 6 has been registered to participate in the annual Premier’s Reading Challenge. A School Reader Record Form will be sent home with each student. Prep to Year 2 need to experience or read 20 books, Years 3 to 4 20 books and Years 5 to 9 15 books.

The record forms need to be returned to school by Friday 28th August. Books read from home as well as school can be recorded on the sheet.

LIBRARY OVERDUE NOTICE SYSTEM
SOTS Library has been sending out emails to all families who have children with overdue library books. This system will streamline the communication between the library and families, allowing families to receive overdue notices via email, rather than paper documentation brought home by the students.

We ask that all overdue books be returned as soon as possible. If books are listed on the Library System as overdue at the end of Week Two, families will be charged the current $10 fine to assist in the administration and replacement costs of missing resources.

LATE TO SCHOOL
If your child arrives after the bell in the morning, he or she must come to the office and be signed in and the office staff advised. We have had some instances where the roll has been marked, an SMS is sent to advise of your child’s absence and parents then need to call the office to say that their child is at school but was late.

WRITING WORKSHOP
A writing workshop will be held in the Year 4 classroom this term on a Wednesday during lunch playtime from 11.15am to 11.45am for Year levels from 4 to 6. Please bring a pencil and your creative thinking caps ready for some fun writing.

If you have any questions see Mrs O'Donnell on a Monday or Wednesday.

BORN TO MOVE
Attached is a flyer advertising this fitness opportunity for our Prep to Year 2 children. Our Preppies took part in some sessions last term and the children loved it.

WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN
We have registered again for this partnership between Woolworths and Modern Teaching Aids. The promotion commenced yesterday. When you spend $10 or more at Woolworths, you will receive a sticker to place on a sticker card. Completed sticker cards can be brought to the school office or placed in the collection box with our school name at your local Woolies store. The program closes on Tuesday, September 8th.

An opportunity is being provided for all parents to participate in the much acclaimed ‘1-2-3 Magic Parenting Program’.

Presented by Centacare, 1-2-3 Magic Parenting in a workshop run over 3 sessions and aims to support parents in their role by exploring simple, effective and friendly approaches to raising young people from birth to adolescence.

These sessions will run at school from 9:00am -11:00am on Wednesday 26th August, 2nd September and 9th September. The total cost to parents will be $10 per person. We hope that as many parents as possible will take advantage of this great program. Please RSVP, either to the office or to Kathy Casley at kmcasley@bne.catholic.edu.au

"At 1-2-3 Magic Parenting, we want to help parents raise well-behaved, happy, competent kids and put the fun back into parenting!"
A MESSAGE FROM THE GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR

Hopefully you have noticed our new sign as you enter the school, promoting Star of the Sea as a KidsMatter school. KidsMatter is a Federal Government initiative, aimed at supporting the mental health and wellbeing of school students. As when we refer to ‘physical health’, the term ‘mental health’ has positive connotations and includes our emotional, psychological, and social wellbeing. It affects how we think, feel, and act.

It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make choices. Mental health is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through to adulthood.

At Star of the Sea, we promote the mental health of students through our social and emotional learning programs, our fun and interactive style of learning, as well as the support we offer students in their everyday difficulties. If you believe that your child requires additional support with their emotional, psychological or social wellbeing, please contact me at school and we can arrange a time to discuss your concerns.

An email was sent this week to all parents(see above) about the 1-2-3 Magic Parenting Program, which will take place over 3 sessions from Wednesday 26th August, 2nd September and 9th September from 9-11am. Thank you to those parents who have indicated their attendance, which can be done either directly to me or the office.

As children grow and develop, this can often be a good opportunity for parents to educate about changes to their body and aspects of sexuality appropriate to their age. If you would like information on resources or topics for discussion with your child on body changes and sexual development, please contact me so that I can provide this to you.

There are a range of parent resources available in Snug Harbour on a wide range of parenting topics. If you would like to borrow from these resources, please call into Snug Harbour to have a look when either Kylie Williamson or I are available and we can sign them out in your name.

Kathy Casley  Guidance Counsellor

PLAY SPORT FOR FREE with GET STARTED Sport Vouchers

Parents, Round 6 opened for voucher applications on 15th July 2015. 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 have filled out referral agent forms for you if you would like to access this great initiative. Please view the website here for more information.

EXCITING PARENT OPPORTUNITY!

Are you a parent curious about self-compassion or wish you could feel a little more compassionate at times???

The University of Qld is on the hunt for some kindly parent folk to participate in a project about compassion and parenting through the Parenting and Family Support Centre.

This FREE project will explore the effects of parent levels of self-compassion and is aimed at parents with children aged between 2 and 12 years of age. Given that we have loads of kindly parent folk at Sots, the UQ Team is willing to come to school to conduct a one hour session – including a fifteen minute guided meditation – next Wednesday 22nd July from 2:00pm – 3:00pm. This is the only commitment required.

Please rsvp via email to kwilliamson@bne.catholic.edu.au by Monday 20th July. A scrumptious afternoon tea will be provided!!!

BYO Laptop, iPad and headphones – we can provide these if you don’t have your own! Please let Kylie know if you need to borrow from the school.

Kylie Williamson  Assistant Principal – RE and ST(IE)
CONGRATULATIONS TO TAHLIA HENDERSON

We were absolutely thrilled to be notified by email that our very own Tahlia Henderson (Year 6) has received the award of Honourable Mention in the Australian Catholics Young Journalist Award 2015 for her article titled ‘Your Wave is Waiting’. We are so incredibly proud of Tahlia!!!! Her hard work and commitment to her learning is to be commended. We hope you enjoy reading Tahlia’s article as much as we did. Well done Tahlia.

Your Wave is Waiting
Written by Tahlia Henderson

Home is where the heart is and for most people, they would say their house, but for me, it’s the ocean.

North Stradbroke Island is my home. Another person who calls Straddie home is my inspirational person, Bede Durbidge, an 11 time professional surfer on the World Surfing Tour.

Bede has told me that surfing needs to be your whole mindset. “Going surfing with my mates and having fun in the ocean is my passion.” Bede expressed “that surfing is a strict routine and that you have to be smart to survive on the world tour.” I will continue surfing; going to school and finishing year 12 to not only become a good surfer but a smart one!

When Bede was ten the local men saw something special in him. They filmed and mentored him. Bede credits this to be “his starting point in his surfing successes”. After ten years Bede decided to “inspire and inject his passion for surfing” by starting the Fox Grom Shootout, sponsored by Bede’s main sponsor Fox.

This is a family, under eight to under 16’s surfing competition held at our island paradise. Young surfers travel from all over Australia to take part in this prestigious event. The weekend is a credit to Bede and I’ve been lucky to be part of it for the last three years.

In 2007 the biggest street party Straddie had ever seen occurred when Bede won the Pipe Masters and the Triple Crown. In his victory speech he was very humble and credited his success to “his island home and his local Boardriders club”. I’m stoked to have my own custom board, shaped by Bede’s shaper Wayne McKewan.

When I think about what surfing means to me, I realise, that rashes, wipe outs and blue bottle stings are just part of it. Bede said “surfing doesn’t come naturally or easy” and it “takes dedication and passion”. Surfing is a lot like life, “when you get caught in the impact zone, you got to get right back up, because you never know what’s over the next wave.”

Description of the inspirational person chosen:

Bede Durbidge is a Professional Surfer on the World Surf League tour and he is inspiring to me because of his passion for the sport of surfing, his love and respect of the ocean as well as his humble and giving nature.

“ASK THE EXPERT” ASTHMA / ALLERGIES SESSION

Asthma Foundation Queensland is hosting a FREE n “Ask the Expert” session for parents of children with asthma or allergies.

Date .................. Wednesday 29th July
Time ................. 6:30pm to 8:00pm
Venue .............. Meeting Room Carina Leagues Club. 1390 Creek Road Carina

Registrations can be made online at asthmaaustralia.org.au or by phoning 1800 278 462
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.
  - 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.

STAR SKIPPERS RECREATIONAL SKIPPING
GET READY FOR FUN AND FITNESS! Term 3 starts tomorrow afternoon! Cleveland Air Magic is Australia’s premier rope skipping club and we are pleased to once again offer our Star Skippers Program - a recreational program for girls and boys from 5 -13 years of age.

In a fun, non-competitive class, children are given the opportunity to learn: individual single rope skipping; some individual tricks like crossovers, side swings and backwards skipping; speed skipping skills; a showcase display choreographed to music as well as learning double dutch skipping. 8 week term is just $96.00. Come join us and see why rope skipping is one of the most fun and dynamic sports for children!

CHILD CARE “CHRISTMAS in JULY” FAMILY MARKET

Star of the Sea Child Care is holding a “Christmas in July Market next Friday 24th July from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. All welcome to come along and shop!

There is several local businesses showcasing their wares. If any school families are interested in operating a stall on the afternoon the costs is $10. Please contact Lee and the Child Care centre on 3821 2999.

CLASSROOM NEWS

Welcome back, we also welcome Ebony and Jack D and their families to the Prep All Stars team this term.

What an exciting and busy start to the term we have had this week! The most exciting part is the celebration of our ‘100 Days of School’. We have been counting down all year for our 100 days at school party. We have been very busy making invitations, posters and teacup biscuits ready for our party.

Our classroom is all decorated ready for the party. It is so exciting, we can’t wait to play our party games and eat our special party food. Yum! Yum!

Zeke and his edible teacup biscuit!
This week we have also been writing about all the wonderful things we did on our holidays and we have been learning about the letter T. We didn’t realise just how many children in our class have names that start with the letter T.

What a great term we are going to have!

1. What a wonderful start to Term 3. We reflected on the great things we have achieved so far this year along with focusing on our aspirations for the remainder of the year.

We have set general behavioral goals under the banner of ‘It’s up to me in term 3’.

We have also set specific goals for our reading and writing. If we show evidence of achieving our goal 3 times, we enter into the ‘Reading and Writing Hall of Fame’, we then set a new goal to strive towards.

Tomorrow will be very exciting as we are waiting in anticipation to open our Immersion box.

2. Welcome back for another busy and exciting term in Year Two! We have already dived straight into our learning, discovering new information every day. We opened our immersion box on Tuesday and all we can say is WOW!

There are so many cool and interesting items in there including Dinosaurs, Dinosaur fact cards, Dinosaur games, Food Chain Charts, Healthy Food Pyramids, World Maps, Geographical Terminology, Word Wall Cards and Movies!

We have started exploring some of these items by sorting dinosaur pictures, fact cards and figurines into size, colour, body type, diet and period of existence. Did we mention that all of these sorting strategies were the kid’s ideas? Yes that’s right, our kids are insanely clever!

Today we are looking at human and animal Food Chains and healthy food choices using the food pyramids. Later this week we will be exploring the World Globe, Map and Atlas to identify continents and other geographical factors such as the equators and the poles.

We will also be checking out the different habitats that particular dinosaurs may have lived in and where we could locate these habitats around the world. In Art on Friday we will be creating our own Dinosaur Habitats in the corners of our classroom!

In literacy this term we are focusing on writing short and imaginative stories using the structure; Sizzling Start, Introduction, Problem, Resolution, Conclusion. The children will soon be familiar with this structure and what is needed in each section so you may like to begin writing stories together at home in a few weeks. In numeracy, we are looking at subtraction with trading and 2D shapes, moving into 3D shapes at the end of next week. It might be helpful to find 2D and 3D shapes around your neighbourhood this fortnight. Don’t forget to discuss their features. In religion this term we are focusing on ‘Saying Sorry and Forgiving Others’ to help prepare us for particular sacraments in Year 3.

Have a wonderful weekend and we look forward to sharing with you another exciting week in Year Two next Thursday!

3. Welcome back to Term 3! We have been very busy this week, getting into our new learning topics with a bang. We welcome Sienna to our Year 3 learning area, who has settled in beautifully. Thank you to the children in our classroom that have made her feel so welcome.
This Term in Discovery Learning, our unit is called ‘Escape from Planet Earth’. This unit is all about planet Earth, living/non-living things and our relationship with the Moon and the Sun.

We opened our emersion box on Tuesday, where we found interesting books about our planet, living plants and seeds, toys animals that live on our planet and a big ball that represented our Earth. We are very excited to see what happens next in Discovery learning!

In Religion this term, we have been learning about the images of God, and God’s precious creations. So far, we have looked at the different images that God is portrayed at in the Bible, which can often be tricky to find! We are looking forward to filling our Religion wall with all of God’s creations from our school.

Another new addition to our classroom is the ‘Warm and Fuzzy’ jar. If someone does something nice for another person, such as helping them in the classroom and inviting them to play with them, they get to put a ‘warm and fuzzy’ (pom pom ball) into the jar! When the jar is full, our class gets a special surprise. We are encouraging kindness!

We have still been practising for our musical, which will be held in September. Just a reminder to please bring in your black T-Shirt, which will be collected next week, and be decorated by our lovely musical volunteers.

You may have seen that in Week 3, we will be travelling to Southbank to visit the Science Centre. Please ensure to bring these notes back as soon as possible. We are also looking for 7 parent helpers on this day, so please let us know via the note.

In Discovery Learning we opened our immersion box and were blown away by what was inside! It was a billy cart! We had a competition on who could guess what the topic was and Alana won. The subject for the term is Science and the main topic we start with is Force.

We will be making billy carts and racing them. We can either make a man-sized one or one big enough for a teddy bear. When we have finished creating the billy carts we will be having a billy cart derby in the car park.

We also started this week writing holiday recounts about our holidays. This time we had to write thorough, elaborated and extended plan before we started writing. Then we had to organise our recount according to fun, exciting, relaxing and event filled topic paragraphs.

In Maths we have been focusing a lot on our 4 and 9 times tables. We have also been practicing our subtraction skills.

Wow what a great start to the Term and Semester. Our teachers Mr Azzopardi and Miss Manicaros have been hard at work over the holidays, to create some fun and exciting activities for us.

In Discovery we are learning about Science and this week we learnt all about Light. It was interesting to find out what refraction means and what light sources create light. Can’t forget about the awesome experiments that we did by making colours, using mirrors and investigating shadows.

In Religion we have been looking at the Beatitudes and what it means. Our prayer song is very catchy and we are singing it so well, already in the term. Also in prayer time, we have been thanking the Lord for things that the Beatitudes taught us. Our teachers have been super impressed with our learning with the Beatitudes.

In English the great debate is the topic, with us learning about how to debate. Are you go to be for or against? Pick your side!!! Our teachers have even let us pick the topics for us to debate on. Stay tuned for more information in the future.

In Maths, we are Kicking it in Year 5 and our ninjas are looking forward to performing some kung-fu. It has been really fun learning fractions with our activities in Maths rotations and we may even had some smarties to eat, yummy!!!!
Welcome back to another busy term! We hope you all had a great break.

This term we have so much on including the inter-house athletics carnival, Mass at Carmel College to celebrate Catholic Education Week, 2 Gala Sports’ Days, Foundation Day, the school musical “Little Stars” and a long weekend for the Ekka!

We started our Discovery Learning topic this week by looking at a documentary on Volcanoes, Earthquakes and Cyclones (Tornadoes) and the amazing advancements that modern science has had on predicting when and where these events will happen.

We are working together in small groups to put together a research project on one of these natural disasters and looking at the way they are measured, why and how they occur, warning systems and why people continue to live in these high risk areas.

We’ve also started a class novel called “Blueback” about a boy and his mother who have lived by the sea for their entire lives but when they are approached by developers that have to do something to protect their fragile piece of coastline.

The children are thoroughly enjoying the book so far and this will form a large part of our literacy rotations this term. In maths we are looking at how to work out a sale price by working out the percentage off. It's amazing how easily Mrs Clough (our own resident shopaholic) can quickly calculate these!!! Have a great weekend!