Dear Parents and Caregivers

It’s Catholic Education Week and what better time than this to write about what makes a Catholic school different from the school down the road - not ‘better’ but ‘different’.

I’ve been thinking a lot about this topic for a number of reasons. Firstly, with the application for a ‘bubble’ prep class for 2015 (more about this later) and secondly because all BCE principals attended the Leadership Conference last week at which the whole of the first day was devoted to this very topic. Mind you, there has been a lot of reading, discussion, thought, prayer and reflection given to the nature of Catholic identity over the years, right from the time I first made the move from State Education in 1980 while teaching in Mount Isa.

I have written before about the fact that, at that time, I was reading, discussion, thought, prayer and reflection given to what we believe and how we seek to behave. Having said that, I am drawing on the work of the first presenter, Prof. Dr. Didier Pollefeyt of Belgium’s Catholic University of Leuven, I am in agreement with the definition provided by Professor Pollefeyt; I think it makes a Catholic school different from the school down the road. And, then, why ‘Catholic’ in the name of the school, nor by the enrolment of a high proportion of baptised Catholic children. And, then, why is it important for a Catholic school to be authentically Catholic in the first place?

After attendance at last week’s Leadership Conference, and drawing on the work of the first presenter, Prof. Dr. Didier Pollefeyt of Belgium’s Catholic University of Leuven, I am convinced more than ever of the necessity for us to be open, articulate and unapologetic about who we are, and what we stand for, as a Catholic school.

I firmly believe that Catholic schools must be places of inclusion (as far as accommodation allows), whether that be in terms of diversity of abilities, financial capacity or cultural/religious background. Inclusivity and openness, however, do not equate with the ‘watering down’ of our faith or specific identity; the Catholic school is not a neutral place in terms of what we believe and how we seek to behave. Having said that, life is rarely black or white, as much as we may wish it were that simple. It is necessary then to develop our capacity to live authentic Christian lives in an increasingly secularised world that is full of contradictions, scepticism and uncertainty. We must be aware of the economic marketplace that tells us that everything is relative and up for grabs and that the ultimate goal ‘consists solely of one’s own ego and desires.’ (*Pope Benedict XVI, Homily at Saint Peter’s Basilica, 2005).

Basilica, 2005). In the midst of this confusion and competition for hearts and minds, the authentic Catholic school seeks to assist all its members find that solid place inside that can be found only in one’s relationship with a loving God. ‘It is this friendship that opens up to all that is good and gives us a criterion by which to distinguish the true from the false and deceit from truth.’ (Pope Benedict XVI) That place inside, however, is not rigid and dogmatic. nor is it uncompromising and judging.

Rather, this search for meaning and value in today’s context is to be found ‘in the continuous interpretation of the world’ in the light of friendship with God, through the person of Jesus. Through this relationship, we come to a better understanding of God as well as the true nature of our identity (and that of all others). Didier Pollefeyt likens the experience of God as ‘like bathing in a light coming from elsewhere; a uniting, endearing light that gives me a sight of Love that invokes gratitude, brings peace and that calls me to responsibility and alters my worldview.’ I believe this description would sit comfortably with those who have had such an experience.

So, what is a Catholic school? What should it be? I paraphrase, in part, the definition provided by Professor Pollefeyt; I think it captures the essence very nicely: The Catholic school is an inclusive learning community, an open space of meaning and relationships, where mediations such as stories, symbols, rituals, values, rules of living etc are offered and brought to life in a conscious and caring manner. All members of the community are invited and are given the opportunity to stand through these mediations in a living relationship with God who is uniquely available to us through the person of Christ. This relationship transforms both the educational context of the school and the total personal development of every community member.

Thus, then, the Catholic school stands as a Christ-centred, life-giving and hope-filled voice, amidst the competing voices. This is an alternative, often counter-cultural voice and experience which potentially shapes the personal and collective identity of its members, young and old. One’s identity is never neutral, nor does it start from scratch for it is already marked by the fears and dreams of our parents, the structure and social climate of our family lives, the schools attended and the friends found or not found, the books read and not read, the poetry and music listened to, the people met by coincidence, the suffering experienced or not experienced, the culture, traditions and spirit of the times in which we live, not to mention the ‘invisible loyalties’ that pass from generation to generation. (D. Pollefeyt, Leadership Conference, 2014)

So much food for thought!

Have a great Catholic Education Week everyone. Glenda
Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Catholic Education Week is celebrated across Queensland from 27 July to 2 August this year. This annual event provides an opportunity to highlight the special ethos and mission of Catholic education, showcase the great things happening and celebrate the significant role Catholic education plays within the Church and wider communities.

The theme for this year’s celebrations is: **Come, live life in all its fullness.**

This inspirational call is based on the Gospel of John (10:10), challenging those who answer it to “live fully”.

Reflecting this Gospel call, our school, like all Catholic schools, strives to provide a learning experience through which every young person has the opportunity to reach their full human potential - spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, socially, culturally and physically - and know what it means to engage in all that life has to offer.

During Catholic Education Week 2014, Catholic educational communities across Queensland are invited to celebrate and share how their communities are encouraging and providing opportunities for their members to “Come, live life in all its fullness”.

There are 296 Catholic schools in Queensland that educate around 143,000 students and employ almost 17,000 teachers and staff, and most will celebrate Catholic Education Week in some way.

Our school is planning to celebrate the week with the community. Of particular importance is our celebration of Grandparents’ Day on Thursday 31st July when we remember all of our Grandparents - those who are able to attend and those who will be remembered, as well as the significant legacy they pass on to us. There will be a short concert in the School Hall beginning at 9am followed by morning tea, courtesy of our wonderful Parents’ and Friends’ Association. Grandparents are invited to visit their grandchildren’s classrooms and see first-hand the work they are doing. The morning’s festivities will conclude at 10.35am so that the students can break for lunch. Please see flyer sent home with last week’s newsletter for more information.

We have high hopes for a wonderful celebration of Grandparents’ Day during Catholic Education Week and hope many grandparents can join us.

CARE PANTRY: We urgently needs meals for the Care Pantry— if anyone can assist, please collect containers from the Care Pantry Thursday or Friday morning this week from 8.15 –8.30am. Thank you in anticipation.

God bless,

Judith

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**School Board**
We welcome Mrs Phoebe Simpson onto the School Board, following completion of the necessary in-service. Phoebe attended her first meeting last Thursday evening. Welcome Phoebe.

**Classes for 2015** - With the number of applications received and the availability of classrooms as a result of the Year 7 move to secondary next year, permission has been received to proceed with a fifth prep class for 2015 (only). This will have the effect of reducing the number of students in each prep class. To reduce class sizes in Years 1 and 2 next year, it is also very likely we will introduce an additional (multi-age) class of Year 1 and 2 students. That means there will be four Year 1 classes, four Year 2 classes and a multi-age 1-2 – not extra children, just an extra class. Please be aware that students placed in this multi-age setting will be by parent request or permission only, which is the way multi-age classes have always operated at Stella Maris. Obviously there will be further information about this option for the present Prep and Year 1 students as plans firm.

**Jeans for Genes Day – Gold Coin Donation** - At the initiative of the Student Social Justice Committee, next Friday we will participate in Jeans for Genes Day as a fundraiser for that worthy cause. Please read further information elsewhere in this newsletter and make sure to bring a gold coin. Please also be aware that, due to Year 6 and 7 students’ participation in Interschool Sport next Friday, they are invited to wear a pair of jeans with their leadership shirts and school shoes on Thursday. All other students participate on Friday. This is not a free dress day as such. Students wear their Stella Maris sports shirt (navy) and all other parts of our uniform dress day as such. Students wear their Stella Maris sports shirt Thursday. All other students participate on Friday.

**In and Outs**

**Support Meetings**

**Wednesday 30 July**
Support Meetings with Sharon Wilson 8:45-10:45 Kim Hughes 6B; 11:30-1:30 Rosanne Hughes 6/7D
**Thursday 31 July** - Grandparents in from all over the country 9-10.30
Support Meetings with Kelly Pursnell 11:30-12:30 Tegan Burr 2A; 12:30-3.00 Anthony Graham 2B
Rachel Haag in for Luke Pamemanni 6A (AFL final in Bris);
Melissa Graham – BCE Consultant visiting 12-1.30

**Friday 1 August** - Year 6 & 7 students at Interschool Sport 10.30-2.30 ICLT Project Team 8:45am-3:05pm
Bennie Baillie (0D) replaced by Jackie Smith;
Kath Donohue (1A) replaced by Astrid Van Der Linden;
Lauren Solomon (2C) replaced by Mia Flaherty;
Tony Kelleher (4B) replaced by Jack Birgan;
Emily Kosiur (5D) replaced by Colleen Tonkes;
**Monday 4 August** - Glenda at Panel Briefing 12 – 4.30 in Brisbane
Support Meetings with Kelly Pursnell 8:45 - 9:45; 9:45-1:30 Holly Jarden 1C

**Tuesday 5 August**
Coastal Districts’ Athletics
Linda Till (Phys Ed) replaced by Carolyn Watt
Kim Hughes (6B) replaced by Rachel Haag

**Maths Project Team**
8.45-10.45 Suzette Ellis OA & 11.25 - 1.25 Frais Marrinon 1D
replaced by Jackie Smith;
8.45-10.45 & 1:45 - 3.00 Therese Lecompte 4A & 11.25 - 1.25
Larissa Livermore 3C replaced by Kate Holzer

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**Congratulations to the new owner of the P & F Car**

Park: Chris Gibberd

**July School Fees are due.**
**MUSIC NOTES**

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

“I love to hear a choir. I love the humanity...to see the faces of real people devoting themselves to a piece of music. I like the teamwork. It makes me feel optimistic about the human race when I see them cooperating like that.” — Paul McCartney

**MUSICAL NEWS** – ‘The Wizard of Oz’ - Parents and students are reminded of our upcoming Wednesday rehearsals. Don’t forget to mark these on your calendars.  
August 13th, 20th, 27th, September 3rd, 10th, & 17th from 3:30 – 5pm.

**CHOIR NEWS - SUNSHINE COAST CATHOLIC SCHOOLS CHORAL SPECTACULAR** - We would like to extend a HUGE thank you to all Stella Fellass and SM Singers who participated in the Sunshine Coast Catholic Schools Choral Day yesterday in the Stella Maris Hall. We are very proud of your hard work and concentration for a long day of music making. What a fabulous day it was with singing many songs and meeting new friends. The combined choir of over 300 voices was truly spectacular and made each of us involved in the day realize why we love teaching children music. It was a pleasure to hear the joy in your voices singing those songs. The quote above speaks volumes to the success of yesterday’s Choral Day and the true meaning of collaboration with other schools.

I would like to extend special thanks to Mr Wynyard for his assistance with the organization before and on the day, Ms Worth for her outstanding accommodating all day as well as at the concert, Ms Grace for accompanying Stella Fellass, and to the many parent volunteers who assisted in so many ways. Thank you also to Ms Morgan, the staff of Stella Maris, and the parents of our choir members for your support of our music program. We are blessed to have such a supportive community at Stella Maris. (And thank you Inez, for the terrific organization—you are a treasure! - GM)

**CONGRATULATIONS** - to the Year 2 Piccolo Choir members and the Senior String Ensemble for a fantastic performance on assembly last week. Best of luck at the Sunshine Coast Junior Eisteddfod next week.

**REMINDER - GRANDPARENTS DAY** - is this Thursday 31 July, Year 3 Piccolo Choir, Stella Fellass, Concert Band and Senior String Ensemble will be performing. Yr 3 Piccolo Choir and Stella should meet Mrs Durrer in the Hall at 8.15am, Concert Band will meet Mr Wynyard in the Hall no later than 8.30am. Senior Strings should meet at their normal rehearsal time of 7.30am in the Music Room.

**SUNSHINE COAST JUNIOR EISTEDDFOD** - started last week and already we have many golden moments to report. Well done to the following students in their results last week – Heather Smith (2 x Highly Commended awards), Stefan Smith (a Highly Commended and a 3rd prize), Josh Linnett (2 x 1st prizes), Nathan Linnett (4 x Highly Commended and 2 x 3rd prize awards) Congratulations to these students and their teacher Miss Worth. Best wishes to students performing in coming weeks. Please remember to let us know your results.

**WEEKEND WORKSHOP REMINDER** – for this Saturday 2 August at Siena Primary School. Times are as follows – Junior Band Workshop from 2pm to 4pm, Senior String Ensemble Workshop from 3pm – 5pm and Concert Band Workshop from 4pm to 6pm. Remember to bring your instruments, a drink bottle and wear free dress. See email from Mr Wynyard from Sunday 13 July.

Remember, if you need to contact your child’s tutor, details are shown on the top left corner of their lesson timetable. 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.

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

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**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).

(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

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**NSW University Computer Competition**

Thirty two Stella Maris children participated in the NSW University Computer competition in May.

The following children received a Merit, Credit or Distinction for their Computer skills:

**MERIT:** Lily Fott, Teddy Huby, Charlotte Carnell, Eden Henrick  
**CREDIT:** Sam Henrick, William Brown, Lewis Teed, Jett Spink, Mau Naufahu  
**DISTINCTION:** Sophie Crowe, Matthew Haley, John Tuxworth

Congratulations to all students who participated. Certificates will be awarded at Thursday’s Assembly.

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**GRANDPARENTS’ DAY**

Thursday 31st July

Only 3 more sleeps now till we have our wonderful grandparents here at school!! Our short concert starts at 9am in the School Hall. Weather permitting, please know that the back oval will be available for parking. Entry to Bliss Oval will be via Tepaquar Drive. In the event of rain, we unfortunately will have to ask grandparents to find parking on nearby streets. Please know that if a grandparent requires being let out close to the hall, carers are welcome to park behind hall or pull up briefly outside hall. We are all looking forward to your arrival. A special day awaits you!!

_Luke Parnemann_
Dear parents/caregivers,

Jeans for Genes Day is a great way to raise money for children with genetic disorders.

The Children’s Medical Research Institute [CMRI] are the brains behind Jeans for Genes Day and are dedicated to improving and extending the lives of children everywhere.

CMRI has been leading the way in fighting children’s diseases since 1958 and with your help, the lives of children with genetic diseases could be saved.

All that students have to do to be a part of Jeans for Genes Day is to wear their jeans to school on the specified date and bring in a gold coin donation.

Jeans for Genes Day is this Friday, the 1st of August and prep to year five are encouraged to wear their jeans on this date.

PLEASE NOTE: Jeans must be worn with the school sport shirt, shoes, hat and other items. Not ‘free dress’.

Because school leaders [years six and seven] have inter school sport on Friday, they can wear their jeans with their leadership polo shirts on Thursday the 31July.

Thank you for helping this wonderful cause.

Jessica Lane and Ella Shuttleworth
Social Justice Committee

The 3 Cs of Gentle Discipline:
Connection – physical affection, empathy, imaginative play, shared interests
Communication – listening, reflecting, validating, sharing, discussing
Cooperation – inviting, encouraging, interacting, helping, supporting

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

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

Thank you to our sponsors: