Welcome to the 2017 school year and welcome to the Middle School. We have had a great start to the year in Year 6 and we are really enjoying getting to know the students.

**Classroom Open Night**

Last year at Star of the Sea we trialed having a Classroom Open Night instead of a ‘Meet the Teacher’ Information night and received lots of positive feedback. Therefore, we have decided to again hold a Classroom Open Night later this term. This will be an evening where you are invited into your child’s classroom to see their learning space as well as some of the work they have been doing. You will also have the opportunity to meet your child’s teacher at this time (if you haven’t already done so) and have a chat to them or ask any questions you may have. The date for this evening is Wednesday 22nd March from 6:30 – 8:00pm. More information regarding this will come home closer to the date.

**Sports uniform**

All Year 6 students are asked to wear their Sports uniform (including predominantly white sneakers) on Mondays and Fridays. Correct summer uniform (including black school shoes NOT sneakers) needs to be worn on the other days of the week.

**Teacher e-mails**

Thank you to those parents who have found the time to send a quick e-mail to their child’s class teacher so that we can create class e-mailing lists. Throughout the year we will be sending out many notices, reminders and classroom newsletters via e-mail so it is important that we have a current e-mail address for families. If you haven’t done so yet, can you please send an e-mail to your child’s teacher when you get a chance.

6P Andy Petkovic  
– apetkovic@star.catholic.edu.au

6PM Sheena Pattinson & Kelly Manera  
- spattinson@star.catholic.edu.au and kmanera@star.catholic.edu.au

**Brain food**

A reminder to make sure your child had some ‘brain food’ packed in their bag to snack on during class time. This needs to be either fresh fruit or vegetables that can be easily eaten during the day while still working.

**Family Photos**

A big thank you to those families who have already sent in their framed family photos to be displayed in the classrooms throughout the year. Please keep sending them in.

**‘Daily 5’ Reading**

In both of the Year 6 classrooms this year we will be incorporating the ‘Daily 5’ approach to reading into our Literacy program. As part of this we encourage students to bring to school 5 ‘Good Fit’ books that can remain at school for them to read throughout the day.

‘A Good Fit Book is a book that the reader enjoys, which can be read with a high level of accuracy, fluency and comprehension. One of the most important things to do to become a better reader is to spend lots of time reading good-fit books. Children who learn to select good-fit books will be empowered to choose good fit books for themselves each time they go to the library, bookstore or classroom area.’

Please discuss with your child different texts they can read (newspaper, magazines, cook books, fiction etc.) and assist them in finding suitable reading material to bring to school.
Homework
We are currently in the process of reviewing the Star of the Sea Homework policy as a staff. At this stage our homework will focus on nightly reading, and also Mathematical tasks set for students to complete online on Mathletics (with working out shown in their books). From time to time other tasks or activities may also be set. Please check your child’s diary or Edmodo for weekly homework.

Edmodo
We will be using Edmodo as one of the ways in which we communicate with students throughout the year. Students will be provided with their own login details and we ask that students check Edmodo regularly for any reminders, notices or other messages. Students can also use Edmodo to communicate with their classmates in regards to school related topics. We have found this to be a wonderful tool in the past and are sure students will find it to be useful throughout the year.

Year 6 Camp
We have already had a number of excited questions about this year’s Year 6 camp. We will be going on our 2 night camp to Wirraway Homestead, located in Strathalbyn in Week 3, Term 2 (Monday 15th – Wednesday 17th May). Further details will be sent home closer to the date.

Dates for your diary

Week 2
Friday 10th February @ 11:15am – Whole School Beginning of Year Mass
Sunday 12th February @ 9:30am – Fr Carroll’s Farewell Mass

Week 3
Friday 17th February – Aloha Night for parents
Sunday 19th February @ 9:30am – Year 6/7 Family Mass

Week 5
Tuesday 28th February – Shrove Tuesday
Wednesday 1st March – Ash Wednesday

Week 6
Wednesday 8th March @ 1:50pm – Year 6 Assembly

Week 7
Monday 13th March – Adelaide Cup Public Holiday

Week 8
Wednesday 22nd March from 6:30 – 8:00pm – Classroom Open Night

Week 10
Thursday 6th April – Star of the Sea Sports Day
Friday 7th April – School Closure Day (Staff Numeracy PD)

Week 11
Thursday 13th April – Holy Thursday (Term 1 ends at 3:00pm)
Friday 14th April – Good Friday

We are looking forward to a wonderful year of learning together and growing together. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us if you have any questions, queries or concerns.

Year 6 Teachers
Andy Petkovic, Kelly Manera & Sheena Pattinson