LESSEONS LEARNT ON A BICYCLE PATH

*We all have to lose the training wheels sometime.*

I know you feel uncertain and I know you would feel much better with them on, but the only way you’re going to learn is to take those training wheels off. You might careen off the path, you might fall over and you might get hurt, but you will also go much further than you ever imagined you could.

*Don’t look behind you.*

I know you want to keep glancing back to see where you have been. But it will only distract you from where you are going. I know you’re also looking to check if I am still there. I promise you that you do not need to see me to know that I have your back.

*Keep pedalling.*

Keep going, even if you’re tired. Even if you think it’s not going the way you want it to, even if you think it is all too hard. Sometimes in life all you really have to do is hang on.

*If you fall off, get back on.*

I know it’s the last thing you want to do, but it’s also the best thing. It means you won’t be so afraid next time. It means that sometimes things take a few goes before we get them right and it means that somewhere inside, you’ll have found where your courage lives.

…..and lastly. Enjoy the ride!

It’s fun, isn’t it, this riding business? It’s beautiful here on the path, the trees and the creek and the other riders whizzing along.
TERM FOUR!
Welcome back to our last term for 2015! It’s going to be a busy one. Some dates to lock into your calendars now….

🌟 Pupil Free Day ...........................................Monday 19th October
🌟 PCG Meeting..........................................................Thursday 29th October
🌟 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 6:00 – 7:00pm
🌟 Assembly in Week 8 ............................................Wednesday 25th November at 2.30pm
🌟 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

ROAD CROSSING SUPERVISION
We would like to thank the lovely ladies who have supervised the crossing on Passage Street this year. They will finish up at the end of this term.

We are looking to employ one or two people who are willing to take on this role in a paid capacity from the beginning of next year. Please see Kylie Williamson if you are interested.

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

MONDAY 19TH OCTOBER IS A PUPIL FREE DAY - STUDENTS DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL

SAVE THE DATE
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!

UNIFORM SHOP
The Uniform shop will be then open every Monday from 8:15am to 9.15am in Term 4.

Don’t forget if you can’t make the opening times just complete an order form (on our website) and send into the office with payment and the uniform items will be sent home with your child.

VOLUNTEERS’ MORNING TEA
We would like to invite all our wonderful helpers to a morning tea on Friday 20th November from 8:30am.
**MRS GOLLE!**
We thank Mrs Golle for coming on board again this term. Mrs Golle will be working in all learning areas across the school for the remainder of Term Four. If you see her around the place please be sure to say hello!

**KINDY VISITS**
Kate MacArthur and Kylie Williamson are visiting our 2016 Prep Students at Kindy this week. It’s been lovely to meet some of our new students and to catch up with some familiar faces.

We can’t wait to welcome them officially on our Orientation Day on Friday 27th November!

**SCHOOL SPONSORED PARISH MASS**
Our Year 1, 2 and 5 students will lead us in celebrating All Saints Day on Sunday 1st November at 8.30am. Please come along and join us on this special day.

**HOMEWORK**
The 60 Minutes Program aired a very interesting story on Sunday night about Homework. It confirmed that there are no academic benefits in children in primary school completing homework and used Finland as an example.

Students in Finland do not complete homework and yet these students perform better than any other nation in all international tests. They also report more students graduating from secondary school and going on to university courses.

It shared the example of a Melbourne school that links homework to tasks completed in the home, such as cooking, and goals for individual students. It emphasised the importance of the ‘gradual release of power’ to equip students to direct their own learning.

Professor Mike Horsley from Central Qld University, a leading expert in his field, advocated that there are no benefits to homework either academically or developmentally in children under 12 years of age. He argues that childhood should be filled with delight, laughter and joy! These words are often not associated with homework! Homework does have an impact on organisational skills.

At Star of the Sea we use The Homework Grid approach developed by Professor Ian Lillico in line with the above research as well as that by John Hattie. We can’t wait to hear more about schools in Finland upon Mrs Bakon’s return!

**MESSAGE FROM SNUG HARBOUR**
At Star of the Sea we pride ourselves on the social and emotional learning that takes place every day. This occurs organically, as opportunities arise for learning, as well as in structured lessons. Protective behaviours are the main focus in the area of personal and social skills this term at SOTS, using the Daniel Morcombe curriculum.

The KidsMatter Federal Government initiative is an overarching framework that guides our practice in this area. For more information about social and emotional learning from a KidsMatter perspective, please follow this link.


*Kathy Casley*  Guidance Counsellor

**NETBALL**
Please see the flyer at the end of this newsletter for information about the Thunderbolts Team. They are looking at bringing the program to Sots next year.
ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2015

The year Six Lighthouse Keeper’s project for 2015 is the St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal. We ask that you all help us assist the less fortunate families across Queensland to celebrate Christmas, as this time of year can be difficult for those families who may not be able to afford all of the trimmings and traditions that the celebration brings.

This year St Vincent De Paul is asking for donations of either canned goods or toys. The aim is to collect 100 cans or 100 toys to help people this Christmas.

Year 6 would appreciate your help with this appeal and ask you to bring in donations of new and unused toys and also canned food items. We are hoping to reach the goal of 100 toys and 100 cans that has been put forward by St Vincent De Paul. It would be fantastic if we as a school could exceed this goal.

Donations will be collected in each learning area until Friday the 27th of November. We really appreciate your support and we hope to make a difference and brighten up someone’s Christmas.

BAKE SALE!

Students from Grade 4, ‘The Sunflowers’ are creating a garden outside the Lighthouse to surprise Mrs Bakon and welcome her back to SotS after her break. To raise money for this garden, The Sunflowers are hosting a bake sale in the first break next Thursday, 22nd October (11:00 - 11:30am). Students are encouraged to bring coins to purchase cakes/sweets for $1.50 for one or $2.00 for two.

DRAMA GROUP NEWS

Parents, our performance will be on Thursday morning in week 8 (see invitation below) please help your little actors to learn their lines. Costumes are to be simple outfits suited to your child's character.

I can be contacted by email at tlarsen@bne.catholic.edu.au if you have any questions.

Terry Larsen Speech and Drama Teacher

DRAMA GROUP INVITATION

The Drama Group would like to invite you to come along and watch their Christmas play on Thursday morning the 26th November at 8:00am in the Parish Centre.

CARPARK

Please remember not to park in the Childcare Carpark as places there are very limited. Also please reduce your speed when driving down Longland Street and entering the carpark. A number of cars have been noted as driving too fast in these areas.

CTJ - Consistency of Teacher Judgement

Each year, our school teaching staff participate in an afternoon of professional development, as they join other schools within our geographic region. This is a mandatory expectation of all teaching staff across all Brisbane Catholic Education schools.

Yesterday afternoon, all of SotS teachers joined the staff of St Anthony’s, and St Mary MacKillop schools to discuss student work, assessment tools and their understanding of the Australian Curriculum, to ensure consistency between our schools.

Kate and I were very proud of the communication between all staff and the discussions that occurred, as a result of the amazing work samples, and assessment tools that our staff have been using.

Our teachers demonstrated an excellent understanding of the curriculum, with the other schools requesting information about and copies of our assessment criterias, and learning activities. Well done SotS teachers…you are definitely working Well Above the Expected Level!
LOOKING FOR HOST FAMILIES

Would you like to be a Host Family to an AFS exchange student arriving in February? Make a lifetime friendship by adding a new member to your family from a different country!

We have students from a variety of different countries eagerly awaiting any kind of information regarding their future host families who will host them here in Australia for the length of their program.

If you believe you can be such a host family for 5 or 11 months, then please contact the Hosting Coordinator at the AFS National Office: on 1300 131 736.

CLASSROOM NEWS

P

The Preps have started our week with ‘Dance Fever’ on Monday afternoons - we all really enjoyed it! The parents will have to wait til the end of term dance fever performance to have a look at our cool dance moves.

Our Discovery unit focus this week has been on Toys! We have been looking at what is a toy. We will be looking next week on toys from the olden days. Later on in the term the children will be asked to bring in their favourite toy to talk about.

We have been very busy in our Maths rotations - playing our addition dice game and using our number lines to help us work out the answers. We have also been learning about capacity, mass and measurement. Wow, we love numbers in prep!

1

Last Friday Mrs Casley came to our room and showed us how to play Go Fish using a pack of cards. While she played the game she used words like excuse me, thank you and please. She then asked us to move into groups and let us play the game. Everyone played happily as we all used these lovely words.

On Wednesday Mrs Waters visited our year one learning area to read us a new book written by the author Mem Fox. While at a function this week Mrs Waters met Mem Fox and bought her latest book called, This and That. The book had also been signed. We loved listening to the story. Today we wrote a persuasive text about the book and wrote three reasons why everyone should read it. We love books!!

2

This week in Year 2 we have been very busy exploring all of our new immersion materials for Discovery Learning!

There are lots of items inside our immersion box and at this stage, we really aren’t too sure how it all fits together. We have some ideas but we think the next week of exploring and experiments will help us understand it all a little better. We wonder if you could help us?

So far we have discovered a bunch of recipes, instructions, ingredients and we have even made a few things including strawberry ghosts, handprint witch art and play dough. We have really enjoyed these explorations so far and can’t wait to see what we might be investigating next!

We have a few clues as to what may be coming up, here are some tasks we know of; Paper Plane Competition, Egg Drop Experiment, Making Slime and an EXCURSION! We are really looking forward to our trip on Tuesday to the Science Centre and Queensland Museum at South Bank. Please make sure all permission slips are returned by tomorrow.

In other news, yesterday we found out that Mrs Cantwell is having a baby BOY! About two thirds of our class guessed she was having a boy so those boys and girls are pretty happy with their guesses.
Don’t forget Monday next week is a Pupil Free Day so you can have the day off! Following Monday we will be heading out on our Excursion on Tuesday, looking at some procedural texts and multiplication during class on Wednesday and Thursday and will finish the week off with our Paper Plane Competition on Friday.

Exciting weeks ahead! Have a great weekend.

3 Last week, Year 3 commenced swimming lessons at the Cleveland Pool. We were all placed into groups, and each given one of the lovely swimming instructors.

So far, we have been practising stroke correction, breathing/blowing bubbles underwater and having some fun with mini races at the end. It has been perfect pool weather too!

During Literacy lessons this week, we have been looking at our last text type for the year; a book review.

Throughout Literacy rotations, we looked at the structure of a book review, and the four key parts it entails. Take a look at some of our lovely bookwork to show the four key parts to a review.

Enjoy your week! Miss Willis, Mrs Porter and Year 3

4 We have had a great term so far in Year Four. We have just started school swimming and we are having a blast in the water. Dance Fever has just started and we are very excited to learn our three new dances: Hip-hop, the Sumba, and the Waltz.

In our Maths unit Miss Mill has introduced us to decimal points and we are all very excited to learn more about this topic.

This term in English we are learning the Seven Steps to Writing Success in order to write a well-written narrative. We are particularly focusing on Sizzling Starts and Tightening Tension. We are all having so much fun learning how to write a great narrative like some of our favourite authors.

Finally, we have found out our Discovery Learning topic ‘Living Things’. We are so excited to get stuck into our Discovery this term.

5 “What a wonderful narrative!” exclaimed Mr Azzopardi. “Everyone in Year Five is so creative,” added Miss Manicaros. We are working on our Dynamic Dialogue this week and it is quickly becoming clear how much great dialogue can add to a narrative. Many of us are using it as a fantastic way to start our stories.

We are also in the writing mode with our personal prayers. We have been using the Psalms as a model to create our prayers. Some of us have decided to write a psalm of thanksgiving, whilst others are writing a psalm of praise. The Psalms are old Jewish hymns so we have been thinking about hymns that we sing in Church, as well as our prayer songs, to help us write a rhythmic prayer.

In Maths we are continuing with our challenging long division. We’ve got burgers on the brain, thinking about our shortcut: Does McDonald’s Sell Burgers? If you haven’t been on Moodle to check it out yet, do yourself a favour! Some of us have been practising madly at home and at OSHC. It won’t be long before we have mastered this tricky topic.

We are definitely going to need a break from all of the hard work we’ve done in Week Two. Luckily Monday is a pupil free day!
This week we have been looking at Limericks. The children have really enjoyed writing these. Here is an original Limerick by Alexander Terry:

There once was a horse who ate hay.  
He even got it as pay.  
But he sniffed a mouse.  
And got head louse.  
That really ruined his day!

We have also started our Discovery Learning on electrical circuits. We presented the children with a container of items and asked them to make the light bulb work. Every group was able to get a simple circuit working which was great.

They all remembered Mr Stone’s class presenting their findings last year on assembly and remembered that they had used lemons to make their lights work. We tried using the materials available to us but we couldn’t turn the lemon into a battery.

After some research we realised that we needed zinc and copper items to make it work. So our challenge next week is to bring in items that we think are made from zinc and copper and see if we can get our circuits working.

Thanks to all the parents who were able to come along to our Graduation meeting on Monday evening. This year’s graduation is certainly going to be “A Night to Remember”. We will be holding a “Bake Sale” on Friday 30th October commencing at 8.15am to help cover some of the costs. All year 6 parents are asked to please donate some cupcakes for the morning.

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At St Rita’s Term 4 2015

✓ Learn the Skills
✓ Do the Drills
✓ Play the Game

★ Net (Year 2) ★ Set (Year 3 - 4) ★ Go (Year 5-6)

Every Wednesday Afternoon from 14th October until 2nd December

Location ..................... Netball/Tennis courts St Rita’s
Time ......................... 3.30 - 4.15pm
Cost ......................... $80 for the term

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY - @ Thunderbolts Registration
Contact: president@thunderboltsnetball.org.au
Respect for **Self**
Respect for **Others**
Respect for **The Environment**
At **Star of the Sea**