Dear Parents and Caregivers

The following prayer was found in Ravensbruck Concentration Camp at the end of World War Two:

O Lord, remember not only the men and women of good will, but also those of ill will.
But do not remember all the suffering they have inflicted on us;
Remember the fruits we have bought, thanks to this suffering - our comradeship, our loyalty, our humility, our courage, our generosity, the greatness of heart which has grown out of all this –
And when they come to judgement, let all the fruit which we have borne, be their forgiveness.

It’s remarkable to think that someone who suffered such unspeakable horror could write such a thing, when we know how easy it is to bear grudges for what are, in comparison, the most minor offences. Perhaps the reason for this attitude lies in living a life of mature faith – a faith that requires an inner journey that searches for and finds meaning in life, even in the suffering – especially in the suffering.

In this writer’s case, his deepest and most profound self was awakened through full acceptance of the reality of his situation. This is the challenge we all face. Father Richard Rohr puts it this way, ‘The mystery is to be ready to receive things just as they are and be ready to let them teach us.’ He goes on to write, ‘Life does not care what I like or don’t like. If we stay in the world of preference and choice, we keep ourselves as the reference point. As if it matters what colour I like. It changes from moment to moment. No wonder people have identity crises. No wonder people have a fragile self-image; they have nothing solid to build on beyond changing opinions and feelings. If formerly we said, “I think, therefore I am,” now it might be, “I choose, therefore I am.” That’s not a solid foundation to build on. The real question is, “What does this have to say to me?”

This reflects the mindset of the writer of the opening prayer. It does not matter to her that she dislikes the experience; nor does she rage against the injustice of it. Rather, her situation is simply as it is and as such, she asks, “What does this experience have to teach me? What’s the gift in this for me? Where is God in this suffering?” If one must suffer, then some good must come out of it.

Mature faith or consciousness leads us away from being judgmental, mean-spirited, self-centred or self-righteous and opens us to a compassionate world-view that recognises and appreciates the one-ness of all life; the presence of God in all things. It asks: What can I learn from this? How can I use this experience to strengthen my character? How can I resist the temptation to allow negative emotions to poison my thinking and being? How can I come through this a better person rather than a bitter one?

To model this ‘greatness of heart,’ to teach children to turn hurtful situations into opportunities to develop the virtues of generosity, forgiveness, humility, compassion and courage, is to do God’s work. Does such a stance mean that we allow others to inflict hurt and do nothing about it? No, of course not. We must work to eradicate injustice, to help ourselves and help others. But, in all things, we can live unconsciously – letting our emotions direct and manipulate our thoughts and actions – or we can accept there is something positive to learn through even the greatest suffering.

Contemplating these matters as we head towards Easter is all the more relevant as they also tell the story of Jesus. As we listen again to this story, may we grow in our understanding of Jesus’ acceptance of his journey, a journey borne with dignity and eventual triumph. And may we also gain renewed insight into the meaning and purpose contained in our own journeys, whatever they may be.

It is certainly easier to worship Jesus than it is to meet the challenge of being more like him. May the great love, joy and peace of Christ be yours this Easter.

Geonda

We welcome the students back on Wednesday 27 April.

Pupil-Free Day
Don’t forget this Friday is Pupil-free Day for Term 2. Teachers will be learning more about the new Australian Curriculum.

Assembly this week is replaced by Easter Liturgy.

Raffle Winners
Congratulations to Anthony and Jenny Gilligan who are the lucky winners of the raffle of 5 nights accommodation at an ACCOR hotel of their choosing and $500 gift card. This term’s raffle raised $1840 for mobile classroom technologies. Once again we thank Peter Cole for organising this tremendous prize. We have two further raffles to follow in Terms 2 and 3.
Easter Mass Times
Easter Triduum Ceremony Times 2011
Holy Thursday 21st April 2011
   Mass 7pm Stella Maris
Good Friday 22nd April 2011
   Stations of the Cross
      9.30am Sippy Downs
      9.30am Coolum
   Liturgy of Sacred Passion
      3pm Maroochydore
      3pm Buderim
      3pm Coolum
Holy Saturday 23rd April 2011
   Easter Vigil
      6.00pm Buderim
      6.00pm Coolum
      6.00pm Maroochydore
Easter Sunday 24th April 2011
   Mass
      6.30pm Maroochydore
      7.00am Coolum
      8.00am Maroochydore
      9.00am Buderim
      9.00am Coolum
      9.30am Maroochydore
      5.30pm Sippy Downs
      6.00pm Maroochydore

Inter-house Athletics
The format of the athletics event is changing to run across two part-days, with field events one day and the track events on the second day.

Thursday 5th May
11.30
Prep – Year 2
Bliss & Hunter Oval
Rotational activities – Students will participate in modified running, throwing and relay activities
Year 3 – 7
Field Events – Shot Put, Discus, Long Jump, High Jump and Relays

Friday 6th May
9.00am – 11.30
Prep – Year 7
Maroochydore SHS Oval
Track Events - 800m (10 - 12 Years), Sprints (Prep - 7), 200m (10 - 12 Years)

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

This week, in the lead up to the Easter Holidays, we have lots to think about.

This Thursday, we celebrate the events of Holy Week with a liturgy at 9.00am in the School Hall. Jesus displayed the ultimate love for us when he gave his life on Calvary to He truly laid down his life and he asks us to do the same. But what does that mean? Can we truly lay down our life for others? If so, what does it look like?

We lay down our lives for others when we put their needs before our own. This can happen in a number of ways. First we need to get past any selfishness in our lives and begin to adopt the ‘others’ first attitude that Jesus taught. This Thursday at Assembly during our liturgy for Holy Week, we will have a re-enactment of the washing of the feet to highlight this way of being ‘in love’ with others.

"Whoever wishes to be great," says Jesus, "will be your servant".

True greatness requires us to become small - to put ourselves on the same level as the "little ones" - in order to bring out the potential of the other, especially children. Like a servant, we sacrifice our own comfort and, in the case of Jesus, his own life.

"Greater love has no one than this," says Jesus, "that one lay down his life for his friends."

During the holidays, we celebrate the feast of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday 24th April. What difference is the Resurrection going to make to you in your life? Are you going to have more spring in your step? Kinder words and actions for members of your family? A much wider smile for all those you meet? We have an opportunity to pass on the blessings of the Resurrection to all those we meet simply by being our most loved selves. I hope you take joy in rising to the reality of the Resurrection in your own lives.

The ANZAC Spirit

On Monday 25th April (falls on Easter Monday during the school holidays) we celebrate ANZAC Day as a school and as a community by participating in the Anzac Parade to be held at the Cotton Tree Centenary. We invite students and their families to gather in the car park opposite the Courthouse at 8.00am in Maroochydore in preparation for the march which will commence at 8.30am. Two of our Year 7 Student Leaders will lay a wreath on our behalf at the Centenary. Year 4B/T will also lead an ANZAC Day Liturgy for the students on the first day back, Wednesday April 27th, at 2pm near the amphitheatre. Parents are also welcome.

For the past 96 years, young and old have come together at commemoration services around the country, to remember those brave soldiers who gave their lives so we could live ours. It's a chance for both nations, Australia and New Zealand, to pause and remember all the soldiers that fought and died not only in WW1 but in all wars. On the 25th of April 1915, Australian and New Zealand Army Corp troops landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey during what we call the First World War. More than 8,000 Australian soldiers were killed that morning while fighting for their country. From the bloodshed, pain and sorrow, the ANZAC legend was born that day (Adapted from www.thewhichronicle.com.au). Each and every year we honour the Anzac spirit on 25th April. Lest we forget.

God bless and happy holidays!

Judith.
MUSIC NOTES
Well done to all those involved with providing music for the assembly & Holy Week performances.

Roxenne Larkin-Young Yr 5 proudly announced she was using her fabulous violin and vocal skills to busk at her garage sale. What a great way to share your musical talents!!

Lucy Holzer Yr 3 told me she was performing her choir pieces with a backing track for her grandparents these holidays. Everyone have fun practising and performing on your instruments or singing for a very appreciative audience.

Classroom Music – children have been “getting into” some groovy movement and listening activities using the Orff Schulwerk pedagogy. They have been very creative using the elastic, the cups and the socks.

NO SM SINGERS THIS WEEK DUE TO HOLY WEEK ASSEMBLY SETUP AND REHEARSAL.
Enjoy your well-earned break. New members always welcome.

Instrumental Music News - Well done to all students for your commitment and achievements so far with music / speech lessons and ensembles - it has been a long and busy term! Thanks also to all parents for your ongoing support and encouragement of the arts here at Stella.

This week - No Concert Band rehearsal on Wednesday morning
No lessons on Thursday this week for Miss Worthy’s students. 
(Wednesday lessons are on as usual)

Term 2 begins on Wednesday 27 April and all lessons and ensemble sessions will begin on that day as shown on your lesson timetable. Timetables will be emailed to parents prior to the start of the term – please look out for it! Lesson timetables will also be displayed on the music room noticeboard. Please remember to contact your child’s tutor if they are going to miss a lesson. Lessons will not be re-scheduled if advance notice is not given. Tutor contact details are shown on your timetable and also in the Music Diary.

Instrument Maintenance – although the break is only short, this is an ideal time to have your musical instrument serviced, piano tuned, or to purchase / upgrade. Student discounts are available at Ellaways Music in Kedron. If you need assistance, please contact your tutor or Mr Wynyard. Holidays are also a great time to perform for family and friends.

From all the music staff at Stella Maris, we wish everyone a relaxed break and a reviving Easter. Remember to keep practicing!

Jacinta Lanskey - Music Specialist - jlanskey@bne.catholic.edu.au
Todd Wynyard - Instrumental Music Co-ord - twynyard@bne.catholic.edu.au

Netball Notes
Last week our Year 6 & 7 netballers trialled for Coastal District School Girls Trials- Well done to those girls who got through to round 1
U 11 - Courtney Brown & Lily Scott
U 12 – Tyla Prosser, Jess Ford, Emily Andrew & Olivia Lanskey
And a big congratulations to those who were through round 2: U11 – Shay Travers, Piper Tenquist & Ella Bury
U 12 – Tori McArdle & Sammy Leahy

SCNA Rep Netball - Congrats to Olivia Lanskey & coach, Mrs Cathy Lynch who brought home the trophy for the SCNA Representative Gold team at the netball carnival at Underwood on Sunday where thirty U12 reps teams competed. Good luck to Olivia & Sammi for their coming carnivals this week and in Townsville after Easter.

Catholic Cup - Four year 6 & 7 teams entered for Monday 16th May , Downey Park, Brisbane.

Thank you to:
Rebecca Pearson

Principal's Awards
28 April 2011 Term 2 Week 1
Leylani Robinson, Ethan Barwood, Jordan Michael, Ella Warren, Ella Shuttleworth, Harry McMahon, Yolanda Mirashi, Greer Ruegg, Marko Romero

Jai Larksins and Dominic Chamberlain Year 7 represented Coastal District at the Sunshine Coast Basketball Trials.
They won 3 out the 5 games and Jai was successful in being selected to the Regional Side.

Great effort boys!!!
The following boys from Stella Maris have been selected to represent Coastal Districts at the regional competitions.

Touch: John McLaughlin, Jack Wright, Dominic Chamberlain.
Soccer/Football: Taj Hudson, Bradley Ellis.

Good Luck everyone!!!

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Thank you to:
Rebecca Pearson
The lettuces and herbs in the garden have taken off and they are ready for harvest! We will be holding a market stall outside the tuckshop this Wednesday 13th April starting from 8:00AM for any parents, teachers and students that would like to purchase produce from the garden. All money earned will be put towards more seedlings so that we can start a second round of beautiful veggies! All produce $1.50 – $ 2.50!