Dear Parents and Caregivers

How have you survived the sudden onset of cooler weather? I am also wondering if the wind was as strong on the Coast as it was in Brisbane over the weekend.

As I mentioned in last week’s newsletter, I was unable to attend the P&F Movie Night due to commitments to the 100 Years’ Celebrations at Guardian Angels’, Wynnum, my previous school. If any of you know Wynnum, you know that the school sits on a slightly elevated ridge where even the slightest breeze can present itself as a gale, which is exactly what happened at Saturday morning’s Mass held outside, under the covered area.

The wind was so ferocious and cold someone sitting near me thought I was having convulsions I shivered so violently. It was freezing in that wind, out of the sun. The beautifully-presented liturgical space was very quickly blown into disarray; vestments and pages of the lectionary whipped here and there; decorations toppled and the assembled crowd collectively shook. All except for the children it seemed who wore no jumpers and showed no signs of being cold. How do they do it? I often marvel at children’s thermostats!

Cold wind or not, the centenary celebrations were a huge success, showcasing as they did, the remarkable achievements of the school across the years. But what I would like to share with you is the key message delivered by Archbishop Mark Coleridge in his Homily. I thought he really captured the significance of the event, the heart and soul of the Wynnum community and the fundamental, unchanging nature of Catholic Education at its best and most realised.

Imagine the changes the world has seen since 1914 when the world stood on the brink of the Great War. The horror of war was followed by the Great Depression which led into the Second World War and the Holocaust. Then peace and economic revival before many regional conflicts and financial ups and downs. We’ve seen social change and technological innovations beyond our wildest dreams and even education, which has been historically slow to respond, is showing the effects of these changes. I think it fair to say that the last one hundred years have presided over a period of unprecedented upheavals, growth and development.

Amidst these changes, then, what did the Archbishop identify as the unbroken and unchanging thread that has held together education at Guardian Angels’ and I would add, authentic Catholic Education everywhere? What is the measure by which we assess our success as a Catholic school? Of course learning success for students is an imperative of State, Independent and Catholic schools alike, so what is it that should define us as a Catholic Christian community? The Archbishop didn’t tell us anything new but he nevertheless made the point very strongly and unapologetically that, just as Jesus showed us the face of God in what he said, how he thought and behaved, it is our ongoing task to continue that mission. That is, every single person who enters a Catholic school community should experience the presence and the face of Jesus in those who teach and otherwise work within that community.

That means we practise and embody what we preach, not only in the ‘good’ times but especially when life becomes difficult. In a nutshell, we live and work from an attitude of service; we uphold, absolutely, the dignity of each and every person regardless of race, colour, creed, personal characteristics or behaviour; we show solidarity with the whole human family rather than descending into group selfishness or tribalism in any of its many incarnations; and we share from what we have, giving of our time, talent or treasure to those who need our support, especially the most vulnerable in our society. We continue to love and forgive; we remain hope-filled because we know that we are never alone, we know that God is real and present because we have seen God’s goodness, truth and beauty in the actions of others. We have a hope-filled faith.

That’s the true legacy of a Catholic education through which God lives and moves and breathes. As our Stella Maris motto says, we ‘act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with our God.’ What more is there to say?

Have a great week everyone. Glenda

**Closure of Entry, Exit & Pick-Up via Aragon Street as of Wednesday 7 May**

Due to the location of the flying foxes along the Forest Walk boardwalk, this entry, exit and pick-up area will be closed until further notice. The gates will be locked and there will be no access available. This precautionary measure is being put in place as community health and safety is our primary concern. Sorry for any inconvenience caused.

**Happy Mothers’ Day**

To all the wonderful Mums out there, we wish you a day filled with love, surrounded by family and friends who let you know how grateful they are to have you in their lives. Thank you to Leanne Dowe, once again, for organising the Mothers’ Day stall.
Staff Ins and Outs This Week

Monday 5 May
- Linda Till and Kim Hughes at District Cross Country;
- Glenda Morgan at Primary Principals’ Meeting at North Lakes;
- Linda Dow and Lorella Armijo at BCE Planning for new RE Curriculum;
- Maths Project Team with Consultant Eileen Coghill (8.45-1.25): Suzette Ellis, Frais Marrinon, Anthony Graham, Larissa Livermore, Therese Lecompte, Danille Ramia, Jeffery Ross;
- Angela Morsch, BCE Inclusive Education Consultant, visiting St-I’E’s (12-3).

Tuesday 6 May
- Literacy Consultant, Pat Edgar, working in classrooms 6C, 6/7D, 4A, 7B;
- Tessa Hobbs, BCE Consultant (Visible Learning) visiting Implementation Team, Yr 2 classrooms & 7A.

Wednesday 7 May
- Linda Dow and Lorella Armijo at Day 2, BCE Planning for new RE Curriculum;
- Pat Edgar working in classrooms 4D, 3C, 2A and 2B;
- Jennifer Mason facilitating Personal Development Evening with Yr 5 students and their parents (6.30-8ish pm).

Thursday 8 May
- Pat Edgar working with Lauren Solomon 9-10.45; Alanna Curtis 11.30-12.25; Kath Donohue 12.30-1.25;
- Glenda Morgan, Matthew Hannah, Donita Sullivan and Dennis Quinn on Resource Centre visits to Mt Alvernia, Kedron, St Benedict’s, Mango Hill, Holy Spirit, Bray Park and Our Lady of the Angels’, Wavell Heights.

RAINBOWS PROGRAM
We are very pleased to again offer the Rainbows Program at Stella Maris. Rainbows is a support program for children from families who have experienced a loss through the separation/divorce of parents, the death of a sibling/close family member, a parent who works away from home for extended periods of time or any traumatic experience that you feel has affected your child.

If you wish to register, applications are available from the office. Please return these forms by Wednesday 14th May.

BOOKCLUB Orders are due in the Library by 9 a.m. this Friday, 6th May.

School fees are now due.
Thank you.

P&F Meeting is set for Tuesday 12th May commencing at 6:30p.m. in the staffroom. Everyone welcome.

Principal’s Awards May 2014

Dear Parents/Caregivers,
This Friday we hold our Annual Walkathon to raise money for Caritas’ Project Compassion Appeal. The walkathon in some small way helps our students to realise that children all over the world do not have ready access to clean drinking water and many people, including children, have to walk many kilometres each day to bring drinking water to their families. The students have acquired sponsorship to raise money for our school donation to the Caritas Appeal and we hope the funds raised in some small way alleviate the suffering of children around the world. I hope that you can join us for the afternoon to cheer the children on or to walk with them yourselves.

Australia has joined a worldwide ‘wave of prayer’ that launched a global campaign to end hunger, with the blessing of Pope Francis. A video message from the Pope marked the start of a two-year campaign by the international Caritas network, as he urges all people – organisations and individuals – to consider the impact of their daily actions on those who suffer from hunger.

The following letter was written by Pope Francis to launch this global campaign to end hunger – One Human Family, Food for All – Pope Francis’ message to launch the Food for All – Caritas Internationals’ campaign to end hunger. I include it here for your contemplation:

Dear brothers and dear sisters, Today, I am happy to announce to you the launch of a campaign against global hunger by our very own Caritas Internationals and to tell you that I intend to give my full support. This confederation, together with its 164 member organisations works in 200 countries and territories around the world and its work is at the heart of the mission of the Church and of Her attention towards all those who suffer because of the scandal of hunger, those with whom the Lord identified when he said, “I was hungry and you gave me something to eat”. When the Apostles said to Jesus that the people who had come to listen to his words were hungry, He invited them to go and look for food. Being poor themselves, all they found were five loaves and two fish. But with the grace of God, they managed to feed a multitude of people, even managing to collect what was left over and avoiding that it went to waste.

We are in front of a global scandal of around one billion – one billion people who still suffer from hunger today. We cannot look the other way and pretend this does not exist. The food available in the world is enough to feed everyone. The parable of the multiplication of the loaves and fish teaches us exactly this: that if there is the will, what we have never ends. On the contrary, it abounds and does not get wasted.

Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, I invite you to make space in your heart for this emergency of respecting the God-given rights of everyone to have access to adequate food. We share what we have in Christian charity with those who face numerous obstacles to satisfy such a basic need. At the same time we promote an authentic cooperation with the poor so that through the fruits of their and our work they can live a dignified life.

I invite all of the institutions of the world, the Church each of us, as one single human family, to give a voice to all of those who suffer silently from hunger, so that this voice becomes a roar which can shake the world. This campaign is also an invitation to all of us to become more conscious in our food choices, which often lead to waste and a poor use of the resources available to us. It is also a reminder to stop thinking that our daily actions do not have an impact on the lives of those who suffer from hunger firsthand. I ask you from the bottom of my heart to support our Caritas organisations in this noble campaign where they will act as one human family to ensure food for all. Let us pray that the Lord gives us the grace to envisage a world in which no one must ever again die of hunger. And asking for this grace, I give you my blessing.

God bless you for all your support,

Judith
MUSIC NOTES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK
“You know what music is? God’s little reminder that there’s something else besides us in this universe; a harmonic connection between all living beings, everywhere, even the stars.” ~ Wizard – “August Rush”

TIP OF THE WEEK - Encourage and support your child to listen to artists who play their instrument. This can include good recordings and better still, go to a live concert!!

MUSICAL NEWS - Rehearsals are moving along quite well. All parents/care givers should have received our second email this weekend with a rehearsal schedule for this week, an updated list of cast assignments, as well as many details regarding our preparations for the musical. If you did not receive this email, we either do not have your email address or it is incorrect. Please send Mrs Durrer a brief email stating you did not receive the information and we will add/change your address to the musical database. This will be important during the year, as there will be regular emails keeping parents and students up to date.

Thank you to the parents who attended our meeting last week. We had a great turn out with great organisational skills taken on by many parents. If you did not attend the meeting but are able to assist in any way, please let us know. Further requests were put forward in the weekend email. We are most interested in receiving assistance with costumes. If you are willing/able to assist our Costume Manager – Kim Bidmade, we would truly love to have your help. Please Kim or either of us know of your availability.

CLASSROOM NEWS - There are a few students from Year 2 – 5 who still require items for class each week. It is expected that each child has the following:

- Recorder – each child should have their own as we are completing a Black Belt Recorder program which enables each child to achieve a personal level. This is defeated if they are sharing with a sibling. New recorders are available in the Uniform Shop and I have a small number of used recorders in the Music Room available for $2
- Display Folder – these are essential for keeping all of the worksheets and music books organised – a great skill to learn at an early age. These are available at most stores such as Woolworths, Coles, News Agencies for as little as $1
- Introducing Music - Book 1 for Years 2/3, Book 2 for Years 4/5, and Book 3 for Years 6/7. These are also available in our Uniform Shop
- Maroon Bag – These are also available in the Uniform Shop for $8. If you have any concerns or difficulties acquiring these items, please contact me ASAP so we can ensure your child is not disadvantaged. There is always a solution.

INSTRUMENT MUSIC NEWS - Congratulations to those students in the Sunshine Coast Youth Orchestra who performed at the concerts held over the last two weekends here at Stella Maris and at Mountain Creek State High School. Bravo to our String teacher Mrs Maria Salmon who is the driving force behind SCYO. There are opportunities for all string, wind, brass and percussion players in this community based performance organisation. To enquire further, please contact Mrs Salmon via email to maria@scyo.org.au.

Ensemble rehearsals – parents are reminded that ensemble rehearsals have commenced for the term and students involved are to ensure they are present every week.

Remember, if you need to contact your child’s tutor, details are shown in the music diary and also 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
Classroom Music Specialist
inatz@bne.catholic.edu.au

Todd Wynyard
Instrumental Music Coordinator
twynd@bne.catholic.edu.au

May 7 Year 5 Personal Development Program in the Hall @ 6.30pm
May 9 Walkathon 2pm
May 26-29 Book Fair
June 9 Queen’s Birthday Holiday
June 13 Nambour Show Holiday
June 16/17 School Photos
June 20 Stella Maris Year 4-7 Athletics Carnival
June 25-27 Year 5 Camp
June 27 Last Day Term 2
July 14 1st Day Term 3
July 31 Grandparents’ Day
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

UNIFORM SHOP

UNIFORM SHOP TEMPORARY CHANGE OF HOURS

Due to unforeseen circumstances Uniform Shop opening hours will temporarily change. I apologise for any inconvenience.

Regards, Leanne.

Temporary Open Hours are as follow:

Monday 12th May 8am - 3.15pm
Wednesday 14th May 8am - 3.15pm
Thursday 15th May closed
Monday 19th May closed
Wednesday 21st May 8am - 3.15pm
Thursday 20th May closed
Monday 26th May closed
Wednesday 28th May 8am - 3.15pm
Thursday 29th May closed

Monday 5 May–Friday 9 May 2014
8.00am-8.40am each morning outside the Uniform Shop
Purchase a special gift for your Mum, Grandmother or special Aunt. Plenty of gifts and lots of variety this year.
Prices range from $2.00 up to $7.00 per item.
Get in early so Mum, Grandma or Aunty won’t be disappointed.

Mrs Johnstone, Mrs Johnson, Mrs Kretzers, Mrs Bidmade, Mrs Wiseman, Mrs Hirning, Mrs Ratcliffe, Mr Pace, Mrs Robins, Mrs Berthier, Mrs McGahan, Mrs Maas, Mrs Porters, Mrs McNamara.

Tuckshop News...

Red and/or Green Apples Please

Ingredients Roster

Monday
K Powter

Tuesday
K Loe

Wednesday
N Burrows

Thursday
M Sutton

Friday
S Thompson

Mon 12/05
N Mac Minn

Tues 13/05

Wed 07/05
M Johnstone

Thurs 08/05
C Cleary

Fri 09/05
J Coghlan

Mon 12/05
K Johannsen

Tues 13/05
J Johannsen

Red and/or Green Apples Please

Group 5

A Corboy, C Penn, C & M Hubbard, D Christie, F Ellis, J Fuller, K Kretzers, K Bidmade, L Wiseman, M Hirning, M Ratcliffe, N Pace, O Robins, A Berthier, S McGahan, T Maas, V Porters, S McNamara.

Change of hours

- 8.40am each morning outside the Uniform Shop
- Temporarily closed
- 8am - 3.15pm
Being organised isn’t just about being Tidy!

If your child has organization issues, opening their backpack can be a frightening experience. Crumpled assignments and tests, school announcements from two months ago, missing house key—it’s a mess! Many people think of organization skills as the ability to keep things in order. But people also use those skills to keep their thoughts in order so they can retrieve information and use it effectively.

Kids who have weak organization skills struggle with handling information in an effective and logical way. They often have difficulty setting priorities, making plans, sticking to a task and getting things done. These skills become increasingly important as your child moves through different grade levels. Here are four ways kids use organizational skills to learn.

**Organization and Following Directions** Following through on directions requires kids to do two things: focus on what needs to be done and come up with a game plan to do it. Both of these require mental organization and planning. Kids with strong organization skills can often follow directions without even thinking about it. They can plan steps to get something done.

If your child has weak organization skills, they may not be able to see the progression of steps contained in directions or even know where to start.

**Organization and Following Directions** Kids use organization skills in subtle ways when first learning to read. Phonics (connecting sounds to letters) requires kids to have what could be imagined as a mental filing system where they store the uppercase and lowercase version of a letter together with the sound (or sounds) that letter makes. Whenever kids see a letter, they can pull out the sound that goes with it. The filing system becomes more complicated when kids start recognizing sight words (common words kids memorize by how they look) and need to match them to images of what they stand for.

If your child struggles with organization, she may have trouble retrieving the necessary information to connect letters to sounds and groups of letters to the things they stand for.

**Organization and Learning Literacy** Literacy, which is the combination of reading, writing and grammar skills, requires a number of organization strategies. For kids to read books and write, they have to keep track of many things at once: characters and their relationships, plot, sequences of events, supporting details and the main idea. Nonfiction requires keeping track of subject-specific vocabulary.

If your child struggles with organization, she may not be able to gather all that information and organize it. And if she has to stop and look up words while reading, she may not be able to pick up where she left off.

**Organization and Learning Math** Kids have to use organization skills to learn math because it’s a very organized subject. There are rules and procedures to follow all along the way. Math also involves organizing information based on relationships, such as sorting things into groups by size, colour or shape. As math gets more abstract, many kids with organization issues have trouble keeping up because they can’t create their own categories for sorting the information.

Organization skills are also needed to solve word problems using clue words (such as fewer than to mean subtraction) to help sort through information.

If your child has organization issues, being able to store and retrieve rules and facts can be challenging.

**The Good News: There Are Ways to Help** Your child’s lack of organization might make learning harder for him, but there are strategies that can help. You could try doing a backpack makeover and using checklists and other tools to help them get organized. You can also talk to your child’s teacher about accommodations that could help your child stay organized and improve planning skills.

**Key Takeaways**

- Organization skills allow kids to come up with a plan and follow through to get work done.
- Tools like checklists and planners can help kids get more organized.
- Weak organization skills can make learning harder, but not impossible.

Christine Craig - Guidance Counsellor/ Psychologist
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