Year 1 sets the pattern for what school attendance will look like in the future. You’re learning more than reading and writing. You’re learning to show up.”

An analysis of the attendance records and NAPLAN results of more than 400,000 students from Western Australia found any absence from school leads to a decline in academic performance; there is no safe level of absence before results suffer.

“We were able to show that actually every day counts and days that you’re missing in Year 3 and Year 5, we can detect that all the way through to Year 9. A 10-day period of unauthorised absence in a year is sufficient to drop a child about a band in the NAPLAN testing,” Professor Zubrick comments.

There is much more research that could be shared in this regard, including the unfavourable comparison of unauthorised absence and results between Australian 15 year olds and all other developed countries except Italy and Turkey (OECD Research findings, 2012).

Indeed a growing relaxation of attitude towards attendance and punctuality is noted in our own context. This impacts significantly on the day to day learning of all students not just those who are absent, as significant teacher and school officer time is needed to be spent trying to ‘catch up’ those who have missed school unnecessarily.

In many ways this is a matter of justice – for the young students who are allowed to miss school for insufficient reason (eg one’s birthday or one’s sibling’s birthday is not acceptable) as well as for the students who turn up every day. When days are regularly missed here and there, gaps quickly open up in learning; new learning has been introduced and the returning student is seriously disadvantaged. For the rest of the class, time is taken from them to address this disadvantage.

Of additional concern is the growing trend to question the effectiveness of the teacher when achievement standards are not met. It becomes extremely difficult to sustain academic growth when the equivalent of six to eight weeks of school has been missed each year over a number of years (yes, these are realistic figures). Of course the problem is compounded if students regularly arrive late and/or leave early.

We all know that the habits we develop have an enormous impact (for good or otherwise) on our lives, now and in the future. Developing the habits of punctuality, commitment to attendance and giving one’s best effort are set at an early age and parents play the most significant role in helping young ones acquire these desirable traits.

Have a great week everyone.

Glenda
Gifts of the Holy Spirit

At Baptism, we receive seven special gifts from the Holy Spirit. These gifts are freely given to us to help us live as followers of Jesus and to build up the Body of Christ, the Church. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are sealed and strengthened within us at Confirmation. These seven gifts help us to respond to the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, to make good choices, and to serve God and others. One of these gifts is ‘Awe’, the virtue for this fortnight.

Wonder and Awe, or Fear of the Lord is the gift of wonder and respect that encourages us to be in awe of God. The gift of wonder and awe moves us to so love God that we do not want to offend anyone by your words or actions.

Awe is a deep respect and reverence for the Source of life. Contemplating life’s beauty and mystery leads us to communion with our God. Reflecting on our place in the universe, we seem small and insignificant; yet, it is awe-inspiring to realize that no one else on this earth is just like us. Each of us has a unique potential for reflecting the Divine Virtues in our souls. We awaken them by choosing to live them.

When we practise Awe, we are alert to the signs and wonders placed in our path. We open ourselves to Grace.

The practice of Awe:

I am humble before the power of the Creator;
I take time to contemplate and commune;
I am aware of the sacredness of life;
I cultivate the Divine Virtues in my nature;
I discern the signs and synchronicities of life;
I deepen my connection to Grace.

I am grateful for the gift of Awe. It fills me with wonder.

The highest point we can attain is not Knowledge, or Virtue, or Goodness, or Victory, but something even greater, more heroic and more despairing: Sacred Awe!”

Nikos Kazantzakis.

(Extracts from "the Virtues Project" Linda Kavlos Papas and Dr Dan Popov www. Virtues project.com)

I hope you have an awe-inspiring fortnight.

God bless. Judith.
MUSIC NOTES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK
“To the talented children of the world. Let them always have the opportunity to grow, develop, and above all, create.”
~ T. Geter ~

TIP OF THE WEEK - Warm Up: To begin practising correctly, a proper warm up is required.

MUSICAL NEWS – ‘THE WIZARD OF OZ’ - Don’t forget that our second afternoon rehearsal is Wednesday 20 August in the Hall for singers and dancers. Backstage crew Group A are the only team to meet this week. If you are unsure which team you have been assigned, please check with Mrs Durrer.

All parents with students involved in the musical should have again received the rehearsal schedule for this week. If you did not receive an email, please contact Mrs Durrer to ensure you are on the email list and your details are correct.

QCMF NEWS

WOW and CONGRATULATIONS!!! We are so proud of each and every student who travelled to Brisbane on Friday for the Queensland Catholic Schools’ and Colleges’ Music Festival at Villanova College in Coorparoo. It gave us great satisfaction knowing each of you could rise to the challenge of performing in front of larger audiences and with greatly improved stage presence, some of you for the very first time! We were very fortunate to have received the following awards (in order of performances):

- Year 3 Piccolo Choir - GOLD
- Junior Band (combined with Siena Primary) - BRONZE
- Senior Strings (combined with Siena Primary) - BRONZE
- Stella Fellas – GOLD
- SM Singers – SILVER
- Concert Band (combined with Siena Primary) – GOLD

Special thanks to the teachers and parents who accompanied each group on the bus, to the parents who travelled to Brisbane to hear the children perform, the staff of Stella Maris for their support, Mrs Durrer, Ms Grace, Ms Worthy, Ms Dean, Mrs. Salmon, and Mr Wynyard for preparing the students for these performances, all parents and care givers for supporting the children in their musical endeavours, and finally to the children for their hard work. Well done, kids!

If parents have photos of the choirs/band in Brisbane, could you please send copies to Mrs Durrer or Mr Wynyard?

DATE CLAIMERS
The Wizard of Oz – Rehearsal Wednesday 20 August (3:15 – 5:00) in the HALL for all cast. Backstage crew Team A only required this week.
The Wizard of Oz – Wednesday 15 October to Saturday 18 October

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NEWS - 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.

Musically Yours,
Inez Durrer
Todd Wynyard
Inez.Durrer@bne.catholic.edu.au Todd.Wynyard@bne.catholic.edu.au

QCMF NEWS

NEW Family Fun and Fitness
Sign On 2014/2015 Season, 5 - 17 years of age
Friday, 29 August 2014 from 5.00pm - 7.00pm
Maroochydore High School Oval at the Shed
Weekly Club Meets start Friday 19 September 2014
For more information and fees payable visit
www.maroochyliteas.com or e-mail maroochyliteas@gmail.com

Football NEWS
Are you a member of Stella FC? Will your child be playing soccer next year? Stella FC will be holding its Annual AGM at the Presentation Day on August 30th. All committee positions will be up for election at the meeting: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity Officer, Grants Officer, Registrations Officer, Groundspersons and Canteen Convenor. This is a great opportunity to get involved in the running of Stella FC – it’s fun and your kids will love you for it!

Mooloolaba Nippers Sign On Day
Come down and meet two time Coolangatta Gold winner and Kelloggs Nutri Grain Ironman, Ali Day at our Nipper Sign On Day. Nippers is a great program for kids which, through surf sports, teaches them about surf safety, team work, fitness and is a whole lot of fun. Nippers opens up a world of opportunity for your kids and the best news is they can start as young as 5 years old. Our Sign On Day will be held on August 24 at Mountain Creek Aquatic Centre from 8am -11am. For more information visit the website www.thersurfclub.com.au

Tuckshop News...

THIS WEEKS SPECIAL
Fried Rice with Chicken $4.00

PLEASE REFER TO THE NEW TUCKSHOP MENU & REMEMBER THE TUCKSHOP IN NO LONGER OPEN ON MONDAYS.

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Tuckshop Roster
Muffin Mixes & Fruit Salad Items

Group 2
Belonging to a club or a team has great benefits for mental health. Join a netball or football team, start a book club or join a band. “We can never get a re-creation of community and heal our society without giving our citizens a sense of belonging.” — Patch Adams

Belonging and connectedness improves mental health and learning. All children need to feel that their world is a safe place where people will care about them, where their needs for support, respect and friendship will be met, and where they will be able to get help to work out any problems. When these needs are met children develop a sense of belonging.

A sense of belonging has been found to help protect children against mental health problems and improve their learning. Children who feel that they belong are happier, more relaxed and have fewer behavioural problems than others. They are also more motivated and more successful learners.

Being connected is about knowing you can seek support when you need it, that you will be listened to, and that you can work together with staff to help your child learn and develop. Support may come from talking with staff or from making connections with other families. Sometimes you might be feeling that things are going well, but just want to have a general chat about your child.

John 15:5 I am a branch of Jesus Christ, the true vine, and a channel of His life. ‘I am the vine; you are the branches”

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