Our theme for 2012 is
“What have you done
today to make you
feel proud?”

Great actions grow
great habits
Great habits grow great
character!
Great character grows a
great
DESTINY!!

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP
If you have a query or need advice re: social functions and fundraisers, please direct these to one of the following;

Keryn Lietzow
martin_keryn@bigpond.com
Anne Retief
retiefa@bigpond.net.au
Amanda Montenegro
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DATE CLAIMERS
Assembly
Friday 2:30pm O’Dea Centre
ALL WELCOME

2012 TERM DATES
TERM 1..Jan 24 – March 30
TERM 2..April 16 - June 22
TERM 3..July 9 - Sept 21
TERM 4..Oct 8 - Dec 7 (12noon)

GOD
By Danny Dutton, age 8, from Chula Vista, California, for his third grade homework assignment;

One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grown-ups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way He doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times besides bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because He hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in His ears, unless He has thought of a way to turn it off. God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting His time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.

Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church.

Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who did not want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his Father and he told his Father that they did not know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K.

His Dad (God) appreciated everything that He had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he did not have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven.

So he did. And now he helps his Dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important.

You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time. You should always go to Church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God. Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.

If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.

But you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and He can take me back anytime He pleases.

And that's why I believe in God.
NEW PICK UP TIME FOR PREPS
Starting next Monday, Preppies will leave their learning area when the bell goes. They will no longer be able to be picked up at 2:45pm. Please consider this change when you are arriving for pick up. If your child is not in the pick-up area, then you may be asked to move on and join the queue again.

PICK UP FOR OTHER STUDENTS
We still have a small number of parents who arrive for pick up before the bell has rung. Please do not come into the carpark and park to the left hand side. I understand that you think you are not impacting on the flow but the cars behind are tending to queue behind you anyway.

School Photo Day is on Monday 14th May 2012. A Flyer/envelope for each student was sent home this week explaining the products available. Please ensure that each student returns his/her own envelope even if payment is made in the eldest child’s envelope. Envelopes are not to be placed inside other envelopes.

Students are to return envelopes BEFORE Photo Day. Photos envelopes will not be accepted by office staff on the day of photos.

We have an automated system for payments by credit card. You can go online to www.advancedlife.com.au for easy to understand payment instructions. You will receive a receipt number which MUST be written on the order envelope in the space provided. You can also make payments by cash, cheque or money order.

Sibling Photos are also available for students at the school, please collect a “sibling order” envelope from your school & return it to the office.

Please don’t hesitate to contact Advanced Life Photography if you have any queries. We look forward to seeing all your smiling faces!

Your Team from Advanced Life Photography

INFORMATION SESSION FOR PARENTS
On Monday, 30th April from 9:00am – 10:00am there will be an information session for parents on the Bounce Back program. This resilience program is taking place in all year levels in Terms 2 and 3. The information session aims to provide parents with an overview of the topics being covered in the program and ways that parents can support these important skills at home and will be presented by Kathy Casley and Kylie Williamson. James Ryan (Star of the Sea Parent) will also offer input on the value of social-emotional learning, from a parent’s perspective.

Kathy Casley and Kylie Williamson - Student Support

PREP 2013 ENROLMENTS
We have sent out letters so far to the parents of siblings who have lodged their enrolment application form. To date we have 21 siblings. Interviews for siblings commence next Tuesday 24th April. If you have a child born between 1st July 2007 and 30th June 2008 they will be eligible for Prep next year. Siblings do get first preference but only if we have an enrolment form with all relevant documentation on file! Please remind family and friends to get their forms in as soon as possible. Letters to families whose child is baptised Catholic will be posted shortly.

SAN SISTO VISIT
Today we welcomed staff and students from San Sisto Girls’ College. They spent time speaking with our Year 4 girls about life at secondary school.

ANZAC DAY HOLIDAY – SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED WEDNESDAY 25TH APRIL
TRAFFIC UPDATE
I have received further communication from Sue Renfrey, Road Safety Officer with the Department of Transport. She has managed to get two morning counts for the Passage Street crossing in Term 1 and still needs to conduct two afternoon counts to finalise a risk report for this area. She would like to come out in the next few weeks to finalise these afternoon counts and have a look at the pick-up and drop off procedure. She will also touch base with Redland City Council with regards to infrastructure on Passage Street as this must be in line before a Crossing Supervisor is permitted to work, even in a volunteer capacity. Sue would also like to know if there are parents interested in being trained as volunteer crossing supervisors. Please let me know if you are interested.

DADS’ CLUB
At our Parent Community Group meeting last Monday morning, a suggestion was made that one Friday a month, interested Dads could gather in a venue here at school. The aim would be to have drinks and nibbles, watch the footy, play darts, catch up, meet new people etc. The venue suggested is the O’Dea Centre but we need to set up a couple of things before we can view television in there. The first date suggested is Friday 25th May. More information will be coming.

BEHAVIOUR FOCUS
Commencing this term we have a weekly behaviour focus. In Week 1 the focus has been Respect for Others at Eating Time. Children who are showing consistently appropriate behaviour will receive a raffle ticket for the draw on Friday’s assembly. Next week the focus is Respect for Others around and in the Toilets. Each Monday morning “Sparkles” takes control of our PA system and informs the children of the behaviour focus for the week and what it looks like as well as introducing the “Bounce Back” topics to be covered in each year level. This week the topics were Fairness and Honesty. It would be great if you could ask your children about what is happening.

INTER-HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY – FRIDAY 27th APRIL
New students have been placed in their house colour. Red is Elandra, Blue is Iluka and Yellow is Barinya. The children are asked to wear a coloured T-shirt matching their house. The children are encouraged to make posters, shakers and banners to decorate their house marquee. The route will be around the school and not at GJ Walter Park as it was last year. Preppies will commence their run at 9:30am. We will assemble on the front oval at 9:15am. We aim to finish around 11:45am.
Parents are cooking a sausage sizzle instead of the Thursday. The sausage sizzle will be free but only one per person. We aim to eat around 10:45am.
Parents, grandparents are welcome to come along. As well as spectating, we will require some parents to stand as checkpoints around the route. Please let us know if you can help or we will conscript you on the day. We will erect the marquees for shade for the children but ask parents to bring a folding chair or rug to sit on.

MOTHER’S DAY MASS
On Saturday 12th May at the 5.30pm Mass we will be celebrating Mother’s Day! If you are attending and your child would like to be involved please email pcleveland@bne.catholic.edu.au by Wednesday 2nd May.

PROJECT COMPASSION
If you have not sent back your project compassion box, please do so tomorrow. We will draw our cheque and send it off early next week. So far we have raised close to $1,300!

DUTCH APRIL FEST 2012
Sunday April 22nd from 10:00am – 4:00pm with all day live entertainment. There will be craft, books, plants and traditional Dutch food – free entry!
Dutch Village 62 Collingwood Road Birkdale.
**UNIFORM SHOP**
The uniform shop is open every second Wednesday from 8:15am – 9:30am. It will next be open on Wednesday 2nd May. The order form is always available on our website. Your completed form can be left at the office and the supplier will fill the order and it will be sent home with your child. A reminder that the shop is run by a company called LJ Apparel and not the school so all general enquiries should be directed to Lisa at uniforms888@live.com

**MOTHER’S DAY MORNING TEA AND STALL**
Gifts are being organized by the Year 1 and 3 Mums to be sold on Wednesday 9th May. Children who are selected to compete in the Catholic Inter-School Cross Country at St Anthony’s School, Alexandra Hills will be given the opportunity to purchase gifts on Thursday 10th May. Please mark the dates in your calendar. It is always a great morning for the ladies. Each of the year levels will also be performing in the parish centre.

**Mother’s Day Morning Tea**
**Thursday 10 May, 2012  9:30am to 11:30am  Star of the Sea Parish Hall**
Whether it be a Mother’s day treat or just for the fun of it, this enjoyable morning will fit the occasion to a tea! Your participation and support will help make this a memorable morning for all. The morning will include lots of fabulous lucky door prizes, entertainment from Star of the Sea students and a delicious morning tea. The parish hall walls will be decorated with our very own portraits, produced by our own special children - a must see for all!

For each family enrolled at Star of the Sea, you will receive one (1) complimentary ticket. The invitation extends to grandmothers, aunts, female care givers and other significant females. Additional tickets can be purchased for only $5.00. Further information and a ticket booking sheet will be sent home in your child’s satchel next week.

**BOOK COVERING WORKING BEE**
We have some new books which need to be covered and would love some parents to help on Monday 30th April from 2pm to 3pm. Lots of Year 1 mums come at 2:30pm to read with children and change home readers so perhaps you could pop in for a half hour beforehand.

**PREP** – Welcome back everyone!!! We hope you had a relaxing break. We are already so busy in Prep. This week we have been looking at the letter ‘r’. Rags are ripping, r, r, r!!! We have also been learning about the words one and two and looking at numbers that come before and after. We have been amazing our teachers with how quickly we learn new things! In PE we did lots of running, jumping and hopping in readiness for our Cross Country which will take place next Friday, 27th April at school. Make sure you check which house your child is in so that they can come along in their team colour. We have also enjoyed singing along with Mrs McLucas on the guitar, however she was unable to play our requests for Guy Sebastian and One Direction!!!

Our RE focus at the moment is on the Creation Story. We have made our own Creation books and we have been able to share these during our “Super Speakers” time. We are also making a mural for our wall of the Creation story. We are also looking at lots and lots of different types of animals. Did you know that the biggest whale ever was over 30 metres long??? And did you know that when they jump up out of the water it is called breaching??? Stay tuned for more interesting facts!!!
YEAR 1 – OLYMPICS! OLYMPICS! OLYMPICS! We know that the Olympics are in July and August later this year and some people might think we are a bit too quick off the mark! But never fear, Year One Olympians are here........to explain why we are starting our Olympics learning so soon! We decided that if we had 10 whole weeks to learn all about the Olympics, we will be completely prepared for the games starting in term 3!

There are so many things we want to learn about and discover that it is going to take us that long to get through it all! It has been so much fun learning about the Olympics this week, what a fantastic first week back to school! We have had a whole week full of ‘Immersion’ activities to load our brains full of all sorts of information related to the Olympics. In our search for information we have been creating some very interesting research questions such as ‘Why is the Olympic symbol a ring?’ ‘Why are they all interlocking?’ and many more!

Apart from the fact that the entire year one class has OLYMPIC FEVER, we are also very excited about the Star of the Sea Cross Country Carnival next Friday! We have been training during PE and class time to help build our fitness! Keep packing our healthy Munch and Crunch so this can contribute to our fitness, just like the athletes in the Olympics we need to eat healthily and exercise!

Our teachers were very excited to see all of our bright faces walk into our learning area on Monday morning, they missed us all like crazy! We can’t believe it is already the end of week one, only 9 until our next holidays! What are our teachers going to do.......they will probably have a mental breakdown at the thought of being without us for another two weeks in such a short time! So we better be extra nice and kind to them this term to keep their minds off the devastating reality that we have to go on holidays! A lot of people would say 9 weeks left is a long time, but not in our classroom! Time flies when you’re having fun!

Chat soon, Love Year One.

YEAR 2 – Welcome back to Term 2. We hope you had a happy, holy and restful Easter. The children have come back into the learning area, bright and ready to participate in all activities. We started off the week with our Bounce Back program. This week we used the story of Pinocchio to introduce the topics of honesty and fairness.

A short video of Pinocchio also helped us start to learn about narratives. Narratives are stories that entertain and they have a title, orientation, complication and resolution. Using pictures from the video we placed them according to the parts of a narrative.

We also used the words from the story of Jesus in the Temple to rearrange into the parts of a narrative. This term we are investigating the name Star of the Sea by exploring the history of the parish and the term Stella Maris. We will discover the historical aspects of our local Redlands area. We all wrote one big event that we remembered from the past.

During literacy rotations each student made a wordle of their spelling words to take home and practise. Each week we learn a different strategy to help us learn our spelling. We have also revised place value and addition and subtraction, to see if we forgot anything over the holidays.

Looking forward to a wonderful term!

YEAR 3 - Big News! Year 3 have this week invented a new standard unit of measurement – the Clipboard. To kick off our maths unit on measurement, we sent the students out to record the length of some things around the school. Sounds easy? Yes, except they were not allowed to use rulers. But they soon realised that reliable measurement requires standard units and
quickly adopted the new unit of “one clipboard”. Check Moodle for a fun video of the morning.

We’ve also started our new unit on Indigenous Culture. We have been studying Dreaming stories from around the country. We enjoyed the creation story so much that we decided to create a rainbow serpent for our classroom. Each student painted a piece of the serpent and out next step is to join all of the pieces together. We think it will look fantastic! Our class have decided some of the areas we would like to learn about for Indigenous Culture and have already started sharing the knowledge we already have. A special thank you to Mrs Kerr and to Micah for sharing their own unique skills and knowledge with the class.

On Tuesday afternoon we acted like dummies! Or perhaps the polite word would be mannequins. Our class mannequins could only move when their ‘shop assistant’ moved them. This created some hilarious positions in our drama class. We then used our new knowledge of movement to act out the story of the Good Samaritan from the bible. What a talented class we are!

YEAR 4, 5 & 6 - Oh my goodness!!!! We leave the children with a screwdriver each for 5 minutes, and look at what they did!

Yesterday, all children in Years 4, 5 and 6 supplemented their fantastic knowledge of ICLT, with regards to software use and applications, to the deeper, darker side of technology..... the workings of a computer. In groups, the children were given the opportunity to completely dissect laptops and computers. They very wisely took step by step photos as they went...apparently, we are going to try and put them all back together again, so the photos will definitely help!

The students were absolutely amazed at how the intricate pieces of metal work together to make a computer ‘work’. They had to find the hard drive, and the ram, and the mother board. The mother boards were definitely the most interesting...they looked like little miniature cities. The students needed to take out all the components, such as disk drives and cd rom drives. Our classroom was an absolute buzz of energy yesterday, with children in awe of the inner workings of the computer, and asking constantly...”What does this do?”

We have also spent time this week planning for our school radio/TV program, which we plan to see live on the internet in the next few weeks. We spent time designing logos, slogans, and looking at the organisation of the program. The children’s designs and ideas were fantastic!

In maths, all year levels are looking at decimal numbers, with the fours beginning their study of the concept, and the fives and sixes extending on their knowledge, to incorporate number lines, multiplying decimals, and linking decimal numbers with percentages. We were proud to see so many children take advantage of morning tutoring, in an effort to assist in filling those gaps they notice during Monday’s Maths Mentals time. A full run down of this will be on Moodle.

Term 2 will have a strong focus on Science, with the Year 4s looking at food chains and changes in the environment, and the Years 5 and 6s looking at chemical changes and mixing solutions. This week, making honey joys seemed like an appropriate (and edible!) way to learn about solvents and colloids.

A busy busy week, with so much excitement we are definitely ready for the weekend. Don’t forget to keep practising your distance running in preparation for Cross Country next week!