Dear Parents and Caregivers

As you will know from past school correspondence and local newspaper articles, the Council has applied for permission, from the Federal Government, for non-lethal dispersal of two flying fox colonies within Council’s jurisdiction. One of these properties is owned by the Council and the other by the Brisbane Archdiocese. As you know, we have been working with a range of government agencies and other interest groups for a number of years now in an effort to resolve the issue.

Last Thursday morning I met with Kate Winter and Peter Nagel from the Sunshine Coast Council and Julie Saunders and Paul Blundell from Brisbane Catholic Education to discuss the latest advice on how to proceed with the flying fox colony which took up residence on the Stella Maris site three or four years ago now. These matters are never easily resolved as, while the residents are affected by proximity, the flying foxes are protected by law.

To this point in time, we, the members of the school community, have been very largely unaffected by the presence of the flying foxes whose favoured habitat is the melaleucas in the wetland. Over recent years, the large expanse of these trees between Hunter Oval and the western boundary, has been stripped of foliage and the flying foxes have moved southwards as a result. Numbers have also greatly reduced from many, many thousands at their peak to an estimated 1500 at present.

Which brings me to the most recent information to hand. The Council now has Federal Government approval to manage vegetation in order to provide a further buffer between the colony and our neighbours and also between the colony and the school grounds; however, this does not include approval to disperse the flying foxes. My understanding is that Council will continue down the path of gaining this permission for dispersal while managing the vegetation which may also have the incidental effect of discouraging habitation in the area.

At Thursday’s meeting the decision was taken to provide the Archbishop with advice to support Council’s entry onto the Stella Maris site to carry out the following works:

- Clearing of a further five metres of bushland along our western boundary in order to create a wider buffer zone between the colony and our neighbours. The existing five metre buffer was established late last year;
- Clearing of undergrowth and mid-level trees along the prep fence-line (about five metres) to discourage the flying foxes from roosting closer to our playground.

While most of the bushland adjacent to the school belongs to the Archdiocese, a small tract along the corner of the western and southern boundaries (near Aragorn Street) is owned by Council. Permission has been given to clear undergrowth (possibly using a small controlled burn) and to create two metre-wide access pathways into the bush.

With Archbishop Coleridge’s permission, it is hoped that Council will complete these works over the Easter holidays while our grounds are unoccupied.

Once again, I thank you most sincerely for the patient, supportive and balanced stance you have taken over the years we have lived side by side with the flying foxes. Of course our mutual concern is for the health and safety of our students, staff and parents. For this reason, I again send home with this newsletter the information written collaboratively with Qld Health. I do this especially for parents new to Stella Maris.

Have a great week everyone. Glenda

Early Departures - Thank you very much for your efforts in getting students to school on time. Punctuality is greatly appreciated and very helpful to having all students settled and prepared for the learning day ahead.

Could you please consider the desirability of regularly taking students out of class early in the afternoon? It is understood that every now and then, parents may need to collect students before 3.05, but many are making this a regular occurrence in order to beat the traffic.

The afternoon session is generally the time when Science, History and Geography are timetabled and some students are regularly missing these lessons.

Time missed at either end of the school day makes for many days accumulated across the year.
Dear Parents/Caregivers,

The Virtue for this fortnight is Compassion. It has been chosen to coincide with Caritas’ Project Compassion Appeal during Lent. Compassion is a virtue that links itself to the knowledge that, as human beings, we are all subject to the ups and downs of circumstances and that none of us could be excluded from certain problems that call for such a virtue, regardless of power, opulence, or any degree of intellect and intelligence. Having Compassion means that we deeply empathise with others who are suffering. Sometimes it is only after we have suffered ourselves that the full impact of Compassion hits us as one of the most essential virtues of the Christian life. It is understanding and caring deeply about others which moves us to a strong desire to ease distress. Compassion flows freely from the heart when we let go of judgements and seek to understand the plight of the other.

Compassion strikes a balance between the have’s and the have not’s. No nation could possibly retain its national pride without the inclusion of certain moral laws of compassion which flow freely from our hearts when we let go of judgements and seek to understand the plight of the other. One has only to look at the efforts of organisations such as Legacy, Catholic Missions, St Vincent de Paul and Caritas to see examples of this.

To have Compassion is to walk in the shoes of the other. Compassion is the act of noticing when someone is hurt or needs a friend, when we:

- Take time to reach out to those who need help;
- Care for others by listening deeply;
- Forgive others and ourselves when mistakes are made; and
- Do some act of service to help others.

An example of Compassion can be read in Scripture in the form of the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-6) given by Jesus as a blessing on the Mount of Olives, where the Christian ideal is expressed so beautifully and clearly:

_Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after justice: for they shall have their fill;_  
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(Extract from the Gospel of Matthew 5:3-7)

Having Compassion means that we deeply empathise with others who are suffering. Sometimes it is only after we have suffered ourselves that the full impact of Compassion hits us as one of the most essential virtues of the Christian life. It is understanding and caring deeply about the other which moves us with a strong desire to ease distress. By showing that we care, we join our own inner wisdom with the grace of God. Whether in the form of a silent prayer, a gentle touch, or a gift to alleviate poverty, compassion is a priceless gift to both the giver and the receiver from the Spirit of God.

As we go about our week, we may well ponder how we will support those we meet. Will we see them with the eyes of the heart? Will we listen to them – really listen with the ears of the heart? In putting out our hand to them in love and care, our compassionate presence may assure people that they are not alone.

God bless you, 

_Judith._
MUSIC NOTES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK
“Bach gave us God’s word. Mozart gave us God’s laughter. Beethoven gave us God’s fire. God gave us Music that we might pray without words.” ~ quote from outside and opera house ~

TIP OF THE WEEK - Always practise hard sections of music very slowly and gradually get faster. If you can’t play slowly, you definitely can’t play fast!!

MUSIC HOMEWORK / PRACTICE – In the school newsletter from 25 February, Ms Morgan wrote about homework, sighting major research into its benefits or lack there of! This item will clarify our position in relation to music tuition and classroom music homework or practice, as we call it. Music, similar to other academic areas such as Mathematics, Spelling and Reading, involves incremental learning, learning that builds on small stepping stones each week to assist and ensure learning at subsequent lessons. The saying goes, “Practice makes perfect,” and this couldn’t be truer than with learning a musical instrument. Unlike these other academic areas students only receive a 30minute lesson each week and therefore practice at home is essential to progress. However, research shows that music, unlike ANY other subject area has the potential to aid ALL other areas of learning. You are encouraged to visit www.musicplayforlife.org for many articles and research papers on the benefits of music education.

How much practice should be happening at home? Traditionally, homework is not assigned for classroom music. Instead, students are encouraged to review concepts taught in class on a weekly basis as these skills form the building blocks of their musical education. Connecting the written notation to the rhythmic notation equals singing or playing any musical instrument more confidently. Students attending instrumental, singing or speech tuition should aim to review and work on lesson material at least 4-5 times each week. These sessions are most valuable when they are short and focussed. Set a goal and meet it each week! Research shows that practising for 15minutes 4 times a week is far better than playing for one hour straight. It is also very important for students to have their first practice session with 24 hours of their lesson. After this time, valuable lesson content or instruction is lost. Students who are preparing for Examinations or Eisteddfod performances should be adding extra sessions each week and playing for longer. Individual tutors will be able to provide further guidance on how to best structure a quality practice session.

MUSICAL NEWS – This week we will meet with all students who have demonstrated a keen interest in our musical to decide what part(s) they wish to audition/sing for with The Wizard of Oz. Auditions will begin in Week 8 – students are to check the space outside the Music Room for more details at the end of this week.

Year 5 – Monday @11am in the Music Room
Year 4 – Wednesday @11am in the Music Room
Year 6 and 7 – Thursday @11am in the Music Room

Permission notes will be coming home this week for students wishing to formally be a part of The Wizard of Oz, to be performed in October 2014. Please return these forms by the due date listed on the note. Thank you to all our very enthusiastic students!

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
twnyward@bne.catholic.edu.au

SPORT NEWS

On the upcoming events can you please add the date for P-7 Cross Country - Term 1 Wk 10 Friday 4th April 9am - 10.45. (As the date gets closer I will send you the order of events)

Tasting Success

Congratulations to Jake Edgar, Jack Gillespie, Carter Michael, Jordan Michael, Jake Young and Jesse Johnston who have been selected in the District AFL team. The boys will now compete in the Regions on the 2-3 April at Fisherman’s Road Maroochydore.

Well done and Good Luck!

Congratulations to Thomas McClure and Sarah Wallace who have now qualified to swim at the State Championships on 24-26 March at Chandler in Brisbane.

Well done and Good Luck!

Football NEWS

"Stella FC is still looking for players! Girls and boys are needed for U6, U7 and U10 teams. Please go to the website www.stellafc.com or the Facebook page Stella FC for more information."

HELP NEEDED FRIDAY 21 MARCH. GIVE ME A CALL.

Ingredients Roster


MUFFIN MIXES NEEDED.

Wednesday 12/03
L Mancini
K Hardner

Thursday 13/03
J Moderic
N Hughes
N Burrows

Fri 14/03
K Powter-Ikalia
L Martin

Mon 17/03
K Powder-Ikalia

Tues 18/03
N Mac Minn
D Stubbs

March 11
Prep C Class Covenant @ 9.00am

March 13
Prep D Class Covenant @ 9.00am

March 14
6B Class Covenant @ 2.30pm

April 4
Stella Maris Cross Country

April 4
Last Day Term 1

April 22
1st Day Term 2

June 9
Queen’s Birthday Holiday

June 13
Nambour Show Holiday

June 16/17
School Photos

June 25-27
Year 5 Camp

June 27
Last Day Term 2

July 14
1st Day Term 3

August 3
School Fair

August 5
Coastal Districts Track & Field Day 1

August 7
Coastal Districts Track & Field Day 2

August 14
QLD Catholic Schools & Colleges Music Festival

September 10
Musica Viva

September 19
Last Day Term 3

October 7
1st Day Term 4

October 16 - 18
Musical

December 1
Year 7 Graduation

December 2
Year 6 Graduation

December 3
Years 6 & 7 Graduation Liturgy

December 5
School year ends
Maths Day of Excellence

On the 27th of March, fifteen Year 6 and 7 students participated in the Maths Day of Excellence at Maroochydore State High School. There were many problem solving activities, including a bridge building activity. All students had a great time and were able to work together and apply different maths strategies in a variety of situations. Congratulations in particular to Ethan O’Rourke and Matthew Haley who both won awards for first and third respectively. Students in attendance were Lachlan Tickle, Rebecca Pearson, Samantha Murray, Jun Lee, Alina Robins, John Saxon, Matthew Haley, Bella Blunt, Hollie Nichols, Jesse Johnston, Ethan O’Rourke, Lachlan England, Jaden Neillrezo, Adam Gorrying, and Mitchell Santoro. All represented Stella Maris in an exemplary way.

SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS.

Is it two years since your last Student Protection Training? Are you going to be a new parent helper at Stella Maris? Are you going to be a volunteer but are not a parent or relative? All parent helpers and volunteers must attend Student Protection Training before they are able to work in classrooms. In order to organise the large numbers expected, the first training day will be held tomorrow (Wed 12th) in the School Hall on the hour from 11am until 3pm.

Next Wednesday (18th) training will be from 12noon until 4pm. All registered volunteers and helpers’ names are kept on record at the front desk. Anyone not an employee must register at the front office and sign in. This is an Occupational Health & Safety requirement as well as important for student protection. Children are taught the adults with the lanyards are safe adults to be with. If any child sees an adult who is not a teacher without a lanyard they must tell a teacher so that the teacher can then redirect that person to the front office.

All these processes and responsibilities have your child’s well-being at their heart. It is helpful if you have read the Volunteers Code of Conduct and the Volunteers Student Protection Handbook before you come to training. These are available on our website.

“Be someone who makes someone else look forward to tomorrow”

www.reachout.com

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

SCHOOL FEES WERE MAILED HOME LAST WEEK.
IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED THEM PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE TO CHECK YOUR POSTAL DETAILS.

Principal’s Awards

13 March 2014
Siena de Silva, Aiden Martin, Stanley Jarrott, Madyson Pearce, Hudson Fysh, Zoe Young, Dominic Fais, Madeline Nicholl, Tanyon Mills, Alia Fuda, Jackson Stibbard, Bridget Simpson, Lucy Hughes, Campbell, Zutt, Landen Smales, Savana Da Silva, Will Clements, Will Davies, Ava Hughes, Harrison Dunn, Lucinda Carmody, Abbey Panzram, Ayla Cheatham, Lily Henningens, Bailey Cazey, Emily Ryan, Logan Murray, Kayla Moore, Jessica Griffin, Lachlan McDonald, Rebecca Pearson, Jarrod Young, Hollie Nichols.