Dear Parents and Caregivers

From time to time over the past two or three years, I’ve spoken and written about the research findings of Professor John Hattie and their subsequent application to improvement of student learning outcomes. The approach that has developed as a result, has been termed ‘visible learning’ because its key thrust is to make the learning process visible to students.

Basically Hattie’s research showed that the strategies and approaches that have the greatest positive impact on student learning improvement and achievement are those that support and promote student understanding of the learning process—to the extent that they are able to explain the purpose of the particular study, their level of capability at present, the goal for which they are striving and the next step they need to take to move them closer to achievement of the goal. Strategies such as goal setting and holding high expectations, student self-reporting on achievement, the provision of formative assessment and feedback, teacher clarity, the teaching of cognitive strategies and study skills, concept mapping, phonics instruction and reciprocal teaching are examples of strategies and approaches that bring students into their own learning as active, knowledgeable and responsible participants rather than passive recipients of content.

With that brief reminder, then, I want to bring you up-to-date with what’s happening in terms of the implementation of a visible learning approach at Stella Maris. The following are some of the areas of school consolidation, concentration or implementation and should be evident in all classrooms:

- **Learning Intention(s)** (what learning is expected—stated explicitly) and also the **Success Criteria** for the lesson (explicitly, what students will know, do and understand when the learning intention is met) are provided for students for all English and Mathematics lessons (at least) and in all specialist lessons.

- **Student goal setting and reflection** are incorporated into study. Sometimes this may be for a particular lesson and/or unit of study and/or more generally, for a period of time ahead (eg a week or term). Students will learn about setting SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Ambitious, Realistic and Timely).

- **Student Learning Journals**, completed daily are introduced into Years 1 - 7 this week. Students are encouraged to share their Learning Journal entries with parents/careers should you be at school. This Learning Journal can be used flexibly with all three sections completed daily or with one or two areas of focus only, on any given day. The three sections, for student consideration, are:
  - Setting of a learning goal, followed by reflection upon the level of achievement of the goal; and/or
  - Learning achieved that day or that lesson; and/or
  - What improvements need to be made or what follow-up needs to take place.

- All teachers have begun training in the **GROWTH coaching model** in order to provide support for each other and students. Professional learning in observation and provision of feedback, a key component in developing self-efficacy and improving student learning outcomes, will follow.

- The Visible Learning Team has developed the first of many proformas for use during classroom walkthroughs. Basically, a walkthrough is designed to provide the teacher with feedback on his or her students during a targeted lesson. A colleague, support or administration team member spends 15-20 mins observing and/or talking briefly and individually with students during a lesson, focussing on one identified area; for example, the level of understanding students have of the purpose of the lesson and how they will know if they’ve been successful. The proforma is completed and the feedback provided to the class teacher for his or her consideration.

- **Data collection and analysis** to determine effectiveness of our practice and areas for focus – at school, cohort, group and individual levels. This includes comparing pre- and post-testing or successive tests to measure the effect size achieved. Effect size tells us the level of improvement achieved by students across a period of time (usually a year but could be months). Results of data collection and analysis are also used to direct aspects of our school renewal planning.

- **Three-Way Conferencing** in which the student participates, and increasingly leads the discussion on the semester’s learning, making use of their folio, work samples, Learning Journal, test results and Summary of Achievement Report to share where they are at presently, where they need to be/want to be (their goal) and what is the next step in the process. Compulsory conferences take place this semester, for all classes during the last two weeks of this term. This year we will also be inviting you to give us your feedback on the conference process.

- **Self-Reported Grades** – This semester, all Year 4-7 students will also reflect on their Work and Social Habits to date, using the same proforma that teachers use for their assessment. Students will also write a General Comment about their academic progress during the semester as well as their work and social habits. These will support the conferencing process.

Other aspects of Visible Learning are being implemented as well, of course, but those listed above should be obvious to you, over time, and so I mention them specifically here, so you can be on the lookout. We would appreciate your feedback at any time.

Have a great week everyone.

Glenda

23 April 2013
Upcoming event at Maroochydore Library

Year 5, 6 & 7 students come along to Tools for Schools - Online resources to aid with homework. We'll show you all the online resources Sunshine Coast Libraries have that can help you out with even the toughest assignments.

Wed 24th April 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm Maroochydore Library
Free - bookings essential.

From the Library desk

**BOOK CLUB**

*ALL BOOKCLUB ORDERS ARE DUE BY FRIDAY, 26TH APRIL. PLEASE ENSURE CHILD’S NAME & CLASS IS ON FORM.*

**Prep Enrolments 2014 - Last Call** - With the enrolment of new families now underway for next year’s Prep intake, we make a last call for existing families with young ones starting Prep next year to get applications in urgently. Please do not delay as demand for places is very heavy.

**Flying Fox Update** - I should have further news to share shortly given that the Regional Flying-Fox Management Plan goes to Council for approval this week. The multi-stage plan involves measures to encourage the flying fox population to move on. Once endorsed, the plan will proceed to State Government Department of Environment and Heritage for approval, then back to Council for implementation. Once again, I thank you all for the understanding, patience and trust you have shown over the past couple of years, often in the face of very emotive arguments out there. I also thank our students who have been very responsible and sensible. In fact, the way everyone in this community has handled this matter has been a real inspiration to me – thank you.

**Lest We Forget**

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Anzac Day is a national public holiday and is considered by many Australians to be one of the most solemn days of the year. Marches held in cities and towns nationwide by veterans from all past wars, as well as current serving members of the Australian Defense Force and Reserves, with allied veterans and the Australian Defense Force Cadets and Australian Air League supported by members of Scouts Australia, Guides Australia, and other uniformed service groups as well as schools and community groups. Anzac Day marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War. The acronym ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, whose soldiers were known as Anzacs. Anzac Day remains one of the most important national occasions of both Australia and New Zealand, a rare instance of two sovereign countries not only sharing the same Remembrance Day, but making reference to both countries in its name.

**ANZAC DAY PARADE:** The Maroochydore branch of the RSL have again invited Stella Maris School community to participate in the ANZAC Day parade to be held on this Thursday, 25th of April, a public holiday. We have a proud tradition of attending this event on behalf of the Stella Maris Parish Community and as usual, I encourage all parents, students and staff to join us. The timetable below is provided for your information:

- 8:00am – Parade assembles outside the Maroochydore RSL, Memorial Avenue. Look for the Stella Maris banner!
- 8:30am – March proceeds to the Cenotaph, on The Esplanade at Cotton Tree
- 9:00am (approx.) - Main Service / Wreath Laying commences

Students are required to wear full formal school uniform and will meet in the car park opposite the Court House at 8:00am sharp, where they will join school staff and other members of the Stella Maris School community. Members of the Public are also invited to lay a Tribute. I hope you can join us.

**STELLA MARIS CARE PANTRY:** Volunteers who are able to provide meals for the Stella Maris Care Pantry are invited to collect empty containers, labels, etc from the kitchen outside the entrance to the hall from 8.15am to 8.45am this Friday 26th April and again next Monday 29th, Wednesday 1st May, and Friday 3rd May. Meals can be returned at these same times or during the following week on Monday 6th, Wednesday 8th and Friday 10th May. We also require assistance to operate the Pantry on these days so if you are able to help, would you please phone the coordinator, Sylvia Kelm, on 0467050928 to put your name on the roster. Thank you in advance for your wonderful support!

God bless you all. 

Judith.

**Congratulations to Joshua Fuller and Carter Michael on being selected in the Sunshine Coast Regional AFL team to contest the State Carnival.**

Good Luck Boys!
“Silence is the fabric upon which the notes are woven.”

- Lawrence Duncan

TIP OF THE WEEK - Get into a routine with home practice. Start with a good warm-up, move onto difficult sections of new lesson or ensemble material and end with a piece you are good at playing and that you enjoy. You should improve through playing at home each week!!

TEN FACTS ABOUT SCHOOL MUSIC - Continuing from last term, the following is the sixth fact about music education.

7. Australian parents want their kids to learn music at school

Household surveys by the Australian Music Association show that nearly 90% of respondents believe music education should be mandatory in Australian schools. More people made submissions to the National Review of School Music Education than to any other Commonwealth Government enquiry.

DATE CLAIMERS

STELLA SOIREE WEEK will be held in week 7 this term on Monday 27, Tuesday 28 and Thursday 30 May in the Hall. All enrolled students will have an opportunity to perform and each day will have two performance sessions – 5pm to 6pm and 6.30pm to 7.30pm. Tutors will advise students of their performance day and time in coming weeks.

Other dates for this term are:

- Friday 17 May – Sunshine Coast Honours Music Program at Stella Maris (selected Concert Band students)
- Thursday 23 May – Assembly Performance by Concert Band and Stella Fellas
- Sunday 2 June - MUSICFEST at Sunshine Plaza (Concert Band and SM Singers)

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NEWS - Term 2 lesson timetables for Instrumental; Singing and Speech / Drama lessons have been emailed to all enrolled families. Please ensure your child has a copy of their timetable. If you didn’t receive the email, it means we do not have an updated email address for you. Please let us know via email to StellaMarismusic@bne.catholic.edu.au.

Siena Catholic College Musical – SEUSSICAL will be held at Nambour Civic Centre on Friday 10 and Saturday 11 May from 7.30pm. This show is based on the writings of popular children’s author Dr. Seuss and promises to be a fanastic show. Tickets are $20 for adults and $10 for children and can be purchased online at http://www.scvenuesandevents.com.au/nambour-civic-centre or by calling 5475 7777.

Remember, if you need to contact your child’s tutor, details are shown on the top left corner of the lesson timetable. If you didn’t receive the email, it means we do not have an updated email address for you. Please let us know via email to StellaMarismusic@bne.catholic.edu.au.

Inez Durrer        Todd Wynyard
Classroom Music Specialist     Instrumental Music Coordinator
jdurrer@bne.catholic.edu.au   twynyard@bne.catholic.edu.au

TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS ROSTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>April 25</td>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>April 29</td>
<td>April 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AM</td>
<td>M Austin</td>
<td>L Abrahams</td>
<td>D Faux</td>
<td>D Faux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PM</td>
<td>M Austin</td>
<td>N Hughes</td>
<td>B Johansen</td>
<td>D Faux</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New Menu Prices Apply

Thank you to Emily Ryan for being so honest.

SPORT NEWS

June 18 Year 6’s to visit Siena
June 21 Last Day Term 2
July 8 1st Day Term 3

STELLA MARIS CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL 2013
Friday 26th of April week 2 of term 2

APPROX. Times of races:
9.00am - 11 & 12 Yrs Boys & Girls start – District Trial
9.15am - 10 Yrs Boys & Girls start – District Trial
9.25am - Yr 7 Boys & Girls start.
9.35am - Yr 6 Boys & Girls start.
9.45am - Yr 5 Boys & Girls start.
9.50am - Yr 4 Boys start.
9.55am - Yr 4 Girls start.
10.00am - Yr 3 Boys start.
10.05am - Yr 3 Girls start.
10.10am - Yr 2 Boys start.
10.15am - Yr 2 Girls start.
10.20am - Yr 1 Boys start.
10.25am - Yr 1 Girls start.
10.30am - Prep Boys start.
10.35am - Prep Girls start.

Note: The course will be outlined with markers to indicate the path for students to run between and for you to stand alongside and cheer.

Regards,
Mr Jones - PE Teacher

Stella Maris Playgroup

Join us for a morning of play! Everyone welcome!
When:     Wednesdays 9.30am - 11.30am
Cost:     $2.00 per family
Where:    Stella Maris Church, Baden Powel Rd
What:     Lots of Toys, Space to play in any weather, Craft, Activities, Outings, Song time, Morning Tea.

Email Ayesha Dellit on cupcakethefairy@bigpond.com to receive your term calendar.
Find us on Facebook
CONCERT UPDATE
THURSDAY MAY 2  6.30PM  SCHOOL HALL

in aid of flood affected St. Joseph’s School in Gayndah

THE COUNTDOWN IS ON!!

ONLY 9 SLEEPS TO GO UNTIL THE AMAZING STARS ON STAFF CONCERT!!
DON’T MISS OUT!

Tickets can be purchased through the order forms that went home in last week’s newsletter.
(Order forms are still available from the office if you missed out)
All order forms should be returned to the office promptly. Tickets are selling fast.
For catering purposes please don’t forget to indicate how many adults and children will be requiring food on the night.

All tickets will be sent home next week.

FABULOUS RAFFLE PRIZES including party Hampers, Family Movie Passes, Allez Sports voucher and more!

RAFFLE TICKETS GO ON SALE NEXT WEEK BEFORE SCHOOL IN FRONT OF THE PICKUP ZONE.

The STARS ON STAFF are ready to entertain you with a variety of unique acts:- Sue Bond – Jazz Queen, Staff Choir, Bellydancers, African Drummers, The All Male Choir, Staff Jug Band, The Fabulous Five Quintet, Musical Theatre and more.

WHAT A TALENTED STAFF!!
The Full program will be displayed in the next few days around the school.

Peta Neill, Todd Wynyard, Inez Durrer

Thank you to our sponsors: