Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to term 4. In a recent email communication I’ve learnt that the rain in Spain falls mainly on Ms Morgan! You’ll be pleased to also learn that the 5 weeks of daily walking, up to 30kms, has ended in Santiago at the Cathedral. What a remarkable achievement. Glenda is now doing a little site seeing and most likely a spot of shopping in Barcelona.

During the holidays I received the “Privacy Notice”, see below, from the Brisbane Catholic Education Office and was asked to ensure you were all made aware during this first week of the term. The information relates to the Federal government funding of schools and therefore is quite an important message. Please take some time to read and should you want more information please check the web-site at www.acara.edu.au

Over the holidays the pot hole has been filled but not rectified. This pot hole may well be the start of on-going problems with the roadway, we shall see. Yesterday the Yr 7 end of primary retreat was held in the hall, conducted by Michael Fitzpatrick. The year 7’s final term of primary has commenced in a positive & reflective way. We welcomed 16 students, some returning and most new to Stella on our first day of term and a few more are scheduled to commence later in the term. 12 Sunshine coast University students and 1 from the Australian Catholic University commenced their Practical experience here with us. There are students in their 1st year of a 4 yr degree program through to students in their final prac before graduating. It was a busy first day.

As we begin the process of determining classes and staffing for 2014 it is vital we know of your intentions if you may be leaving or even just considering the possibility. As you know data is the life blood of organisations these days and receiving this data is imperative for us to make well considered decisions.

Some upcoming events scheduled in Term 4 include ……

• The Term 4 curriculum newsletters will be sent home by the end of week 2 outlining the learning opportunities to be offered to each year level.
• The Stella Spotlight - Instrumental Music performance evening will be held in the hall on Wednesday 16th October {tickets are selling fast !!}
• Yrs. 4-7 Swimming lessons to commence 11th November with yrs. 7&6 and the following week yrs. 4 and 5
• The yrs. 4-7 Swimming Carnival at the Cotton Tree Pool will be held on 29th November.
• Weekly Dance lessons will commence for Prep-yr 3 students this Friday.
• The 2014 prep orientation sessions will be held on Tuesday 5th and Thursday 7th November.

I hope you find some moments to relax, breathe purposefully and connect to the calmness that is deep within all of us … yes I had a very peaceful two weeks!

Terry

PRIVACY NOTICE

Information required to determine the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) for schools

This notice is from the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), to advise you that ACARA has requested your child’s school to provide ACARA with information about you and your child. Your school may disclose to ACARA information such as your child’s gender, date of birth, country of birth, background language, School Year level, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage, Australian Citizenship or Permanent Residency Status with Visa sub-class number and arrival date in Australia, residential address, parental occupation, parental education and main language of parents.

This information is disclosed to ACARA under the ACARA Act 2008 for one or both of the following purposes:

• formulating national reports consisting of aggregated data on school performance; and
• assisting government to formulate policies in relation to education matters.

ACARA will not disclose this personal information to any third party. If you do not want your school to provide this information to ACARA, please advise your school, in writing, within seven (7) days of receiving this notice.

Further information about ACARA can be obtained from the ACARA website at www.acara.edu.au.

BOOK CLUB orders are due no later than Friday, 18th October.
An Invitation from the Parish

This Thursday evening the parish and deanery have a unique invitation to gather with our Archbishop for study, prayer and reflection.

At the St Catherine’s Church in the Siena School grounds Sippy Downs from 7.00pm to 8.30pm. Every Catholic on the Sunshine Coast, to the extent that you are able, ought to be with Archbishop Coleridge to mark this unique occasion.

Looking forward to seeing you there! Fr Joe

Yrs4 - 7 ATHLETICS Carnival

On Friday 20th September the Yr 4 - 7 Athletics carnival was finally held with not a cloud in sight. The conditions were excellent and a fun day was had by all involved.

The following students were Age Champions
Year 4 Girls - Zoe Kretzers
Year 4 Boys - Matthew Ford
10 Year Girls - Georgia Kapolos
10 Year Boys - Eathan Petcos
11 Year Girls - Madison Edgerton
11 Year Boys - Jack Gillespie
12 Year Girls - Genevieve Langford and Cartia Thompson
12 Year Boys - Lucian Champion
13 Year Girls - Laura Magao
13 Year Boys - Lachlan Shields

Medallions will be presented at assembly on Thursday

Point Score
1st - Munum 699 points
2nd - Waroo 671 points
3rd - Pigabilla 640 points
4th - Banjara 608 points

Last Sacramental Program for 2013

One or both parents must have attended the compulsory information session held in August.

Preparation for First Reconciliation:
This has to be completed before the child progresses to Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

October 14  5.30PM Stella Maris, 7.15pm St Catherine
October 15  6.00pm Stella Maris
October 16  5.30pm St Catherine

Confirmation and First Holy Communion:

Session 1 - Sunday 27 October 1.30 - 4.30pm
at Stella Maris School Assembly Hall
Session 2 - Wednesday 6 November 6.00 - 8.00pm
venue to be determined

Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on Friday 8 November. Place of Confirmation to be announced. First Holy Communion will be celebrated Sat 9 & Sun 10 November at whichever Parish Mass is elected by the family. Please make contact with the Stella Maris Parish office as early as possible to register your child/children in the program on 07 5443 3488.

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

As we enter into the last Term of a very busy year, the Virtue chosen for this fortnight is Helpfulness. Helpfulness is being of service to someone, doing useful things that make a difference to them, no matter how small. It is taking time to be thoughtful, reflecting on what people truly need and assisting them respectfully. It is helping others by doing things they cannot do for themselves. When we work selflessly to benefit the lives of others, we always bless our own. However, it is often easier to give help than to receive it. There is always plenty of help when we are willing to ask.

We certainly will make a great start to living out this Virtue with an initiative to be introduced on Monday 21st October (Week 3), in supporting the St Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Appeal for families in need over the Christmas period, often the most distressing time for those who are finding things tough. The appeal involves donation of food items and Christmas gifts to be distributed to families in the local area in December. Donations are gratefully accepted at school toward a gift basket in 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 6th December at 11.00am.

Another of our goals is to promote our Charism of Social Justice through the work of Nano Nagle, founder of the Presentation Order of Nuns in 18th Century Cork in providing, at great risk to herself and her companions, education for Catholic Children who were denied an education by the governing body. To that end we will hold an Art Competition this term for Presentation Day, 22nd November.

Winning entries from each class group will form part of the visual reflection on our Charism as part of our liturgy to celebrate the day. There is nothing quite so moving as children’s art work which cuts to the very heart of the matter, a characteristic that will be taken into consideration in the judging. As a school we will commission an art piece in the form of a mural to be designed and displayed in the school grounds to highlight our Presentation Charism - our commitment to the education of young people in the faith and our support of those in need. This initiative will also give students a better understanding of the origins, significance and meaning of the life work of the founder of the Presentation Order of Sisters, who first staffed our school, as well as giving them the opportunity to have some input into the design of the mural.

In the spirit of Helpfulness, I also ask for your help in meeting the needs of the community through our Stella Maris Care Pantry. Perhaps think about a friend who is going through a particularly tough time… Would assistance in the form of meals from the Care Pantry help them? What else could you do to lift their spirits? Perhaps a card or some flowers… a phone call… an encouraging note? The Virtue of Helpfulness may be manifested in many forms, even in acknowledging that this Virtue is a priority for us as a school community.

The following quote highlights quite a significant phenomenon in reaching out to others in need:

*It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no-one can sincerely try to help another without helping themselves*

— Ralph Waldo Emerson.

I hope this term will be full of beautiful surprises and many blessings for you and your family.

God bless, Judith.
QUOTE OF THE WEEK
“Those who wish to sing always find a song.”
~ Proverb ~

STELLA SPOTLIGHT - If your child is involved in a school choral or instrumental ensemble, it is most important that they attend rehearsals in week 2 this term.

Parents are invited to make raffle donations for Stella Spotlight. These can be dropped in to the music room or the office marked ‘Stella Spotlight’ no later than Monday 14 October. Suggestions for donations include:
Gift vouchers, Gourmet foods, Wine, Chocolates, Restaurant vouchers, Service voucher for your business.
Thank you in advance for your support.

MUSIC COUNT US IN – Thursday 31 October

Students continue to rehearse and prepare for Music Count Us In, Australia’s biggest school initiative. Year 4 – 7 students are busy creating cover albums for this year’s song “Keep On”, a wonderful upbeat tune about working hard to achieve your dreams.

DATE CLAIMERS
Stella Spotlight - Wednesday 16 October All Choral and Instrumental Ensembles
Assembly - Thursday 17 October Junior Strings
Musica Viva - Wednesday 30 October All classes
Assembly - Thursday 31 October Bella Voce and Grace Notes, all students for Music Count Us In
Piano Soiree – Thursday 7 November Ms Worthy’s students – Hall @ 6pm
Singing Soiree – Wednesday 13 November Ms Bond’s students – Hall @ 6pm
Gayndah Excursion – Thursday 21 November Senior Concert Band, SM Singers, String Ensembles

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NEWS - Instrumental, Singing and Speech tuition timetables for Term 4 were emailed to all enrolled families on Tuesday 1 October. If you did not receive yours, it means we do not have your correct email address! Please email us at StellaMarisMusic@bne.catholic.edu.au and a copy will be sent to you. Timetables are also shown on the notice board outside the music room.

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

AT the end of last term Tynan Williams (year 7), Jayden Bradley (year 2) and Landen Smales (year 1)

competed in an Interschool Skateboarding Competition held at The Woods indoor skate park in Kawana.

All three boys did a fantastic job representing the school. Tynan placed first in the year 5-7 division & Landen made it through to the semi finals in the year 1-4 division.

Music Awards


Tuckshop News

Week Ending 11 October - N Pace, T Maas, A Charlton, L Gerbo, D Stubbs, O Furniss, K Bidmade, S McNamara, P Annand, T Di Pietra, K Kretzers, L Teuthof, M Housego.
Gratitude

“Nothing so conclusively proves our ability to lead others as what we do from day to day to lead ourselves” - Thomas J Watson.

Our culture has separated work from play and our working lives from our personal lives. But in reality we can’t. Our work is as much about our meaning and who we are as the rest of our lives; it is much more than just an income or a responsibility; it is often linked with our credibility and how we define ourselves. I often tell a student that coming to school is their job. It’s OK to not like it, to prefer to be somewhere else (usually home with mum) but that doesn’t excuse us from our responsibility to be there.

Time at school makes up a large portion of a child’s routine. Gratitude about the opportunity to go to school contributes to morale and progress. When we can genuinely appreciate our school, everyone including ourselves feels more valued and is more likely to be able to achieve great things together.

Gratitude helps bring more meaning to being at school. Even if we don’t like it sometimes there are still things to be grateful for.

For friends…playtime….great grounds…my teacher…..fun…..facts…..activities….help……..smiles….tuckshop lunch….the fair…..moving up a grade….camp…etc

As we move very quickly (aaargh the ads have started) into the Christmas season. Let’s encourage our kids to approach the final term with gratitude for a year gone by, the people around us, the opportunities ahead and with temperance when faced with consumerism lurking on the edges.

8.5 weeks left for a job well done.

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