A letter from a teacher who cares...

Dear Parents,

Your child does have natural talent, abilities and intelligence in some areas – but that's not the end of the story. These things are not fixed traits.

They may have a gift for story writing, art, maths or sport, but it needs to be grown.

They may not be good at science, history or working with others... yet!

Whatever the case for your child – the reality is that natural talent, abilities and intelligence are developed over time. Through effort, persistence, practice and focussed attention.

The brain is a highly adaptive organ – it changes like a muscle through a process called neuroplasticity. From the cradle to the grave – our brains are always changing. The malleable brain is the most interesting, meaningful discovery of the last 15 years that has a huge impact on the education of your child.

Help your kids, and help to understand the growth mindset. Because smart is not something you are – it's something you get.

Fit is not something you are – it's something you get.

Good at sport is not something you are – it's something you get.

Jonathan Thurston had to learn to catch the football the same way everyone else does. Einstein learned how to count starting to 10, just like everyone else.
Every skill your child can perform has been acquired - through applying themselves to it. Reading, walking, talking, swimming, riding a bike.

Stop telling your kids that they are smart, gifted, talented, bright, clever, or a "natural". This might "pump up their tyres" and make them feel good for a moment - but it doesn't help them keep growing their abilities.

What happens when they get an answer wrong? Does that make them feel they're dumb and lacking talent?

They can't control how naturally gifted they are - so don't praise them for it.

Instead, praise them for their efforts, persistence and the way they tackle challenges when they arise - they can control these things, and this will grow their abilities.

Real learning only occurs when it is hard - when it stretches them.

How do they respond to the struggle of learning? How hard do they work at growing their talent, abilities and intelligence? Let's encourage the process of learning.

We should encourage the behaviour that we want to see the most. Value the process, more than the performance - then the performance will look after itself.

What parents understand and say makes a difference. Teach your kids the growth mindset, and help them thrive in learning and in life.

Sincerely
Luke McKenna - a teacher who cares.

To learn more about the concept, check out our growth mindset research report. It is available for free and only takes 5 minutes to read.

Or you can buy the book "Thrive: unlocking the truth about student performance".

Luke McKenna is an educator, author and founder of Unleashing Personal Potential - providing schools with highly engaging and evidence-based ways to improve student performance. Find out more
STAFF CHANGES
We welcomed Michelle Kay to our school this week. Michelle has taken over the position of Finance Secretary and will work on Mondays and Thursdays. Jody will be reducing her hours slightly, working in more of an administrative and marketing/communication role and also taking back the WH&S position.

Jenny Sharp will work Monday to Friday and Kathy Clark will work in the office on Wednesdays until the end of the year.

RETREAT DAY
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 kwilkinson@bne.catholic.edu.au with an expression of interest. Final numbers and payment to the school office by Friday 6th November please!

VOLUNTEERS' MORNING TEA
We would like to invite all our wonderful helpers to a morning tea on Friday 20th November from 8:30am.

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.

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

PCG Meeting------------------------------------Thursday 29th October
School Sponsored Parish Mass -------------------Sunday 1st November 8.30am
Yr 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 –
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!

CAUSE TO CELEBRATE!
Not only do we have two engagements on staff but we also can announce, with great pleasure, that Mrs Cantwell and her husband Dan are expecting a bouncing baby boy! We wish Miss Manicaros and her fiancé Adam, and Miss Robinson and her fiancé Corey, much happiness in the planning of their special days!
PUPIL FREE DAY
Half of our team spent Monday at Mt Cotton Retreat on a Spirituality Day guided by Mrs O'Donnell and Catherine Foley from Brisbane Catholic Education Office. We delved into values and being present. The other half of the team spent the day at Riverglenn Conference Centre looking at topics such as Literacy, Reading and ASD.

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

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.

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.

CLASSROOM NEWS
The weeks are flying by in Prep this term!

We are focusing on shapes this week, building our shape robot in our maths rotations, we are very clever using shapes to create lots of different types of robots.

We are encouraging our Reading Training as we become more confident readers in class now. We know our preppies love reading to their buddies, families and friends on our Reading Morning every Wednesday and hope they are doing lots of reading at home as well. Reading is a focus for us this term in Prep as we get ready to make the transition to Year 1!

Swimming has been lots of fun as the weather is getting warmer we are enjoying our swimming lessons and the Preps are swimming really well.

Don't forget our last swimming lesson will be on Wednesday 28th October.
This week the year one children have been very excited as we have been emerged in all things about the past.

On Tuesday we spent the day making our own bread and butter without the help of any type of modern machinery. When we made our bread rolls we had to mix the dough, knead it and shape it using only our hands.

We were very surprised when we saw how much the dough had risen when we left it to rest. While the bread rolls were baking in a modern oven we began making the butter to put on our rolls.

With one small container of cream for each group and six children shaking that container we soon found that the cream had turned into butter. We used this butter to put on our bread rolls. The best part of the day was spreading the butter on the rolls and eating them!

Today we arrived at school early so we could depart at 8:30am for our excursion to the Caboolture Historical Village. While at the village we focussed on the lifestyle, transport and communication of people from long ago. Check Moodle to see some of the many photos that were taken.

We have had an incredible week in Year Two! First, we were all given Monday off, aren’t our teachers just the best?

Then, when we returned to school on Tuesday, our teachers took us on an excursion. We went to the Queensland Museum and Science Centre at Southbank. We had an awesome day, even our teachers joined in the fun! In the Science Centre, we explored so many "cool science things" (as we like to call them).

We really enjoyed the Sound Show and impressed our teachers immensely with how much we already knew! Our parents must be pretty smart!

Our teachers walked out of that Sound Show with tall chests and heads high, so proud of their little darlings. Exploring the ‘Rescue Zone’ could possibly be our favourite part of the excursion.

We became news reporters, helicopter pilots, jet ski drivers and firefighters all in 45 minutes. Even though some of us have been to the Museum before, there were still so many new things we were discovering.

We were particularly interested in ‘The Lost Creatures’ zone after our Discovery Unit last term, the Indigenous Area upstairs and all of the amazing animals (live and stuffed) on the third floor in the Discovery Centre.

We are so excited to see what else our Discovery Learning for this term will bring, this is only the beginning!
This Term during our Discovery Learning, we have been learning about different celebrations that take place all over the world!

This week in Year 3, we have been looking at the celebration of Vesak. This Buddhist festival is celebrated each year on the full moon of the ancient lunar month of Vesakha, and falls in May, or early in June. One symbol that represents this day is a lotus flower.

Take a look at some of our beautiful flowers, and the research that we conducted about this celebration.

During Literacy rotations recently, we have been focusing a lot on reading comprehension and sentence structure. Take a look at some of our hard work during rotations throughout the past couple of weeks.

Reminders for Year 3
- Swimming finishes next week (week 4) on Wednesday (no swimming on Friday).
- Keep thinking about Book Week costumes!

Enjoy your week!

In discovery this term we have been learning about environments, habitats and more. We are doing some activities about different countries and their environments. In different environments there are different types of weather, climates, plants and vegetation.

In mathematics we have been learning about fractions and decimals. We’ve been working out how to count on fractions and how to put them on a number line. We have also investigated equivalent fractions and improper fractions. In decimals we have been learning about tenths and hundredths.

We have been extremely busy in art lately. We have been designing and creating a book week artwork for our book Fire by Jackie French and Bruce Whatley. What a great pick too, because it has some beautiful illustrations!

We also brainstormed and designed ideas in art that reflect our awesome school. Miss Mill put them together and has been drawing a mural on the balcony wall. We can’t wait to see it with some colour!

Week Three in Year Five has been a short week, but that doesn’t mean we haven’t been working just as hard. The highlight of our week so far would have to have been our visit from Father Ashley. We invited him into our learning area so that we could share some of the psalms that we have written over the past couple of weeks.

Might we just say he was very impressed. He shared with us even more interesting information about the psalmists and why the psalms were written, and he also enjoyed identifying the mood of our psalms. Fr Ashley even said that some of them could have been mistaken for real psalms - that’s how good they are!
In Maths, we have continued working on our long division, and by golly, I think we’ve almost got it! It’s been a tough few weeks but we are starting to have those lightbulb moment when things just ‘click’.

Keep an eye out for our long division ‘Show Me’s on our USBs at the end of the year. We have also enjoyed writing our own word problems this week. We’ve had so much practise with solving them, it has been a nice change to write them ourselves and get our friends to solve them. It makes it even more fun when you scan the QR codes that we’ve made to check the answers.

In English this week, we have been drafting, editing and publishing our Sizzling Starts. Prepare to be wowed by the way in which we engage our audience and leave them wanting to read more and more. We have come such a long way with our editing skills this year, and our teachers are so impressed with the grown up vocabulary and complex sentences that we now use so easily.

We just can’t wait for you to see all of the amazing work samples that we have produced at the end of the year!

There was much excitement in Year 6 today with the news that we are off to Wet ‘n Wild in the last week of school to celebrate a wonderful year. We really are going to miss these kids!

This week we enjoyed trying to make an electrical circuit using a lemon as a battery. Even though the volt meter showed us that we had power, we still couldn’t get the bulb to light up. We are going to try using a different type of bulb next week to see if that will make a difference.

The children have also been working hard in Japanese to put together PowerPoints about colours and writing stories about their families using informal and formal language. It’s amazing how much they have learned and retained in such a short period of time.

In week 5 we will begin presenting our orals on a topic of our own choice. We are looking forward to the children teaching us all something new!

We hope you all received your invitation to our Graduation. Please don’t forget to RSVP as soon as you know your numbers so that we can pass this information onto the Mums who are organising the catering.

Have a great weekend!
MISSION
In close partnership with our parish community, Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School is committed to being an open and inclusive environment where people work together to:

- Encourage individuals to reach their fullest potential, spiritually, intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally
- Join and enrich Star of the Sea parish community
- Establish a culture that is welcoming and belonging
- Encourage openness and understanding of Catholic spirituality and Aboriginal spirituality
- Promote life long, independent and responsible learning
- Promote tolerance and interest in the welfare of others
- Use flexible class structures to promote an effective learning environment with a family orientation
- Recognize the uniqueness of our bay side environment as part of God’s creation

VISION
Star of the Sea School is a small, family oriented school where children enrich their Catholic values and develop a lifelong commitment to the practice of their faith. We are a Christ-centred community that aims to unite faith, culture and learning into harmony. Whilst striving for excellence we are guided by Christ’s values and endeavour to reflect them in our education processes to provide a child centred, diverse and innovative curriculum.