Dear Parents and Caregivers

What makes a good learner?

Many people are of the belief that someone to whom learning comes easier, someone who doesn’t have to struggle, someone who ‘sits up and pays attention’, someone who gets most things ‘right’ is the one to be described as a good learner, and, it is against these criteria that students often learn to measure themselves with many finding themselves wanting from an early age. As a result, comments such as, ‘I’m stupid.’ ‘This is too hard for me. I can’t do it.’ ‘Why should I try? I won’t get it right anyway,’ become all too common and many young people are needlessly lost to learning.

Obviously nobody wants this to happen, so how does this thinking seep into a person’s way of seeing himself or herself? Perhaps it is assisted by the unconscious messages we (parents, teachers, coaches, media) send when winning, and being the best, is not kept in perspective. We all know that there will always be winning individuals and teams in sport and other endeavours and we must all learn to deal with it. But somewhere, early on, many young ones are getting the notion that if you are not ‘the winner’ then you are ‘a loser’ – a term that can be heard all too frequently in conversation amongst the young. For those vulnerable to this sort of thinking, they then see themselves as having little worth unless they are good at things, be that sport, learning, friendships….it all becomes a competition.

Last week, in the aftermath of a playground punch-up, I spoke with the two Year 4 boys involved. Their disagreement started out with each bragging about his skill at parkour. The conversation became more and more heated as they tried to outdo each other with their tales, until one grabbed the other’s shirt front while insisting he was the better. Needless to say, things escalated from there with neither boy able to see that there really was no need to make this a competition at all; that each could very comfortably celebrate his own skill without diminishing the skill of the other.

If winning becomes the ‘be all and end all’, then the easiest way not to lose is not to try. It’s easier for some young ones to say, ‘I don’t care,’ rather than, ‘I’m not good at this, I might fail but I’ll give it a go.’ Well-meaning adults can inadvertently add to the mindset of children by trying to smooth the way and make things easier for them. By saying things like, ‘I don’t want James to have to struggle at school,’ children can easily get the idea that struggling is to be avoided, is undesirable and that ‘Mum and Dad think there is something wrong when things don’t come easily to me’ or ‘Mum and Dad don’t think I can handle it when things get tough.’ This can lead them to believe that they shouldn’t have to struggle in life.

I am not advocating doing away with competition. The point is we all must learn to deal with the ups and downs of life, with missing out more often than not and with being gracious in triumph and defeat. The reality is that in some things there will always be a winner; but in most things there can be many winners depending upon how we choose to measure success. And in many things, we can help each other achieve success through collaborative effort and mutual support.

Learning is one of those activities in which every student must be a winner - and not in any artificial, ‘make everyone feel good’ sort of way either! So, how should we define learning success, and hence a good learner? Does a good learner achieve the highest ratings on the semester report? Gain 100% on weekly tests? Have a great retentive memory for facts and figures? Do little work for a great result?

If we really think about it, doesn’t this sort of thinking miss the mark when students have differing starting points and different strengths and weaknesses? Doesn’t it make sense to encourage, measure and celebrate improvement, at least in equal measure to the standard achieved? Achievement standard, alone, tells only part of the story. It is possible, for instance, for the ‘best’ student to make very little improvement in the year and still attain a satisfactory result. It is equally possible for a student to make outstanding learning gains in the year and still be below the expected standard at a designated point in time. Which student has demonstrated the better learning in that year?

Doesn’t a focus on learning improvement encourage the best of both worlds? Wouldn’t both the learners who find it easy and those who struggle, have equal opportunity to have their efforts recognised while also encouraging every single student to achieve his or her best? Learning improvement requires students to be persistent, to ask questions, to be fully engaged, to welcome and struggle with the hard questions, to take responsibility, to stretch oneself and take risks, to seek feedback, to be prepared not to have all the answers but to know how to find out, to work with others, to be inquisitive and proactive, to know where they are going in their learning, how they are going and the next step to move themselves along – all qualities of a great learner, and all accessible to every learner - no matter where one’s capacities lie.

And lastly, a word about struggling…..we need to be letting young ones know that there is nothing wrong (with them or anyone else) if they find things difficult or don’t know. In fact, this is their opportunity to strengthen their learning muscles, so to speak. It is our job to teach them the skills and the qualities and behaviours that have them learn through the struggle. In this, not only is learning achieved but also character is formed.

Have a great week everyone.  Glenda
Coastal District Athletics Carnival

Last week 42 students represented Stella Maris at the Coastal District Athletics Carnival. We placed second overall, just missing first place by a fraction of a point! Congratulations to all students on an excellent result. A special mention must be made to Jack Gillespie who was the 11 Year Boy District Age Champion. The following students placed in their events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discus</th>
<th>Shot Put</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jarrod Young 2nd</td>
<td>Madison Edgerton 1st</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas McClure 2nd</td>
<td>Jarrod Young 2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cartia Thompson 3rd</td>
<td>Dekota Berkery 2nd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jake Young 4th</td>
<td>Piper Atkins 3rd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lucy Holzer 5th</td>
<td>Jack Gillespie 4th</td>
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<td>Alister Reginato 7th</td>
<td>Clare Brady 4th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sam Scanlon 9th</td>
<td>Lachlan Tickle 7th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kassity Campbell 9th</td>
<td>James Lawler 8th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cartia Thompson 10th</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High Jump</th>
<th>Track</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Genevieve Langford 1st</td>
<td>Willem Johnstone 2nd 100m, 8th 200m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Gillespie 1st</td>
<td>Jack Gillespie 3rd 100m &amp; 200m</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethan Petscos 2nd</td>
<td>Jada Cleary 3rd 100m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clare Brady 4th</td>
<td>Harrison Kidd 4th 800m</td>
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<td>Levi Penn 5th</td>
<td>Joshua Fuller 5th 800m</td>
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<td>Lucian Champion 8th</td>
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</tbody>
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Long Jump

Jack Gillespie 1st - NEW DISTRICT RECORD!
Genevieve Langford 9th
Harrison Tickle 9th

Jarrod Young, Thomas McClure, Madison Edgerton, Dekota Berkery, Genevieve Langford, Jack Gillespie, Ethan Petscos, Jada Cleary and Willem Johnstone will now represent the Coastal District at the Regional carnival in September. Well done and good luck!

Dear Parents,

Congratulations to the children who celebrated their Confirmation and First Communion last weekend. It is such an important step in committing to a life that is built on the faith, hope and love that is offered through celebration of the Sacraments—being in ‘communion’ with the Father, Son and Spirit as well as the worshipping community. It is wonderful when students can fully engage in being Church. Our prayers are with you and your family as you move forward in ‘communion’ with each other in Faith.

Don’t miss out...
The Last Sacramental Program for the 2013 School Year starts with a compulsory Parent Information Meeting on Monday 19th August. Details are outlined below...

**Last Sacramental Program for 2013**

**The Parent Information Evening (Compulsory)**
Meeting to be held on Monday 19 August at Stella Maris Church, Baden Powell St Maroochydore. One or both parents must attend this session. Children do not attend. The family proceeds to the next stage only after parents have attended.

**Preparation for First Reconciliation:**
This has to be completed before the child progresses to Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

**October 14** 5.30PM Stella Maris, 7.15pm St Catherine
**October 15** 6.00pm Stella Maris
**October 16** 5.30pm St Catherine

**Confirmation and First Holy Communion:**

**Session 1**
- Sunday 27 October 1.30 - 4.30pm at Stella Maris School Assembly Hall
- Wednesday 6 November 6.00 - 8.00pm venue to be determined

Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on Friday 8 November. Place of Confirmation to be announced.
First Holy Communion will be celebrated Sat 9 & Sun 10 November at whichever Parish Mass is elected by the family. Please make contact with the Stella Maris Parish office as early as possible to register your child/children in the program on 07 5443 3488.

Principal’s Awards

15 August 2013

Father’s Day Stall

A Father’s Day Stall will be held outside the Uniform Shop from 8a.m. until bell time from Monday, 26 Aug.— Friday, 30 Aug.
QUOTE OF THE WEEK
"We are the music makers, and we are the dreamers of dreams."
~ Arthur O'Shaughnessy~

TIP OF THE WEEK - Practise as often as possible. Make it part of the day, like brushing your teeth.

WELCOME - This term we welcomed a new piano teacher to our team of instrumental staff at Stella Maris. Mrs (Dr) Grace Quaglio is a fine pianist who has experience teaching in both schools and universities and is very enthusiastic about her new students. Welcome Grace!!

ENSEMBLE NEWS - Best of luck to the following ensembles that will be travelling to Brisbane for the Queensland Catholic Schools and Colleges Music Festival on Friday. All forms should now be returned to school. Enjoy the day, sing/play your best, smile, and be a wonderful representative for Stella Maris.

- Stella Fellas – depart Stella Maris at 7am, estimated time of return 12:30pm MEET NO LATER THAN 6:45am IN THE BUS PARKING AREA AT THE FRONT ENTRANCE TO THE SCHOOL.
- Piccolo Choir - departs Stella Maris at 8:30am, estimated time of return 2pm.
- Stella Maris Singers - depart Stella Maris at 11am, estimated time of return 6pm.

Stella Maris Concert Band & String Ensemble - depart Stella Maris at 10am, estimated time of return 8pm.

Students are reminded to wear their formal uniform and to bring a hat, jacket, morning or afternoon tea, lunch, and a drink bottle. Please ensure your shoes are clean and tidy. Girls may wear a blue ribbon in their hair that is tied back neatly from their face.

If any parents intend to travel to Brisbane to see their child perform, please check out the following website: http://www.qcmf.com.au where there is further information regarding the venue, parking, entry fees, etc. You are advised to arrive early to enter the venue and hear other groups performing in each of our sections. There will be over 25 000 people at Villanova over the course of the weekend and parking may not be available close to the venue. All of our ensembles will be performing at Villanova College. If you have further questions, please contact either of us before Friday.

DATE CLAIMERS
Queensland Catholic Schools Music Festival - Friday 16 August
Piccolo Choir, Stella Fellas, SM Singers, Concert Band and String Ensemble
Stella Spotlight - Wednesday 16 October All Choral and Instrumental Ensembles

The Sunshine Coast Junior Eisteddfod is in its last week and we have already heard of many wonderful results. Please remember to email Mrs Durrer with your results so they can be published in the newsletter next month.

Remember, if you need to contact your child’s tutor, details are shown on the top left corner of the lesson timetable. If you have queries regarding anything musical – please feel free to catch up with us before or after school, by contacting us in writing or via email.

Please note that Piccolo Choir and Strings will be performing on Assembly this week. Piccolo Choir are asked to meet Mrs Durrer in the Music Room at 8:20am.

Musically Yours,
Inez Durrer
Classroom Music Specialist
idurrer@bne.catholic.edu.au

Todd Wynyard
Instrumental Music Coordinator
twynyard@bne.catholic.edu.au

SPORT NEWS
Maroochydore Oztag Junior Summer Season 2013 Boys & Girls!
Where: Maroochydore Rugby League Grounds
Who: Boys & Girls u6,7, u8, u9, u10, ; u11, u12, u13, u14, u15
First Games: Tuesday 17th & Thursday 19 September 2013
Game Days: Tuesdays & Thursdays
Game Times: Games start at 4:00pm
Season Length: Season consists of 10 games
Cost: $80 per player (team must have min 10 players) plus $25 for Official shorts

Sign On Information
Date: Monday 2nd and Wednesday 4th September 2013
Times: 4:00 – 5:30pm
Location: Maroochydore Rugby League Grounds, Wises Road, Maroochydore
Nomination: Minimum 10 player p/team. 8 players on the field.
Note: Individuals or small groups welcome. We can assist where possible to place players into teams.

For more information visit www.maroochydoreoztag.com

UNIFORM SHOP
Uniform Shop Hours
Monday 8.00am - 10.00am
Wednesday 10.15am - 3.15pm
Thursday Uniform shop will be closed this Thursday 15 August
Winners of the Multi-draw Raffle
1st Camping Package - Camping Country - Carlin Callaghan
2nd Digital Photo Package - FotoFlair - Joel Lyndon
3rd 2 day getaway - Amylis Gardens Retreat - Kate Bartolo
4th Automatic Pool Cleaner - Cool Pools - Ben Johansen
5th Pendant - sapphiresforher.com.au - Bernie Baillie
6th Digital TV/DVD - LESC Computers - C. Farr
7th 18 Holes Golf - Noosa Springs Golf Club - Maureen Rogers
8th Complete Hair Package - Platinum Scissors - Roslyn Dalgleish
9th $300 Voucher - Boatshed Restaurant - Paul Hickerton
10th Seafood Cruise - Coastal Cruises M’ba - Ryan
11th Tennis Coaching - TennisFit Australia - Andrew Himseat
12th Learn to Swim Lessons - SwimFit - Seth Burrows
13th 10 person Pass - LaserZone - Karen Hardner

Winner of the iPod Touch
1st Sarah Baillie

Winners of the Guinea Poop Raffle
1st C. Simpson
2nd Tracey Seddon
3rd Elaine Carmody

Winner of the Dad Basket from the Cent Raffle your prize is waiting for you. Please show ticket for verification.

Thankyou to our sponsors: