Dear Parents and Caregivers

With the end of Term 2, it’s time to share important information about what’s coming up in Term 3. It certainly looks to be another busy one.

I’ll begin with matters to do with staffing. Firstly, a number of teachers are taking various forms of leave during the term:

Sharon Wilson (previously Mulvihill) continues maternity leave for the remainder of the school year. Sharon finished work on Friday 7 June and Henry was born the following Tuesday. We congratulate Sharon and husband, Jim, and know that Henry will be cherished by them and their older children. Photos show a gorgeous baby boy who seems very happy to have arrived. In her absence, Karryn Thiele is working full-time for the remainder of the year.

Dennis Quinn is taking long service leave for the whole of Term 3 and Mrs Siann Anderson will teach 2D in his absence. We wish Dennis a relaxing and happy leave period.

Jeffery Ross will likely take paternity leave the first two weeks of term, dates dependent upon the birth of Jeffery and Nicola’s third child (due during the holidays). We wish Nicola and the baby a safe birth.

Zan Marion is replaced by Taylor Oughton during her leave, also the first two weeks of term.

Daphne Baker remains on long service leave until week two of next term, replaced (wherever possible) by Catherine Thiele, Daphne’s job-share partner.

Joan Jenkins returns from long service leave from the beginning of Term 3. We thank Colleen Tonkes for filling in so capably during Term 2.

Towards the end of Term 3, the following staff members are taking leave:

I will be absent from school from Friday 23 August to Monday 28 October, taking Renewal Leave to walk the Camino de Santiago de Compostella, the 800-900km pilgrimage route over the Pyrenees and across Spain.

Sally Ludlow will be on leave for ten days from 13 September for the last week of Term 3, returning the beginning of Week 2, Term 4.

We also welcome back Bettrys Lowe who returns to the multi-age class after her maternity leave. Bettrys will teach each Friday in a job-share capacity with Rosanne Hughes. Paula Rowan also returns from maternity leave to a job-share position with Bernie Baillie. Bernie will teach three days and Paula, two days.

And lastly, Linda Till returns to her four-day P.E. position after maternity leave. In welcoming Linda’s return, I also thank Oliver Jones for capably filling the physical education position in Linda’s absence and wish him every happiness and success in the future. Oli has been very generous with his time and expertise during his time at Stella Maris.

Term 3 is also a term of major community events, preparations for which are well underway. On Monday 15 July, Lyndon Davis will work with Peta Neill and our indigenous students for the day. Lyndon is always welcome and has a real way of engaging students. The following evening, Tuesday 16 July, at 6.30 is the proposed date (yet to be confirmed) for the parent consultative meeting about the flying fox colony and the proposed dispersal which I outlined in a recent newsletter.

Friday (19 July) of the same week, is the Year 4-7 Athletics Day (if it rains, we try again the following Friday). This year, P-3 students will have their own day on Friday 13 September (likely to be from middle of day to 3pm). On Sunday 21 July, the P&F are again running the highly successful Dads’ Golf Day.

In Week 3, on the morning of Tuesday 23 July, parents of the 2014 Prep students are invited to a Welcome Morning Tea, followed by a tour of the school by our Year 7 students. Future Preps do not attend; their Orientation Mornings are in early November (half group on Wed 6 and half group on Thurs 7 November). On Thursday 25 July is Grandparents’ Day, a highlight of the school year.

The following week is the biggest event of the P&F calendar, the Stella Friendship Fair on Sunday 4 August. Natalie Jarrott and her helpers are planning a great day for the whole community to enjoy. In addition, we hope to raise money to add to last year’s profit of approximately $16 000 to install new play equipment on Thompson Oval.

On Friday 16 August, the Piccolo Choir, Stella Fellas, SM Singers, Concert Band and String Ensemble travel to Brisbane for the Queensland Catholic Schools Music Festival—a big day!

August is also the month of Year 5 and Year 6 Camps—at Mapleton from 21 – 23 August and Year 6 at Ewen Maddock Dam at Landsborough from 28-30 August. This year, Sally Ludlow and Rosanne Hughes are planning for the first Stella Maris Art Show to be held on Friday 6 September. Venue will be the Hall, so put this date claimer in your diaries.

Have a great week everyone and for those of you lucky enough to be home with your children over the next two weeks, have a happy time together. A safe holiday to all staff and students and thank you for your hard work throughout the term.

Glenda
Staff Car-Park - Please be aware that there have been incidents, (and near misses) in the staff car-park due to parents double parking.

Parents, please do not park or wait in your cars in the staff car park.

Conference Thank You - Thanks to all staff, parents and caregivers for a smooth, although busy Term 2. Thank you, parents, for your attendance at Conferences and congratulations to all students for taking part. Thank you, teachers, for your planning and preparation which creates the conditions for success.

**Year 7 and Year 8, 2015** - Parents, don’t forget, if you have children in Year 6 or Year 5 this year, they will finish their primary education, together, at Stella Maris at the end of the 2014 school year. At the beginning of Term 3 you will receive a letter with finalised details concerning all matter related to next year and this unusual occurrence. In the meantime, please be aware that both St John’s and Siena College are preparing for this double intake with enrolment processes already underway. Make sure that you read the newsletter carefully each week so that your children do not miss out on their opportunity for placement in one of the Colleges should that be your wish.

Please check St John’s and Siena’s information below for details to date.

**Homework Review** - Stella Maris is undertaking a substantial Homework Review with a view to writing a policy and procedure document for implementation at the start of the 2014 school year. We have started reading research findings on the subject and discussion is underway at School Board. To assist us with attaining a broad picture of attitudes to homework and the impact of homework on home life, we ask that you complete this online survey. [https://www.surveymonkey.com/survey/4KDDLFWVZ](https://www.surveymonkey.com/survey/4KDDLFWVZ)
The survey will be available until the Friday 5th of July.

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**Siena Catholic College**

for

**Year 8 Enrolment for 2015**

Families considering enrolling their child at Siena Catholic College in Year 8 2015 are invited to attend an Information Session at the College on either Sunday 21 July or Monday 22 July. From 3:00pm on the Sunday, families will have the opportunity to view the College facilities followed by an Information Session at 4:00pm. On the Monday evening, the Information Session will begin at 7:00pm. If you intend to attend one of these sessions, please contact the College Office either by email ssipidydowns@bne.catholic.edu.au or phone 5476 6100 to register - this is for catering purposes. College Principal, Mr Graeme Hight, and the Siena College Captains will speak to the Year 6 class at Stella Maris on Wednesday 10 July and distribute enrolment packages. Parents may wish to view the Siena website [www.siena.qld.edu.au](http://www.siena.qld.edu.au). Enrolment applications are requested to be submitted by Friday 16 August. Enrolment interviews will commence and hopefully be completed by the end of Term 3.

**Year 7 2015**. Because two cohorts (Year 7 and Year 8) begin at Siena in 2015, the enrolment process for Year 7 2015 will occur in Semester 1 2014.

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**Pie Drive** - Pie collection this Wednesday, (tomorrow) outside the hall kitchen, midday onwards. Contact Kim to pre-arrange an alternative pick up time on 0431082751.

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Dear Parents/Caregivers,

We continue this week with the Virtue of Love. The following quote is very apt in applying the virtue of Love in our interactions and relationships with others:

> At the critical juncture in all human relationships, there is only one question: What would love do now? ~Hesed Donald Walsch

**Love** is the essence of our being, the goodness in our hearts. It’s a constant in all that changes in life. We are united through its power, and its energy compels us to reach out to one another. When we practice love, we transcend hatred, fear and suffering and create peace, joy and harmony. In putting Love into practice, we:

- **Look at things from a loving perspective**: Whenever you feel negative emotions regarding a person or a situation, step back for a moment and observe these feelings. Now make a choice to look at the person or situation in a loving way. You will be amazed at the difference this can make in your life. You will experience more peace and harmony and create the same for others. Although this may be a Pollyanna approach to life, and not always so easy, it’s a more enlightened and peaceful path to follow than the one of being angry and hurt.

- **Make love a priority**: Tell three people in your life that you love them as if you only had a month to live, especially those who you rarely say it to or not at all. Commit to telling them on a regular basis whether it’s in words or writing. In romantic love, what could be holding you back from opening your heart to someone? Undo the ties that bind you by discovering what they are and where they come from and then making a vow to conquer them.

- **Serve other people**: Volunteer, visit an elderly neighbor, call a friend, really listen to people, and be authentic in what you say, give sincere compliments, forgive, and be generous with your time and money. Reach out to those who need your strength and kindness without any expectation of something in return. The more and more you do this the less and less you will think of yourself, and your sense of service will become stronger, giving way to a richer and more fulfilling life.

- **Choose the loving way**: Take the high road in difficult and trying situations by reacting in a more loving manner. When you find that you are criticizing yourself, notice this and practice accepting yourself as you are. Also, accept people for who they are. Try not to judge people so quickly by taking into consideration their limitations and personal struggles.

- **Love yourself**: The first and most important love of all is the love of self because without it you cannot truly give of yourself. Practice loving yourself by taking care of your mind, body and spirit. Take care of your mind: take courses, read the newspaper, have thoughtful conversations and seek interests you find stimulating. Take care of your body: eat healthy, exercise regularly, take vitamins, and meditate. Take care of yourself spiritually: practice your religion, discover what brings you joy and pursue it, read books by spiritual leaders you find interesting, and enjoy nature more. ([http://www.virtuesforlife.com/practice-love-born-the-artist-within](http://www.virtuesforlife.com/practice-love-born-the-artist-within))

God bless,

Judith.

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**Year 8 2015 Enrolment Interviews for St John’s College, Nambour**

**Parent/Carer’s information:**

- Stella Maris Year 6 students visit St John’s College on Wednesday 19 June, 9.30am to 12.30pm.
- Members of the St John’s College leadership team will visit Stella Maris primary school on Tuesday 23 July.
- Year 6 students for Year 8 2015 will be offered enrolment packs for St John’s College on this day.
- A Parent Information Evening will be held on Wednesday 7 August at 7pm at St John’s College in the Multi-Purpose Centre.
- Enrolment interviews will be held from Monday 26 August to Wednesday 4 September.

At St John’s College we provide quality education in an environment that nurtures children in their Catholic faith.
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!

CHOIR NEWS - Stay tuned for an email coming your way this week with important information for all choirs. If you do not receive an email it is most likely that your email has not been provided to us. Term 3 will be busy for all of our choirs and it is important that parents and caregivers are aware of our performance plans. Some of these dates are listed below in the date claimers.

DATE CLAIMERS
Grandparents’ Day - Thursday 25 July
Stella Fair - Sunday 4 August
Piccolo Choir and Strings on Assembly - Thursday 8 August
Queensland Catholic Schools Music Festival - Friday 16 August
Piccolo Choir, Stella Fellas, SM Singers, Concert Band and String Ensemble
Stella Spotlight - Wednesday 16 October All Choral and Instrumental Ensembles

INSTRUMENTAL, SINGING AND SPEECH timetables are now finalised for next term. Any last minute changes should be advised in writing to StellaMarisMusic@bne.catholic.edu.au ASAP to avoid additional changes. Some vacancies exist for Wind and Brass, Strings and Guitar for next term. Please email us for further details.

WORLD’S 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 RECORDSTM 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 to parents during interviews. 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
idurrer@bne.catholic.edu.au   twynyard@bne.catholic.edu.au

Music in the Community – POLKA DOTS AND MOONBEAMS BALL presented by the fabulous 19 piece Scream Big Band at the historic Majestic Theatre in Pomona. For more information and to purchase tickets please visit www.screambigband.net/

PLEASE RETURN ALL CARITAS WALKATHON MONEY. BY WEDNESDAY19 JUNE.
FINAL FIGURES NEED TO BE PROCESSED.
Eight year old Abbie was unmotivated to read. Abbie seemed slow to improve in her ability to read and even slower in her willingness to ‘practise’. Abbie was assessed by a child psychologist. At the all-important feedback session the psychologist told Abbie’s mum that she was “sorry to say that Abbie did not have a particular learning issue and was in fact average in her academic abilities”. This was good news so why did the feedback that Abbie was ‘average’ come with an apology?

Despite the fact that 95% of children are average in their academic achievements, average is somehow starting to sound like a disappointing second best.

There are many reasons why this attitude is gaining so much hold among Australian parents. Among these reasons is the changing meaning behind much of the language we use to interpret student assessments. For example, previously neutral words like ‘average’ and ‘ordinary’ are increasingly used to mean ‘less than acceptable’ (For example, ‘I feel a bit ordinary or a bit average’ are terms that now imply ‘I feel unwell or ‘not good enough.’)

Rather than referring to a child as ‘average’ perhaps it is time we used more helpful terms such as ‘healthy’ or ‘normal’. How much better it would be to hear that your child has achieved a healthy academic outcome than to hear they have average ability. Similarly, how much more satisfactory would it be for a school community to hear that while only a few children are ‘high academic achievers’, all are gifted or special in some capacity.

Language is never a constant. It changes in line with changing beliefs and attitudes and with changing generations.

………Taken from ‘Nothing but the Best’ - an article by Dr Helen Street in ‘Wellbeing Australia.’

Dr Helen Street is an applied social psychologist with a passion for education. She presents her work in books, articles and in seminars and workshops for schools.

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

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