‘According to legend, a young man while roaming the desert came across a spring of delicious crystal-clear water. The water was so sweet he filled his leather canteen so he could take some back to a tribal elder who had been his teacher. After a four day journey he presented the water to the old man who took a deep drink, smiled warmly and thanked his student lavishly for the sweet water. The young man returned to his village with a happy heart.

Later, the teacher let another student taste the water. He spat it out, saying it was awful. It apparently had become stale because of the old leather container. The student challenged his teacher, ‘Master, the water was foul. Why did you pretend to like it?’

The teacher replied, ‘You only tasted the water. I tasted the gift. The water was simply the container for an act of loving-kindness and nothing could be sweeter.’

Gratitude doesn’t always come naturally, however. Unfortunately most children and many adults value only the thing given rather than the feeling embodied in it. We should remind ourselves and teach our children about the beauty and purity of feelings and expressions of gratitude. After all, gifts from the heart are really gifts of the heart.’

Michael Josephson

Dear Parents and Caregivers

I’m sure we can all relate to this story. I know how I feel when handmade gifts, cards and paintings appear on my desk, usually placed there by little ones. I always wonder what prompted them to write their precious words or paint their latest masterpiece for me. I don’t know the answer to that question for sure, but I do know how grateful and puzzled I feel that a child actually thinks of me in their busy little lives so full of exciting things to do. It is so true that the thought or feeling behind the gesture carries greater meaning than the gesture itself.

I remember years ago now, a teacher who had long left the school to raise her family, appeared at my office door with a bunch of sweet peas. She had been in her garden, saw the new crop of sweet peas and remembered, from some obscure conversation, that they were my favourite flower. She cut a few, hopped in the car and drove across Brisbane to give them to me with a hug and left shortly after to drive home. I have never forgotten this; it still stands prominent in my mind as one of life’s little, treasured mysteries.

It also has me wondering if I am as alert to the promptings of my heart, because that’s all I can put it down to - staying present to the spontaneous prompts to share one’s feelings. This business of ‘staying awake’, of course, fits beautifully into the theme of Advent which begins this week in preparation for Christmas. Recognising the need to ‘wake up’ is an important step; waking from a view of life that is taken-for-granted, unreflected and simply going-through-the-motions to one in which we recognise the God in all. To recognise one’s connectedness to the bigger picture, the deeper meaning, the shared humanity is truly life-changing.

So I would like to share my end of school year feelings with you in this the last newsletter of 2013. I particularly want to do this because I feel I must be coming across as Principal Grumpy Pants of late following the need to address school fee payment.

Can I say firstly that, regardless of necessary communications, my care and respect for all members of this community remain intact and unshakeable. As with the difference between the gift and the underlying heart-space, so too those underlying non-negotiables of care and respect remain, despite the need for challenging words to be said.

At the end of another school year, I say a huge thank you to the Stella Maris staff for making it a pleasure to come to work each day. Their professionalism, generosity of spirit, care for students and their learning is second to none. To staff leaving Stella Maris – Zan Marion, Natalie Morze, Sally Ludlow (all returning to Brisbane), Bettrys Low (to Toowoomba), Amanda Turlik (to Caloundra), Sophie McDougall (nee Dmitronow, to Gold Coast), Joan Jenkins (retirement), Beth Kipping and Renee Tamatea (maternity leave) and Natalie Edwards (end of contract but still around)– I say thank you for the privilege of sharing your personal and professional journey. Go with our best wishes and heartfelt thanks and prayers for a safe, happy and fulfilling future.

To our wonderful students for just being themselves and learning, every day, what that means as person and learner. Even when they’re ‘in trouble’ they are still pretty special! So often they just make us feel so proud. Like last Friday when a car was parked in the pick-up queue. I had to leave supervision of the students in the P-3 area, only to return to find every single one sitting sensibly where they should have been. No-one was taking advantage of the absence of supervision. That sort of response makes the heart swell with pride.

To students and families who are leaving us, especially the Year 7’s, may your journey be blessed with true friends, great learning, accepted opportunities and a giving heart. Most of all, may you personally know the great love that God has for each of you.

To you, our parents and caregivers, thank you for being valued partners in the education of your children and for your co-operation and support in building Christian community at Stella Maris. I especially thank Tim Eva, Steve Austin, Kelly Loe, Kim Broderick, Damien Faux and the group of active members of the P&P for working in such a way that our community is inclusive and welcoming. Thanks again to Natalie Jarrott and Kellie Elder for a great Fair. I also thank parent members on the School Board, Steve Austin, Natalie Jarrott, Vanessa Portors, Mike Van Dalen and Lauren England for their reliable support and helpful advice.

Thank you to Father Joe and Father Teri for their pastoral support of our community. An active partnership with Parish means so much to students, staff and parents.

And, finally, to staff, parents and students whose charitable and unselfish deeds, large and small, may have gone unseen and unheralded, the One who sees everything knows what you do, and I say thank you on behalf of us all.

Truly, may the enduring peace, the unselfish love and the simple joy of Christ be yours this Christmas and always. Be safe everyone. I look forward to seeing you again after we’ve all had a rest and a happy, holy Christmas.

Have a great few weeks everyone.

Glenda

The Stella Star

3 December 2013

Term 4 Week 9
NB: School closes 12 noon Friday 6 December. After the Farewell Liturgy (11 am start), students will return to their classrooms for dismissal on the bell.

Home Tomorrow
Folios will be sent home with students tomorrow. Apart from key work samples, they will contain the Semester Report, Music Report (if applicable), Fast ForWord report (if applicable), Achievements document and class list. Families will also receive the Yearbook which will be sent home with the eldest child, also on Wednesday.

Return to School 2014
School returns, for students in Years 1-7, on Wednesday 29 January. Prep students will receive a letter indicating their start date. Half of each class will begin on Wednesday 29, the other half on Thursday 30 and all preps are in on Friday 31 January.

Outstanding School Fees
Thank you to those parents who have positively responded to requests for finalisation of accounts. We still have 65 families owing over $1000 each. Those who are yet to do so and have made no contact with us, please be aware that failure to either settle the account or to negotiate an agreed payment plan, may result in forfeiture of enrolment. The Office is open until Friday 13 December and reopens on Monday 20 January. Personal contact will be made with every family carrying debt into the 2014 school year.

Important Financial Information
Parents, please keep an eye out for Financial Information being sent via post within the next few days. Correspondence includes 2014 school fee schedule and important information outlining changes to fee collection procedures. It is most important that you read these communications in order to be well-informed.

Implications for School Enrolment
Please also be aware of the following which is taken directly from the BCE Fee Collection Procedures:

`When parents apply for enrolment of children for whom they have not paid school fees at a previous systemic school, the enrolment should not be confirmed until the debt is paid or waived on the previous principal's advice. Arrangements for payment of future fees must then be put in place before proceeding with the enrolment.'`

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

this picture of elephants speaks to me of the importance of memory. As a child, I read the story, “How the elephant got its trunk,” which helped me understand the importance of memory in making connections between experiences and feelings. It is in the remembering that we come to realise the relative importance or insignificance of events which have shaped our lives, giving us an opportunity to revisit past mistakes to put them in perspective or indeed acknowledge our achievements so that we can build on these understandings in the future.

As we come to the end of the 2013 school year, it’s timely to think back over the year and reflect on our experiences, growth, learning, celebrations and mistakes so that we can say a worthy goodbye to the current year and welcome in the new. Isn’t that what New Year resolutions are all about? It is a time to be grateful for all the blessings we have received and make those New Year resolutions to address the mistakes or omissions. For this reason, the Virtue of Gratitude – chosen for this last week of school - is very pertinent to our reflection about our experiences in these final few days.

Gratitude embodies a constant attitude of thankfulness and appreciation for life as it unfolds. Living in the moment, we are open to abundance around us and within us. We express appreciation freely and contemplate the richness of life. Feasting on the beauty that surrounds us, we notice small graces and are thankful for daily gifts. In life’s trials, we seek to understand, to accept and to learn. The virtue of Gratitude leads us to genuine happiness and a continual celebration of life.

One of the things I am most grateful for this year is an awareness of the connectivity between seemingly disparate experiences, especially those which draw on our spirituality and express themselves in the practical. For example, the generosity of people in donating to ‘The Giving Tree’ for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal is astounding. This really is a generous community! There are many families who will be able to celebrate Christmas with the sure knowledge that they are not alone and that there are people in the community who care for them in both spirit and in a practical sense. Thank your one and all for your generosity.

God bless you all with love and blessings this Christmas, Judith.

Walk as Children of the Light
Immanuel Lutheran College

Still available spaces in the Summer Vacation Care program, but be quick.
Families can obtain enrolment and booking forms from the webpage.
Tamara Scutts
Outside School Hours Care Coordinator
T. 07 5477 3418  W. www.immanuel.qld.edu.au

Senior Swimming Carnival

Last Friday students in Years 4 -7 participated in the Stella Maris swimming carnival. The students had a great day participating and earning points for their House. A BIG thank you to all the parent helpers that assisted on the day. The carnival would not have been possible without your help. There were some very close races which is reflected in the overall point score. Congratulations to all students involved!

**Age Champions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Champions</th>
<th>Point Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 Years Girls - Sasha Pace</td>
<td>1st - Waroo - 531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Years Boys - Tom McClure</td>
<td>2nd - Munum - 525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Years Girls - Jessica Hollis</td>
<td>Equal 3rd Banjora and Pigabella - 475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Years Boys - Ethan O'Rourke</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Years Girls - Abby O'Brien</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Years Boys - Lachlan McClure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Years Girls - Laura Magao</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Years Boys - Liam Parker</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**ABSENTEE LINE: 54098989**
All absentees to be notified by 9.30am
MUSIC NOTES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“To the talented children of the world, let them always have the opportunity to grow, develop, and above all, create.”

~ T. Geter ~

UKULELES - Many students and parents have requested information regarding ukuleles. The ukuleles we have at Stella Maris are ‘Eddy Finn – Minnow’ brand. I have shown most classes the gear mechanism on the pegs which provides the greatest ease for tuning and I would encourage you to look for this if you are considering a purchase for your son/daughter. Prices vary greatly but you should expect to pay around $35 for a good ukulele. Although you can find ukuleles in many stores, these are a few stores that we use for larger purchases. Be sure to mention you attend Stella Maris.

• Simply For Strings – simplyforstrings.com.au
• Ellaways Music – ellaways.com.au

MUSICAL – We are very excited to announce that our planned musical for 2014 is ‘The Wizard of Oz’. Further details will be published in the 2014 newsletter at the start of the school year. Don’t forget to mark your diaries (dates in last week’s newsletter) and be sure to let us know if you are keen to help in any way at all.

SUMMER NOTES - As we arrive at the end of a wonderful school year, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all students, parents, caregivers, and staff for their hard work, dedication, and support for each and every musical experience in 2013.

Below is a list of summer musical ideas that you may find useful at times when there is ‘nothing to do’.

1. Listen to a new genre of music that can’t be found on your iPod
2. Play a musical instrument
3. ‘Jam’ just for fun
4. Sing Christmas carols with your friends and family
5. Parents - listen to your favorite childhood song with your child(ren)
6. Dance to music, especially when no-one is watching
7. Pick an official summer song
8. Make a musical instrument
9. Compose a song
10. Celebrate each day with the gift of music

We would also like to express our sincere thanks and best wishes to all year 7 students who have participated in our school ensembles or have been enrolled in the Instrumental Program during their time at Stella Maris. We hope you continue to perform and enjoy music throughout your lives! Special thanks to the students leading the music ministry for their graduation liturgy tomorrow evening.

Proposed Choral and Instrumental Ensemble Rehearsal Schedule for 2014.

Ensemble rehearsal will begin in Week 3 of Term 1, 2014 (week commencing Monday 10 February)

- Junior Band - Monday 7.45am to 8.30am (from Term 2)
- SM Singers - Tuesday 7.45am to 8.30am
- Concert Band - Wednesday 7.30am to 8.30am
- Senior String Ensemble - Thursday 7.45am to 8.30am
- Guitar Ensemble - Thursday 7.45am to 8.30am
- Piccolo Choir - Thursday 1.45pm to 2.20pm
- Stella Fellas - Thursday 2.25pm to 3.05pm
- Junior String Ensemble - Friday 7.45am to 8.30am (from Term 2)
- Percussion Ensemble - Friday 7.45am to 8.30am

Tuition for new and re-enrolled students will begin in Week 2 of Term 1 next year (week commencing Monday 3 February). Lesson timetables will be emailed out over the weekend prior to this date. If you need to update your email details, please send details to StellaMarisMusic@bne.catholic.edu.au.

We wish everyone a music-filled, restful summer and a very blessed Christmas.

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

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

December 3 Year 7 Graduation Dinner
December 4 Year 5’s to visit St John’s Nambour
December 4 Year 7 Graduation Liturgy
December 5 Year 7 Wet’n’Wild
December 6 School end of year Liturgy 11.00am

School finishes at 12 noon.

2014

January 29 1st Day Term 1
April 4 Last Day Term 1
April 22 1st Day Term 2
June 27 Last Day Term 2
July 14 1st Day Term 3
September 19 Last Day Term 3
October 7 1st Day Term 4
December 5 School year ends

Uniform Shop

Uniform Shop Hours
Monday 8.00am - 10.00am
Wednesday 10.15am - 3.15pm
Thursday 8.00am - 1.00pm

ADDITIONAL HOURS FOR 2014

Monday 20th January 2014: CLOSED
Tuesday 21st January 2014: Open 8am to 4pm
Wednesday 22nd January 2014: Open 8am to 4pm
Thursday 23rd January 2014: Open 11am to 3.30pm
Friday 24th January 2014: Open 8am to 1pm
Tuesday 28th January 2014: CLOSED
Wednesday 29th January 2014: Open 8am to 3.30pm
Thursday 30th January 2014: Open 8am to 1pm
Monday 3rd February 2014: Open 8am to 10am
Wednesday 5th February 2014: Open 10.15am to 3.15pm
Thursday 6th February 2014: Open 8am to 1pm

Tuckshop News...

PLEASE FINALISE YOUR OUTSTANDING TUCKSHOP BILLS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wed 04/12</th>
<th>Thurs 05/12</th>
<th>Fri 06/12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C Cleary</td>
<td>F Johannsen</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stock is running low.
We will endeavour to fill all orders.
Some alternatives may be offered.

To All My Helpers,
Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Thank you to all for volunteering your time and ingredients all year. Without your help the Tuckshop would not run efficiently.

Cathie Peacock

To the talented children of the world, let them always have the opportunity to grow, develop, and above all, create.”

~ T. Geter ~
Christmas Eve Vigil
Tuesday 24 December
5.30pm Coolum Beach ++
5.30pm Maroochydore ++
5.30pm Sippy Downs (Outdoor)
(Bring a chair or picnic rug)
7.00pm Coolum Beach ~~
7.00pm Maroochydore
7.30pm Buderim
Midnight Maroochydore ~~

Christmas Day
Wednesdays 25 December
6.30am Maroochydore ~~
7.30am Coolum Beach
8.00am Buderim ++
8.00am Maroochydore ~~
9.00am Coolum Beach ~~
9.30am Maroochydore ~~

Masses marked ++ are likely to be very crowded
Masses marked ~~ are not likely to be very crowded

Reconciliation
Prior to Christmas
Please note the following times and places will be available for Reconciliation

1st Rite of Reconciliation
Mon 16 Dec 8.00am Maroochydore
Tue 17 Dec 11.30am Buderim
Wed 18 Dec 11.30am Coolum Beach
Thurs 19 Dec 10.30am Maroochydore

2nd Rite of Reconciliation
Tue 17 Dec 5.45pm Sippy Downs
Thurs 19 Dec 5.00pm Buderim
Fri 20 Dec 5.00pm Coolum Beach
Mon 23 Dec 6.00pm Maroochydore

Thankyou to our sponsors: