The Wizard of Oz...a triumph of inspiration, commitment, shared expertise, team effort and practice.

CONGRATULATIONS Inez, Todd and all cast, crew, musicians and helpers.

THANK YOU one and all, from a grateful and very proud Stella Maris community.
Dear Parents/Caregivers,

In returning from Long Service Leave, refreshed and ready to jump in the deep end once more for a few more weeks until the end of the school year, I feel very grateful for the respite that it gave me to rest and relax after my recent bout of pneumonia, time to spend with my immediate family, including siblings and grandchildren, and time to just to sit and contemplate prayerfully in general. It has been a very refreshing experience. In returning to school, I am so pleased to find that this fortnight’s Virtue is Prayerfulness. I am hoping that it will help me to continue to bring a sense of peace and wholeness into my life over the next few weeks which are arguably the busiest of the school year.

Prayerfulness focuses on a relationship with a power greater than ourselves: the One that loves us and knows us intimately. We live in the presence of the creator, mindful that every act, decision and thought is meaningful. Prayer is a quiet reflection that cleanses the mirror of the soul - a sacred conversation that opens us up to forgiveness, hope and renewed intentions. We listen for and receive spiritual guidance. We ask for help, heighten our awareness and watch for it to come. Praying our gratitude keeps us in the flow of grace.

The practice of Prayerfulness involves:

- Spending sacred time each day;
- Praying our innermost thoughts, hopes, needs and fears;
- Trusting, listening and watching for answers;
- Continually purifying our motives;
- Having an attitude of gratitude;
- Living with an awareness of Divine Presence.

The following ideas are taken from: www.enablemetogrow.com/2013/01/02/teaching-prayerfulness, which I include here for you as well as for myself to think about over the next few weeks:

**When we pray, we are in the presence of God.** Before we pray we need to clear our minds and focus on God by taking a prayerful position. This may mean sitting with arms crossed, or hands on laps, and our eyes closed to help us concentrate. Our mood is one of reverence as we listen quietly with all our hearts for God’s guidance.

**Set the Mood:** You may like to add something to the atmosphere, such as lighting a candle or setting out pillows to sit on, to help signal that it is time for praying. Laura Harley suggests: “I’ve been experimenting with bringing beautiful objects into our family prayer time to help my son connect more meaningfully with prayer. I bought a simple and inexpensive tray and put prayer beads, a flameless candle, and a small family photo album on it. Each evening when we pray as a family, my son switches the candle on excitedly. As the light flickers, it brings beauty into the room and signals that something special is about to happen. Next we gently touch the prayer beads and prepare to be reverent. The gentle touch helps my son settle down and focus. Next we look through our family album (which also includes a picture to represent the human family—since we want to pray for all people, not just our relatives). This reminds us that we can pray in thanksgiving and ask for assistance for the people in our lives.”

**Say “Let’s pray”:** When we ask our children to pray, are we doing it because we need to or because we want to pray at that time? Are we modeling the prayerful attitude we want them to display? Emily Keller, mother of three, shares, “My advice for prayer time is to focus on it as a time of ‘being’ rather than ‘doing’ to elevate it to something more than an item to check off of a to-do list. One small way to do that is to say, ‘Let’s pray,’ instead of ‘Let’s say our prayers.’ Here, we focus on the state of prayer rather than saying something. Consider how you invite your children to pray and if your words are reflecting your attitude to prayer time in your house.

May you have a very peaceful and prayerful week.

God bless,

Judith
MUSIC NOTES

We would like to express our sincere thanks to each and every cast, crew member, and musician as well as their families who had the courage, a generous heart, and of course the brains to present four incredible performances of ‘The Wizard of Oz’. It has been a wonderful journey that began with great gusto from the start of this school year with our first auditions to our four performances this week to today when our Hall was returned to normal with all of the sets, props, and costumes packed away.

The school performance on Wednesday and the three evening performances were brilliant and a true testament to the many, many people who contributed to making the production run so smoothly from start to finish. It has been a wonderful journey of community building (through days and days of painting, sewing, cutting, building, preparing, singing, dancing, playing, rehearsing, etc…….).

We would like to give our sincere thanks to:

- The students for giving up so much of their time to learn their dialogue, music, dances, acting, and extra special moves
- The parents for supporting the students in such a big venture that was for some, their first time on stage
- The staff of Stella Maris for supporting rehearsal schedules, use of the Hall, assisting at the performances. Mr Cooper, Mrs Rowell, Mrs Baillie, Ms Jenkins, Mrs Hunter, Mr Wynyard, and Bu Neill for the ENORMOUS amount of out of hours rehearsals.
- Dougal & Vicky Linnett for the incredible effort put into designing, creating, and making the sets look beyond fantastic!!! Thanks Vicky for designing the logo for our T-shirts, posters, and programs.
- Our orchestra made up of tutors, students, and community members. You were very professional and greatly appreciated.
- Kim Bidmade and all of the ladies who created the most wonderful, vibrant and stunning costumes.
- Shelley Burchell for lighting our way, working with the sound crew and being there to help with all technical areas of the productions.
- Allison Brown, Dougal & Vicky Linnett, Jeffrey Ross, Luke Parmennam, Tony Kelleher, Marg Rowell, Leigh Abrahams, and the Backstage children for your outstanding work ensuring cast were ready, sets were changed quickly, mics were on, costumes were right, and nearly anything else!
- Tony Kelleher for stepping in as Uncle Henry and to assist backstage - still not sure where your accent is taken from???
- Kelly Loe and the P&F for their ongoing support and for the interval refreshments, so well-organised.
- Our amazing office ladies - Ursula, Donna, Julianne, Rose, Allison M, and Allison B for the organizational assistance
- Our hard working groundsmen Allan and Darren who were able to help out in so many ways.
- Ms Morgan for giving her full support, entrusting us with this tiny project that became a community highlight for the school
- Darren Smith for recording the voice over.
- To the many parents who assisted with the enormous number of jobs we needed completed. Please know your time and assistance, no matter how small or large, was essential and very much appreciated.
- The parents, spouses, friends, and students who arrived early this morning to bring our school Hall back to normal. We are most grateful for your time and energy (despite a late Saturday night), to assist with every single task.

Once more, thank you to the wonderful Stella Maris ‘Wizard of Oz’ community.

NOTE! Students have permission to wear their cast shirts every Friday until the end of the school year with their school shorts!!

Musically Yours,
Inez Durrer
Classroom Music Specialist
idurrer@bne.catholic.edu.au

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

October 22 School Officer Day
October 23 School Board 6.30
October 29 and 30 Orientation Mornings 9-12
October 31 International Teacher’s Day
November 8 P & F Family Movie Night - “Stella by Twilight”
November 11 AGM P & F Meeting in the Staffroom @ 6.30pm
November 26 Tuckshop Helpers Lunch
November 28 Year 4 - 7 Swimming Carnival - Cotton Tree Pool
December 1 Year 7 Dinner Dance
December 2 Year 6 Dinner Dance
December 3 Years 6 & 7 Graduation Liturgy
December 4 Wet’n’Wild Years 6 and 7
December 5 Thanksgiving Liturgy 11am in Hall School year ends 12 noon

Tuckshop News

THIS WEEK’S SPECIAL
Fish & Wedges $4.00

Wed 22/10 Thurs 23/10 Fri 24/10 Tues 27/10
A Fais J Fuller L Coxcoran J Coghlan
T Gorring S Dangerfield S Thompson L Mancici

Muffin Mixes & Fruit Salad Items

Group 3
A Towner, B Gordon, C Thiele, D Mills,
E Rawlings, J Ellery, K Holzer, K Loe, L Teuthof,
L Parsons, M Murray, M MacDonald, S Facer,
S Wilson, T Di Pietra, T Gorring, A Pearson,
K Hynes.
All I Really Know I Learned From

*The Wizard Of Oz*

- When you go out into the world, remember to stand up for yourself, but always be kind to the little guys.
- The grass is always greener on the other side of the rainbow.
- Follow the yellow brick road - but be ready for a detour.
- When friends stick together, they can work miracles.
- Having the courage to ask for what you want is half the battle.
- Hearts will never be practical until they are made unbreakable.
- Sometimes you have to leave home to find it.
- Keep home in your heart and you can always return to it.