Dear Parents and Caregivers

At the end of the School Board finance report last Thursday night, members of the Board urged me to write about payment of school fees in this week’s newsletter. I know this needed to be done but was reluctant to make that commitment given this is Holy Week and the focus needs to be in that direction.

As I’ve sat here ‘thinking about this, it strikes me that this is a real-life example of an on-going dilemma we often face: Do I see to the practical, immediate needs or do I look after the needs of the spirit which often do not seem to press so urgently for attention? I remember distinctly as a 16-17 year old at high school facing such a question. Should I go to the beach with my friends on Sunday or should I go to Mass? Well, I decided pretty swiftly that I could do both; I could spend the day at the beach, go home and then walk from Labrador to Southport to attend the 5.30pm Mass - and that is exactly what I did each sunny Sunday. I also remember thinking at the time that, whenever possible, I’d find a way to do all the things I wanted or needed to do, even if it brought its disadvantages.

Writing this, I have realised that I still live by that decision today, not that I’ve been conscious of it for many years. I guess it’s just become part of who I am and how I live my life. The downside, of course, is ridiculous busy-ness, but then, every so often, life puts us in the situation of having to make a choice; the hours run out or circumstances prevail which really test where the heart truly lies – and I don’t think that’s such a bad thing to happen. We can’t always have or do everything we think we want or need to do, even if it brought its disadvantages.

So, true to my history, I will attempt to address both issues mentioned earlier and you can tell me at the end, if I should have made a choice to do one or the other.

Firstly, school fees. Parents, I will be right up-front and say that we finished the 2012 school year with $130 000 in unpaid school fees which, you can imagine, is an unacceptable outcome on so many levels. What that means is that our modest bank account is left severely depleted as is our capacity to pay for the inevitable holiday expenditure, when much of our building, refurbishment, annual maintenance and resource purchasing for the new school year takes place during this time. These bills fall due before income from the first fee account starts to replenish bank accounts, so it is never easy; however, this year was particularly stressful, given the number and size of outstanding accounts.

At this stage, then, can I thank, most sincerely, those parents who finalise accounts with us in a timely manner. We really appreciate your diligence and organisation. Thank you!

In the week following the conclusion of school, a letter was sent to many families requesting resolution of the situation through the taking of one of three suggested options. It came as a surprise, then, that the vast majority of families failed to respond to this letter and still have not done so. With no option remaining, this puts us in the position of forwarding family details to the debt collection agency, something we do as a last resort only.

Parents, I am not referring to families in financial hardship through lack of adequate income. The Application for Fee Concession is in place to support families who need this assistance. Mostly those on concession keep their commitment to pay the reduced fee, however, some do not. I am talking about families who receive the benefits of being part of the Stella Maris community and do so for free (or close to it). The fact that the issue is not addressed with us, that phone calls and written correspondence are ignored, suggests a belief that the matter will simply go away and for many, I do believe, that payment of school fees is of low priority. Other families are prepared to pay for additional programs, such as instrumental music, but are not paying school fees. This, of course, is an unjust situation when other families’ fees pay for the day to day schooling of their children. It really is time to get real about these matters and the importance of paying school fees in general.

It is a matter of justice that everyone pays the set fees or pays what has been determined as fair through the application for fee concession process. It is a matter of courtesy and consideration that fees are paid in a timely manner and that contact is made with us when this is genuinely not possible through unexpected circumstances. It is a matter of good management that regular payments are made towards fees. And the invitation is always there to talk with me if we can help to get any of this organised or there is a need to discuss extenuating circumstances.

How, then, does this tie to the events of Holy Week and the triumph of Easter Sunday? I guess the significance of any event in our lives is determined by one’s relationship with those involved. For instance, the horror of the Bali bombing affected most of us at that universal level of abhorrence of senseless violence, but for those who had a loved one victimised in the attack, the event took on heightened significance. Isn’t it the case that the events of Easter can be a bit like that too? Christ died a long time ago and, like the Bali bombing and so many other events, it holds significance when it strikes home through the existence of a close relationship to the one affected, in this case, Jesus.

Unfortunately, it is easy to believe that Jesus and the events of Easter, are distant and hold little relevance today.

But the journey to Easter is our story right here and now, a journey of our every day, of ups and downs and ups. Amidst the greatest defeat we find, like Jesus, the seeds of the greatest hope and triumph. What greater triumph could follow the execution of a carpenter from a small town in the Middle East, than his influence upon the worldview of millions of followers across the centuries? It all seems impossible really and yet it’s true. With faith, the same optimism is ours. We are not guaranteed an easy journey through life, but, like Jesus, good does flow, even from our disasters, when we try to live in right relationship with our God and each other. No situation is hopeless and no journey is without meaning and purpose. That’s the Easter promise and the Easter mystery.

On behalf of the Stella Maris staff, I wish you all a blessed Easter. May the love, joy and peace of Christ be in your hearts and homes.

Glenda

We welcome the students back for Term 2 on MONDAY 15 APRIL. A safe, happy holiday to all students.
Blessings Denise and Welcome Natalie - The end of Term sees Denise Heffernan taking maternity leave to have her and Anthony’s second child. Thank goodness, it looks like Denise will make it through her last day (today) without a school delivery! We thank Denise and Beth Kipping for getting their Year 1 class off to such a great start to the year together. We will all miss Denise and wish her every blessing for a safe and healthy delivery for herself and the baby. At the same time we welcome Mrs Natalie Edwards who will join Beth for the remainder of the year. Natalie has had many of these children previously when she filled in for Jenny Connelly last year and has, of course, been doing relief work at Stella Maris for a number of years now.

Thanks to P&F and all participants at Friday night’s Chick Flick.
Great food, company, raffles, jewellery display. I’m sure the movie was just as good! Thanks everyone.

Traffic Warning – Traffic Branch Operation - On Friday I received a letter from Old Service Police asking me to let you know that Traffic Branch Officers are planning Operation Jump Street following an increase in complaints around school during peak times. The operation aims to make the streets safer for all road users, parents and students attending the school. Plain clothes police officers will carry out covert patrols of the streets surrounding Stella Maris and other local schools, taking covert video surveillance to gather evidence for court purposes. Officers will present identification to any person with whom they wish to speak. During this operation, police will target the following traffic offences: illegal parking in no stop / drop-off zones, double parking, parking on footpaths and in bus stops, drivers using hand held phones, seatbelt offences (drivers, passengers, including children), crossing double/single continuous dividing lines and any other breaches of the rules. There will be zero tolerance and offenders can expect action to be taken against them. Please spread the word!

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

The Virtue for this last week of First Term and our celebration of Holy Week is Reverence, chosen to remind us that we are always in the presence of the Creator and that all life is precious. It is a time when we encourage each other to really open ourselves to experience faith, love and deep respect for each other and for the gift of life. This Thursday we celebrate the events of Holy Week in the Church calendar, a time when we remember and celebrate the great sacrifice that Jesus made in his passion, death and ultimate resurrection for our sake and for the sake of the world.
What greater love is there than this? There is an opportunity for you to join with the Parish liturgical celebrations over the three day triduum – Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. Details are included elsewhere in this newsletter. You would be most welcome at any one of the four Parish churches as would your children.

Reverence calls us to be still, to take time each day to contemplate, to pray and reflect on our lives and on our very ‘being’. We seek to discern the deeper meaning in our lives, in the beauty of the natural world and in each other which has the power to restore our souls.

Affirmation of life is the spiritual act by which (we) cease to live unreflectively and to devote ourselves to our lives with reverence, in order to raise it to its real value.
(Adapted from Albert Schweitzer)

In practising Reverence:

♦ I take time each day to nurture my inner life;
♦ I open my soul to life’s wonders;
♦ I live with an awareness of Divine presence;
♦ I discern the meaning of my experiences;
♦ I allow beauty to nurture my soul; and
♦ I respect the value of all life.

I am grateful for the gift of Reverence. It consecrates my life.

It isn’t until one takes the time to reflect on the important things in life, including the gift of self, family, friends and community as well as those who are suffering around us that we realise that there is a much bigger picture than the limited one we normally see in our everyday lives. We owe it to ourselves to explore this gift of life freely given in all its fullness; to examine our personal relationship with the world and with our God.

May God bless you all with the power of His Love this Easter.

Judith.

S.O.S. (Stars On Staff) CONCERT UPDATE - THURSDAY MAY 2 6.30PM SCHOOL HALL

To raise funds for St. Joseph’s school community in Gayndah who have been seriously flood affected

Well after another feverish week of rehearsals, things are starting to come together for this exciting fundraising concert.

Here’s another few snippets of the amazing acts we have to entertain you:

*Veils of the East – the mysterious Bellydancers
*All the beautiful voices on staff come together in the Stella Maris Staff Choir
*Staff Jug Band – a combination of the weird and wonderful – (instruments that is) - in a zany musical number

Would you like to contribute to SOS raffle prizes?
Donations will be greatly accepted from families and businesses that would like to contribute to our raffle which will be drawn on the night of the SOS Concert. Suitable donations include restaurant vouchers, shopping vouchers and luxury food items (such as wine and fine chocolates). Please deliver items to the school office marked “SOS BU NEILL”. Any questions regarding this should be directed to Peta Neill at school or via email to pneill@bne.catholic.edu.au.

Food and drink will be available for purchase on the night prior to the concert. All details will go home in the flyer and ticket order form with the newsletter on the first Tuesday of Term 2. Remember get your order forms in early to avoid disappointment. Seating is limited.

More exciting details after the holidays
Peta Neill, Todd Wynyard & Inez Durrer

Worldwide Marriage Encounter:
A weekend away for married couples in peaceful, picturesque surroundings – away from the distractions of everyday living. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset . . . your Marriage! This is a unique opportunity to recharge your relationship batteries, refocus on each other and fall in love all over again!

Weekend date: 24 - 26 May 2013
Venue: Santa Teresa, Ormiston QLD
For bookings/details contact: Tamara and Scott Menteith, ph (07) 4634 3559, stjmen@aapt.net.au
Information website: www.wwme.org.au
**MUSIC NOTES**

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**
“Music is your own experience, your thoughts, your wisdom. If you don’t live it, it won’t come out of your horn.”

~ Charlie Parker~

**TIP OF THE WEEK** - Do you play with correct posture? This is very important during lessons, rehearsals and especially at home when you practice. Ask your teacher to remind you about good posture!!

**ASSEMBLY** - Congratulations to SM Singers (with Mrs Durrer and Ms Worthy) and the Percussion Ensemble (with Mr Burr) for their wonderful performance on assembly this past week. Thank you also to the parents/caregivers who support their children in these two ensembles, particularly for early morning rehearsals. Well done to everyone!

**TEN FACTS ABOUT SCHOOL MUSIC** - Continuing from last week, the following is the fifth fact about music education.

5. Incorporating music learning into other curriculum areas helps kids learn

A US study of fifth-grade students found that their attitudes to reading (and to music!) improved when music was incorporated into reading instruction. Other studies show that music students are better equipped to grasp maths and science concepts.

**INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NEWS** - Finalised lesson timetables for next term will be emailed out to all enrolled families by Friday 12 April just prior to school returning. Lessons and ensemble sessions will begin from Monday 15 April. If you have changed your email address recently, please let us know to ensure you receive your lesson timetable.

Students will need three copies of their timetable: one for their lesson record folder, one for their classroom and one to display on the fridge at home. Timetables will also be displayed on the notice board outside the music room.

**Date claimers** – We are currently working to finalise Soiree performance dates for Term 2 and these will be advised in the first couple of weeks in Term 2. In the meantime, please add the following date claimers to your diary to ensure students are available:

- 17 May – Sunshine Coast Honours Music Program at Stella Maris (selected Concert Band students)
- 23 May – Assembly Performance by Concert Band and Stella Fellas
- 2 June - MUSICFEST at Sunshine Plaza (Concert Band and SM Singers)
- 8 August – Assembly Performance by Piccolo Choir and String Ensemble
- 16 August – QLD Catholic Schools Music Festival, Brisbane (Concert Band, SM Singers and Stella Fellas)
- 28 October – Musica Viva – Prep – Year 7 classes
- 31 October – Assembly Performance by Bella Voce and Guitar Ensemble

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.

Inez Durrer       Todd Wynyard
Classroom Music Specialist Instrumental Music Coordinator

durrer@bne.catholic.edu.au  wwynyard@bne.catholic.edu.au

**TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS ROSTER**

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**SPORT NEWS**

**STELLA MARIS CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL 2013**

Friday 26th of April week 2 of term 2

Students born in 2001, 2002 and 2003 (turning 10, 11 or 12) who wish to trial for District Cross Country MUST nominate in PE THIS WEEK and complete the longer qualifying course. All other students are to run with their year level. Students aged 13yrs may choose to run the longer course and compete for a place ribbon and extra points or run with their Year Level for 1 point.

9.00am - 11 & 12 Yrs Boys & Girls start. – District Trial
9.15am - 10 Yrs Boys & Girls start – District Trial
9.25am - Yr 7 Boys & Girls start.
9.35am - Yr 6 Boys & Girls start.
9.45am - Yr 5 Boys & Girls start.
9.50am - Yr 4 Boys start.
9.55am - Yr 4 Girls start.
10.00am - Yr 3 Boys start.
10.05am - Yr 3 Girls start.
10.10am - Yr 2 Boys start.
10.15am - Yr 2 Girls start.
10.20am - Yr 1 Boys start.
10.25am - Yr 1 Girls start.
10.30am - Prep Boys start.
10.35am - Prep Girls start.

Regards,

Mr Jones – PE Teacher

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>Assembly - Holy Week Liturgy 8.45am in the Hall</td>
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<td>April 15</td>
<td>1st Day Term 2</td>
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<td>April 18</td>
<td>ANZAC DAY Assembly</td>
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<td>April 25</td>
<td>ANZAC Day Procession at Cotton Tree</td>
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<td>April 26</td>
<td>Stella Maris Cross Country</td>
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<td>May 2</td>
<td>Stars on Staff Concert Fundraiser for Gayndah</td>
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<td>May 14</td>
<td>P &amp; F Meeting 6.30p.m. in the staffroom</td>
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<td>June 11</td>
<td>P &amp; F Meeting 6.30p.m. in the staffroom</td>
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<td>June 18</td>
<td>Year 6’s to visit Siena</td>
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<td>June 21</td>
<td>Last Day Term 2</td>
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<td>July 8</td>
<td>1st Day Term 3</td>
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<td>August 1</td>
<td>3B class presenting assembly</td>
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<td>August 15</td>
<td>QLD Catholic Schools and Colleges Music Festival</td>
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<td>August 28-30</td>
<td>Year 6 Camp Ewan Maddock Dam</td>
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<td>September 20</td>
<td>Last Day Term 3</td>
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<td>October 8</td>
<td>1st Day Term 4</td>
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**CASTING SUCCESS**

Congratulations to Cartia Thompson (Yr 7) who has been selected in the Coastal District 12yrs girls Netball Team to contest the Regional Titles in April.

Congratulations to the following boys who have been selected in the Coastal District AFL Under 12 Team to compete at the Regional Trials: Bailey Johnston, Jake Young, Jesse Johnston, Carter Michael, Max McDonald, Joshua Fuller and Dominic Carmody.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL!

**TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS ROSTER**

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**TUCKSHOP NEWS**

Wed 27/03 C Cleary  M Austin
Thurs 28/03 M Johnstone  M Austin

Due to manufacturing problems there is a limited supply of milk available.

All students need:
- School hat
- Sports uniform
- Running shoes (change back into school shoes after race)
- Water bottle
- Sunscreen applied before school
- Asthma puffer – if required.

**DATE CHANGERS TO YOUR DIARY**

- 8 August – Assembly Performance by Piccolo Choir and String Ensemble
- 16 August – QLD Catholic Schools Music Festival, Brisbane (Concert Band, SM Singers and Stella Fellas)
- 28 October – Musica Viva – Prep – Year 7 classes
- 31 October – Assembly Performance by Bella Voce and Guitar Ensemble

Inez Durrer       Todd Wynyard
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**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**
“Music is your own experience, your thoughts, your wisdom. If you don’t live it, it won’t come out of your horn.”

~ Charlie Parker~
Powerful Parenting: Building Relationships and Instilling Confidence Part 1

As parents, you worry about the risks your children face and the choices they will have to make. But if you have a strong relationship with your children that is built on a foundation of trust and open communication, they are more likely to tell you about their problems and gain from your values. If your children have confidence in themselves, they are more likely to handle situations assertively. If your children have self-management, relationship-building, and problem-solving skills, they are more likely to make safe and healthy choices. As a parent, you can help strengthen these areas of your children’s lives.

**Love Them for Who They Are**

Unconditional acceptance of your children not only builds a strong relationship with them, but encourages them to have confidence and trust in themselves. Separate who your children are (their being) from what they do (their behavior). Remember, behavior can always change. Help your children discover their interests and passions and encourage them to pursue their interests by providing opportunities and support. Spend time with your children. This helps build strong relationships and provides opportunities for you to teach and model essential skills. Use words, gestures, and touch frequently to let your children know that you love them.

Take time to have extended conversations with your children. Bedtimes, meals, and car rides are often good times. As often as possible, have family dinners where you can share news, discuss problems, and make plans. Research shows that children who have dinner with their families several times a week are less likely to smoke or use illegal drugs, have sex at young ages, and get into serious fights. Have frequent, brief playtimes with young children (5–10 minutes can make a difference). Allow your children to direct the play. Read together and talk about the characters’ feelings, challenges, and solutions.

Talk about your family’s culture(s). This will help your children feel more strongly connected to their ethnic background and their culture’s values and beliefs. Research shows that positive cultural identification can improve a child’s self-esteem and protect against emotional problems.

**Discipline and Guide**

Positive guidance and discipline promote children’s self-control, teach them responsibility, and help them learn to make thoughtful choices. Specialists suggest that inconsistent, harsh discipline that includes physical force, threats, and negative comments may interfere with healthy development. Here are some key components of positive discipline:

- **Pay attention to what children do right.** Children thrive on positive attention and are more likely to repeat a behavior if you notice it and comment on it.
- **Use consistent, caring consequences for unacceptable behavior.** The consequences should be reasonable, directly related to the misbehaviour, and respectful of the child.
- **Give the message that mistakes are a chance for learning.**
- **Offer choices whenever possible to provide practice in making decisions.**

Christine Craig (Guidance Counsellor)

email: ccraig@bne.catholic.edu.au