Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning to dance in the rain.

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
Kylie Williamson -- Acting Principal
Kate MacArthur -- Acting APRE
Kathy Casley ------ Guidance Counsellor

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

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)
TERM FOUR CALENDAR
Some dates to lock into your calendars now….

📅 Year 5 & 6 Camp ----------------------- Wednesday 4th – Friday 6th November
📅 Parent and Parishioner Retreat ------------------ Wednesday 11th November
📅 Book Week --------------------------------- Monday 9th – Friday 13th November
📅 Book Fair ---------------------------------- Tuesday 10th – Friday 13th November
📅 Book Week Parade-------------------------- Thursday 12th November
📅 Swimming Carnival ------------------------ Friday 13th November
📅 Volunteer Morning Tea ---------------------- Friday 20th November
📅 New Parents and Staff Social -------------- Monday 23rd November 6 – 7 pm
📅 Graduation -------------------------------- Thursday 26th November
📅 Orientation for 2016 Preps ----------------- Friday 27th November
📅 Transition Day for all students ------------ Friday 27th November
📅 Dance Fever Concert------------------------ Thursday 3rd December

Assembly in Week 8 will be on Wednesday at 2.30pm!

HOME READING PROGRAM
As the 2015 school year comes to an end, at SOTS we are always looking to WHAT’S NEXT??

We will need to re-vamp our Home Reading Infographic collection, as well as the online digital texts and stories online. Can we ask all parents to please save all infographic material, that could help to replenish our collection.

Please send these in to the office or your child’s classroom teachers as soon as possible, as it would be great to have the Infographic collection ready for borrowing prior to Day One 2016.

Just in case you aren’t sure what we need, please see the list below….and don’t forget, if you are travelling this Christmas Holiday, maps and travel brochures are very popular with all children in all year levels. Thank you so much for your contributions!

✔ Food boxes and packets
✔ Birthday, Christmas etc cards
✔ Envelopes with addresses
✔ Letters
✔ Maps
✔ Travel brochures
✔ Kids Magazines (eg K.Zone)
✔ Advertising brochures (letterbox drops: Woolworths/ Coles, Big W etc.)
✔ TV Guides
✔ Menus
✔ Instructions: Games, Lego Creations etc
✔ Recipes

ENROLMENTS FOR 2016
If your family is not returning to Sots in 2016 could you please notify us in writing as soon as possible.

SOTS STAFF DAY
It’s a tradition at SotS to celebrate one day for World Teacher’s and School Officer’s Day – as we are all teachers and equally important to our students. It’s officially World Teacher’s Day tomorrow, but with many of our School Officers not working on a Friday, we are not able to celebrate it this week.

After a close look at the diary we are looking at celebrating on Tuesday 10th November. It may be a nice opportunity to talk to your child about the role of teachers and to encourage them to take a moment to thank our teachers for all they do!
SPORTS UNIFORM
With our swimming program now over, students are to wear their Sports Uniform on Mondays and Wednesdays please.

VOLUNTEER MORNING TEA
On Friday 20th November at 8.30 am we invite all members of our community who have volunteered in any capacity to our special morning tea.

If you have not received a formal invitation please accept our apologies. Whilst every effort was made to include as many people as possible, it’s simply impossible to keep a track of everyone who has volunteered their time helping out with word sorts etc at home. Please allow us this opportunity to thank you for your contribution!

RETREAT DAY – LAST CHANCE!!
On Wednesday 11th November we will be having our annual Parent and Parishioner Retreat Day.

It will be at the beautiful venue of Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre at Ormiston. The focus of the day is on Compassion – towards others and ourselves! Our day will begin with a cuppa and chat just after school drop off and will conclude by 2.45pm at the latest.

We will be blessed with the company of two amazing presenters – James Kirby and Catherine Foley. A beautiful morning tea and lunch will be served. The cost for the day is $25.

Those who have participated in the past have thoroughly enjoyed taking this time for themselves. Please save this date in your calendars. RSVP to kwilliamson@bne.catholic.edu.au with an expression of interest. Final numbers and payment to the school office by Friday 6th November please!

CAMP
Our Grade 5’s and 6’s left for their 3 day / 2 night camp at Emu Gully Adventure Camp in Helidon on Wednesday. We are sure the students are enjoying the challenges with activities such as;

★★ Escape from Colditz
★★ Commando Cable Crossing
★★ Bridge over the River Kwai
★★ Siege of Tobruk
★★ Tunnel Rats of Vietnam
★★ Storm the Fort.
★★ Kokoda Track

Mrs Clough, Mrs McLucas, Mr Azzopardi and Mr Bermingham have accompanied the children on camp this year. Please follow all of the action on twitter!

FR ASHLEY
Fr Ashley will be on holidays for the first two weeks of November. We wish him a safe and happy time away! We’ll all miss you Fr Ashley and look forward to your return in Week 7.

MUSICAL DVD!
One of our fabulous school parents is just completing the final touches on our DVD for our musical, Little Stars. If you would like a copy of this could you please email the school before November 13th to give us an idea of how many we need to produce.

The cost of the DVD will be $5. Please drop this into the school office or send it in with your child in a labeled envelope with your child's name, grade and DVD written on the front. I am so excited to watch the children perform it again!

Regards, Erin Hardy

RUOK BENCH
We have a special picnic table painted with the letters RUOK? in each play area. This is used when a student is feeling like they need some support in the playground. If a student is feeling lonely or upset they can sit at the table and our other students know to approach this child – to invite them to play or just to ask “are you ok?”
A MESSAGE FROM SNUG HARBOUR

In recent weeks we have featured information about the ‘Growth Mindset’. A number of our students struggle with issues associated with reading and writing. For these students, making sense of letters and sounds is like trying to make sense of a foreign language. There are many programs available that profess to improve the skills of children with such difficulties, with varying levels of success.

At Star of the Sea, we aim to support these students by helping them to explore multiple ways of conveying their message, while giving them access to learning at their level, particularly in spelling. In analysing the data that has been gathered in our spelling results this year, our students, on the whole have made significant progress in spelling. This is largely due to the dedication of our teaching staff in implementing the Words Their Way Spelling program from Grades 1 to 6.

Here are some fun games that you can try at home, to improve your child’s awareness of sounds and letters. Play them in the car!

❤️ Say the individual sounds in a word for your child to figure out. Eg you say the sounds ‘c -a–t’ and your child says ‘cat’ This gets tricky with longer words!
❤️ Get your child to spell words in sounds out loud, rather than letters.
❤️ Say words with a sound missing for your child to figure out. Eg You say ‘pi-ure’ and your child says ‘picture’
❤️ Make up nonsense words for your child to spell. eg ‘lem’ or ‘flome’ There may be multiple possibilities for spelling these nonsense words

These are like exercises for the brain to help to develop important skills for awareness of sounds and letters. Like any exercises, these activities should be fun and enticing for your children, as learning is the most effective when it feels like play. I hope that, together, you enjoy playing with these ideas.

Kathy Casley  Guidance Counsellor

CELEBRATION OF LEARNING!

Please come along and celebrate all that we’ve achieved in Term Four on Wednesday 18th November at 8.30 am in each Learning Area. Each room will be open and students will have the opportunity to share their learning with you. This will replace our Reading Morning for Week 7.

INTER-HOUSE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

With the Star of the Sea Swimming Carnival on the 13th of November, we are asking that you nominate events that you would like your child to participate in. Please tick the boxes on the nomination form to nominate and return the tear off slip to the school office by TOMORROW.

If the note is not returned by this date, your child might not get to go in ALL of their nominated races!!!

Guidelines for nomination:

- Your child cannot participate in more than one distance for each stroke. For example if you select your child to participate in 50m Freestyle, they cannot compete in the 25m Freestyle. However, they can participate in a different distance for another stroke.
- Please ensure that when you are selecting events, that you take into consideration your child’s ability. For example, if your child can swim 50m in Freestyle, do not nominate them for the 25m Freestyle event.
- We are keeping Kickboard and Noodle races to a minimum for each grade. Your child should only be nominated for Kickboard or Noodle if they cannot swim 25 metres in any other stroke.

Parents are required to drop their child off at the Cleveland Aquatic Centre before 9:00am and they are required to be picked up prior to 3:00pm (the carnival is scheduled to finish before 2:30pm). If your child requires transport to or from the pool on Friday 13th November please email pcleland to advise. This will be relevant to students attending Before or After School Care and some of our Straddie kids.

A full marshalling list of events and participants will be emailed out to parents in the week leading up to the carnival. This will ensure you will know exactly what events your child is participating in.
In Prep this week we have been learning about the Melbourne Cup. In our literacy rotations we enjoyed making our own hats, fascinators and ties in anticipation!

In our Maths rotations we have been learning more about our odd and even numbers.

In Discovery Learning we have been discussing, drawing pictures and painting 'Our Favourite Toys' as we are getting ready for our talks next week on our favourite toy (please check moodle for more information). The Prep All Stars are getting excited as we are nearly ready to open our 'Toy Workshop'!

A reminder that our Prep Assembly is on the 19th November (week 7). Next week is Book Week and our Book Week Parade starts at 9.15am on Thursday, so our Preppies should come dressed as their favourite book character!

The following day is our Inter-House Swimming Carnival. A BIG week ahead!

1 What an exciting day we all had at school on Tuesday 3rd November celebrating the Melbourne Cup! Mr Waters explained to us why this day is so special and then showed us what the racetrack looked like and how far the horses had to run.

During the day we designed and created our own hats and ties to wear for the big event. The year four children came to our class in the afternoon and we were all able to cheer the horses on during the race.

On Wednesday we went to the lighthouse and met a famous Australian author, Justin D’Arth. He explained what it meant to be an author and read The Magic Snowman, a book he had written.

It took him six weeks to write the book and over a year for it to be published. We really enjoyed listening to him read the story and watch him draw the snowman.

2 This week in Year Two we have been completing a few different quizzes to show how much we have discovered over the term! Our teachers were very impressed with how well we could write procedural texts all by ourselves, it was handy to follow our criteria we know so well now!

We shared our learning of forces and mixing materials through hands on activities, pictures and written text. Using a variety of our math’s resources, we were able to show our understanding of simple multiplication and division this week.

In Religion, we have been working hard on our investigations of the Saints in order to share our new learning early next week.

In other news, we were so thrilled to meet the author Justin D’Ath on Wednesday in the library. One of our own little darlings, Eden Fox, chose to write to Justin D’Ath at the end of term 2 as part of our mini author study. All of her communications with Justin and her incredible effort, lead to his visit with our school yesterday.

It was such a privilege to be read some Mission Fox stories by the author himself! We even explored the very long and difficult process involved in writing and producing books! Many of our class members came out of the presentation with the desire to be an author ourselves one day. We are going to give story writing another go next week, after being given some tips of the trade by Justin!
Today, we opened a brand new Immersion Box! This will be the beginning of the rest of our Year Two studies! We can’t wait to get our hands onto these resources and explore them in more detail tomorrow during rotations. We wonder what we will write on our thinking hexagons this time....

This week on Tuesday, we celebrated Melbourne Cup Day! First, we watched a mini episode of BTN (Behind the News) about the history of the Cup. We were then given time to design an accessory, such as a tie or a fascinator.

Once we had labelled and coloured our design, we got to create them using lots of craft materials! We are a very creative bunch, with lots of very original and unique designs.

At 2:00pm, we even got to watch the race, and cheer on our horses!

Congratulations to Luca and Charli L whose horses won! The wooden spoon winners were Ethan F and Lee! They too received a prize.

During Religion this week, we have been looking at the differences between the Old Testament and the New Testament. We were given a blank Venn diagram to compare and contrast between the two. We even got to use the Bibles that we received for Communion, which was lovely.

Reminders for Year 3;

- Year 6 St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal – If you can, please bring in non-perishable food items and new toys to brighten the Christmas of those less fortunate than us.
- Book Week Raffle – On Wednesday, the ‘Summer Reading’ Book Week Raffle was launched in preparation for Book Week. Tickets can be purchased in the mornings from 8:30am to 8:55am. There are some wonderful prizes to be won! $1 for 1 ticket or $2 for 3 tickets!

Swimming is over for another year and we had a great time as always down at the pool. We further developed and refined our skills in all four strokes and were rewarded with a safety swim and play in the adventure swimming area on Friday.

Luckily, now that swimming is over, we still have Dance Fever. We are really enjoying learning the specific moves of our dances.

In English we have been continuing our Narrative Writing. Last week we had a practice planning and drafting a narrative. This week we were shown what we need to put into a Narrative text to make it successful.

We know that we need to have the correct structure and dialogue as well as ensuring that our texts are cohesive and contain good sentences. There are many aspects that we are needing to think about so we first planned our narratives and are now writing our first drafts.

Next week we will be editing, redrafting and editing again to complete our final drafts. Yesterday we listened to a talk from Justin D’Ath and he explained how he writes a good story and where he gets his ideas from. We will definitely be able to use his guiding words as we write our own stories.

Year 5 and 6 are on camp this week. Check this space next week for all the photos and news from Helidon!