Dear Parents and Caregivers

One of the first things I did, over four years ago, when I was applying for the principalship of Stella Maris was to find out the school’s motto because, when embedded in the culture, a motto acts as a unifying vision of how a group operates in the day to day. A motto provides both a lofty ideal and a powerful reminder of how we want to be together. It’s both a goal and a process for achieving the goal.

I was very satisfied, then, to read that the Stella Maris motto was one to which I could wholeheartedly commit. ‘To act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God.’ (Micah 6:8) Here’s what I currently understand of this very challenging motto.

**To Act Justly….**

‘To act justly’ means to live according to values and principles that promote fairness according to the needs of an individual or group. It doesn’t mean treating everyone the same.

While studying the works of the great theologian, Karl Rahner, many years ago, I read a line that went something like this, ‘There is nothing so unjust as the equal treatment of unequals.’ This quote struck me as being full of wisdom and has consciously informed my handling of situations over the years. Justice is not achieved by giving everyone the same thing—be that time, attention, opportunities or resources. Some have greater needs than others and the response should be appropriate to the need. Failing to do this, further entrenches existing inequalities.

When we live by the principle of justice, we act without prejudice by seeing each person as an individual. Decisions/assumptions are not made about people on the basis of race, colour, nationality, religion, sex, size or socio-economic status. Rather, the dignity of each person is respected and upheld.

Acting justly also requires admitting one’s mistakes and accepting the consequences. Concern moves beyond self to others and the wider community.

**To Love Tenderly….**

What is it that allows people to love – not just those close to them, but all ‘others’? In my more recent reading I came across a passage that brought insight to the subject. Father Richard Rohr explained that the word ‘person’ comes from the Latin word for ‘mask’ or for the actor’s ‘part’ in a drama. He goes on to write that ‘we are the masks of God, and we play out God’s image in myriad human ways.’ (We are called to bring God into the world through our own being.)

Richard Rohr further explains that the problem we face in a secular society is that we do not know that this is who we are and we therefore create our own private significance - our own mask and personhood – an image of self that then must be defended and protected lest we be found out. This makes for an insecure existence and is the cause of much illusion and wrong-doing.

This false self or ego is created, then, when we do not see life as a participation in the larger life and purpose of God. But what does this have to do with love? Everything, because love is incompatible with the need to compare and judge oneself against others or to dominate or compete against them. Basically it seems it is our life’s work to let go of that false self, allowing for the true love of God, self and others, and to do so tenderly without a need to either control or lose oneself in the other.

Love alone can change people by offering them space to change no matter what they do. When we act out of love we imitate God’s compassion and mercy.

**To Walk Humbly with your God…**

It strikes me that acting justly, loving tenderly and walking humbly with God do not stand comfortably isolated from each other, but rather are interrelated parts of one whole. And so, the final section of our motto follows and completes the previous two.

By being Jesus through our actions, we allow God to do what God wants with us. There is now no need to protect an image of self. No need to fight for things that are not real. No need to make a lot of noise or tell people how good we are. We can be our true selves. It is God’s path we now walk and God’s work we do and that’s all that matters.

*Have a great week everyone.*

Glenda

Thank you for your feedback on last week’s newsletter.

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**Father’s Day Stall**

A Father’s day Stall will be held outside the Uniform Shop from 8a.m. until bell time from Monday, 29 Aug.—Friday, 2 Sept. Prices range from $2—$7

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**P & F Meeting**

September 13 @ 6.15pm
Cultural Evening Success

What a diverse range of performances entertained us last Thursday evening and isn’t it wonderful to know that over two hundred of our students choose to learn these skills in their own time? From belly dancing to plate dancing to African drumming to Indigenous dancing to Angklung Orchestra to Italian theatre, students of all ages showed us what their enthusiasm and commitment achieves. Congratulations to all students who took part so confidently!

Of course, it takes the time, talent, enthusiasm and commitment of staff to provide such opportunities for our students and help to bring out their best. So, a big thank you to Peta Neill for juggling so many troupes over a number of years now – a superb job Peta – and congratulations on such a successful evening. Sincere thanks also go to Carmel Barbagallo, our teacher of Italian in Years 6 and 7, for producing a very entertaining play and congratulations to the Year 7 students who demonstrated how well they are applying their skills in Italian. Carmel, you do wonderful work with our older students!

So many staff members also assisted on the night, so to each and every one of you – thank you for your generosity and helpfulness. Your willingness to help speaks louder than words. And, finally, a big thank you to all the parents and other friends and family who attended. You were a very appreciative audience – and not bad dancers either! (See photo below)

Uniform shop is running a special on socks. We would like to hand some savings down to you. SPECIAL ON SOCKS: 2 pair for $5. Stock up now and save. Keep smiling! Leanne Dowe

Dear Parents/Caregivers, This week marking National Migrant and Refugee Week with the theme of One Human Family is the focus of the following papal message written for this 97th World Day of Migrants and Refugees:

This week enables the whole Church an opportunity to reflect on a theme linked to the growing phenomenon of migration, to pray that hearts may open to Christian welcome and to the effort to increase in the world justice and charity, pillars on which to build an authentic and lasting peace. “As I have loved you, so you also should love one another” (Jn 13:34), is the invitation that the Lord forcefully addresses to us and renews us constantly: if the Father calls us to be beloved children in his dearly beloved Son, he also calls us to recognize each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. This profound link between all human beings is the origin of the theme chosen for our reflection this year: “One human family”, one family of brothers and sisters in societies that are becoming ever more multiethnic and intercultural, where also people of various religions are urged to take part in dialogue, so that a serene and fruitful coexistence with respect for legitimate differences may be found. The Second Vatican Council affirms that “All peoples are one community and have one origin, because God caused the whole human race to dwell on the face of the earth” (cf. Acts 17:26).

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office published the following Media Release on the Malaysian Solution (Fr Maurizio Pettena CS 25/5/11):

‘Of fundamental importance in any policy dealing with forced migration is the dignity of human life. Through a commitment to respect and build up people from all nations, the global phenomenon of migration, voluntary or compelled, can be successfully managed and beneficial. It remains essential for Australia to hear asylum seekers when they knock at our door. The Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office acknowledge the purpose of the Australian government’s negotiations with Malaysia is to address people smuggling. The journey of a refugee places them in precarious situations and it is important for nations to pursue the safety and protection of forced migrants. This concern for their welfare must not stop at our border. It also acknowledges the policy of sending the next 800 boat arrivals to Malaysia might be a deterrent for further boat arrivals. However, it cannot condone this policy; as essentially swapping human life goes against the moral teaching of the Church. ACMRO has grave concerns for the welfare of the potential 800 candidates that may be sent to Malaysia due to the already heavy burden that Malaysia carries. While Malaysia appears willing to uphold the key aspect of the Refugee Convention to not return asylum seekers to the origin of danger; this alone does not afford asylum seekers the opportunity of a sustainable life.

The burden of irregular migration flows is one which needs to be shared more equally between countries based on their capacity to care for asylum seekers. Australia has one of the most successful resettlement programs in the world and it is appropriate that the number of refugees under this program be increased. Australia is better placed than other countries in the region to resettle refugees due to the economic success underpinning our Nation. The negotiations between Australia and Malaysia represent a bilateral agreement and a step towards a regional framework for managing and protecting forced migrants. Any regional framework is likely to include countries that are not signatory to the Refugee Convention. What is not negotiable, is the welfare, dignity and respect of migrants both forced and voluntary. It is important to remember that people smuggling is merely a symptom of the underlying problem of war, poverty and inequality in the world. This underlying problem does not disappear by decreasing boat arrivals to Australia. The people smuggler business model is diminished by increasing Australia’s humanitarian intake. By providing desperate people with a valid pathway into Australia they do not need to risk their lives on a boat. Irregular flows of forced migrants do not continue indefinitely; but how we respond as a nation will be remembered.’

God bless, Judith

Thank you to: Sasha Pace, Tiarna Christie, Alec Franklin, Brandon Roberts, Lachlan Kuipers, Lily Harkin, Erin Mahon, Alana Pace and Leylan Robinson, Lucy Verrall.

SCHOOL FEES ARE NOW OVER DUE
MUSIC NOTES

Music Eisteddfod Results – Well done to all who have competed in this year’s 44th Sunshine Coast Junior Eisteddfod. There was a high calibre of performers whose enthusiasm was wonderful to see.

Olivia Lanskey 7H/F - 3rd place in 12yr string solo on cello in a large section of talented violinists.

Genevieve Langford – 4/5L— 3rd place in 10yr Musical Theatre.

Laura Magao 4/5L– 2nd place in 10yr set piece, 3rd place in Sacred Gospel, 3rd place in Australian Composer, 3rd place in Musical Theatre. Congratulations also to Laura’s sister, Jane, a Stella student until 2008, who has had a big year of performances including one recently with the Queensland Catholic Schools and Colleges Music Festival.

Ensemble Performance Evening

Date Claimer - Thursday 27 October (Term 4, Week 4) here in the School Hall.

Book Week in Music — P – 5 will listen, move, sing, respond to and perform activities to a piece with the Book Week theme “One World, Many Stories” by Adelaide composer & talented music teacher.

Guitar assessments - Yr 6 (the Blues & “Drunken Sailor” folksong) & 7 (their Yr 7 song in compound time and a minor key) have been brushing up their guitar skills and developing their confidence singing along.

Choirs – SM Singers & Stella Fellas - all rehearsals resume this week in preparation for next performances. We need everyone at all rehearsals. Thanks for your wonderful support.

Music Count Us In – www.musiccountusin.org.au “We’ve Got the

Author/Illustrator Peter Carnavas will be at Stella Maris next week Wed—Fri, working with Grades 1—7. His books are available to purchase from Library Staff.

Book Week Dress-Up Parade is on the last day of term, Friday 16th August from 9—10am in the Hall. All library books are due back before the holidays.  There is no borrowing in the last week of term as there will be a 50 cent 2nd hand book sale instead!

Library News

NOTICE OF TRIAL - 2011 Cricket —BOYS 12 year old

DATE: Wednesday 24 August 2011

Venue: Talara Primary College

Time: 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Requirements:

Students are required to bring the following: Water bottle, hat and cricket gear (if they own some). A cricket kit will be available for use.

Criteria for Selection:

Students should have played cricket before at club level.

Students should display good skills in one or more of the following areas

- Throwing and catching
- Batting
- Bowling

Students who are 11yrs old this year may attend if they are showing a good standard in one or more of the skills above.

Convenor: Andrew Smith Meridan State College 54902620

Please Note: Students turning 13 years of age in 2011 are not eligible to attend the Trials.

Principal’s Awards

Talea Bernhagen, Lucy Verrall, Harrison McDonald, Zoe Kapolos, Jackson Conroy, Emily Moro, Nicholas Kelly, Lauren Lucas, Liam Daniel-Lawler, Emily Downes, Arkie Johnson, Bayley Limmatitits, Harriet Cheselden-Culley, Ruby Sheather, Imogen Huslaman-Benson, Kaleb Ingleby, James Thompson, Kobi Thompson, Courtney Brown, James Lawler, Zac Robbie, Travis Manzi, Andy Marques, Chakra Effendi, Danielle Parker, Samantha Pearson, Jacob Peters, Brooke Casey, Jayden Bradley, Jett Moritz, Zahn Sturgess, Kiara Bevan.

Tasting Success

Congratulations to both the AFL Girls “Carol Berry Cup Squad” and Boys AFL “Suns Cup Squad “ who travelled to St Thomas More, Sunshine Beach last Friday, 19 Aug. for the annual “Saints Cup”. The girls played a wonderful team game and were victorious with a devastating 35—2 scoreline. Olivia Lanskey was awarded “Woman of the Match” and with so many great contributors on the day can be proud of her determined and skilled efforts. The boys also put in a valiant effort, but suffering with injury and illness called on a number of the girls to take a place in their game. What a fantastic effort!!! Boys and girls played equally well and showed just how well a mixed team can play! This team was defeated 48-31 in a hard fought match. Congratulations to Jai Larkin who was player of the match for Stella Maris, again displaying his consistency and effort.. Well done to all!!
Cyber rules for safe and fun internet use

Think before you post information online—once posted it’s difficult to remove.

- Ask your parent/carer before you give anyone on the internet your name, address or any personal details.
- Be careful who you trust online.
- Making new friends can be fun, but there’s a chance that they may not be who they say they are.
- Always keep your password a secret.
- Set your profile to ‘private’ so your personal information is kept secret.
- If someone is nasty, offensive or makes you uncomfortable in a chat room, don’t respond and leave straight away.
- Don’t open messages from people that you don’t know. These could be nasty, contain viruses or be trying to sell you something.
- Tell your parents if you are upset by language, pictures or anything scary on the internet.
- Don’t accept any offers that seem too good to be true—they probably are.

For more information about the cyber rules go to www.cybersmart.gov.au

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