Dear Parents and Caregivers,

At the commencement of next term we will host a number of students from the University of the Sunshine Coast studying education. We host student teachers doing their practical experience at least twice a year. We also welcome secondary students who come for work experience along with a growing number of adults doing vocational experience for their Tafe course to become teacher aides. At times it can be quite crowded in the staffroom and the staff car park. We extend a welcome, where and when we can, as this is a place of learning and we are aware that learning is a lifelong activity.

When there are visitors to a classroom students can react in a variety of ways with some very excited and some quite pensive and every nuance in between. It is important that the classroom teacher has set expectations for when visitors are welcomed into the learning space so that the students’ learning is positively affected when personnel changes occur. This occurs at the commencement of each year and all teachers work with their class to develop a covenant to determine the expectations so that learning is maximised for all members of the class throughout the year. When welcoming a student teacher into the classroom it is often a good time to revisit the Covenant and review it if it is still relevant to the new circumstances. This is one of the most beneficial learning opportunities for the student teacher as developing behaviour expectations to assist learning is a vital skill in this profession.

Here at Stella Maris we focus on learning and teaching and so we view behaviour as something that is part of the educative process. As students mature expectations shift towards law abiding citizenship. In the primary school mistakes can be viewed as an opportunity to learn more skills rather than a breach of the law. At a whole school level we have 4 overarching expectations.

- **What the Teacher says we do.** Indicate to speak and move. Speak to please not to tease. Hands off others and their things.

- **What parents/caregivers say we do.** Inform parents/caregivers when you want to go somewhere or want to discuss matters. Speak kindly to all especially other members of the family. Hands and bodies are for helping not hurting others.

If you are able to gather as a family, in the evening at the dinner table, there’s an opportunity to develop a family covenant when giving thanks for the meal. Holding hands and saying together something like, “Help us to be a caring, loving family in the way we act towards each other and speak to one another”, is expressing the desired way the family will behave with each other. If behaviour is witnessed that doesn’t support the stated ideal then there’s an opportunity to reflect on the ideal and recommit to being a loving, caring member of the family. Often an apology will indicate that the desire to ‘try again’ has been reached and with some practising of the desired behaviours the family is once again unified. As I have indicated in recent articles I believe people react differently to a situation based on the way they primarily gather information whether that be through intuition, thinking or feeling/heart messages. Sometimes a period of being away from everyone else is the best place for letting anger or frustration energy pass through the body. My mother knew this of me and I would spend some quiet, alone time in the bedroom when I was less than caring or loving towards my brother or sister. My three children were quite different in the way they dealt with such situations with one being somewhat like me and also would benefit from periods of being alone and quiet in the bedroom so that any emotive energy had time to dissipate before any discussions took place.

The Step 3 process at school has the elements of withdrawal from the group to calm and reflect on the behaviour followed by discussion which focusses on a strategy that would avoid the situation in the future followed by a restoration of the relationships that may have been strained or damaged by the undesirable behaviour. To maximise curriculum learning, the amount of time taken with the Step 3 process is made up during student’s play time completing any work missed. This is the part of the process that many students believe is punishment however that is not the intention.

This educative approach is most effective when there are similar expectations of children’s behaviour at home and at school.

I hope you find some moments of peace and serenity during your busy week.

**Terry**

### Prep-Yr 3 ATHLETICS Carnival

**Friday 13th September**

The Carnival will commence at 11.30am with a March past and then War Cries.

- Races at 12noon, rotations at 1.30pm and Relays at 2.00pm
- Carnival ends at 3.00pm (Please don’t pick up early).
Art Show Cancellation

Unfortunately due to circumstances beyond our control the art show scheduled for late October has had to be cancelled.

Despite all efforts, we have been unable to source the necessary display stands.

Children’s Story Books Needed

Brother Gerard visits primary/kinda schools in Papua New Guinea. They are in need of children’s story books. Please donate to the church or parish office or books can be dropped in to Mrs Bernie Baillie in Prep D or the school office.

Donations need to be received no later than TOMORROW, September 11.

LIBRARY NEWS

Week beginning 9th Sept 2013
Maroochydore Library News.

School Holidays

Join in the fun, free activities with your child/children these school holidays.

Ani-movie workshops, Scratch 2.0 (program your own animated game), Grassheads, & silk painting. Age 8+ Bookings open Mon 9th Sept.

Check out the website for details: http://library.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/index.cfm

The Corner. This is a dedicated under 8’s staffed area with great toys and activities. The space is dedicated to encouraging children to learn through play.

Open every week day at Maroochydore Library 9.30-11.30 & 2.30-4.30pm

Social Justice Committee Initiative

Please remember to bring a GOLD coin donation to guess the number of lollies in the jar. Bought to you by the Social Justice Committee in support of the “Feed My Starving Children Foundation”.

The lucky winner will receive the Lollie Jar and two Movie Tickets.

Blessed are those who are generous, because they feed the poor.
— Proverbs 22:9

Principal’s Awards

12 September 2013


P&F News

P&F meeting TONIGHT, Tuesday 10 September, commencing at 6.30p.m. in the staffroom.

All are most welcome with all contributions viewed as valuable.

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

We continue for the next two weeks with the focus on the Virtue of Peacefulness, particularly pertinent in these uncertain times with the possibility of war with Syria looming.

Peacefulness is the state of having inner calm and tranquility, having a sense of harmony with all of creation.

As the U.S. Congress prepares to vote on a military strike against Syria in response to a reported chemical weapons attack outside Damascus on 21st August, over 100,000 people gathered at St. Peter's Square last Saturday to hear Pope Francis call for a day of fasting and prayer for peace in Syria. "Forgiveness, dialogue, reconciliation – these are the words of peace, in beloved Syria, in the Middle East, in all the world! Let us pray for reconciliation and peace, let us work for reconciliation and peace, and let us all become, in every place, men and women of reconciliation and peace!" the Pope said, addressing the crowd during the four-hour vigil on Saturday evening. This was in response to the Syrian conflict which has killed an estimated 110,000 people since it erupted in March 2011, and an estimate by the United Nations of two million refugees having fled the country.

Pope Francis has repeatedly called for peace negotiations to begin immediately and for a process of reconciliation, as well as a stepped-up humanitarian effort to ease the plight of civilians. He concluded on a hopeful note, asking the crowd: “Can we get out of this spiral of sorrow and death? Can we learn once again to walk and live in the ways of peace? Yes, it is possible for everyone!” he said, drawing applause, before invoking the image of Christ’s redemptive sacrifice as the ultimate symbol of peace. “How I wish that all men and women of good will would look to the cross, if only for a moment,” he said. “There, we can see God’s reply: violence is not answered with violence, death is not answered with the language of death. In the silence of the cross, the uproar of weapons ceases and the language of reconciliation, forgiveness, dialogue and peace is spoken.”

(Adapted from http://www.christianpost.com/news)

In the midst of such dreadful turmoil, what is our response? What does peacefulness look like? In the Virtues Project we are told that Peacefulness is an inner calm and tranquility which comes from quiet reflection and prayer. We do not give in to anger, but rather we keep a graceful pace, not allowing ourselves to be rushed or overwhelmed. Peace in the world involves giving up the love of power for the power of love, in choosing the unity of peace over the fragmentation of fear.

I don’t know what the answer is to the conflict in Syria, but I do know that decisions made in a peaceful spirit will be more effective in proclaiming and reclaiming peace than giving in to anger and violence. We owe our children that much. Perhaps you might join us for rosary this Thursday morning in the Children’s Chapel as we pray for peace in Syria, and indeed for world peace.

God bless.

Judith.

~Peace Prayer of St Francis of Assisi~

Lord make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
**MUSIC NOTES**

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

“Bach gave us God’s Word. Mozart gave us God’s laughter. Beethoven gave us God’s fire. God gave us Music that we might pray without words.”

~ quote from outside an old opera house ~

**TIP OF THE WEEK**

Try to sing the music you have to play at home. This will help you think about what the music needs to sound like and not just what fingers to move or press down!!

**MUSIC COUNT US IN**

Thursday 31 October, students, staff, and parents of Stella Maris will once again join with more than 600 000 students in schools around Australia to sing ‘Keep On’ to promote music awareness and appreciation in our schools. John Foreman and Katie Noonan assisted a group of high school students in the writing of this year’s song that features Darren Percival as the lead singer. Classes have started to learn this catchy song in class over the past two weeks in preparation for the Oct 31st collaboration of singing around Australia. The following link provides more information about ‘Music Count Us In’ as well as the audio for this year’s song.


**DATE CLAIMERS**

Assembly - Thursday 17 October Junior Strings
Stella Spotlight - Wednesday 16 October All Choral and Instrumental Ensembles
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 Ensemble

**INSTRUMENTAL NEWS**

Draft lesson timetables are currently being finalised for next term and any changes should be advised ASAP to avoid additional charges. Remember that four weeks of notice in writing is required prior to the end of a school term to change enrolment.

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
[duerr@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:duerr@bne.catholic.edu.au) [twynyard@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:twynyard@bne.catholic.edu.au)

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**Tuckshop News**

Due to end of term we have limited stock. We will endeavour to fill all orders.

**Week Ending 13 September**

- T Gorrin
- S O'Donnell
- N Hughes
- N Burrows
- N Edwards
- N McMinn
- N Michael
- N Pace
- N Parkinson-Hubbard
- O Robbins
- P Siddans
- P Vontas
- R Brady
- S Hattingh
- S Kelms
- S Mann

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**Football NEWS**

A big congratulations to the U12 Stella Force and the U12 Stella Sea Eagles for making their respective Grand finals on Saturday. Unfortunately they were both beaten on the day, but gave a mighty effort and a great performance.

Presentation day and AGM will be held this Saturday from 9am at the soccer canteen area. All of the committee will be stepping down, if you are interested to be on it for next year and beyond, and want more information please get in contact with Damien on 0411283065.
10 TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Accept your importance as a role model and make every effort to be the best role model you can be. Recognize that this may call for personal change and improvement.
- Trusting that your children love you, allows you to do the “parent things” that may sometimes make them dislike you for a while.
- Try to always be the adult you claim to be and have the emotional self-control to offer firm guidance, support and moral leadership. Sympathize with them but try not to solve their problems for them.
- Separate your needs from those of your children. They can’t live your dreams.
- Try to always use reason not rage. Avoid fighting fire with fire. Be in control of your feelings and your actions so that your children can learn to be in control of theirs.
- Show faith in your school. Prepare your children to work hard so that teachers can help them to learn well. Establish rights, rules, responsibilities and routines in your household and let every child do their bit. Give them chores, square meals, the time to talk and the sleep they need.
- Turn the TV off when you can and turn the conversation on where possible. And remember, loving them is easy, it’s rearing them that’s hard but it does get easier with practice.
- Role model good manners at all times and ask for them in return. Good manners often diffuse conflict situations.
- By acknowledging small improvements in behaviour you make it easier for big improvements to follow.
- Try to avoid thinking that you can save your children from getting hurt (emotionally or physically).

Instead, prepare them to cope.

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