Dear Parents and Caregivers

It’s a fairly frequent occurrence that I speak with individuals, groups or even whole year levels about language used with one another here at school. As use of inappropriate language invariably takes place out of our ear-shot, we usually find out about it when a student asks his or her parent what a certain word means, and then the parent, wisely, passes on the information which allows us to address the matter. Such a situation provides a learning opportunity not to be missed – even for those who may not be directly involved at the time. It’s not always language of course; there are numerous other matters discussed with students from time to time.

The purpose of these talks is not ‘to name and shame the guilty.’ Rather, it is about raising student awareness of issues they face in order to support them in making conscious and wise decisions about the direction in which they want their lives to go. It is never too early to sow the seeds of care, personal and communal responsibility and self-worth. I know some people think that primary age children are too young, but those responsible for the negative influences in society are certainly not sitting around waiting for children to reach mature age before they target their audience. On the contrary, they want to attract the young, the vulnerable, the unsuspecting. As parents and teachers, then, we look for the teachable moments to draw attention to the important things of life and the course of wise decision-making. Often these teachable moments coincide with the times when things seem to be going pear-shaped and at such times, we adults need to make wise choices of our own.

As students get older, they need to grow in self-knowledge and awareness; they need to grow in their understanding of what motivates them when faced with a life choice; is it love or is it fear, because most certainly, it will be one or the other. For instance, when the peer group uses explicit or derogatory language, if raised to consciousness, thinking might go something like this, ‘Do I join in and use that language?’ ‘If I don’t, they might think I’m a goody-goody and exclude me from the group. I might have no friends. They might even call me those names.’ Following that line of thought, if the child then joins the group in using language s/he knows to be offensive, crude or inappropriate, then the motivation has been from fear – fear of being excluded or made fun of.

On the other hand, response to the same question, ‘Do I join in and use that language?’ could go like this, ‘I know I shouldn’t be using these words. I know they don’t make anyone feel good or contribute to a better world. I know these words are inappropriate and cause hurt and ugliness. I am not taking part in this and, with a little courage, I will speak up because I care about my friends and I don’t want to see any of us say or do something that will cause harm.’ This would be a decision made out of love and care for self and others.

When we bring light to our habits of thinking and to motives for our behaviour, (when we bring self-knowledge and awareness), there is greater hope of change - when change is what is needed. As adults, we often point out the need for self-control and certainly self-control is important, but self-control alone cannot bring change, it merely contains the impulse and, sooner or later, self-control will give out. In self-knowledge and awareness, however, lie the seeds of sustainable change.

Recently I read these wise words:

Watch your thoughts; they become words.
Watch your words; they become actions.
Watch your actions; they become habits.
Watch your habits; they become character.
Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.

I’ve written many times about the need to be the watcher of our own thoughts; for the thoughts a person chooses to cultivate indeed become that person’s destiny. Going hand in hand with this—How important is it that young ones are not exposed to images and information for which they are unprepared—in age, maturity or simply as a decent person, regardless of age?

Have a great week everyone. Glenda

NAMBOUR SHOW HOLIDAY Friday 14 June.
Dear Parents/Caregivers,

The Virtue for this coming fortnight is LOVE.

Love is our greatest gift. I am practising Love when I:
- Allow myself to connect deeply with and care for others and the environment;
- Accept and appreciate the ones I love;
- Do the work on myself that needs to be done for me to be a loving person; and
- Treat others as I would like to be treated.

“Love is patient; Love is kind…it bears all things, hopes all things, endures all things” (1Cor 13:7)

As I contemplate the Virtue of Love, I am encouraged by the words in a book of daily reflections written by Sarah Young, who, in reflecting on the letters of Peter and John, together with Revelation, puts things into perspective for me especially at this time of year with enrolment interviews and reporting in full swing. I hope it helps you too as I am sure there must be others feeling a bit overwhelmed by all that needs to be done before the end of term.

SEEK TO LIVE IN MY LOVE, which covers a multitude of sins: both yours and others’. Wear my Love like a cloak of Light covering you from head to toe. Have no fear, for perfect love decimates fear. Look at other people through the lenses of Love; see them from My perspective. This is how you walk in the Light, and it pleases me.

I want my believers to be radiant with the Light of My Presence. How I grieve when pockets of darkness increasingly dim the Love-Light. Return to me, your First Love! Gaze at me in the splendour of holiness, and my love will once again envelop you in Light.

(1 Peter 4:8; 1 John 4:18; Revelation 2:4)

SARAH YOUNG – Jesus Calling 2004

I find that in contemplating these words I am more able to take one step at a time and realise more fully that our God is a God of Love. I don’t need to rely solely on my own resources, but through prayer am able to draw on the grace of God to help me manage each task I have before me. It gives my work a higher purpose as I realise this is what I am to do to the best of my ability at this moment in time. Have a wonderful week.

God bless,

Judith.

STELLA MARIS FAIR ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE
PRESENTS STELLA’S GOT TALENT 2013

Students are invited to prepare an act and compete for the title of
STELLA JUNIOR IDOL – PREP, YEAR 1, 2 & 3
and
STELLA SENIOR IDOL – YEAR 4, 5, 6 & 7

Acts may include up to 3 students.

One act will be chosen as finalist for each year level from Prep to Yr 7. All finalists will perform at the Fair.

Your child’s teacher has the rules and criteria of this competition. Auditions will begin in Week 1, Term 3

Winners and finalists will receive prizes.

Winners will be decided on the day by a panel of judges including teachers, parents and the guest judge Livi Robbins (X Factor). Livi Robbins will also be a guest performer at the Fair.
MUSIC NOTES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK
“We are the music makers, and we are the makers of dreams.”
~ Charlie & The Chocolate Factory ~

TIP OF THE WEEK
Praise, praise, praise - if you have achieved your goal while playing at home, give yourself a pat on the back. Well done!

INSTRUMENTAL, SINGING AND SPEECH timetables are being finalized this week for next term. Any changes should be advised in writing to StellaMansMusic@bne.catholic.edu.au ASAP to avoid additional changes.

INSTRUMENT REPAIR AND SERVICE
When was the last time your instrument was serviced? All musical instruments should be serviced once every 12 months and the holidays is a great time to get this done! Below is a list of local businesses who can assist with this important job to ensure your equipment is working well. Piano service – Bill Vine on 0412 785 781, Woodwind and Brass service – Hornfix on 0406 760 293.

WORLDS BIGGEST ORCHESTRA
Do you want to make musical history? Do you want to witness musical history being made? Here's your chance! Queensland Music Festival (QMF) kicks off with a bang; two official GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS challenges in one day on Saturday 13 July - the World's Biggest Orchestra and the Largest Trumpet Ensemble - and you're invited. Whatever your orchestral instrument of choice; whether you're part of a school or community orchestra, string ensemble, concert or brass band, a professional musician or play just for fun - you could be playing alongside QMF Artistic Director and internationally renowned musician, James Morrison, and up to 10,000 other musicians at Suncorp Stadium. A chance like this may only come once in a lifetime, so register now and be able to say that you were part of it! Register at www.worldsbiggestorchestra.com

REPORTS have been prepared for all enrolled students and will be distributed with the school report at the end of this term. Parents are invited to contact tutors if they wish to discuss any part of the report or their child's progress.

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

Musically Yours,

Inez Durrer    Todd Wynyard
Classroom Music Specialist   Instrumental Music Coordinator
durrer@bne.catholic.edu.au         twynyard@bne.catholic.edu.au

Music in the Community – this year is the 200th anniversary of the birth of Giuseppe Verdi and his famous “Requiem” will be performed at 3pm on Sunday 16 June at the Lake Kawana Community Centre. This is a rare opportunity to hear this amazing work performed by a professional orchestra, soloists and chorale here on the Coast. For bookings call 5444 3899 or www.trybooking.com. Not to be missed!!

Principal's Awards
13 June 2013

Tastings Success
Congratulations to Harrison Kidd on making the Sunshine Coast Regional Cross Country Team by running into 5th place at the recent titles. Harrison will now compete at the Queensland Titles in Ipswich in July.

GOOD LUCK HARRISON

SOS CONCERT DVD
Any families interested in purchasing a copy of the SOS concert on DVD, these can be ordered through the uniform shop for $5 each.

Vacation Care program is available. Please call the uniform shop on 54098920 and leave a message.

As we bake pikelets and muffins every day we really do use many of these packet mixes. The children definitely prefer chocolate muffins and because we are trying to meet with the healthy requirements the low fat mixes are preferable. Suggestions for required items are: Packet Mixes (Pikelet, Chocolate Muffin, Chocolate Cake) Icing Sugar, Eggs, Sugar, Cocoa, Butter, Coconut, Dates, Fruit or Salad Items (particularly apples for the slinky machine.)

Week Ending 07 June

Walk as Children of the Light
Immanuel Lutheran College
www.immanuel.qld.edu.au or ph 54477 3418 Tamara Scutts Outside School Hours Care Coordinator

Tuckshop News...

Ingredients Roster

Wed 12/06    Thurs 13/06    Fri 14/06    Mon 17/06    Tues 18/06
J Robinson    L Wiseman    NAMBOUR SHOW HOLIDAY    A Schofield    K Harris

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Week Ending 07 June
Auditory Processing Disorder Continued.

The Treatments

APD can be treated from childhood through adolescence—when the auditory pathways stop developing—and even later, although experts agree that the earlier the diagnosis and treatment, the better. As with ADHD, a combination of professional, school, and home therapies is most effective.

Treatment includes a wide variety of exercises that target specific auditory deficits. Therapy can range from computer-assisted software programs like Fast ForWord and Earobics to one-on-one training with a speech and language therapist. Here are some common approaches:

To overcome sound discrimination problems, a professional trains the child’s brain to differentiate sounds—first in a quiet environment, then with increasingly louder background noise.

To sharpen auditory memory, an audiologist uses sequencing routines—having the child repeat a series of numbers and directions—to exercise the “muscles.”

To manage language processing problems, a therapist will train and encourage a child to ask a teacher, adult, or peer to repeat or rephrase an instruction or comment. The therapist and child might also work on developing a customized note-taking system that enables him to capture the information being taught in the classroom.

At School

Classroom accommodations can often include the following:

- Improving the acoustics—closing a window, shutting a door, adding a rug—can help an APD child “hear” the teacher.
- Seating a child in the front of the classroom, away from students who might be disruptive, will also enhance a child’s ability to listen.
- Asking a teacher to face a child, speak slowly, and use simple sentences when giving assignments can help an APD student retain the information.
- Writing instructions on a blackboard or a piece of paper can reinforce what was said.

(All classrooms at Stella Maris are equipped with Red Cat sound amplification systems which distribute sound evenly around the room and greatly benefit all students, including those with APD.)

At Home

The following tips will increase your child’s ability to listen when he or she is at home:

- Don’t try to have a significant conversation when your child is in another room, watching television, or listening to music—or when an appliance is running.
- Before you start a conversation, be sure your child is ready to listen (finished with what she was doing). Also, face her directly and make sure she is looking at you.
- Speak slowly and use simple, short sentences; pause between ideas.
- Encourage your child to ask you to repeat something that he doesn’t understand.

Christina, now 11, has learned to use that last strategy—asking questions until she grasps what’s being said—with friends, parents, and teachers. “It’s been successful for her,” says mum. Eight years of speech and language therapy have helped her daughter accomplish many of her social and academic goals. But Christina did something that her mother thought she’d never achieve—joining the chorus. “There she was on stage at the parents’ day assembly, singing her heart out and playing drums!” says her mother. “She was so proud of herself, and I was the only 4th grade mum with tears streaming down her cheeks.”

Adapted from ADDitude Magazine 2013

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