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P & F Meetings are held 2nd Tuesdays of each month at 6:15pm

The Newsletter of Stella Maris Primary School

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Term 4 Week 6

8 November 2011

Dear Parents and Caregivers

When people like Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Mother Theresa and Nelson Mandela are mentioned, we immediately associate each with a deep sense of moral purpose. We understand that their lives were given to the pursuit of certain ideals, at the heart of which was a passionate commitment to making the world a better place, a more just place.

Perhaps many people believe that such commitment is for others – for those with some special calling in life — not for the average person, living in suburbia, raising a family, going to work each day, living a ‘normal’ life. Or perhaps not much thought is given to meaning and purpose amidst life’s busy-ness.

And yet, without moral purpose, individually or collectively, life can lack direction and focus – like travelling unknown roads without a map or sat-nav. A sense of higher purpose is the vision that recognises our shared humanity, that has us look beyond the borders of our own person, to break down the walls of selfishness, self-centredness and isolation from others. It’s about being purposeful in making a difference, not only to one’s own life but also to the lives of those within a wider sphere of influence. We do this, not only in the activities to which we give our time, but also in the manner in which we undertake our life tasks, whatever they may be. Moral purpose, then, provides both the ends and the means to a better life for all and, as such, is a shared life task.

This message, of course, is at the heart of the Gospel. Jesus not only spoke about the coming of the Kingdom or Reign of God but also showed us how to live it every day – ends and means. He didn’t say that it was a worthy aspiration for a chosen few and beyond the achievement of the majority. No, it is an expectation of each of us and we are here to help each other get there together.

On the two recent Orientation Mornings I spoke about the importance of parents and teachers becoming aware of the ideas, knowledge, values, beliefs and skills that we pass on to young people. Whether we realise it or not, this is how culture evolves over time, how some things become more important than others, how our collective identity is shaped. If this is the case, then we had better become very aware of what seeds we are sowing in the next generation.

Of course, young ones do not primarily find out what is important to their parents, teachers and communities through their words. Words are one thing and committed action another. As the saying goes, ‘Actions speak louder than word.’ What, then, do our actions say about what is important? Do they offer a signpost to our moral purpose? Do they reflect how we see life?

Some parents believe that children should make up their own minds about life questions; that it is not their role to share with their children what is important to them, as if this represented some sort of sinister indoctrination. Of course there have always been those who have carried things to the extreme and this is to be strenuously avoided; however, to fail to pass on the desirable and life-giving aspects of culture to the next generation, is to deprive them of their roots which ground them and provide the guidelines and framework for what is good, worthy, true and beautiful in life.

Sharing the best of culture and what is important in life is the content of parenting and teaching. It enables young ones to start life with clear ideals, acceptable boundaries and a sense of security and safety – both articulated in words and lived through daily action. To fail in this responsibility is to leave young people at the mercy of those whose intentions may not be honourable and who are out for their own advantage. Of course, young people will then make up their own minds as they move into adulthood – as it should be – and they will be far better equipped to do so when they have had the example of caring adults who have shared a sense of meaning and purpose and what truly matters in living an unselfish life.

At Mass on Saturday night, a number of children received the Eucharist for the first time after their confirmation on Friday night. In his homily, Father Joe mentioned the importance of attending Mass as a family. To do so, lets children know that their spiritual formation and faith life is important; that a relationship with God is possible and desirable and gives visible expression to the way life is lived - day in, day out, through all the ups and downs.

Have a great week everyone.

Glenda

N.B. Invitation to Fr Joe’s 70th Birthday on back page of this newsletter.

Next week: Full staffing update for 2012.

Parent Helpers' Thank You Morning Tea

Calling all the wonderful parents who have helped out at school in any capacity this year – classroom help, Fair, P&F or Board attendance, Friends of Music, Tuckshop, Library etc – you are invited to our annual Parent Thank You Morning Tea on **Friday 18 November** (our Feast Day – Presentation Day) from **10.30 to 11.30**. You will find an invitation with this newsletter, with the tear-off response or phone call essential by Monday 14th for catering purposes. We would love to see all helpers attend to show our appreciation for all you do for us here at Stella Maris. Why not join students and staff for the **Presentation Day liturgy at 9am in the Hall**, spend some time at the classrooms and then join us for morning tea?

School Board In-Service

Are you interested in finding out more about the School Board or perhaps even joining when vacancies arise? On **Wednesday 16th and 23rd November 9am to 10am**, in-service sessions will be held if you would like to attend. It is important to let me know if you are joining us, in order to be prepared with materials and venue etc.

Judith's Review

Thank you to the parents and staff members who attended the various discussions associated with Judith's Review last Wednesday. The process was very affirming of Judith personally and of her work over the past five years.

Great Stellabration

What a great success was last Wednesday's Stellabration! Congratulations especially to Jacinta Lanskey and Todd Wynyard on commendable organisation and presentation in every aspect of the production. With hundreds of students involved in so many items, groups and ensembles, the programme went off without a hitch and entertained the large crowd from beginning to end. Thank you to all the parent and staff helpers who so ably supported Jacinta and Todd. And to everyone who stacked chairs at the end – thank you – a big job that was completed quickly and smoothly with so many helpers! And lastly, but not least, to each and every one of our talented and confident students who sang, danced, played, acted and spoke – congratulations for your co-operation and commitment! You did a wonderful job and left a lot of parents, family members and staff very proud of your efforts!

Not returning in 2012?

Accuracy of student numbers is crucial to successful planning for 2012. Please notify the office ASAP via writing or email pmaroo-chydore@bne.catholic.edu.au if you are not returning in 2012.



P&F and AGM Meeting tonight, Tuesday 8th Nov @ 6.15pm in staffroom.
All are welcome to join us vote in the new 2012 committee.

Remembrance Day

Poppies and ANZAC pens will be for sale outside the Year 7 rooms, from 7:50am until school starts on Friday 11 November.
Poppies: 30c
ANZAC pens: \$2.50



FOUND

Westfield Gift Card
Please come to the office to identify the card if you have lost it.



Dear Parents/Caregivers,

In my daily reading I came across this extract which I thought quite pertinent to our Virtue of the Week, Idealism, as well as relating to initiatives which this community supports really well. I include it here for your reflection:

“To live in the centre of God's will – to walk, step by step, the path He's prepared for us - is no easy task. At some point in our lives, we each wonder, *Why am I here? What did God make me to do?*”

Too often we look for a big Hollywood blockbuster answer: *I will find a cure for cancer. I will solve world hunger.* While these things are possible, they're unlikely to happen to most of us. Instead God wants us to be sensitive to the opportunities placed in our lives, sometimes on a daily basis, to make a difference for God's kingdom. Do you see someone who needs a good meal or just someone to talk to? Could you help out a co-worker who is burdened with a heavy workload? Big or small, the choices we make to help others are just one part of the puzzle that is the meaning of life. We need to examine our daily lives and consider...maybe God brought us to this very place for such a time as this.” (Adapted from Daily Encouragement for Single Women 365 Devotional Readings, Barbour Publishing 2010)

I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who are supporting the Stella Maris Care Pantry. While the group is in the very early stages, with many of the procedures and processes in their infancy, the response from parents has been outstanding. It is amazing how people can reach out to others in time of need so generously. Your response is amazing!

This time of year is also a very busy one for The St Vincent de Paul Society in supporting families in need over the Christmas period, often the most distressing time for those who are finding things tough. Once again we are supporting the Christmas Appeal in the form of "The Giving Place Donations" of food items and Christmas gifts to be distributed to families in the local area. Donations are gratefully accepted at school toward a gift basket from each classroom, which will be presented to a representative of the St Vincent de Paul Society at our last day Liturgy to be held in the School Hall on Friday 2nd December at 11.00am.

If you wish to donate items towards these food hampers, the following suggestions may be of assistance:

- Meat:** **NO tinned ham and tinned turkey** this year as they are so expensive.
St V de P will give vouchers for KFC chickens instead;
- Fish:** Tinned salmon and tuna;
- Vegetables:** Tins of potatoes, carrots, corn, peas, beetroot, pineapple, asparagus and tomatoes;
- Groceries:** Pasta, pasta sauce, potato bake, gravy mix, tinned biscuits, tinned dips, potato chips, chutneys & sauces;
- Desserts:** Plum pudding, tinned fruit, steamed puddings, jelly, long life custard, and long life cream;
- Drinks:** Soft drink, fruit juice, coffee, tea and cordial;
- Festive Fare:** Christmas cake, fruit cake, pudding, nuts, lollies, fruit mince tarts, serviettes, bonbons and decorations.

If you prefer to give Christmas presents, please **do not wrap them**, but attach a label, e.g. Boy - 6 years; Girl - 8 years, etc. All donations will be gratefully received. We ask that you would give some thought to the gift – perhaps give something that your family or your children would value at Christmas.

May you be blest a thousand times for your generosity and thoughtfulness.

Judith.



MUSIC NOTES

STELLABRATION CONGRATULATIONS on a mighty effort from our several hundred musicians who performed on stage last Wednesday evening. I was very proud of our wonderful Comperes, Band Buskers, Pianists, Dramatists, Percussion Ensemble & Marimba players, Singers, Concert Band, Stella Fellas, Guitar Ensemble, String Ensemble, SM Singers, Dancers, Speech & Drama skits and Staff Singation. We had children represented from Year 1 through to 7. We were dazzled by the beautiful solo voice of choir parent & X-Factor star **Olivia Robins**.

We had fantastic expertise from our **Instrumental staff** who have rehearsed these ensembles all year and we could not have had the evening run without the huge support of our **Classroom staff** and **Friends of Music** Mrs Leanne Dowe, Mrs Shelley Burchell, Mrs Loretta Martin, Mrs Allison Brown, Mr Andrew Small, Mrs Kellie Elder and the Hudson family. There has been such wonderful commitment and dedication from our performers and parents.

Thank YOU for the music!!! You were a wonderful audience.

CHORAL PROGRAM REHEARSALS – we will not have any more rehearsals for the rest of the year, although, we will call on the Stella Fellas and SM Singers to help out with the music for end of year **Liturgies**. We will be recording the **SCHOOL SONG** on assembly as a whole school.

INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE REHEARSALS – leaders of these groups will advise final rehearsal dates to the children this week.

Re-enrolment -last call for currently enrolled students to complete the online re-enrolment process to ensure continuity of tuition in 2012.

Recruitment – many enthusiastic and talented students wanting to join the program in 2012. Students who attended the try-out are now required to confirm enrolment on the suggested instrument choice via the online link that was emailed to you.

For all re-enrolment and recruitment enquiries, please contact us on StellaMarisMusic@bne.catholic.edu.au – places in some disciplines will be limited or will fill quickly so attention to this is important.

Tues 8 Nov – Piano Soiree (Mrs Wordsworth) – 6pm in the Hall

Wed 9 Nov – Singing Soiree (Ms Bond) – 6pm in the Hall

Thur 10 Nov – Guitar Soiree (Mr Clarke) – 6pm in the Hall

Mon 14 Nov – String Soiree (Mrs Salmon) – 6pm in the Hall

Thur 17 Nov – Piano Soiree (Miss Worthy) – 6pm in the Hall

Thur 17 Nov – Concert Band and String to perform on Assembly

SCREAM Big Band – come and see Mr Wynyard playing in this fantastic 18-piece band on Saturday 12 November from 6.30pm. Hear swing and jazz tunes made famous by Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Michael Buble and many others. Visit <http://www.reverbnation.com/screambigband> for more info, audio samples of the band and online tickets sales or see Mr Wynyard. Adults \$20, Students \$15

jalanskey@bne.catholic.edu.au - Classroom Music / Choral Program

twynyard@bne.catholic.edu.au - Instrumental Music (including singing, speech, drama)

URGENT

If anyone has a video of the Stellabration Concert from Wednesday night could you please contact Leanne at the Uniform Shop ASAP.

Honesty is the best policy

Thank you to:

Tait Marrable, Ashton Portors, Jai Camaleri, Nicholas Griffin, Jarod Young, Oliver Scales, Jesse Johnston

Principal's Awards

10th November 2011

Murray Langford, Imogen Witt, Tallas Terare, Nathan La Macchia, Kyan Woodforth, Emily Ryan, Sarah Wallace, Julian Craven, Imogen Small, Joshua Fuller, Piper Atkins, Jack Grace, Jessica Teljega, Ruby McClure, Lachlan Stuart, Lilly McDonald, Olivia Williams, Ellie O'Donnell, Chay Wirth-Walker, Dylan Carolan, Sam Murray, Ben Broadfoot, Nicholas Di Pietra, Ashlyn West, Holly Grattidge, Willem Johnstone.

calendar of events

November 8	Piano Soiree 6.00pm Hall	P&F AGM
November 9	Singing Soiree 6.00pm School Hall	
November 10	Guitar Soiree 6.00pm School Hall	
November 11	Yrs 4-7 Swimming Carnival 9:30am-2:00pm	
November 14	String Soiree 6.00pm School Hall	
November 17	Piano Soiree 6.00pm School Hall	
November 18	Presentation Day Liturgy/Helpers Morning Tea	
November 29	Year 7 Dinner Dance /Awards Evening	
November 30	Year 7 Thanksgiving Liturgy (evening)	
December 2	End of Year Liturgy and school closure at 12pm	

LATEST SPORTS NEWS

The 2011 Swimming Carnival involving students from Years 4-7 will be held this **Friday, the 11th of November at the Cotton Tree Swimming Complex from 9:30am - 2:00pm.**



GARDEN NEWS!

We only have a few weeks left and we have so much to do! The plan for the rest of the semester is to complete all garden beds, try and source a tall potting bench, put in all the pathways and put in place a learning area with large sitting stones

for lessons down at the garden.

Thank you for your wonderful help so far. I have put in another list of the items that are still needed. If we can get these items donated then with the money saved we will be able to keep the program running longer into next year with the assistance of Di Harris from Edible School Gardens.

If you have any of these items please let us know and we will gratefully take them:

Old newspapers

Potting bench

Bark chip (to finish off pathways)

Shade cloth (particularly white - to protect the seedlings during summer)

Medium stones (to build the edging up for the outside gardens)

Small diameter bamboo stakes (to prop up our climbers)

2" poly pipe (8-10mtrs)

Old Bath tub - acrylic or fibre glass- for worm farm

Thank you again, and please come for a visit to see the garden at any time! For donations please contact the office or Lynsey Martin on 0420 804 762 or email: ljmartin@bne.catholic.edu.au



HOLIDAY PROGRAM

December 2011 & January 2012

Sunshine Coast Gymnastics Academy Laidlaw Road, Woombye

Contact Lucie on 5442 2600 or Email: sunshinecoast@gymnastics.org.au

Tuckshop News.. NO SLUSHIES AVAILABLE

Wed 09/11	Thurs 10/11	Fri 11/11	Mon 14/11	Tues 15/11
K Elder	J Robinson H Scales	S McBride J O'Reilly	A McArdle	K Harris H Person

Ingredients Roster

Week Ending 11 Nov: J Gilligan, T Gorrington, K Holzer, A Horridge, A Hudson, M Hunter, M Johnstone, V Jones, M Leahy, J Lee, D Lusio, D Lyndon, M MacDonald, N MacMinn, K Magao, T Mahon, L Martin, J Mason, C Mayfield, A McAnally, M McCann, L Kidd, G McNeilly

Fr Joe's Big 70th Birthday Gathering

Sunday 13th November

Stella Maris Parish grounds (Baden Powell Street, Maroochydore)

11.00am - 2.30pm

All members of Stella Maris School are invited to join with the whole Stella Maris Parish Community

Birthday Celebration will feature: Gold Coin BBQ (Hamburgers - \$2.00; Sausage - \$1.00)
Entertainment and presentation to Fr Joe
Games and activities for the children, including Jumping Castle
Coffee Van

BYO drinks and glasses Tea and instant coffee provided

Please bring something to share for seats, e.g simple slice, cheese or fruit platter

For catering purposes, please phone the Parish Office on 5443 3488

or log-in to the Parish website

<http://www.saintsonwaves.com.au>

and click on "RSVP to Fr Joe's Birthday Celebrations" on the Home Page.

Thankyou to our sponsors



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