Dear Parents and Caregivers

Thank you everyone for celebrating another Catholic Education Week at Stella Maris. From its beginning with the Sunshine Coast Choral Festival through to Grandparents’ Day to the Boys’ AFL Lion’s Cup final’s win at the Gabba, Catholic Education Week provided the ideal opportunity to showcase the diversity of activities and learning in our schools.

During the week, the following groups made their contribution to a great celebration: The SM Singers and Stella Fellas choirs took part in the Sunshine Coast Choral Festival day-long workshop with seven other Catholic schools in our Hall. The Festival culminated in the evening with a stand-out combined choirs’ performance which pulled together so beautifully given the short time spent together under the direction of Alison Rogers. Congratulations to all students and a big thank you to Inez Durrer and Todd Wynyard for their impeccable organisation especially considering they are also heavily into preparations and rehearsals for this year’s school musical, The Wizard of Oz. Thank you to our parents who manned the admissions desk and sold raffle tickets. It takes a good team to achieve such a successful outcome.

Grandparents’ Day was another huge success held in very special spirit. I am not sure how many hundreds of grandparents (and great-grandparents) came from near and far this year, but I do know that it is certainly true that ‘Grandparents bring a little more wisdom, happiness, warmth and love to every life they touch.’ It was heartening to witness the very special relationship that exists between grandparents and their grandchildren with so many grandparents sharing with me how special this day is for them. We thank the following groups for their participation: The Year 2 Piccolo Choir and Stella Fellas (and Inez) for their songs, the Prep students and staff for their poems (113 students – so well spoken!), the Concert Band (and Todd) and Senior Strings ensemble (and Maria) for great music, the Year 6 students for commentating and connecting parts of the celebration, the Year 6 and 7 students for the Irish Blessing, the P&F through Kelly Loe and her wonderful band of Mums for morning tea and good cheer. Special thanks to Luke Parnemann and Lorella Armijo for organising the morning’s events to such great effect, to Donna Rumph for behind the scenes assistance and Jenny Day for her yearly labour of love – this year making the key rings presented to each grandparent. It was extra-special also when Father Joe joined us despite ongoing therapy as a result of his very serious injury early in the year. Thank you Joe; your presence meant a lot to many.

Sport also featured during the week with the AFL boys defeating Chatswood Hills State School to become the Lion’s Cup SE Queensland Champions last Thursday at the Gabba. Congratulations to Luke Parnemann, Greg Edgar, Pam James and all the boys on such a successful season! The trophy can be admired in the Reception area and will take pride of place when we finally acquire space for a trophy cabinet!

Professional sharing also played an important role during Catholic Education Week with teachers from Saint Thomas More visiting to learn about the rationale and approach being used by the Year 2 classes during Mathematics lessons. Of course this particular day had to be the one when BCE internet access was disrupted and the students were not able to use their ipads at all. Nevertheless I hear it was still a very worthwhile visit and I thank Matthew Hannah, Donita Sullivan, Lauren Solomon, Tegan Burr, Anthony Graham, Dennis Quinn and our wonderful Year 2 students for welcoming our visitors and sharing their love of learning.

On this note, a film crew will be recording some of this work (and other examples across the school) to be used in a video highlighting Visible Learning in BCE schools. Tessa Hobbs, who is in charge of the project, visited earlier this year to discuss and have a look at what is happening at Stella Maris. She then decided to return to capture some of our learning on Monday 18 August. More later.

Once again, then, thank you for everyone’s contribution to the activities of Catholic Education Week and even more importantly, thank you for your daily contribution to developing Stella Maris as an authentically Catholic Christian school. A week of celebrations is wonderful and very necessary but the work of rest of the year is every bit as wonderful and necessary. It takes a real team effort, so thank you for being part of the Stella Maris team.

Have a great week everyone.

Glenda
Dear Parents/Caregivers,

On Friday we celebrate the feast day of the patron of our Archdiocese, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. She was an extraordinary woman who opened the first Catholic school in Australia and planted the seeds of faith which we continue to nurture today in each of the Catholic Schools in our Archdiocese. A woman of courage and commitment, Mary showed the way through her faithfulness when others more faint of heart failed.

This week’s virtue, Faithfulness, hinges upon what we value as important combined with commitment. Humans have a powerful tendency to be faithful to what they think is truly important, be it a family name, spouse, friendship, employer, school, athletic team or even certain things like a make of automobile. This tendency was an issue when the disciples decided to follow Peter’s lead and return to their fishing trade after Jesus’ death and resurrection. In John 21:15-17, Jesus pointedly asks Peter three times whether he loved Him. The first time He asks whether he loved Him "more than these." The inference is inescapable: Jesus wanted Peter to hold Him of greater importance than anything on earth. Considering Peter’s weighty responsibility, he could not be faithful to Jesus without the staunchest commitment to Him as most important of all in his life.

Holding true to the course God has laid before us is difficult amid this world’s many alluring distractions damoungourforourtime and attention. This world is attractive to human nature and bids us to expend our energies in self-satisfaction. Jesus warns all who take up their cross that the way is difficult and narrow, requiring a great deal of vision and discipline to be faithful to His cause. Some have completed the course. Those who held God and His way in the highest esteem in their lives are awaiting those of us traveling the path now. Will we be faithful as they were?

What Does It Mean?

In the listing of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22, every modern translation renders the word "faith" as "faithfulness," "fidelity" or "good faith." In his commentary on Galatians, William Barclay writes that this word is common in secular Greek for "faith." In his commentary on Galatians, William Barclay writes that this word is common in secular Greek for "faithfulness." Webster's New World Dictionary defines faithful as "maintaining allegiance; constant; loyal; marked by or showing a strong sense of duty or responsibility; conscientious; accurate; reliable; exact." With the people we love, we are abiding and trustworthy. They know we will not abandon them or violate the sacred trust between us. Faithfulness through the changes and tests of time is a sign of lasting love. Faithful friendship is one of life’s greatest treasures.

(Adapted from cmvic.net/faithfulness-fruit)

What is important out of all this is that through an understanding of this virtue, students are introduced to the concept of discernment - what is important to them? Do they hold a strong allegiance to that which they discern is important - be that a commitment to faith, to family, to study, to making wise decisions, to being the best person they can be? Faithfulness is being loyal to beliefs held, remaining firm and steadfast regardless of what happens. When our faith is tested, we stay strong and learn from the experience. We do our work with meticulous care and excellence, faithful to its true intent. With the people we love, we are abiding and trustworthy. Faithfulness through the changes of time is a sign of lasting love. Faithful friendship is one of life’s greatest treasures.

As we move through this next fortnight, we encourage the students to think about what is most important to them. Where or on what are they spending their time, energy and interest? And more importantly, “is what I am spending my time on worthy of my time and energy?”

God bless.

Judith
MUSIC NOTES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK
“When I was a teenager, I began to settle into school because I'd discovered the extracurricular activities that interested me: music and theatre.”
~ Morgan Freeman ~

TIP OF THE WEEK - Encourage and support your child to listen to artists who play their instrument. This can include good recordings and better still, go to a live concert!!

QCMF - Students in the Year 3 Piccolo Choir, Junior Band, Senior Strings, Stella Fellas, SM Singers, and Concert Band will be receiving a note this week regarding their participation in Qld Catholic Schools Music Festival (QCMF). All forms should be returned to the office or to the Music Room by Friday 8 August. To ensure a polished performance it is important that all members of these groups participates in this performance.

SUNSHINE COAST JUNIOR EISTEDDFOD - Congratulations to the Senior String Ensemble who performed at the Eisteddfod yesterday and received a Highly Commended for their effort. Well done.

We wish the best of luck to the Year 2 Piccolo Choir who will be performing at the Eisteddfod tomorrow morning. Students are reminded to meet Mrs Durrer outside the Year 7 classrooms at 7:45am for an 8am departure. Students are to wear their formal uniform and will need their hat, water bottle, and lunch.

ENSEMBLE NEWS - Congratulations and thank you to the Senior String Ensemble, Stella Fellas, Year 3 Piccolo Choir and Concert Band who provided entertainment for Grandparents’ Day. You performed beautifully and worked very hard for a very appreciative audience.

DATE CLAIMERS
‘The Wizard of Oz’ - Rehearsal Wednesday 13 August (3:00 – 5:00pm in the Hall)
Queensland Catholic Schools Music Festival - Friday 15
‘The Wizard of Oz’ – Wednesday 15 October to Saturday 18 October

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NEWS - Best wishes to all students who are participating in the Sunshine Coast Junior Eisteddfod. Parents are encouraged to forward student results to Mr Wynyard or Mrs Durrer so they can be published in the newsletter in coming weeks.

If you have queries regarding anything musical – please feel free to catch up with us before or after school, by contacting us in writing or via email.

SUNSHINE COAST CHORAL SPECTACULAR

Musically Yours,
Inez Durrer
Classroom Music Specialist
idurrer@bne.catholic.edu.au

Todd Wynyard
Instrumental Music Coordinator
twynyard@bne.catholic.edu.au

Parish News
The Brisbane Archdiocese has put in place a “Safeguarding of Children and Adults’ Policy. To ensure that the policy is implemented effectively requires many parishioners to attend a special training morning at Stella Maris, Thursday 2nd October, 9.30am to 1.30pm (sandwich lunch served) or if you cannot attend at this time you may prefer to attend at the Tewantin Catholic Church, Saturday July 26th 9.00am to 12.30am. Attendance at either is obligatory for all parish church employees and all church volunteers in the Deanery who might have anything at all to do with children on our church premises.
Contact the Parish Office to enrol 5443 3488

Principal's Awards
August 7 2014

Tuckshop News...

THIS WEEKS SPECIAL
Pulled Pork Roll
with Gravy & Apple Sauce $4.00

PLEASE REFER TO THE NEW TUCKSHOP MENU & REMEMBER THE TUCKHOP IN NO LONGER OPEN ON MONDAYS.

Tarran, Max Group

Group

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Ingredients Roster

A Scanlon, C Maloney, C Spink, E Roberts, G Firth-Taylor, J Housego, K Young, K Vagg, L Coghlan, M Sinclair, M Austin, N Burrows, P Mitchell, S Murray, S wall, T Carmody, V Jones, T Donovan, K Lewis.
Are you in one of the common parent traps?

With the pressures that come with being a parent it’s easy to fall into one of the common parenting traps. Here are some of them:

**The “criticism” trap** is when you often battle with your child. You start to criticise them and soon you are threatening and yelling. Arguments like this leave both parent and child feeling angry. If you have these battles a lot, it’s time to try a new way of handling the situation.

The “leave them alone” trap is when parents don’t praise or reward their child when they are behaving well. Kids might start misbehaving for attention. Use praise – or choose a reward that works for your child – to encourage behaviours you’d like to see more often.

The “for the sake of the children” trap occurs when parents in unhappy marriages don’t address their problems, for the sake of their children.

The “perfect parent” trap. There is no such thing as a perfect parent. Trying to be one will only lead to disappointment, anger and guilt.

The “martyr” trap is when parents neglect their own needs. You don’t have to devote all your time to your child. Good parenting only happens when adults look after their own needs, too. **From: Stepping Stones Triple P**

Supermarket meltdowns? Mealtime tantrums? Bedtime battles? When you’re a parent sometimes life can be extra challenging.

That’s why the Stepping Stones Triple P Project is currently offering parents in Queensland and Victoria free parenting support. Go to [www.triplep-steppingstones.net](http://www.triplep-steppingstones.net) for more information and free parenting tips and articles.

**Parenting Course here**

Commmencing 15th August from 9.00am - 10.30am
Please book at the office.
All material provided. Sorry no crèche available.
Limited to 8 participants.
Contact Christine Craig for information via email.

Christine Craig - Guidance Counsellor/ Psychologist
email: ccraig@bne.catholic.edu.au