Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Over the past three or four Fridays I have been enjoying spending time with each of the Year 5 classes as we debrief the week, in particular, behaviour choices made for learning. My main purpose in doing this is to encourage students to be aware of the choices they make, and how this impact upon self and others and even create a future they may not have intended or desired. I want them to see that they have choices every minute of every day and to be conscious of their responses to the invitations life sends their way.

Before I expand upon this, I would like to share a reflection by Marianne Williamson in her book, ‘A Year of Miracles – Daily Devotions and Reflections’. For me, her words place our Year 5 meetings in a broader context.

‘The universe is both self-organising and self-correcting. The invisible hand that makes our heart beat and our lungs breathe is at work on multiple dimensions, arranging not only the extraordinary physical processes that keep us alive but also what we experience: insights, relationships, improbable meetings, creative moments, falling in love, emotions and consciousness, and miraculous occurrences.

The universe, in fact, is one miracle after another, one stroke of genius followed by another stroke of its genius in an endless flow of opportunity for life to fulfill itself. And nature is not limited to the so-called natural world. It’s as much a stroke of genius that you’re sitting next to whom you’re sitting next to on the bus today, as that your liver is purifying your blood. The universe is intentional. It doesn’t do anything by accident.

The difference between the so-called natural world, and you and me, is that you and I can say “No.” The embryo doesn’t have a choice whether or not to become a baby; the acorn doesn’t have a choice whether or not to become an oak tree; the bud doesn’t have a choice whether or not to become a blossom. You and I do have a choice whether to be neurotic or wise, harsh or gentle, blaming or forgiving. And the choice we make then determines not only who we will be in the world but also the experiences we will have here.

Oh my goodness, what a memorable moment it is when a person truly gets it; when I realise that I actually get to CHOOSE who I will become as a person regardless of the circumstances in which I find myself! To experience this revelation is to begin the journey to wisdom and conscious partnership with our God. There really is no reason to fear life, to feel separated or alone. I can be my true self and experience the peace that only comes from an inner security of faith which is very different from the security which the world seeks.

Young ones (and older ones alike) can feel that they are on the receiving end of everyone else’s life choices and this excuses or explains their reactive responses to circumstances not of their choosing. For them to see the error in that thinking – that no-one can take away their response to any situation unless they hand over that right and responsibility through their own lack of awareness – is to truly wake up! We can go through life reacting to everything and everyone or we can choose to get off the treadmill and start living the life for which we were intended – a conscious, loving, peaceful, other-centred one.

And so to our Year 5’s… I hope that at least some of them see these things and, even now, set their lives consciously moving towards the person each chooses to become. In discussing what this looks like in terms of learning behaviours here at school (and beyond), we are practising the following:

Determination: I know where I am going. I set myself goals.

Persistence: I never give up. I get the help I need to reach my goals.

Concentration: I remain focussed on the task at hand. I avoid distractions.

Practice: I give my best effort. I work hard. I practise the skills and behaviours I want to have.

Place these behaviours in the larger context of partnership with God in the service of and care (love) for others, and I am confident we will, together, have empowered our children to create a more loving, peaceful and compassionate world.

Have a great week everyone.  Glenda

Expressions of Interest - Expressions of Interest are called for the position of Prep School Officer which becomes available from the beginning of Term 3 this year. The position is fixed term, available until the end of the school year, across five days for a total of 27 hours a week. All existing school officers are also eligible to apply. The successful applicant will

- have a demonstrated love of young children and working with them in an early learning environment;
- have demonstrated ability to work as part of a team;
- be flexible, relational, punctual, well-organised, easy-going, have a well-developed sense of humour and plenty of initiative;
- have skills in the areas of art and craft and technology;
- have demonstrated understanding of and commitment to the Catholic ethos;
- hold a current Blue Card or eligibility to receive one;
- have qualifications appropriate to the position.

Please submit a letter responding to the above criteria and outlining the reason for interest in this position. A resume outlining previous employment and details of two professional and/or religious referees should accompany this letter. Closing date is Thursday 12 June.

School Fair Convenor Needed - Also last week, Kellie Elder, this year’s Fair Convenor, Tim Eva, P&F President and I all sought contact from one or two parents interested in co-convening this year’s Fair with a view to taking on the role next year. I am not sure if anyone has come forward, however, I do encourage you to do so if organisation, creativity and community spirit are your strong points. I know we have many parents out there who would work well with Kellie this year in readiness for 2015 as well. We need you!

Cultural News - Stella Maris’ Indigenous students were acknowledged during National Reconciliation Week when they were joined by Lyndon Davis, local Gubbi Gubbi custodian last Wednesday. The students spent the day in workshops of dance, music, art and cultural heritage.
School fees are due to be emailed this week.
**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!

**MUSIC FACTS** - The following are still another four interesting facts about music for you to consider.

1. The type of music you listen to affects the way you perceive the world.
2. Barry Manilow didn’t write his song “I Write The Songs”.
3. Leo Fender, inventor of the telecaster and Stratocaster, could not play guitar.
4. The Beatles used to be called Johnny and the Moondogs.

**INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NEWS** - Parents are reminded to contact your child’s tutor when they are not able to attend scheduled lessons – this includes due to being absent from school. There have been many school events in recent weeks and the weeks ahead and rescheduling times can be very difficult. Missed lessons without an email, letter, phone call or text cannot be rescheduled. Your support with this is much appreciated.

**DATE CLAIMER**

- Stella Maris Soiree Week is coming at the end of this term. Information will start to come out during lessons over the next two weeks. Dates are Monday 16, Tuesday 17 and Thursday 19 June in the Hall.
- Concert Band and Year 3 Piccolo Choir will also be performing on Assembly on Thursday 19 June.
- Sensational Strings (all violin, viola, cello and double bass students) will be held at Stella Maris in the Hall on Monday 23 June.

**ENROLMENT CHANGES** - Any changes to enrolment in Instrument, Singing and Speech tuition needs to be notified in the next two weeks to avoid additional fees. Parents wishing to change students from pair to individual lessons should also make this request via email to Mr Wynyard within the next couple of weeks to ensure a place is available.

**INSTRUMENT HIRE** - If your child is hiring a school instrument, please ensure you continue to pay the rental fees as they were not included on school fee account. Those with outstanding amounts will be contacted – please feel free to catch up with us before or after school, by contacting us in writing or via email.

Musically Yours,

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

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

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**Principal’s Awards**

**June 5 2014**


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**MUSIC NOTES**

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

“We are the music makers, and we are the makers of dreams.”

~ Charlie & The Chocolate Factory ~

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**LIBRARY NEWS**

A BIG THANK YOU to all of the Stella Maris community for the great support of the Book Fair. The library have gained lots of great new books for the students to enjoy.

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**Tuckshop News**

Home made Spaghetti Bolognaisenow available $3.50. YUMMY!!

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**Football News**

All are welcome to come along to the next committee meeting of the Stella FC on Tuesday June 17th at 6.30pm at Maroochydore Hotel (Main Rd) Great opportunity to get involved in the running of your club! All suggestions appreciated.
CONGRATULATIONS AFL BOYS TEAM.

Last Tuesday, the Stella Maris Boys’ Team competed in the First Round of the Brisbane Lions Cup and were crowned the Best Boy’s Primary School Team on the Sunshine Coast for 2014. Undefeated at this carnival, the boys now await Quarter Final Games against the winning school in both the Wide Bay and North Brisbane areas on June the 24th for a place in the Semis. This Competition involves over 300 schools from across South East Queensland and over its 12 years now, Stella Maris has made it to the State Grand Final on 7 occasions. They’re a talented and skilful group of boys, so we wish them all the best when they compete next. The Quarter Finals will be played at Fisherman’s Road, Maroochydore, so please feel free to come along and cheer them on! A big thank you too, to Mr Edgar for assisting with coaching, Mr Penn for being our runner, Mrs James for her scoring and those families who were able to make it along.

TEAM: Alex Duncan(c), Dominic Carmody(c), Willem Johnstone, Jake Edgar, Lachlan Mc Donald, Carter Michael, Jake Young, Jesse Johnston, Bailey Eva, Noah Jeffs, Nick Ansell, Jordan Michael, Levi Penn, Lachlan Tickle, Will Charlton, Ashton Bougoure, Tom Mc Clure, Jarrod Young, Zeb Mackie, Zane Dufty, Tristan Eva, James Thompson.


School Board Training - Last week I advertised information sessions for School Board for those possibly interested in a place on our pastoral Board which meets once a month on the third Thursday (6.30-8pm). If you would like to learn more with a view to possible membership, please email Glenda gmorgan@bne.catholic.edu.au

Information sessions will be arranged to fit with the schedules of interested parties. I am looking forward to hearing from a few parents who have the time and interest to attend.