Dear Parents and Caregivers

With four weeks to go, one of our priorities is the finalisation of staffing for 2014, so it is my intention to summarise, in this week’s newsletter, the comings and goings of teachers. With so much happening, I hope my memory holds up and I don’t forget anyone.

Next year we will have three job-shares: Paula Rowan and Bernie Bailee, Catherine Thiele and Daphne Baker, Lucia Chick and Denise Hefferman. Each of these pairings has worked together previously with great success.

Two teachers are taking maternity leave for the whole of 2014 – Renee Tamatea and Beth Kipping. We wish both these wonderful women safe and healthy delivery of their babies.

As you know Joan Jenkins is presently on long service leave which will take her through to the end of the school year at which time Joan enters retirement. Joan will be back for our final liturgy at which time we will further acknowledge this significant event. As yet there is no decision re the teacher-librarian position in 2014.

Four teachers have secured a change of school, three of the four returning to the Brisbane area. Sally Ludlow will teach at Holy Spirit, Bray Park, Zan Marion at Our Lady of the Rosary, Kenmore and Natalie Morze, who has been on study and travel leave this year, will take up a position at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Darra. In addition, Amanda Turlik moves closer to home and will teach at Our Lady of the Rosary, Caloundra. We thank these teachers for their years of whole-hearted commitment to their students at Stella Maris and for their very positive contributions made to the school community in general. They will be missed.

Also leaving is Sophie Dmitronow (now Mrs McDougall) whose new husband, James, has secured a position at the Gold Coast Hospital. We wish Sophie success in finding a reaching position in the near future and thank her for the two years’ dedication she has shown her students in this time and for her delightful presence on staff. On leave for 2014 is Bettrys Lowe whose husband, Adam, has accepted a transfer to the Toowoomba Diocese as Priest-in-Charge at St Bart’s Anglican Church. We will greatly miss Bettrys who has been an outstanding addition to the Stella staff and wish the family every blessing for their move and resettlement.

As a consequence of these moves and developments, it is with great pleasure that I can announce the following teachers, presently on contract, will remain at Stella Maris in 2014: Julie Reuter, Lorella Armijo, Emily Kosior, Lauren Solomon, Nicole Jenkins, Rosanne Hughes and Danielle Ramia. We are fortunate to retain the services of each of these wonderful teachers.

Term 4 Week 6

Joining the Stella Maris teaching team are two graduate teachers, Holly Jarden and Anthony Graham and three teachers new to the school - Larissa Livemore who comes to us from Siena Primary, Sally Hanrahan from Saint Francis Xavier in ACT and Tegan Burr, most recently from Unity College at Caloundra. Our five new staff members will bring great expertise and energy to their roles and to the school community and we welcome their arrival.

I also know that our existing staff members are the most welcoming group of people who will have our newcomers feeling at home, both personally and professionally, in no time. Of course parents play a large role in this process as well. That parent-teacher relationship is so important for both, with mutual support, encouragement and trust often making all the difference especially when the going gets tough. I was saying to the parents at Orientation last Tuesday and Thursday that teachers and other school staff will be a great support in times when that wider family support is not available due to distance or circumstance. So many of us come to the Sunshine Coast from other parts of Queensland, inter-state and even overseas, in many cases leaving family behind and starting from scratch with friendships. School is a great place to make friends with other parents and to find support from staff. Really engaging with others builds and enriches relationships and develops healthy community life as well; there is always room for one more in an open circle of friends and colleagues.

With this in mind, then, I would like to thank those existing parents for assisting in the welcoming process on the Orientation mornings by being a buddy family to newcomers. It means a lot to most and speaks volumes for who we are, which is every bit as important as what we do. Thank you very much for your assistance and generosity.

So, Orientation is over for another year and what a lovely group of students and families we have coming in 2014. Teachers mentioned the settled and confident nature of the Preps joining us next year and certainly there was a very natural and comfortable feel in the room at both parent meetings in the hall.

Tuesday and Thursday were enjoyable and relaxing days thanks, in no small part, to careful preparation and great teamwork on the days. So thank you immensely to everyone who contributed to the days’ success; Office staff (Julianne, Rose and Donna) for all the background work, Support staff (Kelly, Donita, Christine, Karryn, Cassie), prep staff (Bernie, Paula, Alanna, Linda, Suzette, Angela, Emma, Kari and Lee), Year 1 school officers and teachers (Lorella, Beth, Natalie, Zan, Frais, Jenny, Kelley, Kim and Kathy) and Year 7 teachers (Kim, Mary, Dani and Liz) and all the Year 7 students who helped out as tour guides, greeters, Prep helpers, Year 1 helpers, morning tea waiters and greeting musicians. Thanks also to those who helped at the presentation to parents: Damien Faux on behalf of the P&F, Terry Grogan and Judith Mellifont and Father Joe (the real thing on Tuesday and e-Father Joe on Thursday) as well as Bernie and Alanna who spoke about Prep so capably – a cast of hundreds and a great team effort. Thanks one and all!

Have a great week everyone. Glenda
Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Please keep in your prayers the Harvey family who were holidaying in the Philippines which was struck by the worst super-storm in history last Friday. Ronaldo in Year 3B and his parents, Gordon and Thelma are among those from whom there has been no contact. Please join us for Rosary Thursday morning at 8am in the School Chapel to pray for their safety.

The Virtue for this fortnight is Service, chosen to coincide with Remembrance Day which we celebrated yesterday, with four of our school leaders accompanying me to the Cenotaph at Cotton Tree for the Service to lay a wreath in honour of those who have given their lives in service of our country.

While the attendance wasn’t anywhere near as prolific as for ANZAC Day, these four students represented the school beautifully in their attention to the presentations by Guest Speakers, their participation in the singing and the reverence with which they carried out their role.

I congratulate them for representing Stella Maris School so well. A front page photo in today’s edition of he Sunshine Coast Daily captured beautifully one of the students laying a poppy on a cross in honour of the fallen in Afghanistan. Another photo on Page 8 shows the students laying the wreath.

The following quote from Martin Luther King Jr epitomises the nature of service:

*Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve.*

You don’t have to have a college degree to serve...

You only need a heart full of grace

A soul generated by love

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR

All of the students and staff at Stella Maris also observed one minute’s silence in honour of the fallen. We cannot change the past but we can appreciate the sacrifice made by many of our servicemen and women who gave their lives for the betterment of others.

*Lest we forget.*

In practising Service, we...

- Look for opportunities to serve others;
- Work with enthusiasm;
- Do thoughtful things to help our family and friends;
- Give freely of our time and attention;
- Do our part to care for the earth: recycle, reduce and re-use; and
- Use our gifts to make a difference in the world.

We are thankful for the gift of Service. It makes our lives a prayer.

When we work with a spirit of Service, we give a job our very best effort; We don’t just do the least amount possible. We make a real contribution.

To be of service to others need not be anything out of the ordinary; the way we go about our everyday lives, being aware of others and observing ways that we can do thoughtful things enables us to embrace a spirit of Service in the everyday and ultimately make a real difference. People who want to be of service can change the world.

God bless, Judith.
MUSIC NOTES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK
“There is only one better thing than music - live music.”  ~ Jacek Bukowski ~

PIANO SOIREE – for students of Ms Grace is tonight 12th November at 6pm in the Hall. Performers need to arrive 10 minutes early so we can start promptly at 6pm to finish by 6.45pm. Students can wear either smart casual dress or a costume of their choice. Family and friends are welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing you all next Tuesday evening.

MUSICA VIVA – We were most fortunate to experience the amazing music of Brisbane composer Paul Kopetz, presented to us by Entourage on Wednesday 30 October. The musicians’ interaction with the students was brilliant as were the students’ response to the music presented. It is always inspiring to be part of a live performance with professional musicians.

JUNIOR BAND PERFORMANCE - will be at lunch-time on Monday 25 November at 11am in the Music Room. Students, parents and staff are welcome to come along and support Ms Dean and our young musicians.

MUSICAL - We are pleased to announce that 2014 will be a musical year! Plans are underway to ensure exceptional performances. To plan ahead, please mark the following dates on your calendar, particularly if your son/daughter wishes to be a part of the musical (e.g. lead role, chorus, singer, dancer, props, musician, backstage). It is important that all involved students are present at these times. If you are interested in assisting in any capacity, please let us know. We will have a planning meeting early in 2014.

- Rehearsals – Wednesday 8, Thursday 9 & Friday 10 October (during school holidays)
- Performances – Thursday 16, Friday 17 & Saturday 18 October (Term 4, Week 2)
- Watch this space in coming weeks for the announcement of the MUSICAL we will be presenting!

DATE CLAIMERS
Singing Soiree – Wednesday 13 November Ms Bond’s students – Hall @ 6.30pm
Gayndah Excursion – Thursday 21 November Senior Concert Band, SM Singers, String Ensemble (notes have been emailed to parents and you are asked to return it ASAP)

RE-ENROLLMENT LETTERS - have been sent home with all currently enrolled students and ALL parents are asked to return these letters ASAP to assist with planning for 2014. If your letter did not make it home please let us know.

FINISHING DATE FOR LESSONS AND ENSEMBLE will be decided by your child’s tutor and ensemble leader. As the year draws to a close, lessons will conclude once the quota for the enrolment period has been reached (36 per year or an average of 9 per term).

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
Classroom Music Specialist
iddurrer@bne.catholic.edu.au

Todd Wynyard
Instrumental Music Coordinator
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Tuckshop News:
To all Tuckshop volunteers
Tuckshop helpers luncheon 28 November 12.00 at Phons Thai.
Email with details to come.

Ingredients Roster

NEEDED:- PICKLET MIX, MUFFIN MIX & CHOCOLATE CAKE MIX
We walked among the crosses
Where our fallen soldiers lay.
And listened to the bugle
As taps began to play.

The Chaplin led a prayer
We stood with heads bowed low.
And I thought of fallen comrades
I had known so long ago.

They came from every city
Across this fertile land.
That we might live in freedom.
They lie here 'neath the sand.

I felt a little guilty
My sacrifice was small.
I only lost a little time
But these men lost their all.

Now the services are over
For this Memorial Day.
To the names upon those crosses
I just want to say,

Thanks for what you've given
No one could ask for more.
May you rest with God in heaven
From now through evermore.

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