Dear Parents and Caregivers

From time to time, lists are published of the Top 100 this or that. Invariably when those lists appear about favourite books, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, is near the top. And not without good reason – the book is memorable for all the right reasons. Although it was first published in 1960 and whether it is the first read or the tenth, *To Kill a Mockingbird* retains its heart-warming appeal and its timeless relevance. I love this book.

The characters, so skilfully crafted, rise from the pages, with human nature broadly represented, whether it be in its humble goodness and simplicity, its challenging contradictions or its meanness.

This being the beginning of another school year reminded me of what Scout had to say about her first day at school in the First Grade, an event she had greatly anticipated. Scout, of course, is the free-spirited daughter of Atticus Finch, a lawyer in the small town of Maycomb, Alabama during the Great Depression. People are poor and even those who are better off, are just scraping by. But back to Scout’s first day at school…here’s a snippet:

> Then she went to the blackboard and printed the alphabet in enormous square capitals, turned to the class and asked, “Does anybody know what these are?”

> Everybody did; most of the first grade had failed it last year.

> I suppose she chose me because she knew my name; as I read the alphabet a faint line appeared between her eyebrows, and after making me read most of my First Reader and the stock-market quotations from The Mobile Register aloud, she discovered that I was literate and looked at me with more than faint distaste. Miss Caroline told me to tell my father not to teach me anymore, it would interfere with my reading.

> “Teach me?” I said in surprise. “He hasn’t taught me anything, Miss Caroline. Atticus ain’t got time to teach me anything,” I added. “Why, he’s so tired at night he just sits in the living room and reads.”

> After a further exchange of words, the story continues…..

> Miss Caroline apparently thought I was lying. “Let’s not let our imaginations run away with us,” she said. “Now you tell your father not to teach you any more. It’s best to begin reading with a fresh mind.”

> “Ma’am?”

> “Your father does not know how to teach. You can have a seat now.”

Thank goodness things have changed! There is so much we could teach the young Miss Caroline. We could tell her, for instance, that indeed everyone is a teacher, even though it may not be their paid profession. We all teach – through our words, actions and the content of our character. As such, some of our teaching is helpful and some is not. Some people are aware of their teaching role and take it seriously while others have yet to awaken to the power of their lived example.

Parents, of course, provide the first and primary example for their children. Just as Scout learned to read sitting on Atticus’s lap, so too, the example of parents is absorbed by children. As Scout reflects, ‘I could not remember when the lines above Atticus’s moving finger separated into words, but I had stared at them all the evenings in my memory, listening to the news of the day – anything Atticus happened to be reading when I crawled into his lap every night.’

No doubt the reason Atticus read his paper aloud and used his finger to follow the words, was precisely to pique Scout’s interest in reading, and yet he never said the words, ‘Scout, I am going to teach you to read. This is the letter A…..’

As for Scout, she followed her father’s example without being aware she was learning to read. As so much of what we learn is absorbed in similar ways, how important it is to become increasingly aware of what we teach through our example and what we are learning by following the example of others.

Have a great week everyone.

Glenda

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Dear Parents,

The Federal Government’s Gonski Review of Funding for Schools has now been presented to the government. A period of government consultation and public debate on its recommendations is expected to follow after the report’s release later this month.

As key stakeholders in the future of Catholic education it is vital that you are aware of the facts about school funding, so that you are able to participate in this debate at any opportunity.

Please find attached a graph that illustrates the comparative average resourcing levels of the State, Catholic and Independent schooling sectors in Australia.

For more detailed information about school funding I encourage you to visit the website developed by the National Catholic Education Commission at: [www.fundinginfo.catholic.edu.au](http://www.fundinginfo.catholic.edu.au)
Hello Parents, Friends, Carers and Extended family,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome new families to Stella Maris and to say hello again to returning families for 2012. Hopefully this will be a fun filled and exciting year for our children and our families for the school year.

As President of the Parents and Friends Association, and on behalf of the Committee, I would like to extend a warm invitation to all to participate as much as they can throughout the year to develop a genuine Stella Maris community. The success of the P&F will largely be driven by you and we encourage you to participate, and be in involved, as you will truly find it a rewarding experience.

As a member of the Stella Maris community not all parents/carer are aware that they are in fact members of the P&F. As such this is your forum to have issues of community and fund raising tabled for discussion. It is your opportunity to positively contribute to our children’s experiences at Stella Maris. We, the committee, invite your participation, either by attending our monthly meetings or emailing through to us your issues / ideas so they can be added to the agenda, discussed amongst ourselves and with the school proper. We aim to table, in the school newsletter our meeting agenda the week prior to our meetings and encourage you to view it and attend for your contribution.

At all stages we welcome your feedback on the progress of the P&F as it is our intent to be inclusive to create a better stronger school community.

Finally I would like to acknowledge the outgoing P&F committee and the fantastic work they have done over recent years. Their work has been tireless and often thankless. Great effort Tracey, Michelle, Nikki, Steve and the rest of the committee. You were and are very much appreciated.

Again a warm welcome for 2012 and we look forward to a fun year ahead

Regards Tim Eva

P&F President 2012.

1st P&F Meeting for 2012
14 February @ 6.15pm in the Staffroom. All welcome.

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Dear Parents & Caregivers,

What a busy week it has been; I don’t know where the time goes! We are already in Week 3 with a new Virtue to be introduced - Commitment. This Virtue was chosen to coincide with the students forming their class Vision Statement and Commitment Ceremonies over the next couple of weeks. We hope you can join with your child’s learning group in celebrating their Vision about how they want to be together this year.

Commitment is caring deeply about a person, a goal or a belief. Once we discern a direction, we go for it wholeheartedly. We don’t hold back, second-guess our decision or hesitate to act on it fully. We set goals and achieve them. We make promises and keep them. We go the extra mile. We are faithful to our relationships and don’t allow problems to make us waver. Keeping our commitments strengthens our inner integrity. It deepens our capacity to carry responsibility with grace.

In practising Commitment:
- I am discerning about my decisions;
- I give 100% to what I do;
- I am confident in my choices;
- I keep my agreements;
- I am loyal to those I care about;
- I have the strength to go the distance.

[Virtues Project International]

Until one is committed, there is hesitancy, the chance to draw back, always ineffectiveness… he moment one commits oneself, then Providence moves too. [Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe]

Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten Season in the Church is also coming quickly and once again we will have a Lenten Program for Parents. The program will run for six Tuesday mornings from 21st February at 8.30am in the Children’s Chapel (you may like to drop the children at school and then participate in the program). Last year it was very worthwhile for participants and we are hoping to have another wonderful program this year, entitled ‘Towards the Light’. If you are interested in participating, please complete the slip below and return to the School Office by no later than this Friday 10th February so we can order your booklet (cost $8.00). We hope you take this opportunity to make this Lent a very prayerful and reflective one. Fathers and Mothers are welcome.

God bless,

Judith.

Thank you to:
Dyon Crear, Tess Ryan, Phoebe Broderick

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Italian for 2012
Benvenuti a tutti - Welcome back everyone.

Italian is the most beautiful language and to compliment the Italian language that students in Year 6 & 7 are learning, they are adopting an Italian first name to be used in all Italian classes. New name, new language, new sounds and a love of all things Italian will help to make this an enjoyable experience at Stella Maris. As well, in early March we have Applauso - a live one-man show based on three Commedia dell’Arte characters. The show is filled with music, movement and interesting characters from different regions of Italy.

Carmel Barbagallo – LOTE Italian teacher, Stella Maris.

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Please complete and return by Friday 10th February 2012
I wish to participate in the Lenten Program ‘Towards the Light’ and enclose $8.00 as payment for my reflection book.

Full Name/s……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………...

Contact Phone Number/s……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

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School Dental Visit

The School Dental Van will be coming to Stella Maris School in Term 1. Dental forms have been issued to Years 2 and 7 initially. Forms will progressively be given to other year levels.

The Dental Van staff can be contacted on Ph. 0407 695 226

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Magazines please.

5B would like to collect any spare magazines to use for the Year 5 Media unit on Persuasive Devices. Please leave on the seat outside 5B classroom. Many thanks in advance. Therese Lecompte
QUOTE OF THE WEEK
“To stop the flow of music would be like the stopping of time itself, incredible and inconceivable.”
~Aaron Copland~

CLASSROOM MUSIC - Much of the focus during Term 1 will be on rhythm and beat and the importance of these two concepts in Music. During each lesson we apply these concepts in singing, playing, movement, and writing.

I have spoken with a few parents regarding the Introducing Music textbooks. For some reason, a few Year 2/3 students received the Year 4/5 book and vice versa. I will endeavour to arrange a ‘book swap’ with these children (with parental permission) this week. It is my understanding that if you are new to the school and still require a book for the 2012 school year or if your child lost their book from last year, Swan News Agency in the Sunshine Plaza is taking orders for these textbooks to be ordered ASAP.

CHOIR NEWS - I have had a few inquiries regarding choirs for the 2012 school year. My intention is to have three choirs this year and any student who would like to join either choir is most welcome to come along to our first rehearsal this week. Rehearsals are listed below.

TIP OF THE WEEK - Compose your own music. Be sure to include a time signature, and use a variety of different pitches and rhythms. Now play it!!

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NEWS - All tutors and students had a great start to instrumental, speech, and singing lessons last week. In particular, our new students were particularly focused - well done!! Parents are reminded to complete the personal information in the Lesson Diary to ensure communication channels are open.

This week most of our ensembles will commence rehearsals. Parents are reminded to return participation slips to the office ASAP. An updated list of rehearsal times is below:

Concert Band - TUESDAY - 7.30am in the Music Room
Stella Fellas - WEDNESDAY - 2.30pm in the Music Room Years 4 – 7 (boys)
Junior Strings - THURSDAY - 7.45am in the School Hall (Note: this group will start next week - 16 Feb)
SM Singers - THURSDAY - 2.30pm in the Music Room Years 4 – 7 (girls)
Speech Choir - THURSDAY - 10.45am in the Music Room Years 4 – 7 (boys and girls)
Piccolo Choir - THURSDAY - 2.30pm in the Music Room Years 2 and 3 (boys and girls)
Senior Strings - FRIDAY - 7.45am in the School Hall
Percussion Ensemble - FRIDAY - 7.45am in the Music Room

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.

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

Coastal District Trials - Swimming
Qualifying times must be met and signed by registered swimming coach. Qualifying times available through email: akelleher@bne.catholic.edu.au
School team selected according to times. Please forward times by Wednesday 15th February.

SAINTS NETBALL CLUB
Team Allocations
Thursday 9 February 4.00pm
Players Born 2002 & 2003

Thursday 9 February 5.00pm
Players Born 2000 & 2001

Tuesday 14 February 4.00pm
Players Born 1995 to 1999

Thank you to all those who signed on at our recent registration days. Our last day for registration is this Sat 11th Feb at 9am to 12 pm at the soccer canteen on Bliss oval. We are still looking for a canteen coordinator, which is paid per home game of $150. Don’t forget our “Just for kicks” try out for 4yrs to 7yrs boys and girls is on this Wed after school on bliss oval from 3.30 to 5.30pm. If you have any questions please call Damien (Club President) on 0411283065.

NORTH SHORE JETS AFL CLUB SIGN ON
•for boys and girls U8 – U16 Juniors •Girls Youth team •AFLQ U18’s •Senior Men’s
at North Shore Multi Sports Complex , Mudjimba Beach Rd, Mudjimba
On Saturday 11 Feb & Sunday 12 Feb 10am - 2pm
Come and meet “Bernie Gabba Vegas” - the Brisbane Lions Mascot on Saturday 11 Feb from 12 – 12.30pm
New players, please bring your birth certificate.

Tuckshop News

Ingredients Roster

Week Ending 10 February  J Gilligan, T Gorring, K Holzer, A Horridge, M Hunter, M Johnstone, V Jones, J Lee, D Lusio, D Lyndon, M MacDonald, N MacMinn, K Magao, T Mahon, L Martin,
SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

All school volunteers must read the STUDENT PROTECTION for VOLUNTEERS Handbook on the Stella Maris School Website or a hard copy held in the Guidance Counsellor Office. All volunteers then need to meet with the Guidance Counsellor to discuss the process and to sign a confirmation sheet before they can begin volunteer tasks. Any person who completed this process in 2011 does not need to do it again until 2013. Anyone who attended information sessions prior to 2011 needs to attend again in 2012. Please arrange an appointment with the Guidance Counsellor by contacting the Front Office.

P5 Pleasurable Parenting Program

Are you a parent who would....

• Like to improve your relationship with your child? • Like your child to listen to you better?
• Like to manage emotional situations effectively? • Like to enjoy parenting?

This course may be for you!!

P5 is a participatory programme promoting pleasurable parenting. It is a 7 week, structured program that encourages parents to make their own decisions. The aim of the programme is to make parenting enjoyable in a way that allows you to make informed and responsible decisions and become a confident parent.

WHEN: Thursday 8th March to 26th April 2012
TIME: 10am-12.30 with a break for morning tea
WHERE: Nambour Community Centre–2 Shearer St Nambour. Room 1
COST: $5.00 p/w refreshments provided.

Book early to avoid missing out Phone the Nambour Community Centre on 5441 4724 or Good Beginnings 5476 4933

Christine Craig (Guidance Counsellor)

Thankyou to our sponsors: