Dear Parents and Caregivers

With NAPLAN testing upon us for another year and school reporting processes beginning in the near future, it’s timely to think about why so much emphasis is placed upon the outcomes of testing. I share again with you what I have previously written about these matters.

Perhaps one of the strongest reasons lies in a belief that school success predicts, and even assures, future success, and what parent doesn’t want this for his or her offspring? ‘The greater the success at school and/or the higher the IQ, the greater the success later in life,’ that’s what we tend to think, so tests, assessments, assignments and competitions come along and relief and reassurance follows the attainment of favourable results. If results are not to expectation, disappointment and concern is likely to ensue.

But how valid is this thinking really? Each of us can think of examples within our own experience that cast serious doubt upon the notion that high IQ and/or academic success offer any sort of guarantee of life success. As an example of this, the dux in my final year of high school with an excellent entrée into his university Law degree, dropped out in his first year as a result of drink, drugs and partying. Each of you will have your own stories. Daniel Goleman, author of ‘Emotional Intelligence: Why It Can Matter More Than IQ’, sums it up like this,

‘Academic intelligence has little to do with emotional life. The brightest among us can founder on the shoals of unbridled passions and unruly impulses; people with high IQ’s can be stunningly poor pilots of their private lives.’

He points out what research findings and our experience tells us; there are widespread exceptions to the rule that IQ / academic success predicts later success. Goleman writes that, at best, these factors contribute about 20% to the factors that determine life success; the remainder being made up of the totality of other characteristics that are brought to life especially emotional intelligence abilities such as being able to motivate oneself and persist in the face of frustrations; to control impulse and delay gratification; to regulate one’s moods and keep distress from swamping the ability to think; to empathize and to hope.’

Studies confirm that academic success and IQ do little to explain the differing destinies of people with roughly equal promise, schooling and opportunity. Follow-up studies have repeatedly shown that those with the highest test scores were not particularly successful in terms of salary, productivity and status in their chosen fields, compared to their peers with lower academic scores. Nor did they have the greatest life satisfaction, the most happiness with family, friendships and other relationships. As Karen Arnold noted in her research at Boston University, ‘To know that a person is a valedictorian (has achieved the highest grade-point average in their school) is to know only that he or she is exceedingly good at achievement as measured by grades. It tells you nothing about how they react to the vicissitudes of life.’ Goleman continues,

‘And that is the problem: academic intelligence offers virtually no preparation for the turmoil – or opportunity – of life’s vicissitudes bring. Yet even though a high IQ is no guarantee of prosperity, prestige or happiness in life, our schools and our culture fixate on academic abilities, ignoring emotional intelligence, a set of traits – some might call it character – that also matters immensely for our personal destiny. Emotional life is a domain that, as surely as math or reading, can be handled with greater or lesser skill, and requires a unique set of competencies. And how adept a person is at those is crucial to understanding why one person thrives in life while another, of equal intellect dead-ends.”

In making this point, I am not implying that school achievement is of little importance. The point I am making is that it is not ‘the be all and end all’ and, as such, should be developed and valued alongside the other equally important domains of the human person, namely those of body and spirit.

The very best teachers (and schools) teach more than subject matter; they teach the whole person. Content and skills are used as vehicles for students to learn the greater lessons of life as parts of the one whole. Every incident, every interaction, every challenge provides an opportunity for students to learn about themselves, others and their world thus strengthening their capacity to use their learning wisely and well – for themselves and the greater good.

So let us not be railroaded into believing that test scores mean more than they do and guarantee more than they can possibly provide. Each test, in fact, is a point in time snapshot only. Will it matter in twenty years’ time at what age a student learned to read? Will it matter what scores were achieved on the Year 3 NAPLAN Test? I doubt it.

What matters is that students are learning to give their best effort, to persist when things get tough, to cooperate with teachers and each other so that everyone has the best opportunity to learn and to know what to do when they are having difficulty. What matters is that teachers give of their best to their students and their school communities, that they continue to value and model their own learning, that they strive together to constantly improve their practice, the learning environment and their student learning outcomes. What matters is that parents and caregivers support each other, each other’s children and school staff, that they contribute as best they can to building strong, healthy Christian community within their schools. If these provide the focus for what we do here at Stella Maris, the test scores will take care of themselves – the tail will not wag the dog.

Having said that, of course we want our students to do well academically and in all aspects of life, in fact everything we do is geared towards this. We use NAPLAN to provide us with one set of information which we use, along with local data, to examine our progress as an educational community and to inform decision-making. It’s just a matter of keeping everything in perspective which isn’t always an easy thing to do, is it?

Have a great week everyone.

Glenda
NAPLAN - Today, and over the next two days, Year 3, 5 and 7 students will sit the national tests for numeracy and literacy. A good night’s sleep, healthy breakfast, calm morning routine at home and arrival at school in plenty of time will assist students to do their best each day. Late arrival and/or a poor night’s sleep certainly make concentration all the more difficult.

No Assembly this week due to NAPLAN Tests.

Annual Catholic Campaign - This term we will be joining all schools and parishes in the Archdiocese to help support the Annual Catholic Campaign. Over the coming weeks we will learn about the ministries and people it supports and Archbishop Mark Coleridge will be writing to you and other members of the Catholic community across South East Queensland to ask for everyone’s support.

The Annual Catholic campaign gives us the opportunity to act together as one Church family to support ministries and service that no individual parish or school can offer. Of particular interest is the new MacKillop Fund to help families, who could not otherwise afford it, access Catholic schools.

I encourage you to please give what you can. Every gift, regardless of the size, is vital to the success of the Annual Catholic Campaign. If you are able to, you might consider making a regular monthly gift. This way, the ministries supported by the Campaign can plan more easily for the future and grow knowing that people are willing and committed to making ongoing contributions.

Over the coming weeks, as we will learn more about the important contribution we make as a Church, I encourage you to consider your support.

Dance Fever Interschool Dance Challenge

On the evening of Monday 17 June, the Dance Challenge is on again with Stella Maris competing with St Joseph’s, Nambour and St Pat’s, Gympie at Nambour Civic Centre. All Year 4 to 7 students are invited to represent their school following lessons held in Term One. It’s a great night when students get to display their dance, social and partnering skills and to have a lot of fun in the process. Parents and teachers also have a wonderful evening and invariably feel very proud of the skill and behaviour of all the students. We are hoping that you will all join us! You will find all details in the flyer which will be sent home shortly, including a return slip indicating attendance (or not). It is most important to return this form to allow us to partner students and plan the showdown.

Prep Enrolments 2014

Have you all returned your applications for students starting Prep next year? Interviews for 'new' families are still underway but it is vital that we have finalised all enrolments for next year’s preps from our families already here at Stella Maris.

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

"Thankfulness is being grateful for what you have. It is an attitude of gratitude for learning, loving, and being. It is appreciating the little things which happen around you and within you every day. It is having a sense of wonder about the beauty of this world. It is being aware of the gifts in your life."

(From The Virtues Project Educator’s Guide by Linda Kavelin Popov).

When we really sit down and think about it, we have many reasons to express our gratitude for the blessings in our lives, for our family and friends; but how do we make gratitude part of our everyday life? Thankfulness is a practice, and just like anything worth doing, it takes practice. Thankfulness is also an attitude. Studies have shown that people who cultivate an attitude of gratitude may actually undo the effects of negative emotions such as anger and anxiety.

One of the best ways we can show our thankfulness is to share our gifts with others. Last Sunday we celebrated Mothers’ Day, an opportunity to say ‘thanks’ to our mums and grandmothers. We have also seen an outpouring of generosity after the natural disasters around the world this past year. The students and Staff at Stella Maris are intending to support the indigenous population through a Walkathon to be held in the afternoon of Friday, 24th May. Should it be raining that day, we have reserved the following Friday, 31st May, as a back-up plan.

Why should we Walk As One?

There are more than 370 million Indigenous peoples living in some 90 countries around the world today. Their contribution to the global community should not be undervalued: they are custodians of some of the world’s most biologically diverse territories; are responsible for a great deal of the world’s cultural and linguistic diversity; and their traditional knowledge is an invaluable resource in many sectors, such as medicine and agriculture.

If the invaluable contribution of Indigenous Peoples to the human family is clear, so too is their marginalization and disadvantage. Although Indigenous Peoples make up roughly 5 percent of the global population, they constitute up to 15 percent of the world’s poor and over a third of the world’s 900 million extremely poor rural population. The majority are living within Australia’s own region, Asia. Caritas supporters are joining together to seek solutions to these challenges, calling on our government to improve Australia’s foreign aid program and policies as they relate to Indigenous Peoples, and promote respect for and compliance with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Together, we are also seeking transformational change in communities and businesses, promoting positive engagement with Indigenous led initiatives and organizations, encouraging best practice concerning private sector operations on Indigenous territories around the world.


We hope many of you can come and cheer our walkers on as we ‘walk the talk’ in raising money for our indigenous peoples.

God bless,

Judith.

Indonesian Fun & Easy

Learn a basic conversation in just 7 weeks!

Evening Classes Start 15th May 6pm to 7.30pm
MAROOCHY NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE
Qld. Reg. Lote Teacher: Albertina Banks
(18yrs experience)
Bookings essential. Ph: 0427 092 433  
email: albertina@westnet.com.au

Did you know? Indonesian is one of the easiest languages to learn. It has the same alphabet as English. “Let’s get to know our neighbours!”
**MUSIC NOTES**

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**
“Music is well said to be the speech of angels.”  ~ Thomas Carlyle, Essays, “The Opera” ~

**TIP OF THE WEEK** - Compose your own music. Be sure to include a time signature, and use a variety of different pitches and rhythms. Now play it!

**CHOIR** - Students are reminded once more to return their commitment forms for choir to ensure they are on my current database. A current email would be beneficial to keep parents/caregivers informed of upcoming performances and other relevant information.

**GUITARS** - We have just 5 full-size guitars left to sell (two of which will need 1 string replaced). The cost is $50 per guitar. Please contact Mrs Durrer or Mr Wynyard if you are interested.

**TEN FACTS ABOUT SCHOOL MUSIC** - Continuing from last week, the following is the tenth fact about music education.
10. Australia lags behind other countries in the provision of music in school

The world’s top academic countries such as Hungary, Netherlands, and Japan have strong commitments to music in their schools from the early primary years. In Britain, where the problems in school music provision mirror those of Australia, the government has recently decided to fix the situation. Recognising the huge benefits to kids, it has announced its commitment – backed up by more than £300 million - ‘to make every British primary school a musical school’.  

**INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NEWS**

**DATE CLAIMERS**

**STELLA SOIREE WEEK** will be held in week 7 this term on Monday 27, Tuesday 28 and Thursday 30 May in the Hall. All enrolled students will have an opportunity to perform and each day will have two performance sessions – 5pm to 6pm and 6.30pm to 7.30pm. Students will get a letter this week outlining their performance date and time. Other dates for this term are:

- Friday 17 May – Sunshine Coast Honours Music Program at Stella Maris (selected Concert Band students)
- Thursday 23 May – Assembly Performance by Concert Band and Stella Fellas

The MUSICFEST performance planned for the Concert Band and String Ensemble at Sunshine Plaza on Sunday 2 June has been cancelled as the organiser has become seriously ill.

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
iddurrer@bne.catholic.edu.au  twynyard@bne.catholic.edu.au

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**Congratulations to Thomas McClure**
(5A) who has been selected in the Queensland School Sport Swimming Team to compete in the School Sport Australia Swimming & Diving Championships to be held in Adelaide in September. A fantastic effort Thomas, best wishes for a personal best performance at the Nationals.

Congratulations to Enya McNabb (3A) who after placing well in her solos at the Sunshine Coast Dance Eisteddfod, was awarded Most Outstanding Performer (Sunshine Coast 8years and under) last Saturday.

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**STUDENT TRAVEL REBATES**
Semester 1, 2013

Visit website to see if you qualify for financial assistance to help with the cost of transport and apply at www.schooltransport.com.au by 31 May 2013.

Late applications cannot be accepted.

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**RAINBOWS STARTS NEXT WEEK 22 MAY**

If you wish to enrol your child in the Rainbows program (grief and loss) forms are available from the office. Please complete the form and return it to the school office ASAP.

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**Tuckshop News**

**StellaVegas**

**Thank you to our sponsors so far:-**
- Thompson Builders - Sunshine Coast
- Raw Energy - Noosaville
- GLAIR Air Conditioning Insulation
- The Naturalvet Company
- Land Surveying Dynamics
- Sunshine Coast Building and Pest Reports

**Taste Success**

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**母亲节的玫瑰卡片**

I would just like to thank the staff and parents for all your support for another successful Mother’s Day Stall. Many thanks from the Mother’s Day Team, Leanne, Deb, Annie and all our helpers.

Leanne Dowe

**Tuickshop News**

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**NEEDED PICKELET MIXES AND MUFFIN MIXES**

**Week Ending 17 May**
N Pace, T Maas, A Charlton, L Gerbo, D Stubbs, O Furniss, K Bidmade, S McNamara, F Annand, T Di Pietra, K Kretzers, L Teuthof, M Housego
Fun Alternatives to Screen Time for Kids and Families

It’s well-known that kids need plenty of exercise, but it can be hard to pry them off the couch and away from their electronic devices after they’ve had a long day. One way to get them moving is to engage the whole family in games that are simple and fun.

Here are some fun, easy games you can play with your children. These games don’t require special equipment, just creativity and a positive attitude. You can adapt the games and bend the rules to suit your family.

Outdoor Games

Obstacle course - Set up an outdoor obstacle course with Hula-Hoops, two-by-fours, a tricycle, a spoon and an egg, a balance ball, and anything else you can think of. Set a timer and see who can complete the course fastest, or just have the kids finish the course as many times as they can. Then have each child create an obstacle course for parents and siblings to complete.

Driveway hockey - Block the driveway with a parked car so kids can play safely. Set up a goal at each end of the driveway with cardboard boxes or just by drawing lines in chalk. Use a lightweight ball instead of a puck. If you don’t have hockey sticks, you can use tennis rackets, brooms, or other household objects. See who can reach five goals first, or just play for fun.

Mixed-up sports - Gather up all your family’s sports equipment and challenge kids to use each item for a different activity than what the item is usually used for. Can they toss a football through the basketball net? Is it possible to catch a flying disc with a softball glove? Which is more fun, playing soccer with a golf ball or a tennis ball?

Treasure hunt - Hide a treasure in your backyard. Write clues on several index cards. Each player can earn a card by completing a fitness challenge, such as jumping rope 100 times. If the player can’t find the treasure after receiving a clue, he returns and completes another fitness challenge to earn another clue. Keep going until someone finds the treasure.

Indoor Games

Hallway bowling - Use cereal boxes and other lightweight objects to create 10 bowling pins. Set the pins up in a pyramid at one end of a long hallway. Each player takes a turn rolling the ball or other round object (oranges make great bowling balls) and trying to knock down all the pins. Play like you’re really bowling, or just make up your own scoring system. Play for 10 rounds or until bowling fatigue sets in.

Fort face-off - Make two teams. Round up blankets, towels, chairs, card tables, and other fort-making supplies. To earn supplies to create a fort, members come to the leader for a fitness challenge, such as 20 squats. When all the supplies have been earned and the forts are completed, the leader judges the forts and declares a winner, or kids just play in their forts.

Life-size board game - Use masking tape to create a life-size game board with about 20 spaces large enough to stand in. Number the spaces, placing a diamond in several random spaces. Each player takes a turn rolling a die and moving the number of spaces on the die. If a player lands on a diamond, the next person in line assigns a fitness challenge such as 20 jumping jacks and sends the player back to the first space. The first player to reach the last space wins.

Fitness Go Fish - Play Go Fish with a fitness twist. Each time a player says “Go fish!” she gets to assign a fitness challenge, such as running up and down the stairs five times.

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

Thankyou to our sponsors: