Term 2 Week 6

Dear Parents and Caregivers

This year as part of the Leading Learning program, participants have been asked to write an ‘I have a dream’ speech about the vision each of us holds for our school. Here is my dream:

‘I dream of a school that is a place of joy, peace and love; a place in which learning for life and life for learning are strong in their Gospel foundations and Easter promise. I dream of a school in which a full and glorious diversity of peoples find both a safe place in the present and a launching pad into a promising future. I dream of a school that simultaneously accepts, supports and challenges everyone who enters through its doors, although never one to the exclusion of the others. I dream of a school that, while deeply alive and active in its learning, sustains itself at the well of stillness and peace. I dream of a school with a visible soul.

I dream of a school whose staff members recognise that they can never know the God-given potential of any child and so, support each student towards a future of limitless possibility. I dream of staff members who are deeply committed to their own learning and inspire this love and commitment in their students; staff members whose motivation flows from genuine care for their students and commitment to preparing future generations well. I dream of staff members whose hands are ready, reliable and faithful to the work they do and whose eyes, ears, hearts and minds are waiting, open and observant to what is and what can be.

I dream of a school in which parents not only support and nurture the growth of their own children but also the growth of all children; a school whose parents work in harmonious partnership with each other and staff, to create the steadfast village it takes to raise healthy, happy, well-adjusted young people. I see strong, responsible, capable, creative, compassionate and hope-filled students who know they are loved - fully and forever. Students coming to truly know themselves, not as the world believes them to be, but as young people in whom Christ surely rises. I dream of students who aspire to all that is good, true, beautiful and worthy of learning in this world.

I dream of a school where minds and classroom doors are always open to improved practice and where staff, students and parents work in partnership to make learning improvement a reality every day, for every student, no matter what. I dream of a school in which ‘the impossible’ is made possible through the team’s passionate commitment, co-ordinated effort and … by God’s unearned Grace. I dream of a school full of vibrant, purposeful learning, other-centred living and hearty, yet gentle laughter.

I have a dream of a school and its people, contributing significantly to making the world a kinder, gentler and more hope-filled place. I dream of learning that opens the mind to knowledge and understanding, opens the senses to the Arts, opens the Spirit to contemplation and silence and opens the whole person to God’s universal wisdom which is beyond time and place.

Have a great week everyone.  Glenda

Tuckshop - Parents, recently I was told that there was a conversation about the tuckshop taking place via the P&F Facebook page. It was raised with me as there were concerns around the appropriateness of the forum for such a discussion and the way it was developing. I was pleased then to hear at last week’s P&F Meeting, that those present were of a very similar mind; namely, that any school-associated social media forum was not the place for such conversation and we agreed to get the message out there as a result.

While I know that there was no harm intended by comments made, it is all too easy to hurt feelings and start something that takes on a life of its own – often the sort of life that was never intended – and unforeseen damage can be done to community. Even when comments are not particularly controversial, they nevertheless leave an impression with those who view them. I know that over many years now, we have all worked mindfully and with purpose to create the sort of school community here which moves us closer to the dream I’ve shared in the front page article, and I am so thankful for the way in which everyone contributes to this.

Having said that, I heartily endorse every parent’s right and responsibility to raise issues that they believe need attention. As I have always maintained, my door and all staff members’ doors are open to listen to parental concerns especially when raised calmly and respectfully. I believe absolutely in the goodwill that exists here at Stella Maris and I know that, although we will not all hold the same views from time to time, this does not preclude healthy, rational discussion.

So, what do you do if you have a matter to raise? It’s as easy as a phone call or email to make a time to have a talk – about anything. If the matter is to do with a student, then the first port of call is naturally the teacher. If the matter is of a more general, school-wide nature, then Terry, Judith and I are always ready to listen. Believe me, we would rather know of your concerns than live in ignorance of how you are feeling or what you are thinking.

Now, to the matter of tuckshop – it was always intended that we hold a review of operations this year, so now is as good a time as any. Please see the separate sheet accompanying this newsletter which provides you with the opportunity for feedback. Thanks everyone for your support in our ongoing quest for improvement in all aspects of school life.
Homework Review
Now that I have your attention by mentioning one of the most discussed educational topics, I am happy to let you know that, over the coming months, Stella Maris is undertaking a substantial Homework Review with a view to writing a policy and procedure document for implementation at the start of the 2014 school year. We have started reading research findings on the subject and discussion is underway at School Board. Presently, three surveys are being finalised for distribution – one for parents, one for teachers and one for students. Keep an eye out for the survey request for completion. There will be lots of updates over the coming months.

StellaVegas
StellaVegas
When: May 25th
Where: Maroochydore Surf Club
Tickets on sale NOW $40.00

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

Noisy Silent Auctions!
- Natural Australian sapphire pendant in white gold value $600
- Pamper Package-value $230 (Amyths Gardens Retreat & Platinum Scissors)
- $1000 Foto Flair Photography Package
- Family Day Out Package (Underwater World pass & Hogs Breath Café voucher)
- A night at The Sebel Noosa value $360
- Girls Day Out (Lunch for 8 plus 4 bottles of bubbly)
- Party Barrow (Wheelbarrow full of party treats)
- 2 hour sunset cruise for 20 people in Mooloolaba
- Signed Brisbane Lions Jersey
- 60 minute introductory flight from Caloundra to Moreton Island
- Andy Roache Hair & Colour Package value $150
- Gola Painting
- Boysland Package (Esky of beer & pizzas)

Optional: Prize for Best Dressed

Dear Parents/Caregivers,
With the Project Compassion WALKATHON scheduled for this Friday afternoon from 2.00pm to 2.45pm, this week’s Virtue of Courage is very apt when we think about the courage it needs to stay committed even when we feel like giving up or quitting. Courage can come from prayer and the trust that God will help; it also comes from the commitment to a worthy cause to improve the plight of others in dire circumstances, especially the young and the very vulnerable. We have raised approximately $7,000 so far this year for Project Compassion. It would be great if we could continue the effort this week to try and make that amount nearer to the $10,000.00 mark. As mentioned last week, this money goes towards amenities for the poorest of the poor in indigenous communities around the world who are living in third world conditions, with availability of clean water and healthy sanitary conditions very limited. Help is sorely needed to drastically reduce the mortality rate for the vulnerable – both the very young and the sick.
The route has been planned for the walk on the back oval with older students both encouraging and assisting younger students as they walk the course. The distance for each lap will be approximately 500 metres. We are hoping that this exercise might help the children understand the distances that some children in indigenous communities have to walk to collect water even for drinking purposes. Even though we have families who are doing it tough on the coast, water on tap is such a luxury compared to the areas that will be supported through this drive. If you would like to come and cheer on the children in this fund raising endeavour, please feel welcome to do so. However, it must be stressed that you will need to park in surrounding streets if there are not any car parks left. Please do not park in “NO STANDING’ zones as this will affect pick up at the end of the day. As a matter of safety so that teachers can mark rolls, students will need to return to their classrooms after the event and be dismissed from there at the usual time. We ask that you do not take your children early as this has consequences for the Office Staff during their busiest time at the conclusion of the school day. You may also wish for your child to wear alternative foot wear for the walkathon should the grounds be a bit soggy in case of light rain before the event. Should the grounds be too wet then we have an alternate date scheduled for the following Friday 31st May.
Thank you in advance for your support and consideration. I am sure the students will do us proud.

God bless, Judith.

Principal’s Awards
23 May 2013
Leo Robinson, Matthew Broadfoot, Jophiel Armijo, Bojanna Corboy, Bronte Summers, Joshua Evans, Hudson Cranley, Benjamin Chick, Carter Brown, Ethan Cook, Claire Winks, Zoe Reid, Max Furniss, Harry Robinson, Ziva Godfrey, Abigail Merritt, Holly Grattidge, Ben Lusty, Juliana Kaszas, Min Bennett, Harley King, Alex Mann, Sienna Cameron, Connor Lambert, Bryce Bartleson, Kilarny Back, Callum Charlton, Audrey Cambridge, Ayla Cheatham, Murray Langford, Kira Fuda, Misha McMillan, Ethan Williams, Brae Edgerton, Liam Daniel-Lawler, Joshua Linnett, Jessica Perrett, Tayla Gorham, Sarah Baillie, Rhys Whiley, Adain Harris, Kobi Thompson, Carlia Thompson, Lauren Bellamy, Jared Hansen.
QUOTE OF THE WEEK
“Music is enough for a lifetime, but a lifetime is not enough time for music.” ~ Sergei Rachmaninov ~

TIP OF THE WEEK - Having trouble keeping in time? You need a metronome, a small device that beeps to keep you in time and can be very helpful.

ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK - Stella Fellas and Concert Band will be performing on Assembly this Thursday morning. All students are to meet Mrs Durrer and Mr Wynyard outside the hall at 8.30am.

SUNSHINE COAST HONOURS MUSIC PROGRAM - Stella Maris was the host school for over 120 young, talented musicians on Friday and Saturday last week to share in the spirit of community music making amongst students from all schools on the Sunshine Coast. The event is funded and organised annually by St Andrews Anglican College in Peregian Springs with an aim of bringing these students together to build musical skills and friendships. 60 primary school students were involved on Friday, including seven Stella Maris students, and 60 secondary students on Saturday. A concert was presented each afternoon at 5.30pm to showcase what the students had achieved during the day. It was a very successful event.

STELLA SOIREE WEEK is on next week, Monday 27, Tuesday 28 and Thursday 30 May in the Hall. All enrolled students will have received a note with their DATE and TIME to perform. Students need to return this note to the music department ASAP to assist with preparing the program for these sessions. Everyone is welcome to attend these performances beginning at 5pm and 6.30pm on each date shown above.

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
durrer@bne.catholic.edu.au   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. For bookings call 5444 3899 or www.trybooking.com. Not to be missed!!

STUDENT TRAVEL REBATES
Semester 1, 2013

Bus Fare Assistance
Does your child attend a school outside the Brisbane City Council boundary?
Does your family spend more than $22/week* on fares to and from school (* $17/week if you hold a concession card)
Does your child travel on a publically available bus not owned or associated with the school?

Students with Disabilities
Does your child have a verified disability that requires transport assistance to and from school?
Has your school’s learning support teacher assessed your child’s travel capability rating as ‘semi-independent’ or more dependent?

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.

"All Star" Book Fair will run between 27th - 30th June, 8am to 4pm daily. Each purchase will support the school with great new books and resources from Scholastic.
From the Library desk

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.

Ingredients Roster

NEEDED PICKELET MIXES AND MUFFIN MIXES
Week Ending 24 May

Wed 22/05    Thurs 23/05    Fri 24/05    Mon 27/05    Tues 28/05
M Johnstone    C Cleary    D Vann    F Johannsen    L McIlneure    L Wiseman    N Burrows    L Corcoran    J Reginato    A McArble    C Hobbs    K Broderick

Tuckshop News

CLASSROOM MUSIC SPECIALIST

TIP OF THE WEEK - Having trouble keeping in time? You need a metronome, a small device that beeps to keep you in time and can be very helpful.

MUSIC NOTES

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Tuckshop News
This week begins a series on Auditory Processing Disorder.

**Do You Hear What They Hear?**

Charlie is fidgety and distractible during classroom activities, according to his 2nd grade teacher. During PE class, he gets cranky and lashes out at classmates who “are yelling at me and telling me what to do.”

His mother has noticed similar behaviours at home. When he’s doing homework, she says, “He uses every little sound as an excuse to delay getting down to work.” Even the dishwasher distracts him, despite the fact that the kitchen is on the other side of the house. “He just can’t sit still.”

This sounds like a classic attention-deficit disorder profile, right? Well, yes and no. Charlie does have ADHD, but an audiologist has also diagnosed him with something called auditory processing disorder, commonly known by the acronym APD or CAPD. While APD isn’t as well-known as ADHD, it is becoming increasingly common. Roughly 7 per cent of children have some type of auditory processing difficulty.

But what is it exactly? At its most general, APD is a glitch in the brain’s ability to filter and process sounds and words. An APD child doesn’t have difficulty hearing—in fact, in most cases, her hearing is good. Rather, her brain perceives the sounds incorrectly, affecting the child’s ability to distinguish between similar sounds (da and ga, for example).

Some children with APD also have trouble screening out background noise, so they pick up bits of surrounding sounds. The echo in a hall or the hum of the air conditioner in the classroom interferes with the conversation at hand. It’s like listening to the radio with interference from other stations garbling the reception.

A child with the disorder typically tries so hard to understand what’s being said that she forgets parts of the conversation or doesn’t pick up on the nuances or subtleties of the words. Combine APD with ADHD, and a child’s abilities to listen and remember are severely compromised.

The Red Cat sound amplification system in all classrooms is of assistance for all students especially those with auditory processing difficulties.

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