Dear Parents and Caregivers,

This Saturday we are required to cast a vote to select representatives to form the Federal parliament. If political discussions stimulate a passionate response from you then you have been enjoying these last weeks and will be sad when it’s all over. If however these matters do not seem life giving then Saturday cannot come fast enough. In last week’s newsletter I suggested that this difference is driven by ways of knowing which loosely can be labelled personality. Those who like to debate the issues will most likely be energised by thinking. Those who have a gut instinct will simply know who they believe is the best choice of representative and they may not have any desire to discuss the whys and wherefores. Those who have strong feelings about the things they have seen or read or heard will know what their heart is telling them they must do. AND there will be a range of mixtures from the three ways of knowing. It’s never easy when your thoughts say one thing yet your heart says another. No way is better than any other it’s simply a way of knowing. Before knowing this I would have said my thinking way was superior as it was the only way I had familiarity in knowing or arriving at a decision. That used to get me into some very heated debates from time to time around election times as I would call alternative positions to mine to be irrational and simply dismiss such ideas. It now seems rather silly when you consider this. Knowing how to use all three ways of knowing is the key. It’s never easy when your thoughts say one thing yet your heart says another. No way is better than any other it’s simply a way of knowing. Before knowing this I would have said my thinking way was superior as it was the only way I had familiarity in knowing or arriving at a decision. That used to get me into some very heated debates from time to time around election times as I would call alternative positions to mine to be irrational and simply dismiss such ideas. It now seems rather silly when you consider this. Knowing how to use all three ways of knowing is the key.

Along with this newsletter I have included a document from the National Catholic Education Commission which outlines the two major political parties responses to the questions asked from a Catholic school perspective about the funding arrangements.

Ten Principles of Catholic social teaching:

1. Every human being is created in God’s image and likeness and therefore is valuable and worthy of respect.
2. Human life at every stage of development, from conception to natural death, is precious and thus worthy of protection and respect.
3. Human beings are social; therefore they grow and achieve fulfilment by association with others in families and other social institutions.
4. People have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good of all.
5. Preferential Protection for the Poor and Vulnerable.
6. The Gospels call us to place the needs of the poor and vulnerable first, so that their needs as well as the common good may be realised.
7. We are one human family, and so our practice of love of neighbour must extend to the whole global community.
8. We show our respect for the Creator by our responsible use and protection of all creation, from the use of personal talents and resources to caring for the environment.
9. While government has a proper role in promoting the common good, wherever possible decisions should be made by those who are closest to the people who will be affected by them, consistent with the decisions being well made.
10. The equality of persons is a matter of their essential human dignity; social and cultural discrimination is not compatible with our understanding that every human being is created in the image and likeness of God.

11. The common good requires that social conditions allow all people to reach their full human potential and realise their human dignity.


So I wish you all well with this decision on Saturday and I, for one, respect your right to choose based on what your, mind, heart and gut tell you is the best choice.

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 will start at 12noon.
Carnival ends at 3.00pm (Please don’t pick up early).
Dear Parents/Caregivers,

The following excerpt adapted from Rod Handley’s “Character in God’s presence.”

The inner peace from God is available to all believers in spite of the turmoil in the world. Peter and Paul in Acts 12 and 16, respectively, both had peace while sitting in jail awaiting their fate. Peter had so much peace in his situation that he had fallen into a deep sleep. Paul was busy singing and praying when he was delivered. Both were not worried about the future and they weren’t anxious. God had granted them tremendous peace.

Michelle Akers, women’s soccer player, said, “The more time I spend keeping my eye on who God is, His perspective, His goals for me, the more fun I have, the more joyful I feel, the more peace I have.” Michelle is right…true peace only comes when you keep your eyes focused on God and not the problems and issues that confront you. What a feeling to have the freedom in releasing your burdens to Christ (Matthew 11:28-30).

In our modern, fast paced world it’s hard to find peace. One of the reasons is that we have difficulty in being quiet. Stillness is something we rarely encounter. Think about it! Noise (music, television, talk, laughter, machinery, appliances, phones and traffic) from 6:00am until midnight. Speed (bumper to bumper at 100-110kmh with on-ramps and off-ramps, deadlines and appointments) causes us to check our watches more than checking in with the Lord. Activities (meetings, services, dinners, rallies, clubs and sports) pull us away from quietness. Now certainly some things are super important but not everything! In every situation, God knows more about what’s involved than we can ever know. He alone sees the beginning from the ending. He alone knows how to create a master plan that provides for the good of those who serve Him. Only God knows what lies ahead for your life. Trust Him and His plan as you rest in His peace (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_September_11_Memorial)

My own personal prayer for you is that you take time to smell the roses, to focus on what the present moment brings instead of what lies ahead, and just take the time to enjoy the peacefulness in God’s presence.

God bless,

Judith.
MUSIC NOTES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK
"Music is a higher revelation than all wisdom and philosophy."  ~ Ludwig van Beethoven ~

TIP OF THE WEEK - Calm: Practicing should be done when you are in a calm state. Rushing home from work or school to practice is not the best procedure.

CLASSROOM NEWS -
Together, the year 5 – 7 students and Mrs Durrer have been enjoying five weeks of ukulele playing in class and have been making great strides in the variety of songs they are now able to play. We look forward to sharing this newfound ability with other students and staff.

MUSIC OUTREACH EXCURSION - Earlier this year, the staff of Stella Maris presented S.O.S., a fundraising concert for the community of St. Joseph's Primary School, Gayndah. On Thursday 21 November, Stella Maris students who are members of the Senior Concert Band, SM Singers, and String Ensemble will have the opportunity to visit St Joseph’s Primary School to share music with the school community. Stella Maris students and staff will spend time with the St. Joseph’s students and staff and workshop with them through singing and playing instruments. The culmination of the day will be a concert for the community to include combined items with St Joseph’s students.

DATE CLAIMERS
Assembly - Thursday 5 September Speech & Drama – Mime Group
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
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
Classroom Music Specialist
idurrer@bne.catholic.edu.au

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

Maroochy Little Athletics
"Fit Active Kids"

Maroochy Little Athletics sign on at the clubhouse 44 Lefoes Rd, Bli Bli Sunday 15/9 from 10:00am to 12:00pm and Sat 21/9 from 10:00am to 12:00pm with our 1st track meet the following week on Sat 28th starting at 3:00pm. Ages 3-17 all welcome.

BLI BLI LITTLE ATHLETICS
Bli Bli Athletics sign on at the clubhouse 44 Lefoes Rd, Bli Bli Sunday 15/9 from 10:00am to 12:00pm and Sat 21/9 from 10:00am to 12:00pm with our 1st track meet the following week on Sat 28th starting at 3:00pm. Ages 3-17 all welcome.

PROTECTING CHILDREN IS EVERYONE’S BUSINESS

NEIGHBOUR
Talk to your neighbours & take the time to build relationships with families in your street, apartment, building or community.

TEACHER
Engage students & families in school activities to create a shared space where children can learn & grow.

POLICE
Be approachable & involve yourself in community events to build trusting relationships with families, children & young people.

DOCTOR/NURSE
Check in with parents & families on how things are going & link them to local services.

AUNT/UNCLE
Spend time with the children in your life. Make your influence positive.

PLAY YOUR PART
START A CONVERSATION TODAY

TO FIND OUT ABOUT YOUR ROLE
VISIT NAPCAN.ORG.AU

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

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Just a thought