Dear Parents and Caregivers

A couple of weeks ago we had Crazy Hair Day to raise money for the Another Hope. The Year 7 Social Justice Committee ran the day as a follow up to the school visit by Ruth Nambowa, a wonderful woman who has founded an orphanage in Uganda for children who would otherwise likely be on the streets.

Quite understandably, students were very excited about the event and many put a lot of thought and preparation into getting ready – all good. On the morning, I was out at drop-off as students arrived with all manner of colours, hair accessories and styles and watched the laughter and frenzy as many were greeted by classmates. Young people enjoying being young and doing something different – all good.

Amidst all this excitement, Kaiden from Year 1, quietly got out of his car and he must have read my mind because he looked at me and said, ‘I don’t have crazy hair, Ms Morgan, but I’ve got my dollar in my pocket,’ and he patted the spot where the money sat. I’ve told many people this story and it still pops into my head from time to time; I was so impressed by Kaiden’s quiet sincerity and wisdom.

In an era when psychologists and others who work in fields related to wellbeing – spiritual, mental, physical - talk about ‘a crisis of meaning’, perhaps every opportunity should be taken to make those links between what we do and why we do it; to look beneath the surface and find where the meaning lies. Without purpose, sooner or later we drown in the shallowness of life in all its manifestations. Superficialities sustain us for only so long before we need to go looking for our next ‘happiness fix’ so to speak. These ‘fixes’ usually lie outside of self; they lie in being entertained, diverted, hyped. They can bring momentary happiness or relief from pain, anxiety or boredom but they lack the sustaining power of joy which comes from a state of being, inside, and is present even when things are not going well.

So, how does one find this joy, this meaning and sense of purpose? I think it finds us when we become awake and aware, when we are alive and attentive to life beyond the surface. According to Father Richard Rohr being awake or aware means:

- Dropping to a level deeper than the passing show.
- Becoming the calm seer of my dramas.
- Watching myself compassionately from a little distance, almost as if the ‘myself’ is someone else.
- Dis-identifying with my own emotional noise, and no longer letting it pull me here and there, up and down.

A momentous breakthrough comes with the realisation that my thinking is not who I am; to realise I can actually ‘watch’ my thinking and see it for what it is and not be ruled and thrown around by it any more, is to experience the only true freedom. When the mind is no longer in charge, but simply the servant that provides information in the moment, then I find my true self; my soul if you like, and - God in whom we are connected to each other and all things. I recognise my calm centre from which I can live and I can enjoy all things in themselves and not in terms of their usefulness or importance or threat to me. I am no longer ‘the be all and end all’ but part of everything and everyone.

Richard Rohr puts it this way, ‘Now there is not much room for compulsivity, fanaticism, trumped-up excitement, or even depression. Equanimity is the very nature of the soul. Jesus would have called it ‘the peace the world cannot give, nor take away” (John 14:27).

With this being National Reconciliation Week, it is timely to recognise that, with this peace, comes a deep sense of shared purpose and meaning in which we ‘better recognise each other’ as being one in Christ.

Have a great week everyone.  Glenda

Thank You

If you weren’t at Stella Vegas you missed a great night organised by the P&F. The venue was good, the music was great (big thank you to Andrew Fisher and Dennis Quinn), the Lions members who ran the games were friendly and helpful, the raffle prizes and silent auction items were numerous and much appreciated, the company was pleasant and a great time was had by all. Special thanks to Sarah Thompson, Kim Broderick, Kellie Lo and Mel Lennon for their impeccable organisation and planning and to Kate Holzer, Natalie Jarrott, Damien Faux and Tim Eva who assisted on the day/night. Thanks, also, to everyone who sold tickets, bought raffle tickets, donated prizes and attended the event. The 007/Austin Powers theme made for a few interesting ‘transformations’ shall we say. Well done everyone and thanks for a successful night.

Under 8’s Day

Thank you to all staff and parents who made Under 8’s Day such a success last Thursday.

Interschool Dance Challenge

Last week, the information and attendance sheet was sent home with all Year 4-7 students. With the first preparation lesson due this Friday, it is important that all forms are returned so that partners can be reliably organised and the students gain confidence. Thank you for assisting by indicating whether your children will be attending or not. Of course we encourage their attendance; there is just so much to learn from the experience and it’s also a great night and a lot of fun.
Dear Parents/Caregivers,

By the time Europeans came to the Sunshine Coast, the tribes had also acknowledged their continuing influence in educating both adults and children. Perhaps as many as his bride by stealth, Ninderry chased them. He that her tears flowed down the mountain to form the Maroochy River.

It is also an opportunity to reflect on the richness of our cultural heritage and the resilience of our people. As we celebrate National Reconciliation Week, let us commit to continue the journey towards understanding and reconciliation.

There is a special connection in our neck of the woods at Maroochydore with the Gubbi Gubbi people. The first inhabitants of the Maroochy district were the Aboriginal people of the Gubbi Gubbi language group, which consisted of a number of tribes including the Nalbo, Gubbi Gubbi, Dallambara and Undanbi. For perhaps as many as 20,000 years they hunted the ranges, fished the rivers and gathered seafood from the ocean. The burning of the countryside at appropriate times was a regular practice. Every third year, hundreds of Aboriginal people travelled to the Blackall Range for feasting on bunya nuts, exchanging goods, initiation ceremonies, organising fights, performing corroborees and unifying their culture. The Aboriginal people had no central government. The basic unit of society was the clan of perhaps seventy people, owning their homeland and governing themselves. A “tribe” was a group of clans who spoke a common language or dialect, and considered themselves to be part of a distinct cultural or ceremonial group, but who did not acknowledge a common leader, e.g. the Gubbi Gubbi language group included the Nalbo, Gubbi Gubbi, Dallambara and Undanbi tribes.

Maroochy Region: The name “Maroochy” comes from a local Aboriginal legend. It tells how Ninderry, a rival from another clan, stole a beautiful young woman called Maroochy from Coolum, the man whom she was to marry. When Coolum rescued his bride by stealth, Ninderry chased them. He caught up with them, and, throwing a boomerang, succeeded in knocking off Coolum’s head, which rolled into the sea and is represented today by Mudjimba Island. His body is represented by Mount Coolum. For his treacherous attack, Ninderry was turned into stone by the wrathful gods. Maroochy fled inland, where she wept so copiously that her tears flowed down the mountain to form the Maroochy River.

(Adapted from http://www.library.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)

By the time Europeans came to the Sunshine Coast, the tribes had formal distinct territories with clearly defined boundaries. Tribal boundaries were often marked by scarred trees along the sides of the pathways. With the coming of Europeans, the local Aboriginal people could no longer pursue their nomadic way of life and progressively lost the use of their resource areas. In 1897, legislation was passed which legalised the removal of Aboriginal people from white settlements. Many of those living in the Maroochy area were resettled on Fraser Island, and later taken to a reserve at Cherbourg.

During National Reconciliation Week, and every week on Assembly, it is a matter of justice that we acknowledge the traditional owners of this land and their rich history which extends over thousands of years. We also acknowledge their continuing influence in educating both adults and young alike to appreciate the natural environment and ways of working with the land, instead of on it. It is also an opportunity to recognise indigenous students in our school community who bring a rich heritage for us all to celebrate.

God bless, Judith.

P&F News

Stella Vegas

What a fabulous night, had by all. Collage of photos coming home with this newsletter. Thanks to all who came along on the night and to our sponsors and donors. Please support the companies that support us.

Raffle Winners

1st Prize Weber BBQ
Glenda Morgan

2nd Prize Family Pass - Australia Zoo
Simone Wall

3rd Prize Wet and Wild Pass
Ivan Daly

Rainbows

CHILDREN ENROLLED IN RAINBOWS MEET OUTSIDE THE LIBRARY FOR AFTERNOON TEA ON WEDNESDAY

UNDER 8’s WEEK

Thank you to all parents who made our Under 8’s Day fantastic. A special thank you to our DJ, Iain Harris. We rocked. From the Teachers.

Principal’s Awards

30 May 2013

QUOTE OF THE WEEK
“Life is like Music; it must be composed by ear, feeling, and instinct, not by rule.” ~ Samuel Butler ~

TIP OF THE WEEK - If you have a busy week ahead, try and catch up on practice by doing a little extra each time. Try doing your practice before you go to school.

CLASSROOM MUSIC - We have started an exciting new interactive recorder program for the Year 2 – 4 students titled ‘Black Belt Recorder’. Year 2 students received their white belts last week and are working toward the completion of their first belt level. Year 3 and 4 students will receive their various coloured belts over the next few weeks. It is exciting to see the students enthusiasm for learning.

CONGRATULATIONS to Stella Fellas and Concert Band for their wonderful presentation on Assembly this past week. Thank you to Mrs Durrer, Ms Worthy, and Mr Wynyard for preparing these ensembles for this performance. We look forward to hearing more from both groups this year.

STELLA SOIREE WEEK begins, Monday 27 and continues on Tuesday 28 and Thursday 30 May in the Hall. ALL students performing are reminded to bring their music and instruments, arrive 10 minutes before your session and you can wear “free dress”. Everyone is welcome to attend these performances beginning at 5pm and 6.30pm on each date shown above.

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    Todd Wynyard
Classroom Music Specialist   Instrumental Music Coordinator
idurrer@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
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.

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?

Late applications cannot be accepted.

Congratulations to Jada Cleary who has been selected for the under 11 school girls regional netball team to play at the state carnival in July.

GOOD LUCK JADA!

Congratulations to Michael Baillie who has been selected in the Coastal Districts Tennis team to compete at the Regional Trials in June.

GOOD LUCK MICHAEL!

Congratulations to Jake Edgar who completed in the District touch Championships at Glasshouse Mountains on Sunday 26th and Monday 27th.
Jake has been selected in the Regional Team to attend the Queensland Primary School 12 Years & Under Touch State Championships at Caboolture on the 25th - 28th July 2013.

GOOD LUCK JAKE!

All Star” Book Fair will run this week, between 27th – 30th May, 8am to 4pm daily. Closes Thursday at 4.00pm.
Each purchase will support the school with great new books and resources from Scholastic.

Don’t miss out!
From the Library desk

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.
Auditory Processing Disorder Continued.

Sorting Out Symptoms

Just as APD can affect a child’s ability to focus, so too can an attention deficit affect auditory processing. Symptoms of the two disorders often overlap. Studies suggest that 50 percent of those diagnosed with ADHD may also have APD. Experts continue to disagree about whether APD is a manifestation of ADHD or a separate disorder.

How can parents tell whether their ADHD child has APD? In general, children with ADHD exhibit inattention, distractibility, and hyperactivity in any environment. Children with APD, on the other hand, usually don’t have difficulty focusing and paying attention in a quiet space. But many children with APD are exquisitely sensitive to sound. In fact, some sounds can “hurt”—a blender, a train engine, police sirens.

“Children with ADHD may be poor listeners and have difficulty understanding or remembering verbal information,” explains Teri James Bellis, author of When the Brain Can’t Hear, but “it is the attention deficit that is impeding their ability to access or to use the auditory information that is coming in,” not the processing of it in the brain.

Do you think your child’s poor performance in school and his social awkwardness may be caused or exacerbated by APD? Here are the facts to help you determine whether this is the case and which treatments may help.

The underlying cause of APD isn’t known. Experts debate whether heredity or environment—or both—are responsible for the condition. While the human auditory system is fully developed at birth, auditory pathways don’t mature until the age of 10 to 12. Because of this, early influences—such as poor prenatal nutrition, a mother’s exposure to cigarettes or alcohol, childhood malnutrition, or chronic ear infections—may negatively affect auditory processing. Premature birth, low birth weight, Lyme disease or other brain infections, closed head injury, and exposure to low levels of heavy metals (lead or mercury) may also play a role.

The good news is that APD is responsive to early intervention because the auditory pathways continue to develop up until adolescence.

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