Dear Parents and Caregivers

What strikes me lately is that we have so much for which to be grateful. Yes, sad, unpleasant and even tragic things happen but, even in the midst of these, there are wonderful people who are ready to give of their time, their personal resources and their deep care for others.

The degree of willingness and readiness to meet a need or step up in an emergency shown across the Stella Maris community in recent weeks alone, is quite staggering. No fanfare - just sincerity of heart and generosity of spirit. So, I say thank you –

To Fair Convenors, Andrew Small and Michelle MacDonald and Food Convenor, Liz Roberts. What a tribute to the trio that the day was such a rousing community event despite Andrew’s serious health scare, Michelle’s unavoidable absence and Liz’s family bereavement – all in the few days leading up to Sunday’s Fair. As people heard of these happenings, there was no need to ask anyone to assist with a back-up plan if needed, volunteers stepped forward immediately. Thank you one and all, you know who you are and how much your thoughtfulness is appreciated. Thank you Andrew, Michelle and Liz for leadership in the tough times and an absolutely fantastic Fair.

To all stall convenors and helpers, entertainers, sponsors and prize-givers, set up and cleaned up crews. You all stepped up to help make the day a great success – sincere thanks to you all. Your effort made for lots of happy young ones, Mums and Dads and older visitors.

To Melissa De Souza for volunteering to set up and co-ordinate a Care Pantry through which meals and other items will be available to ease the load for families during times of stress. Thank you so much Mel for your initiative and care. (More information about this in the near future)

To Judith and staff members for organising a similar meals’ plan, in the longer term, for a staff member who is in need of assistance at this time.

Which brings me to the point of community. I have in mind that recent case of the elderly woman in Sydney who lay dead for months, undiscovered, inside her terrace house. How can we know when someone is in need of assistance? The thing is, each of us needs to know, and be known by others – a connection into the wider group – like someone is in need of assistance? The thing is, each of us needs to know, and be known by others – a connection into the wider group – like someone is in need of assistance?

So, why bother moving outside our immediate circle of family and close friendships? Well, as the principals were reminded yesterday by Phil Glendenning, Director of the Edmund Rice Centre in Sydney, we can choose to live in an economy or a society/community. If we live in an economy, we become customers and consumers with access to resources determined by how much money we have. In an economy our value lies in what we do for a living. If we live in a society/community, however, we do so as citizens with rights and responsibilities to each other. As citizens, our value lies in who we are as human beings. Our greatest civilising strength lies in our outreach to others.

Have a great week everyone and thanks, once again, for all you do and all you are.

Thank you also for contributing to the success of the Fair. We couldn’t have ordered a better day, with a better atmosphere!

Glenda

Fair Thank You - A BIG thank-you to Andrew Small, Michelle MacDonald and the Committee members for a great day at the Fair. Andrew took on the role of Fair Convenor and did a great job of setting up and running the day. Michelle was a great driving force behind the scene and her organizational skills were outstanding.

To EVERYONE who helped out in any way or capacity THANK YOU and WELL DONE!

A great 2011 Stella Maris Fair...from The P&F Committee.

APRE Review - As previously mentioned, both Judith and Terry are scheduled for their 5-yearly reviews in 2011. Griffith University has been commissioned to co-ordinate the Survey distribution and collation of results. Judith’s Review will take place this term and Terry’s upon his return from long service leave in Term 4. Shortly the University will be in touch with approximately 70 randomly selected parents and all staff, via email, with details for completion of the survey electronically.

It will be very helpful to Judith if you are able to take a few minutes to submit a response. If you do not receive an email and would like to participate, let us know and we will arrange this with the university.

Congratulations - It’s been a busy week with lots of students across diverse fields achieving great success. Congratulations to:

- the Concert Band and Todd Wynyard upon making the final of MusicFest at which they received third place. A great effort!
- the Verse-Speaking Choir and Peta Beattie on their well-deserved second place at the Sunshine Coast Speech and Drama Eisteddfod. This was a small group with lots of personality and performance-savvy!
- All the individual success stories at the above Eisteddfod which will be published in next week’s newsletter. Well done everyone!
- the boys’ AFL team, Luke Parnemann and Trevor Larkin on their recent success in making the grand final in the state-wide competition. What an achievement. Congratulations boys!
- STOP PRESS: Debela Savimaki 1st 100m State Aths C’Ship!

School Focus with Students - There is a need for us to focus upon having students take greater responsibility for their belongings and cleaning up after themselves. Many students seem to think that it is the role of adults to clean up after them and to re-supply them with items for which they fail to take any care. Children are never too young to take appropriate and increasing levels of responsibility for contributing to family/class/school/community chores/jobs that need doing, including cleaning up after themselves.

They also need to suffer the consequence of taking inadequate care of their belongings or communal property. That’s part of responsible family and school membership or community citizenship. Poor habits are established very easily and at a very young age and are notoriously hard to break. Together – home and school – we stand a better chance of raising responsible young men and woman.
Well, how good was last Sunday, perfect conditions for this year’s Fair, which ended up being a cracker of a day. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves and what we put on this year. Please keep an eye out for the Fair wrap up Newsletter that will be coming out this week.

Cheers, Andrew

WINNERS  WINNERS  WINNERS  WINNERS
Multi-Draw Raffle winners
1st  NY2K Pendant Di Pietra
2nd  Fotoflick Photo Package Jennifer Kidd
3rd  Couples Will Package Mrs Watt
4th  3 Nights At Surfers Century Kerri Cavanagh
5th  GoArty Painting Caroline Cox
6th  Cycle Zone Bicycle Noel Parish
7th  Andrew’s High Tech Service Janet Sterling
8th  Boat Shed Dinner Voucher Terri-Anne Murray
9th  Noosa Spring Golf Package Cristiele Morton
10th  SpecSavers Optical D Toson
11th  Fair Go Foods Voucher Anne MacLean
12th  Willow & Bird $100 Mackenzie Brown

Prizes to be collected.

Pick-a-raffle Prize winners.
Health and Wellbeing Pack ..................Kellie Sullivan
Family Pack ..................................Harris family
Pamper Pack ..................................Glenda Morgan
Sports Pack ..................................Paula Blunt
Fresh Water Pearl Necklace and Earrings ......Ellie Gerbo

All prizes have been collected.

Dear Parents/Caregivers,
We continue with the Virtue of Resilience for this week. Resilience is the ability to work with adversity in such a way that one comes through it unharmed or even better for the experience. We all long for security. But where can it be found – in a large investment portfolio, a job with benefits, or a loyal friend? Placing trust in these things is like building our house on shifting sand. Investments crumble. Jobs end. Disasters happen. Friends move. There are no guarantees. What is here today could easily be gone tomorrow. So is permanent security just an illusion?

For the Christian, security is rooted in Christ’s unconditional love for us. It comes from community—from the relationships that allow us to lean on each other for support when we need it. Christ’s words ‘Love one another as I have loved you’ are very important for Christian Community in reaching out to others in good times and in bad. This relationship is not based upon performance or upon ‘liking’ or ‘not liking’ the other, but upon Christ’s love for each one of us and the call to live in community with each other in that love. There is nothing that can separate us from Christ. This is the hope and assurance on which we can place our trust.

Resilience means facing life’s difficulties with courage and patience – refusing to give up. It is the quality of character that allows a person or group of people to rebound from misfortune, hardships and traumas. Rooted in a tenacity of spirit, it is a determination to embrace all that makes life worth living even in the face of overwhelming odds. When we have a clear sense of identity and purpose both as a person and as a member of community, we are more resilient, because we can hold fast to our vision of a better future.


This poem encourages personal resilience in the face of difficulty:

You Mustn’t Quit

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,  When the road you’re trudging seems all uphill,  When the funds are low ...  And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,  When care is pressing you down a bit,  Rest if you must— but never quit.

Life is strange, with its twists and turns,  As every one of us sometimes learns,  And many a failure turns about  When you might have won if you’d stuck it out;  So stick to your task, though the pace seems slow---  You may succeed with one more go.

Success is failure turned inside out---  The silver tint of the clouds of doubt---  And you never can tell how close you are,  It may be near when it seems afar;  So stick to the fight when you’re hardest hit---  You mustn’t quit.

(Author unknown)

God bless,

11 August 2011


GRANDPARENTS DAY
In my quest to thank everyone for their contribution to our wonderful Grandparent’s Day, I forgot to mention one of our Year Seven Students, Olivia Lanskey, who played the cello so beautifully at the beginning of the concert. Thank you Olivia - what a talented young lady you are!!!

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Thank you to:
Ella Mather, Renee Housego, Reef Ellis, Caitlyn Teale, Elleni Hurley, Byron Dean, Jackson Smith-Leishman.

Congratulations to Bradley Ellis 7M and Taj Hudson 7F who represented the Sunshine Coast at the QLD school boys soccer championships in Brisbane. The team came fourth after a four day carnival. Both boys displayed great sportsmanship and team spirit. Well done boys.

Help woolies to help our school. Start collecting woolworths earn & Learn Points today!

SCHOOL FEES ARE NOW OVER DUE
MUSIC NOTES

SPEECH EISTEDDFOD - A hearty congratulations to our Speech Choir who were very proud and excited to gain 2nd place in the School Group Speaking section. They performed a very entertaining program - 2 works “Hairy Toe” & “The Little Green Man”. Special thanks to the parents and staff who transported the children and especially Ms Peta Beattie for her expertise and conducting. Performers will have winning certificates and reports in their portfolios.

PIANO SOIREES and LUNCHTIME CONCERTS – Our piano players have been busy over the last two weeks with some wonderful performances. Congratulations to Mrs Wordsworth and her students for a great Soiree in the Hall last Thursday and to Miss Worthy and her students for polished performances at lunchtime concerts on Wednesday and Thursday. This Thursday night will again feature Miss Worthy and her students will a Soiree in the Hall commencing at 6pm. Performers will need to arrive by 5.45pm to prepare. Individual and small group performers from Stella Maris have done well also. We wish the solo instrumentalists well this week.

CHOIRS AT THE FAIR – Commendable effort to the kids who were able to perform at the Fair on Sunday. It’s always tough to do an outdoor show with lots of distractions. Thanks to Ms Worthy for coming up form Brisbane to accompany our choirs. We appreciate her talents.

CONCERT BAND at MUSICFEST GRAND FINAL – Fantastic performance from the Concert Band awarded 3rd place in the Grand Final on Sunday. Thank you to all students and parents for your effort and support in getting to this performance and a special thank you to Kyra and Lauren Bellamy and their mum Michelle for staying around to collect our trophy and gift voucher. Next commitments for the Concert Band are – a joint rehearsal with the Siena band students at the Stella Maris Music Room from 3pm to 5.30pm on Saturday 13 August and then our performance at QCMF on Friday 19 August. Please return permission slips ASAP.

MUSIC COUNT US IN 2011 – In music all children are learning the song “We’ve Got the Music” for the 1st September

www.musiccountusin.org.au for more information on this national event.

galansky@bne.catholic.edu.au - Classroom Music / Choral Program

kyryst@bne.catholic.edu.au - Instrumental Music (including singing, speech, drama)

LIBRARY NEWS

Children’s Book Week coming up soon. Author Peter Carnavas to visit 24th - 26th August for years 1 - 7. Please see insert re ordering his books which are available to inspect in the library. Book Week dress-up parade the following week on 16th September 9am in the hall. Teachers will advise classes as to characters.

Mrs. Joan Jenkins, Peta Nell and Mrs. Kym Schemionek

NOTICE OF TRIAL - 2011 Cricket —BOYS 12 year old

DATE: Wednesday 24 August 2011

VENUE: Talara Primary College

TIME: 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

REQUIREMENTS:

Students are required to bring the following: Water bottle, hat and cricket gear (if they own some). A cricket kit will be available for use.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION:

Students should have played cricket before at club level.

Students should display good skills in one or more of the following areas

- Throwing and catching
- Batting
- Bowling

Students who are 11yrs old this year may attend if they are showing a good standard in one or more of the skills above.

CONVENOR: Andrew Smith Meridan State College 54902620

PLEASE NOTE: STUDENTS TURNING 13 YEARS OF AGE IN 2011 ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND THE TRIALS.
Christine Craig (Guidance Counsellor)  email:ccraig@bne.catholic.edu.au

What does it mean when you say, "I'm Sorry"?  

Part 1

Saying “I’m sorry” is an act of apology. It's telling someone you feel badly for hurting them in some way—for saying or doing something offensive—breaking—pushing—being mean—or not understanding how another feels. Sometimes it’s on purpose—sometimes accidental.

That said...

When appropriate, we WANT children to sincerely feel sorry and apologize. We WANT them to take responsibility and ownership for their actions. In the real world this doesn't always happen.

Whether you're a parent or working with children -

What do we do when Johnny hits Tommy? Suzie takes away a toy? Joel tells Kyle he hates him?

Often without thinking an adult will say, "Say you're sorry!"

What if the child is NOT sorry? He/she is still too angry, doesn't want to get into trouble, or is feeling defensive. Making a child say they're sorry, when they are not, doesn't help the injured party feel any better nor does it teach the offending child a positive life lesson.