Dear Parents and Caregivers

You can’t get away from it and it’s hard to keep up with it. Technology is all-pervasive and can be frightening in its influence. As in all things, its use can shape our lives for the better or for the worse, with a potential recipe for disaster attached to its rampant, poorly restricted, un-critiqued and unconscious use, especially by those too young to know differently. Unfortunately, given the pace of today’s living, this can prove the case before we know it and without intention. Technology has become the latest addiction and its effects can be seen in even the youngest amongst us. With devices used as convenient baby-sitters and as ‘bribes’ for desired behaviour, young ones are often less prepared for school, especially in readiness for the social and academic demands and ability to attend to ‘real’ people rather than screens.

Indeed, the negative effects are many, as are the advantages when technology is used wisely and for sound purposes while teaching the need for personal and social responsibility. But my oh my, the potential for physical, psychological, social, moral and intellectual damage is wide-ranging and insidious. The growth in technology has enabled whole new spheres of criminality, depravity and ready temptation of which we must be aware, especially as parents and teachers working with the young. But let’s start with something less complex. Let’s start with making conscious and informed decisions about the amount of time spent using technological devices.

As a parent, how much time and what sort of activities do I allow my children? I hope you find the following article reproduced for your consideration, to be helpful. It is written by Nick Bilton who writes for the New York Times:

‘When Steve Jobs was running Apple, he was known to call journalists to either put them on the back for a recent article or, more often than not, explain how they got it wrong. I was on the receiving end of a few of those calls. But nothing shocked me more than something Jobs said to me in late 2010 after he had finished chewing me out for something I had written about an iPad shortcoming.

“So, your kids must love the iPad?” I asked Jobs, trying to change the subject. The company’s first tablet was just hitting the shelves.

“They haven’t used it,” he told me. “We limit how much technology our kids use at home.”

Apple co-founder Steve Jobs restricted his children from using the company’s gadgets at home.

I’m sure I responded with a gasp and dumbfounded silence. I had imagined the Jobs’ household was like a nerd’s paradise: that the walls were giant touch screens, the dining table was made from tiles of iPads and that iPods were handed out to guests like chocolates on a pillow. Nope, Jobs told me, not even close.

Since then, I’ve met a number of technology chief executives and venture capitalists who say similar things: They strictly limit their children’s screen time, often banning all gadgets on school nights and allocating ascetic time limits on weekends.

I was perplexed by this parenting style. After all, most parents seem to take the opposite approach, letting their children bathe in the glow of tablets, smartphones and computers, day and night. Yet these tech CEOs seem to know something the rest of us don’t.

Chris Anderson, the former editor of Wired and now chief executive of 3D Robotics, a drone-maker, has instituted time limits and parental controls on every device in his home.

“My kids accuse me and my wife of being fascists and overly concerned about tech, and they say that none of their friends have the same rules,” he said of his five children, age 6-17.

“That’s because we have seen the dangers of technology firsthand. I’ve seen it in myself, I don’t want to see that happen to my kids.”

The dangers he is referring to include exposure to harmful content like pornography, bullying from other kids, and perhaps worst of all, becoming addicted to their devices, just like their parents.

Alex Constantinople, the chief executive of the OutCast Agency, a tech-focused communications and marketing firm, said her youngest son, who is 5, is never allowed to use gadgets during the week, and her older children, 10-13, are allowed only 30 minutes a day on school nights.

Evan Williams, a founder of Blogger, Twitter and Medium, and his wife, Sara Williams, said that in lieu of iPads, their two young boys have hundreds of books (yes, physical ones) that they can pick up and read anytime.

So how do tech moms and dads determine the proper boundary for their children? In general, it is set by age.

Children under 10 seem to be most susceptible to becoming addicted, so these parents draw the line at not allowing any gadgets during the week. On weekends, there are limits of 30 minutes to two hours on iPad and smartphone use. And 10- to 14-year-olds are allowed to use computers on school nights, but only for homework.

“We have a strict no-screen-time-during-the-week rule for our kids,” said Lesley Gold, founder and chief executive of the Sutherland Gold Group, a tech media relations and analytics company. “But you have to make allowances as they get older and need a computer for school.”

School resumes for Term 4 on TUESDAY 7 OCTOBER. Monday 6th is the Labor Day holiday.
Some parents also forbid teenagers to use social networks, except for services like Snapchat, which deletes messages after they have been sent. This way they don't have to worry about saying something online that will haunt them later in life, one executive told me.

Although some non-tech parents I know give smartphones to children as young as 8, many who work in tech, wait until their child is 14. While these teenagers can make calls and text, they are not given a data plan until 16. But there is one rule that is universal among the tech parents I polled.

"This is rule No. 1: There are no screens in the bedroom. Period. Ever," Anderson said.

While some tech parents assign limits based on time, others are much stricter about what their children are allowed to do with screens.

Ali Partovi, a founder of iLike and adviser to Facebook, Dropbox and Zappos, said there should be a strong distinction between time spent "consuming," like watching YouTube or playing video games, and time spent "creating" on screens.

"Just as I wouldn't dream of limiting how much time a kid can spend with her paintbrushes, or playing her piano, or writing, I think it's absurd to limit her time spent creating computer art, editing video, or computer programming," he said.

I never asked Jobs what his children did instead of using the gadgets he built, so I reached out to Walter Isaacson, the author of Steve Jobs, who spent a lot of time at their home.

"Every evening, Steve made a point of having dinner at the big, long table in their kitchen, discussing books and history and a variety of things," he said. "No one ever pulled out an iPad or computer. The kids did not seem addicted at all to devices."

That makes terrific sense to me! Have a great week everyone and a safe, happy holiday to all students and staff.  

**Glenda**

**Ins and Outs**

**Wednesday 17 September** - Kim Hughes 6B and Anthony Graham 2B at Billy Moore Cup with Year 4 and 5 Rugby League Teams.


**Congratulations Year 3**

A big congratulations to all Year 3 classes for the commendable improvements made to their learning and behaviour this term. All students should be very proud of their efforts, especially those who had to try the hardest to change previous habits and choices.

---

**Date Claimer November 8**

**Stella by Twilight**

**Christmas Carols**

Food - Sausage Sizzle
- Pies/ Sausage Rolls
- Pizza

Drinks
- Fairy Floss/ Snow Cones/popcorn
- Cup cakes/Sweets
- Face Painting, Stalls, Raffles, Animal Farm

---

**Principal’s Awards**

September 18 2014


---

**Keep Saturday October 25th free!**

Why? Because EXPLORAMA returns to the University of the Sunshine Coast with 15 full-day amazing workshops 9am - 3pm.

Something for every problem-solving, creative and curious child. Schools and parents are invited to nominate children. Early-bird discount online registrations open September 1. We can't wait to see you all again. It's going to be another amazing day!

MUSIC NOTES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK
“Don’t say you don’t have enough time. You have exactly the same number of hours per day that were given to Helen Keller, Louis Pasteur, Michelangelo, Mother Teresa, Leonardo da Vinci, Thomas Jefferson, and Albert Einstein.” ~ Anon ~

CLASSROOM NEWS - Thank you to all of the parents and family members who were visitors to our ‘Music Open House’ yesterday and again today. We look forward to seeing more guests with Year 4 and Prep students tomorrow. It is wonderful to share our learning; especially the exciting milestones which students have achieved this year.

MUSICAL NEWS – ‘THE WIZARD OF OZ’ - Our final afternoon rehearsal is this Wednesday 17 September in the Hall for all cast. Backstage crew – Group A only will be required today and are reminded to bring a change of clothes for painting as well as a pair of thongs or old shoes that won’t mind a bit of paint. It is important that we have as many cast members as possible to ensure a productive use of the time we have at these rehearsals. Parents are reminded that students are requested to stay until 5pm (if at all possible), to allow us to rehearse as many scenes as we are able to during this time.

Once more, parental assistance would be greatly appreciated to paint various props and backdrops for the musical. You don’t have to be artistic, just willing. If you can provide some time and wish to help, please let us know or join us this Wednesday between 3:15 – 5pm. You don’t have to have a child in the musical to join in and help. Anyone is welcome. We would, however, like to say thank you to those parents and staff who assist each Wednesday afternoon in so many different ways. Your help is invaluable!

Don’t forget to check your emails each Sunday afternoon for important updates as well as the rehearsal schedule for the week.

Props Required!

Pretend Swords/Guns – do you play swords or guns that we may borrow for our soldier’s scene? If so, please be sure to label it with your name to ensure we can return it to you after the musical.

Chook Puppet and Witch Puppet – if you happen to have either of these, may we borrow them?

DATE CLAIMERS
The Wizard of Oz – Rehearsal 17 September 3:15 – 5:00 in the HALL for all cast. Backstage crew Group A only required this week.
The Wizard of Oz – Rehearsals 1 October 9am – 4pm ALL Backstage Crew only, and any parents or grandparents who are able to assist with painting and props)
The Wizard of Oz – Rehearsals 2 October (8:30am – 4:00pm) ALL CAST
The Wizard of Oz – Rehearsals 3 October (9:00am – 4:00pm) ALL CAST
The Wizard of Oz – 15 October to Saturday 18 October
Music Count Us In – 30 October
Singing Soiree (Ms Bond) – 5 November, Hall from 6pm to 7pm
Music Assembly – 6 November – SM Singers
Speech and Drama Soiree (Ms Beattie) – 6 November, Hall - 6.30pm - 7.30pm
Strings Concert (Mrs Salmon and Miss Ostenfeld) – 20 November, Hall - 6pm
Percussion Lunchtime Concert (Mr Burt) – 21 November, Music Room - 10.45am
Piano Soiree (Miss Worthy) – 25 November, Hall from 6pm to 7pm
Music Assembly – 27 November – Stella Fellas and Guitar Ensemble

Lesson timetables are nearly finalised for next term and notice to alter or cancel enrolment in the musical program is required in writing prior to 3pm on Friday 19 September to avoid additional charges. Please email twynyard@bne.catholic.edu.au if you have any further questions.

Recruitment will commence in October when I will speak briefly to all students in grade 2, 3 and 4 regarding opportunities to join the program in 2015. All students will bring information home regarding the trial and enrolment process and the costs involved. Students in other year levels interested in joining should email Mr Wynyard and he will get information to you at the same time.

Re-enrolment for students currently in the program (including those moving to the Siena College in 2015) will also commence in October. Please keep an eye out for this paperwork and return it promptly as directed.

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
jdurrer@bne.catholic.edu.au

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

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 19 Last Day Term 3
October 7 1st Day Term 4
October 7 (not 14) P & F Meeting in the Staffroom @ 6.30pm
October 15 - 18 Musical “The Wizard of Oz”
October 20 Pupil Free Day
October 29 and 30 Orientation Mornings 9-12
October 31 International Teacher’s Day
November 8 P & F Family Movie Night
November 11 P & F Meeting in the Staffroom @ 6.30pm
November 26 Tuckshop Helpers Lunch
December 1 Year 7 Dinner Dance
December 2 Year 6 Dinner Dance
December 3 Years 6 & 7 Graduation Liturgy
December 5 School year ends

FIREBIRDS SCHOOL HOLIDAY CLINIC

ALL WELCOME
Venue - Sunshine Coast Netball Association
Maroochydore Multisports Complex
108 Fishermeon’s Rd Maroochydore
Date - Friday 26th September 2014
Time - 10.30am - 12.00pm (5-10 years)
1.00pm - 4.00pm (11-16 years)
Cost - 5 - 10 years old = $21.50 (including booking fee)
11-16 years old = $41.50 (including booking fee)

REGISTRATIONS THROUGH TRYBOOKING.COM

THANKING SUCCESS
Congratulations to Jackson Bartholomew who placed 2nd in the 10 Years Boys High Jump at The Regional Trials last week. Jackson will now compete at the State Championships in Brisbane on 14 & 15th October. Well done and good luck Jackson!

Tuckshop News...

LAST DAY OF TERM SAUSAGE SIZZLE

Meal Deal $5.00

Please fill in the tear-off slip sent out last week and return with money to the Tuckshop by September 17 as sausages, bread, etc. need to be ordered.

Help with the BBQ on Friday morning (19 September) would be greatly appreciated.

Give me a call. Cathie.

Ingredients Roster

Muffin Mixes & Fruit Salad Items

|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|

School Fees are over due.
Kids Matter Launch

Stella Maris will officially become a Kids Matter School at a launch during Assembly on Thursday 25th September 2014. Stella Maris has adopted the motto “Act, Belong, Commit” intended to generate positive wellbeing for all students as the optimum aim of Kids Matter. This motto has been presented to the students in its three stages at recent assemblies by the Social Justice Committee and appropriately complements our school motto. Posters promoting the motto can now be seen outside or in classrooms across the school. All classes will be notified about an art competition that both students and adults can enter to enhance awareness of all Kids Matter initiatives on assembly and in the newsletter.