Dear Parents and Caregivers
This week I need to bring you up-to-date on the situation surrounding the flying fox roost site within our grounds.

Very recently, the Sunshine Coast Regional Council voted in support of the proposal for a level of clearing and non-lethal dispersal of the flying foxes that have been in residence for about the last three years. Following a meeting of Council members and staff, BCE staff, Father Joe and myself, a formal letter of request has been sent from Council to the Archbishop seeking permission to enter the Stella Maris grounds to undertake the works.

This is a summary of the situation as it stands (provided by Julie Saunders, Manager, Planning Service, BCE):

- ‘Council is required to obtain approval from both the State and Federal Governments for the proposed dispersal activity. This is generally a 20 day period but in similar instances has taken longer at around 35 days. Approval to apply for the Federal application is required by the owner.

- The current resolution of Council is against the Council Officers’ recommendation to not undertake any activity.

- The proposed operation involves an additional five metres of clearing along the residential side, thinning on the school side up to the boardwalk, plus non-lethal dispersal. This involves undertaking smoking, noise and lighting methods to move the bats each day, from one hour prior to dawn and two hours after, for up to three weeks.

- The information provided to Council in their deliberations showed the low success rate of moving bats on (less than 23%). Further, if pregnant bats are identified then all dispersal will most likely cease. The period before this time is closing and there are differing opinions on whether it is July, August or September.

- Approvals will not be in place prior to the school holidays, so any dispersal activity would be undertaken during school time in Term 3.

- Should dispersal be approved, it is possible that the flying foxes will move closer to the school and even into the trees on our playgrounds, thus heightening the risk to students. In this event, Council will apply a no worsening effect during the dispersal period meaning that if the bats disperse closer to the school buildings/ playground then the dispersal activity will move to these areas as well.

- The resolution from Council is for a certain budget amount. If the first round of dispersal is not successful then a further report and resolution of Council will be required. Additional permits will also be required. This will most likely result in the timeframe running out before the breeding season starts.’

So, where to from here?
As I understand it, support has been given for Council to lodge the application for a permit to disperse the flying foxes; however, Archdiocesan approval has not yet been given to provide access, at this point in time, until the conditions around dispersal are clear and consultation with all necessary stakeholders, including the school community, has been undertaken. It is crucial, from a school point of view, that dispersal efforts do not increase the risk to students and others entering our grounds, given that, for the past three years, the school community and the flying foxes have co-existed uneventfully.

I am likely to have further information after a proposed meeting this Thursday.

Once again, thank you for your common sense, patience and understanding in this matter which can raise strong feelings on both sides of the debate. While, over the last three years, we have heard quite a bit from a group of vocal neighbours, I feel we are about to hear more from those not in favour of dispersal and we will sit in the midst of it. For this reason, I encourage your attendance at a school community meeting (should this be the decided course of action) at which the facts can be shared calmly and rationally and a sense of our community’s stance gauged in the light of those facts.

Have a great week everyone.

Glenda
Reminder about Allergies
It is timely to remind everyone that we have a number of students who suffer severe allergic reactions to nuts and nut products. While these products are not banned (this practice is not recommended by Allergy and Anaphylaxis associations), we do ask that the welfare of these students is taken into consideration before packing nuts for lunches. It is not always a matter of concern around allergic students eating nuts; it is also the case that some students react to skin or breath contact from others who have touched or eaten nuts. Thank you for your understanding and care of all our students.

Year 6 & 7 Girls AFL Youth Cup

On Thursday the 30 May, twenty-five Year 6 and 7 girls competed in the Girls’ AFL Youth Cup at the Multi-Sports Complex in Maroochydore. They played against Coolum, Pacific Paradise, Palmswoods, St Andrews, St Thomas More, Chevallum, Noosaville and Glasshouse. Braving ‘monsoonal-like’ conditions the B side had some challenging games, but for all players it was a new and very enjoyable experience. The A side managed to reach the semi-final against Coolum and lost by one goal. Well done to the following players: Piper Atkins, Kyra Bellamy, Lauren Bellamy, Jayde Burrows, Aleshe Caruana, Jade Ciricelli, Jayda Cleary, Mycheala Cook, Sophia Cruise, Hannah Edgar, Juliette Gardner, Renee Housego, Imogen Hulsen-Benson, Erin Mahon, Laura Magao, Tenelle Maroney, Kiama Marsh, Dominique Meehan, Lauren McLean, Sunny Modric, Hollie Nichols, Isabella Stanaway, Jess Teljega, Caitlin Trisolglo and Emily Wills.

Oli Jones, PE Teacher

Your Child and the Sacraments 2013

The Parent Information Evening
Monday 19 August
Meeting held at Stella Maris Church, Baden Powell St Maroochydore. One or both parents must attend this session. Children do not attend. The family proceeds to the next stage only after parents have attended.

Preparation for First Reconciliation
This has to be completed before the child progresses to Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

- October 14 5.30PM Stella Maris, 7.15pm St Catherine
- October 15 6.00pm Stella Maris
- October 16 5.30pm St Catherine

Confirmation and First Holy Communion

- Session 1 - Sunday 27 October 1.30 - 4.30pm at Stella Maris School Assembly Hall
- Session 2 - Wednesday 6 November 6.00 - 8.00pm venue to be determined

Sacrament of Confirmation - Friday 8 November
Place of Confirmation to be announced

First Holy Communion - Sat 9 & Sun 10 November at whichever Parish Mass is elected by the family

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
“If you can walk, you can dance. If you can talk, you can sing.”
~ Zimbabwe Proverb ~

TIP OF THE WEEK
Get into a routine with home practice. Start with a good warm-up, move onto difficult sections of new lesson or ensemble material, and end with a piece you are good at playing and that you enjoy. You should improve through playing at home each week!!

CLASSROOM MUSIC – Rhythms are a part of our life whether we realise it or not. It is, in fact, an essential part of music and therefore important for students to make the connection from music to life beyond the walls of our music rooms. Perhaps you could take time to experiment with rhythm in everyday sounds or in your day-to-day conversations. You will be surprised how quickly children will connect the dots with the sounds and music rhythms such as ta and ti-ti.

STELLA SOIREE WEEK – What a fabulous week of performances we had! Close to 200 items by 180 students and many up on stage for the very first time. Congratulations to all students who were involved, to our fabulous team of professional tutors for preparing students and to our parents for your continued support of the program and Soiree Week. (THANK YOU TO Todd, tutors, students and parents—a great success! - Glenda)

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 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 orchestra, string ensemble, 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
Classroom Music Specialist
idurrer@bne.catholic.edu.au

Todd Wynyard
Instrumental Music Coordinator
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 9 June at Bicentennial Hall in Sunshine Beach and again 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.

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. Please call the uniform shop on 54098920 and leave a message.

Principal’s Awards
6 June 2013


Congratulations to Peter Mann, Max Green, James Lawler, Alex Duncan, Carter Michael, Bailey Ratcliffe, Liam Lawler, Ronan Stuart, Tristan Eva, Bailey Eva and Jake Young for making their respective Sunshine Coast teams to compete at the Soccer State titles this weekend at Kawana.

GOLD LUCK BOYS!

Xuckshop News...

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
L Wallace, L Wiseman, M Austin, M Champion, M Hunter, M MacDonald, M Murray, N Burrows, N Edwards, N McMinn, N Michael, N Pace, N Parkinson-Hubbard, O Robbins, P Siddans, P Vontas, R Brady, S Hattingh, S Kelms, S Mann
Auditory Processing Disorder Continued.

Three Disorders in One - Jack Katz, M.D., a pioneer in the field of auditory processing disorder, says that APD comprises three distinct conditions that often overlap but may occur in isolation.

Sound discrimination problems - When children learn to talk, they mimic the sounds they hear to produce speech. A child with APD may not speak clearly, using similar rather than exact sounds (“dat” instead of “that”; “free” instead of “three”) long after peers have corrected themselves. Typically, children with faulty sound discrimination will run words together and drop word endings and unemphasized syllables when speaking. Reading and spelling may also be affected.

Auditory memory problems - This part of the disorder makes it difficult for a child to memorize numbers and facts, and also affects his reading and language skills. Children with auditory memory problems typically take longer to learn their telephone numbers and addresses, and they have difficulty remembering basic math facts. Verbal instructions and lists are similarly tough to retain.

Language processing problems - This component of APD is the most troublesome. It affects a child’s abilities to understand what’s being asked of him and to socialize with peers. A child with this cognitive glitch has trouble taking oral tests and becomes confused when reading and telling stories with lots of characters and events. He will often pass up a chance to hold a conversation because of the time it takes to process words being spoken and to formulate responses.

Christina suffered from all three elements of APD. She never sang as a small child, even though she clearly enjoyed listening to music and to others’ singing. “Christina could never put everything together—the words, the rhythms, the tunes,” says her mother, Tricia. “Her hearing was fine—exceptional. But put her into a circle of kids singing nursery rhymes and playing spoons and tambourines, and all she wanted was to get away!” When Christina was finally diagnosed with APD, her mum was relieved.

Diagnosing APD

“Not all language problems are due to APD, and not all cases of APD lead to language and learning problems,” Bellis cautions. APD isn’t diagnosed by checking off a laundry list of symptoms. The only way to diagnose the condition is with a battery of tests, performed by an audiologist who monitors the child’s hearing. A child listens to words and sentences as background noise is slowly increased, and to instructions spoken at faster speeds, to determine whether the ability to listen decreases.

A child should be at least 6 or 7 years old before undergoing testing. “The symptoms you commonly see in a 3 or 4-year-old are sound sensitivities and difficulties discriminating between sounds, which you’ll hear in their speech,” explains Wendy Tepfer, a speech and language pathologist in New York City. “They need to work with an expert in APD.”

When a child reaches school age, however, Tepfer advises that APD may begin to compromise academic success. “At that age, I would recommend evaluation for APD,” she says, “because now, it’s not only the language but also his performance in the classroom. To manage the disorder, the student may need remediation other than speech and language therapy. A full evaluation will help you know what those are.”

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