Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Gratitude. When most of us hear the word, our first thoughts turn to expressing thanks for help given or deeds performed. It is, after all, good manners to say thank you.

If we think about it a little more deeply, however, we begin to see that gratitude involves two dimensions: gratitude in relation to others (the cultivation of good manners) and the less articulated dimension - gratitude in relation to oneself. The latter involves a habit of the heart, a way of seeing and participating in the world, if you like.

Some have referred to gratitude as ‘a spiritual discipline’ and there certainly is a spiritual dimension to living life with a grateful heart. In Luke’s Gospel (10:20), we are reminded that ‘true gratitude does not depend upon material possessions. It is enriched by accepting the bad with the good. It flourishes at the moment that we realise that God’s grace is over us and around us, and that nothing can separate us from God’s loving grace.’ Or, as the late Trappist monk, writer and mystic, Thomas Merton wrote, ‘To be grateful is to recognise the love of God in everything.’

Appoaching life with an attitude of gratitude unlocks life in all its fullness, turning ‘what I have’ into ‘all that I need.’ ‘It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion into clarity. It turns problems into gifts, failures into success, the unexpected into perfect timing, and mistakes into important events. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow.’ (Melody Beattie)

On Monday at the Leadership Forum, our recently installed Archbishop, Mark Coleridge, quoted the Archbishop of Canterbury, Brian Williams as saying we live in a culture that is ‘deeply and dangerously bored.’ ‘Our new archbishop then went on to say that he believes the malaise of boredom exists because ‘we see too little.’ I think all these things are tied together – seeing God’s love in everything, living a grateful life and thus avoiding ‘seeing too little’ or missing what is right in front of our eyes. Dawn Markova explains that gratitude is like a flashlight. ’If you go out in your yard at night and turn on a flashlight, you suddenly can see what’s there. It was always there, but you couldn’t see it in the dark.’

Gratitude, born of an experience of Christ’s great love for all things, is the flashlight that opens our eyes to see what is there but previously hidden from our view.

This week’s focus on gratitude comes after Sunday’s highly successful Fair. There is so much, and so many, for which to be grateful. Such generosity from so many individuals, families and organisations provided the ingredients for a fun community-building event which stands at the heart of P&F endeavours each year.

Thank you to everyone who sponsored, donated, baked, sewed, cooked, sorted, organised, sold, served, erected, cleaned, collected, planned, co-ordinated, bottled, convened, transported, set up, performed, demonstrated, sang, danced, compered, welcomed, photographed, attended and every other applicable verb! So many involved, and the efforts of so many greatly appreciated. Thank you one and all! The children had a ball—and the adults too!

Term 3 Week 5

7 August 2012

Special thanks, of course, must go to our Fair Convenors – Michelle McDonald, Kellie Elder and Andrew Small. This year, Michelle was the glue that held the organisation together from beginning to end, with more than able assistance from Kellie and Andrew. Careful, thoughtful planning and impeccable organisation ensured every detail was taken care of and together successfully on the day. It’s a big job carried out over many months and I know a great team of people shared responsibilities for the various areas. To Michelle, Kellie, Andrew, Tanya and the whole team, please accept our gratitude for your generous service to the Stella Maris School community. Sunday was testament to your time, effort and spirit.

On behalf of the teachers and the administration team, thank you to all organisers and helpers whose no fuss organisation allowed staff to concentrate on teaching and learning with the students. Such a smooth lead-up—a hallmark of every Fair I’ve experienced at Stella Maris. A big thank you from the Staff—and students.

Have a great week everyone. Glenda

Athletics Age Champions 2012

Year 4 Boys – Jarrod Young
Year 4 Girls – Claire Brady
10 Yrs Boys – Jack Gillespie
10 Yrs Girls – Madison Edgerton
11 Yrs Boys – Lachlan McClure
11 Yrs Girls – Cartia Thompson
12 Yrs Boys – Tye James & William Ritchie
12 Yrs Girls – Taniah Meyers & Ella Bury
13 Yrs Boys – Debela Savimaki
13 Yrs Girls – Tyla Prosser

House Points
1st – Munnum (Red) 735 points
2nd – Banjora (Yellow) 697 points
3rd – Waroo (Blue) 693 points
4th – Pigabella (Green) 671 points

Presentations for the medallions will be made at assembly on Thursday 16th August.
The weekend before last saw a very successful Dad’s Golf Day go off perfectly at Peregian Springs GC with a great day had by all. Nearly 50 budding Tiger Woodbees played their pants off (nearly literally for Damian McDonald) and had great fun with novelties a plenty. Much thanks goes to our major sponsor for the day, Garry Crick Noonaville and Matt Murray and his team. BOQ Maroochydore, Newport Financial Services, Miners Financial Solutions, Brett England Pty Ltd and Raw Energy Noonaville were all joint sponsors and of tremendous support for our day. Much thanks to you all. Also a big thank you to Karl Scott and Kelly Loe for their entertainment and support on the day.

Last Sunday saw the Stella Fair go off in fantastic fashion with much enjoyment had by all the Stella family. These events do not go without an enormous amount of work and to Michelle McDonald, Kellie Elder and their team of organisers, well done, you are all absolute stars and we love you all. To all who helped out in any capacity either on a stall or in the background you are what the Stella Community is all about and thank you so much for your effort. Most importantly the kids had a fantastic day which, if nothing else, makes the day a tremendous success even without the very important fund raising.

**Winners of the Multi-Draw Raffle**

1. FotoFlair Photo Package - Carol Quattromoni
2. NV2K Ring - Kelly Loe
3. Amyis Gardens Weekend - Adrian Mula
4. GoArty Painting - Katrina Sadler
5. Boat Shed Dinner - Michael Baillie
6. Laser Zone Pass - T Schembr
7. Noosa Springs Golf Club Round - Dawn Broadfoot
8. Kawana’s Top Choice Pest Control Treatment - Kelly Loe
9. Mary Valley Rattler Pass - Michelle Troy
10. Aussie World Family Pass - Sarah Thompson
11. Bellingham Maze Family Pass - Rod Franklin

Our attention now turns to other upcoming events and in the immediate future that is the Trivia night. More details on this will be out shortly however we ask for your continued support and this will truly be another great night of entertainment and fund raising. Come along and let’s see how smart you really are!

On behalf of the P&F 2012 thank you to the community for your support thus far and with only a few events to go for the rest of the year thank you again in anticipation. A reminder to all the P&F meet every second Tuesday of the month at 6.30pm in the staffroom and all attendance is welcome. If anyone has any new ideas for 2013 please let the P&F know and we will see where it takes us.

Thanks again and cheers

Tim P&F 2012

**Principals’ Awards**

**August 9**

Frankie McKenzie, Jack O’Brien, Class 3C, Jessica Griffin, Bella Towner, Breah Camilleri, Adain Harris, Isabella Stanaway, Sasaki Taylor, Jessica Moro, Talen Dougherty, Jack Polizzi, Penelope Earl, Ethan Sinclair, Lachlan Kuipers, Sasha Pace, Sahnya Terare, Kye Marrable, Charlotte Eising, Will van Dalen, Monique Damaggio, Shaye Travers, Jariah Vontas, Bronne Reugg, M’Lea Michael, Tristan Mitchell, Kyal Moloney

**School Banking**

A ‘Special’ August Reward Offer

**What’s better than Spen? A free Spen!**

That’s right....if you redeem 10 tokens for a Dollarmites moneybox in August you will receive the Spen moneybox free! Why not take this opportunity to build up your moneybox collection!

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**Rainbows**

Rainbows again tomorrow afternoon meet facilitators outside Library at 3.10 for afternoon tea

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**APRE News**

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

On Wednesday 8th August, we celebrate the Feast Day of Australia’s first saint, Mary MacKillop, known as *St Mary of the Cross*. As this feast day approaches, it is timely that we look at Hope as our Virtue of the Week. Mary is a role model for us in the hope-filled way she lived the Gospel message and reached out to those ‘battlers’ struggling in the latter part of 19th century in our young nation.

Mary’s life was full of many achievements as she tried to remedy the social, religious and economic problems of the day. Catholic education for the bush children was the original focus, but soon the needs of destitute women and men, orphans, etc. were also addressed. While Mary’s achievements are to be admired, we remember her for her goodness and loving example shown in the face of personal difficulties with family, work colleagues, Church authorities and her founding order of sisters. Mary had a deep awareness of God’s presence in her life from an early age and developed a personal relationship with her God. Her hope and trust in Divine Providence was very strong, thus enabling her to pursue her goals despite the odds against her, including poverty, debt, malice and scandal (Adapted from Wikipedia).

Throughout her troubled years, Mary experienced much distress and pain, but she was firm in her conviction that if it was God’s work, then it would succeed. She accepted the crosses in her daily life with courage and experienced a peace at the time of her execution.

She had a great respect for the clergy and would never let the sisters speak ill of those who caused any trouble to the order.

Mary’s love of God was lived out in responding to a need, conscious of the dignity of the human person at stake. That is the challenge for us too. How do we live out the call to be God’s children when we are faced with difficult decisions and challenges which, on the face of it, seem overwhelming? What are the elements of hope we need to cope with these challenges, to transform fear into faith, and to give us the grace to rise above them?

In practising Hope, we:

- Maintain a positive attitude even when we are afraid;
- Embrace life fully;
- Have faith in the value of life;
- Have the confidence to succeed;
- Seek to discern life’s lessons;
- Persevere through all conditions; and
- Pray for God’s guidance and trust that our prayers will be answered;

The following quotes attributed to Mary give testimony to her hope that with God’s help, we can do what is needed:

- “Do all you can with the means at your disposal and calmly leave the rest to God.”
- “Trust in God who helps you in all things.”
- “Let God’s Spirit guide you in your choice.”

God bless you all.

*Judith.*

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**Honesty is the best policy**

Thank you to

Macey Kirch, Tiannah Maltman, Riley Tenquist, Bella Blunt, Rhys Marinic, Shonique Teuthof, Lilly McClure, Jessie Burrows, Shelby Mills
Wednesday 15 August (3:00 – 4:30 in the Music Room)

for accompanying both choirs, to our page-turners, and to Mr Wynyard
choir risers and music equipment to and from the Music Room. Many
comments regarding how much you seemed to enjoy singing. Fabulous job!

Inez Durrer       Todd Wynyard

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
e-mail.

Musically Yours,

Inez Durrer       Todd Wynyard
Classroom Music Specialist       Instrumental Music Coordinator
idurrer@bne.catholic.edu.au       twynyard@bne.catholic.edu.au
ASPERGER CENTRE
Family Fun Open Day
Saturday 1st September 2012

11.00 am to 3.00 pm
Official Opening 1.00 pm
Jason Woodforth, MP & Professor Tony Attwood

Enjoy the day with
MUSIC
FOOD AND DRINK
LUCKY DOOR PRIZE AND RAFFLES
SAUSAGE SIZZLE

Entertainment for the children
FACE PAINTING
BALLOON TWISTING
BABY ANIMAL FARM
GAMES
CELEBRATORY CAKE CUTTING

Open Day Activities
SAMPLE BAG
FOUNDATION WALL
TOURS OF THE CENTRE
RESOURCES AT HAND - BOOK SALE

WHERE
Unit 1, 16 Yarraman Place, Virginia
5 min walk from Sunshine Railway Station (Caboolture Line)

Please RSVP your attendance for catering purposes by Wednesday 29 August. Thank you

Christine Craig (Guidance Counsellor)
email: ccraig@bne.catholic.edu.au

Thank you to our sponsors: