Dear Parents and Caregivers

Most of us will remember something of the story surrounding the collapse of a section of the Beaconsfield Gold Mine in Tasmania on Anzac Day, 2006. You will remember that Todd Russell, Brant Webb and Larry Knight were trapped almost a kilometre underground. Larry was killed operating a forklift but Todd and Brant fortuitously were working out of a metal basket when the mini-quake hit.

For two weeks, the world watched, prayed and waited, as, firstly, the dangerous task of reaching the proximity of the collapse was undertaken. Rescuers then found Larry Knight’s body and began the painstaking task of digging a 36 metre-long rescue tunnel through stable rock to guard the safety of the remaining two miners, should they prove to be alive.

After an agonising five days, underground mine manager, Pat Bell and Steve Saltmarsh, the underground foreman, got within four metres of the cage and called out for signs of life and two distinct voices responded to them through the rock face. Of course, finding the men alive was one thing, rescuing them and getting them safely to the surface was another matter, with no guarantees of a happy ending. In fact, it took a further nine days before the men stepped triumphantly out of the shaft cage and into the attentions of the media who had assembled from all over the world.

We can only imagine the emotional rollercoaster ridden by the men’s families, friends and work-mates during the fluctuations of the search and rescue effort. What incredible faith, commitment and courage it took to persist in first reaching the men and then finding a means to bring them up. At one stage, when the rescue effort was not going well, Pat Bell gave a pep talk to those assembled in the operations room. He said, “Listen, there have already been four miracles here. The first that they were in the cage when the rock fall occurred; the second that the cage held; the third that the hanging rock wall held and it was a fourth miracle that Salty and I just happened to go into 925 (the shaft) when we did and call to them and hear them respond. We’re going to get them out!” Failure to rescue the men was clearly not an option.

I believe the following to be true: what we believe is often what we get. When it comes to achieving something of great difficulty, especially, there is little hope without a belief in its possibility. It takes committed people to make things happen. In the Beaconsfield instance, the rescuers acted in the belief that the men were alive and when this proved to be the case, they maintained belief that they would return them safely to their families. Belief, passion, commitment, persistence and skill made the impossible ‘possible’. This proves to be true, time and time again, in all imaginable circumstances. Indeed ‘miracles’ are often possible.

I write this because the same holds true of education. Teachers who hold the unshakeable belief that every single child in his or her class can, and will, succeed in his or her learning and who believe it is their job to make it happen, make the seemingly impossible, possible. Sometimes success comes more quickly and easily. Sometimes it comes slowly and painstakingly. Either way, failure to learn is not seen as an option - and a teacher’s commitment, conviction and persistence provide the keys to success. No-one gives up – not the student, not the parents, not the wider school community and certainly not the teacher.

Unwavering belief in oneself as an agent of positive change, unwavering belief in one’s students as capable learners and unwavering belief in the availability of communal support as needed, combined with fierce commitment and determination, go a long way to the making of a great teacher whose students achieve success. Such an effort is only made possible in the presence of deep care and respect for each student and in the harnessing of the group as a powerful learning unit.

Do you see this sort of commitment at Stella Maris? I would appreciate your feedback.

Have a great week everyone. Glenda

Prep Enrolment 2015 - Parents, as an existing family at Stella Maris, you do not require an interview for your subsequent children entering prep unless there are medical or other special needs about which we must be fully informed in order to better support the child – in which case it is vital that these meetings take place. Of course you are also able to request an interview for any other reason (eg readiness concerns) – or no reason at all! Appointment times are now available by ringing Julianne on 5409 8900.
Dear Parents/ Caregivers,

Today is my birthday and as I do every morning, I reflect on the reading of the day from a little book called “Jesus Calling” by Sarah Young. Today of all days the reading made a big impact on me as it drew together many ideas and experiences which are important to me and have given me a direction in life that I treasure, so I include it here for your contemplation – perhaps it may speak to you as well.

April 29:
“LET ME TEACH YOU THANKFULNESS. Begin by acknowledging that everything – all your possessions and all that you are – belongs to Me. The dawning of each new day is a gift from Me, not to be taken for granted. The earth is vibrantly alive with My blessings, giving vivid testimony to My Presence. If you slow down your pace of life, you can find me anywhere.

Some of My most precious children have been laid aside in sickbeds or shut away in prisons. Others have voluntarily learned the discipline of spending time alone with Me. The secret of being thankful is learning to see everything from My perspective. My world is your classroom. My Word is a lamp to your feet and a light to your path.”

The first thing that hit me when I read it is that I am very thankful that I am alive. As I reach an age when I could retire but I choose not to, I still really enjoy my job and it keeps me active and healthy. Combined with my love of children, it also gives me both the opportunity and reason to engage with children of all ages. I have four grandchildren, two of whom are now teenagers, as well as my precious twin granddaughters who will be turning four in October this year. Each one of them has brought a special joy to my life that is hard to describe. While I see them regularly, the daily presence of the children in my life here at school gives me such a joy for living that I am most grateful. As I reach an age when I could retire but I choose not to, I still really enjoy my job and it keeps me active and healthy. Combined with my love of children, it also gives me both the opportunity and reason to engage with children of all ages. I have four grandchildren, two of whom are now teenagers, as well as my precious twin granddaughters who will be turning four in October this year. Each one of them has brought a special joy to my life that is hard to describe. While I see them regularly, the daily presence of the children in my life here at school gives me such a joy for living that I am most grateful.

“Let Me Teach You Thankfulness” tells me that the joy I have in working with the children can be extended beyond the school so I don’t have to worry if the need arises for me to retire. I just need to find opportunities to volunteer (anywhere and under any circumstances) to work with children to keep the joy in my life. “My Word is a lamp to your feet and a light for your path” is also very significant for me as the lamp as a symbol of God’s Word is reminiscent of Nano Nagle, the founder of the Order of the Presentation Sisters who not only started the school here at Stella Maris, but also both the primary and secondary schools I attended and the first school that I was appointed to as a teacher – St Edward the Confessor at Daisy Hill. The lamp symbolises for me the love and joy that has been given to me through faith and through experiences of God in my life as I walk its path.

It seems the synergy of this reading today is speaking loud and clear to me that I have been very blest indeed in body, mind and spirit and I am very grateful. I hope it speaks to you too.

May I also take this opportunity to congratulate all the children who made their first Reconciliation last night and keep in our prayers those who are preparing for Reconciliation later in the week—it is a very special time for you too!

God bless,

Judith

ATTENTION YEAR 5, 6 & 7 PARENTS
The start time for each of the Personal Development Programs is 6:30pm.
Please return your tear-off slip to your class teacher ASAP.

School fees are now due.
Thank you.

RAINBOWS PROGRAM
We are very pleased to again offer the Rainbows Program at Stella Maris. Rainbows offers children from families who have experienced a loss through the separation/divorce of parents, the death of a sibling/ close family member, a parent who works away from home for extended periods of time or any traumatic experience that you feel has affected your child.

It has been found when something significant happens in a family, the entire family is affected. If a parent dies or divorce occurs, not only does the parents grieve, the children do also. Because of their age and short life experience, children find it difficult to verbalise their feelings. Sessions are held after school by trained facilitators working with each group. Letters will go home to all families shortly. If you would like your child to be included in the program please ask your class teacher for a form or the front office. Any questions please contact Donita Sullivan Rainbows Registered Director c/o Stella Maris school.

Anzac Day Thank You - Thank you to the many students, parents and staff members who supported the Anzac Day march and ceremony last Friday. As always, there was an impressive turnout and the behaviour of students, from beginning to end, was exemplary.
P&F Movie Night Apologies - I hope you all enjoy the movie this Friday evening; it’s always a well-organised and enjoyable event on the P&F calendar. This year I must put in my apologies as I am off to Brisbane after school Friday to attend the Guardian Angels, Wynnum centenary celebrations for the weekend. You may remember that both Judith and I came to Stella Maris from Guardian Angels’ whereas I was principal for eight years and Judith APRE for six. Enjoy the movie everyone and thank you to the P&F.

Curriculum Newsletters - All year levels’ newsletters will be sent home by the end of this week.

Flying Fox Update - Parents, contrary to Councillor Jason O’Pray’s recent comments in the Sunshine Coast Daily, the Archbishop has provided permission for Council to enter Stella Maris to carry out undergrowth clearing. The fact remains that, as far as we are aware, Council is yet to gain the required Government approvals to undertake non-lethal dispersion of flying foxes on the Stella Maris site. It is also important to note that BCE staff (myself included) continues to work in co-operation with Council administrative and environmental staff in this matter.

Email Contact Information - A Flyer has been sent home with this Newsletter regarding Email Contact Information. To ensure the accuracy of our data base and ensure a smooth transition ALL FAMILIES must complete the section below and return it to the office by Friday 9 May.

P&F News
Stella Chick Flick
Friday night 2nd May 2014
$20.00
Tickets still available until Wednesday at the front of the school or through the order form.
Always a great fun night.
**MUSIC NOTES**

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**
“Music is all around us. You just have to listen.”
- from ‘August Rush’, the movie –

**TIP OF THE WEEK**
Try to sing the music you have to play at home. This will help you think about what the music needs to sound like and not just what fingers to move or press down!!

**ANZAC DAY**
Thank you to Mrs Durrer and our vocal ensemble for singing at this special service last week and to Luke Abrahams (Year 5) and Mr Wynyard for playing the Last Post and Reveille.

**MUSICAL NEWS**
Well, rehearsals are now well and truly underway. All parents/care givers should have received an email this weekend with a rehearsal schedule for this week, a list of cast assignments, as well as many details regarding our preparations for the musical. If you did not receive this email, we either do not have your email address or it is incorrect. Please send Mrs Durrer a brief email stating you did not receive the information and we will add/change your address to the musical database. This will be important during the year, as there will be regular emails keeping parents and students up to date.

There will be an open meeting this evening at 6:30pm in the staff room for those interested in assisting with the many tasks required for our musical. If you cannot attend this meeting but are willing to assist in a specific area, please let either of us know.

**CLASSROOM NEWS**
We are off to yet another busy term with many exciting things planned across all year levels. The next few weeks will also be a time for students to complete both written and performance assessments in class. As I have mentioned in all classes, the most important thing for all students is that they try their best. If we fail to put forth our best effort, we may never reap the benefits of what we may truly be capable of achieving.

**INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NEWS**
Term 2 lesson timetables for Instrumental, Singing and Speech / Drama lessons have been emailed to all enrolled families and lessons commenced last week. Please ensure your child has a copy of their timetable. If you didn't receive the email please contact us at StellaMarisMusic@bne.catholic.edu.au to update your details.

**MUSIC AWARDS**
Term 1
May 1 2014
Brooke Lyndon, Breony Ansell, Sienna Coghlan, Audrey Cambridge, Valentino Grosso, Lotus Delaforce, Kunica Lamb, Holly Grattidge, Amber Fellows, Jordan Perkins, Bailey Eva, Kayla Thiele, Brooke O'hanan, Matthew Paul, Katrina Penman, Harry Fischer, Hugo Furniss, Teddy Huby, Emily Ryan, Georgie Smith, Sarah Baillie, Liam Flynn, Laura Covey, Alec Franklin, Lily Harkin

**Mother’s Day Stall**
Monday 5 May–Friday 9 May 2014
8.00am-8.40am each morning outside the Uniform Shop
Purchase a special gift for your Mum, Grandmother or special Aunt. Plenty of gifts and lots of variety this year.
Prices range from $2.00 up to $7.00 per item.
Get in early so Mum, Grandma or Aunty won’t be disappointed.

**Ingredients Roster**

**Chocolate Muffin Mix Please**

**UNIFORM SHOP**

**Uniform Shop Hours - This week only**
Wednesday 8.45am to 3.15pm
Thursday 8.00am to 11.30am
Just What Does a Guidance Counsellor Do?

“It will be a great day when education gets 25 billion dollars and the air force has to run a cake stall!”

We have a wonderful school and a great many opportunities are available to our children. I thought this week I’d give you a bit of a run down on how I approach working with students who are referred to me. First, I want to know about any background information already on hand so I’ll look at Support Team notes and school data. I want to know from parents what strengths their child has and what concerns there might be around school. I might ask questions about birth and development as well as hopes for the future. I’m keen to be aware of the involvement of any other health professional as it’s important to communicate as a group. Then I’ll ask your permission to see your child. Although I can work in a classroom I am not able to work with your child without your consent. Sometimes a student is old enough to ask to see a counsellor themselves. This is called self-referral. Self-referral is more common in the older grades and in High School.

I’ll then meet with your child and use the first couple of sessions to build rapport between us before launching into any formal assessment if that is indicated. Most school based counselling is Solution Focused and centred on some adaptation of Cognitive Behaviour Therapy. Occasionally I will have a specific program in mind such as Fun Friends, Friends for Growing, Secret Agent Society, Coping Cat to name a few in my Library.

Sometimes I’ll meet with a parent only and we’ll talk about strategies without me seeing the student. Other times there might be a request for formal assessment from a Paediatrician, follow up with an outside agency or consulting with a class teacher or whole grade team.

Just a sample of what a Guidance Counsellor does, what I do. I’ve been at Stella now for 13years; everyday is different, every student is an individual with his/her own personality and strengths. Watching them grow and develop is a privilege so I do my “bit” to help them be the best that they can be. Let me know if I can help your child.

Christine Craig - Guidance Counsellor/ Psychologist
email: ccrraig@bne.catholic.edu.au