Dear Parents and Caregivers

Last Wednesday, a four-person panel spent the day at Stella Maris undertaking our five-year External Review. Basically, External Review forms part of the School Renewal Process which focusses on school improvement and also aligns with accountability and compliance reporting requirements to government. I guess you could say that it supersedes the old ‘school inspection’ if you are old enough to remember such a thing.

You may remember, however, that last year we finalised our 2008-2012 Strategic Renewal Plan and consulted on the development of our new plan which began implementation this year. In Term 1 you received a copy of the 2013 Action Plan and in Term 4 you will receive the Achievements document outlining what has been accomplished this year. These documents support our accountability to you as parents.

Each Catholic school’s Strategic Renewal Plan takes into account local priorities as well as the Strategic Intents across the 4 Priority Areas of the Brisbane Catholic Education Strategic Renewal Framework. These Priority Areas are: 1. Mission and Religious Education; 2. Learning and Teaching; 3. Professional Practice and Collaborative Relationships; and 4. Strategic Resourcing. They consist of 20 components which are systematically reviewed over a five year period by each school community. These yearly internal reviews continue to inform the School Renewal Plan and then somewhere in the five year cycle, the External Review takes place.

Prior to the panel visit, however, school personnel are responsible for producing a substantial report, with all supporting documentation, reflecting upon the effectiveness of school renewal processes, achievements and future plans. We also undertake a Compliance Audit which satisfies government and system requirements and directs planning for improvement in these areas.

So, last Wednesday the panel members spent the day talking with a number of groups: Administration Team members, Father Joe, APRE, Support Team, teachers from a number of Implementation Teams, a group of School Officers, two groups of parents and three of the four Year 7 classes. (Unfortunately, 7A missed out as one of the visitors ran out of time. I think the students were disappointed, but maybe not!) At the end of the day they gave a verbal report to the Administration Team and a written report will follow which I will share with you when this arrives.

Basically, though, panel members were impressed by the preparation and quality of our report and its supporting documentation which, along with the panel’s preparation, set the day up for success. The visitors commented upon the warm and welcoming school environment, the commitment of staff and the articulate insights offered by those who took part in the meetings.

A very sincere thank you, then, to Father Joe, Terry Grogan, Judith Mellifont, Kelly Purssell, Donita Sullivan, Karryn Thiele, Matthew Hannah, Mary Johnson, Jan Marion, Lauren Solomon, Tony Kelleher, Rosanne Hughes, Linda Dow, Lorella Armijo, Lucia Chick, Sylvia Kelm, Steve Austin, Nicole McMin, Lauren England, Allison Brown, Fiona Ellis, Sam Medwin, Linda Osborn, Kim Bidmade, Angela Hudson, Emma Sheather and especially Daphne Baker and Vanessa Portors who joined the Admin Team for the two hour Strategic Conversation in the morning. Thank you to all involved for giving your time and sharing your thoughts and experience at Stella Maris with the panel.

Cross Country - Thank you to Oliver Jones for his organisation of this year’s cross country which, I am told, was a great success and what a beautiful day it was for a run! Thank you to everyone who set-up and helped out in any way. I certainly missed being at the finish line – especially not seeing the preps! My day at Leading Learning was not nearly as enjoyable but I did learn a lot.

Anzac Day March - What a great turn-out for this year’s march - from parents, students and staff. Thank you for what many of us believe to be our largest attendance to date. Students were perfectly behaved and it was a real pleasure to be there with them. I thought the many preps, and older students alike, did especially well given they could see none of the proceedings and were seated on the ground in the sun. Thank you to Michaela Cook, Aleesha Caruana and Lachlan Pugsley who lay the wreath on our behalf and to all staff and parents who supported the students and the march. Thanks you, one and all.

SOS Concert - Hope to see many of you at this Thursday night’s staff concert. Don’t forget to buy your tickets; there are a limited number available due to seating restrictions. I have seen very little of the rehearsals but am told that you will be amazed and delighted at the previously untapped talent on staff. I think it will be interesting viewing! A big thank you to Peta Neill whose brain-child it was and to the ever-co-operative and supportive staff who jumped on board (or were pushed!) so readily. The money raised goes to St Joseph’s School at Gayndah which was affected by the floods earlier this year. School Principal, Liam Dougherty, will attend. See you at the hall for a night of fun.

Have a great week everyone.

Glenda
Date Claimer - Year 4-7 DanceFever Interschool Dance Challenge
Monday 17 June, in the evening at Nambour Civic Centre. Further information to follow.

Outcomes of Gonski still unclear for Queensland Catholic Schools
QCEC Executive Director Mike Byrne said:
“While the QCEC welcomes the Federal government’s commitment of an additional $1.4billion funding for Australian Catholic schools (indexed over six years), there are still a number of unknowns to be worked through before we can develop a definitive position on the Gonski funding model.

“QCEC continues to do detailed modelling work to validate the figures provided by the Department (DEEWR) and assess the impact for the Queensland Catholic sector share of the additional funds.

“The funding position of Catholic schools comparative to other schooling sectors is also critical to assessing the model, and we are not yet aware of the details of modelling carried out by the Independent and Government schooling sectors.

“In this respect, I commend Premier Campbell Newman for forming a group comprising the Catholic, State and Independent schooling sectors and senior government officials, that will review the proposed funding model and help inform the State Government prior to the 30 June decision deadline.

“The final outcome that the Gonski model would deliver for Catholic schools in Queensland is also dependant on a significant injection of funding from the State Government. QCEC is committed to ongoing negotiations with both State and Federal governments to achieve an equitable funding outcome for Catholic schools.”

Dear Parents/Caregivers,
This fortnight’s Virtue being Honour, I wish to make the link between this virtue and the wonderful gift of parents and grandparents, especially as we approach the celebration of ‘Mother's Day’.

‘Honor they Mother and Father’, the 4th Commandment, gives some indication of the relationship which is to be developed between children and their parents – grandparents too for that matter. In looking at the virtue of Honour, I want to share with you a little of my own story – in fact my maternal grandmother’s story which shows that no matter the beginnings, it is possible to overcome all odds and live out the virtue of honour so that it is passed down through generations.

“Know from whence you came. If you know whence you came, there are absolutely no limitations to where you can go.” James Arthur Baldwin

Despite being fostered at a very young age, or because of it, Nana Fahey was a most loving human being. When I think of the kind of person I want to be to my grandchildren, I think of her example of a very loving and gentle presence who just accepts people for who they are. She and her older brother were raised by a family at Slacks Creek and later by a family at Bili Bili. Despite such a difficult start in life Nana was a very hard worker, always calm, even when she was provoked. I will never forget the time she was looking after my younger sister and I at home while mum went to the doctor for a check-up. Anne would have been about four years old at the time and myself about seven. Nana asked Anne to do something and Anne, as only independent 4 year olds can, responded with a very naughty, “You can’t tell me what to do, you aren’t my mother!” I was shocked but Nana just shook her head with a little sigh escaping and accepted that Anne just wasn’t going to do as she was told.

I remember that when Nana was diagnosed with stomach cancer and operated on without success, she came home to our home at Wavell Heights to be looked after by Mum and Dad. The lounge room was converted into a bedroom for her so that she could be very comfortable in her own space. With all that Mum had to do with seven children at that stage, it fell to Dad to be Nana’s main carer when he was home. He weighed all her intake and output and helped in the day to day washing, turning, etc to make sure she was comfortable. The priest came to give her the Last Rights, or Extreme Uction as we knew it. She was originally Church of England but had converted to Catholicism some time after her marriage to my grandfather who was from a very Irish Catholic family. It was very beautiful for all of us to be there for that. It certainly helped with grieving her very sad loss knowing that all that could have been done for her was done in a very loving and faithful manner. I will never forget the gentleness with which Dad turned her and fed her. I believe he ‘honoured’ Nana for the wonderful person she was to all of us.

So this week as you go about your work, do it with the knowledge that we give honour to ourselves, our children and perhaps over time even our grandchildren by the way we live out our sometimes mundane everyday lives. Even the smallest things can be the catalyst for making an impression on the very young that lasts a lifetime.

God bless,
Judith.

Congratulations to Alanah Pace on her selection in the Sunshine Coast Regional Hockey Team to compete at the State Championships on the Gold Coast in mid June.

Congratulations to Jake Edgar on being selected to represent Coastal District in the Boys Touch Football team to compete at the Regional Trials in late May.

GOOD LUCK ALANAH and JAKE!
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!

SUNSHINE COAST HONOURS MUSIC PROGRAM – congratulations Kyra Bellamy, Lauren Bellamy, Erin Mahon, Tara Hodges, Alanah Pace, Ryan Gorring and Emma Burchell on being selected to represent our school at this program which will be held here at Stella Maris on Friday 17 May culminating in a short concert at 5.30pm which everyone is invited to attend (entry is free). They have been selected from over 300 nominations from across the Sunshine Coast region.

CLASSROOM NEWS - This week and next will be busy for all classes as we complete a variety of assessments for Semester 1 reports. A quick conversation with your son/daughter will give you insight into the types of activities for which they are being assessed. It is wonderful to see the progress students have made thus far and their enthusiasm for achieving specific goals in their personal learning.

CHOIR NEWS - A test email will be sent to parents of choir members who have returned their choir participation form. If you do not receive an email by Friday of this week, please let me know so that I can add your email to our database. This will enable me to keep you informed of any choir news this year.

TEN FACTS ABOUT SCHOOL MUSIC - Continuing from last week, the following is the eighth fact about music education:

1. Most kids miss out on effective music education while at school. Music Council of Australia research shows that as few as 2 out of 10 State schools are able to offer their students an effective music education. What does ‘effective’ mean? The National Review of School Music Education says it is where the learning is ‘continuous, sequential and developmental.’ That is, it starts early in a child’s life, keeps going as the child progresses through school and is in step with the child’s capabilities. Almost 9 out of 10 independent schools offer this kind of program. It should be available to ALL students in EVERY school!

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)

CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations and thank you to all who participated and assisted at the school cross country carnival last Friday. Special mentions to the following students who won their age group race. District races were separate and these students will be mentioned next week.

13 years Girls: MAGAO Laura
Grade 7 girls: PACE Alannah
Grade 6 girls: TAIT Jasmin
Grade 5 girls: COOK Elia
Grade 4 girls: WHILEY Paige
Grade 3 girls: EDGAR Hayley
Grade 2 girls: COVEY Laura
Grade 1 girls: MICHAEL MLEA

13 years Boys: HUSTON Brayden
Grade 7 boys: FULLER Joshua
Grade 6 boys: BOUGOURE Ashton
Grade 5 boys: MAYFIELD Carter
Grade 4 boys: THOMPSON Blake
Grade 3 boys: HOLLIS Ryan
Grade 2 boys: CLEMENTS Will
Grade 1 boys: SMALES Landen

Oli Jones
PE Teacher

2013 AFL YOUTH CUP

Congratulations to all the boys involved in the 2013 AFL Youth Cup Competition at the Maroochy Multi Sports Complex last Tuesday. Wins against Coolum (53-0), Mountain Creek (31-25), St Andrews (31-20) and two Losses to Sunshine Coast Grammar (17-6, 22-6) resulted in the boys attaining 4th Place overall on the day. The skill level and sportsmanlike attitude that they played with was outstanding. One highlight on the day was seeing a Stella Boy running past an injured opposition player and asking him if he was alright – great to see! Thankyou also to Damien Michael who gave up his day to coach the boys and to the many parents who were able to come along. Much appreciated.

MAX MC DONALD, ZAC MEDWIN, ALISTER REGINATO, BAILEY JOHNSTON, JOSH FULLER, MICHAEL BAILIE, CARTER MICHAEL, BAILEY RATCLIFF, JESS JOHNSTON, NOAH JEFFS, ALEX DUNCAN, DOMINIC CARMODY, JAKE YOUNG, LACHLAN MC DONALD, JAKE EDGAR, TRISTAN EVA, BAYLEY EVA,

Tuckshop News...

Wed 01/05 C Cleary
Thu 02/05 M Johnstone
Fri 03/05 J Robinson
Mon 06/05 J MacMillan
Tues 07/05 R Edwards

C N Burrows
L Martin
J Modric
T Duggan
D Stubbs
N Mac Minn

Ingrident Roster


NEEDED PICKELET MIXES AND MUFFIN MIXES

Tuckshop News...
CONCERT UPDATE
THURSDAY MAY 2  6.30PM  SCHOOL HALL
in aid of flood affected St. Joseph’s School in Gayndah

2 sleeps to go!

There are still a few seats left. Don’t miss out on this wonderful night of entertainment. Ticket order forms are available from the office.

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 this week before the concert.

FABULOUS MULTI DRAW RAFFLE PRIZES including: A BARBECUE .. 2 HUGE PARTY HAMPERS ...
Gold Class Movie Passes... Allez Sports voucher... Massage vouchers... Children’s craft kit....
$50 cash... Coles Myer Gift card..... ...... D&M Deli voucher.....Designer Jewellery .....Ellaways Music voucher
RAFFLE TICKETS ARE ON SALE THIS WEEK BEFORE SCHOOL IN FRONT OF THE PICKUP ZONE, and
OUTSIDE THE HALL BEFORE THE CONCERT BEGINS.

Raffles Drawn at the Concert on Thursday night.
The STARS ON STAFF are READY !!! DANCING, SINGING, MUSIC........ BRING IT ON !!
Sue Bond – Jazz Queen, Staff Choir, Bellydancers, African Drummers, The All Male Choir,
Staff Jug Band, The Fabulous Five Quintet - Quintessential, Musical Theatre and more.

Prepare to be entertained with gusto!

See you there

Peta Neill, Todd Wynyard, Inez Durrer