Dear Parents and Caregivers

A couple of weeks ago I wrote about the decline in civility and the practice of basic manners and courtesy.

Over the weekend I attended a school-community dinner of about 200 staff and parents. It was quite a formal occasion in rather a ‘posh’ setting. The event was very well-organised and everyone was in high spirits – all up, a wonderful celebration.

In fact there was only one low-light of the evening and that was the poor show of basic courtesy. I really felt for the evening’s MC who found it impossible, despite a perfectly adequate microphone and raised podium, to gain the attention of the crowd, even when they were formally seated for dinner. Now, these were lovely people in attendance and it’s a wonderful community, so what is going on? Over the years I’ve had cause to reflect at length upon this question. Why do perfectly well-intentioned, lovely people display such lack of courtesy in certain circumstances? How is it that people, if asked, would openly support and acknowledge the need for good manners, common courtesy and civility and yet often fail to walk their talk?

Teachers can often find themselves guilty of this behaviour – of having a certain expectation of students and yet not holding themselves to the same standards. It is perplexing to think that a group that knows how hard it is to gain and keep the attention of students, is not more conscious of their own attention when they are placed in the situation as a learner. Of course I am speaking generally and broadly from experience of teacher gatherings; I am not pointing fingers at our Stella Maris teachers. As a staff we have discussed these matters and we genuinely try to practise what we preach.

So, what is going on? Why are we, generally, finding it harder and harder to behave in a civil and courteous manner? Why is there a growing disconnect between what we say we want and believe and what we do? On Saturday night, a fellow guest made the comment that this is all about the i-phone, the i-pad, the i-movie… it’s I, I, I and perhaps therein lies the beginnings of an understanding of the predicament in which society finds itself. We are in the clutches of a very ego-centric cultural shift that promotes ideas such as, ‘I can do what I want, when I want.’ ‘I am the centre of the universe.’ ‘If I want it, I should be able to have it.’ ‘I am here to be entertained.’ ‘Life should be easy; if I have to struggle then something’s wrong.’ ‘If I don’t have something the way I want it, then someone else is to blame and I am going to make sure they know it.’

Immediacy, accessibility, fast pace, superficiality, distraction and entertainment, drama and competition form the basis of everyday life while the time necessary to create real connection with one another diminishes. Yet that connectedness is essential to wellbeing and we now know that it even impacts the way our brain develops and performs (Social Intelligence: The New Science of Human Relationships, Daniel Goleman). And therein lies a problem because, without awareness, the pervasiveness of technology today can lull us into mistaking communication for real connection with one another. How often are we in the physical presence of others and yet the only engagement is with our individual devices?

Can space be cleared to gain perspective, to reflect upon what is important and what path we tread? Can space be cleared to enable deep listening and presence to loved ones, to the call of our hearts, to the beauty of nature and to the wisdom and ever-presence of God? Is it even possible to stay connected to what is real, good, true, beautiful—without times of silence and stillness?

What does this have to do with the decline of courtesy and civility? Once, these attributes were considered ‘basic’ and ‘common’ because they sprang from broadly shared values which developed through community connectedness and to awareness of, and commitment to, something larger than self. That time and awareness is necessary in order to sift the important and real from the distractors and imposters who would have us believe that I need only look out for my own needs and those of the people closest to me. How does it matter if I show respect or listen or show appreciation and courtesy if I am more important than everyone else? Is it’s every person for him or herself? If all things are up for grabs in a shifting, sliding world with few anchor points?

Have a great week everyone. Glenda
Long Service Leave - For the next four school weeks and two weeks respectively, Judith Mellilfont (APRE) and Kelly Purcell (ST-IE) are taking long service leave. We wish Judith and Kelly a safe, relaxing and rejuvenating time.

Ooops! - Apologies to Liz Burke, whose name I left off the Rainbows thank you list last week! Sorry Liz, and here I thought you were unforgettable!

Fathers’ Day - I hope all Dads had a wonderful Fathers’ Day and were lavished with the love, time and attention of your family. Last Thursday, it was lovely to see the fathers and in some cases, grandfathers, enjoy an evening in the prep classrooms with their children. Thank you to the Prep staff for their organisation and thoughtfulness – and pizza!

P-3 Athletics - Thank you to Linda Till and Alanna Curtis for their planning of the Early Years’ carnival last Friday. Lots of people contribute towards the success of such an event so to all staff, especially grounds-staff (Alan and Darren) and to parents and other family members who supported the children in taking part in such wonderful spirit—thank you. Students had fun and had the opportunity to run and jump and throw on a perfect day, weather-wise. Well done, one and all.

Archbishop’s Visit - It was a big day on Friday with Archbishop Coleridge spending the afternoon with us after the Early Years’ Athletics carnival. His Grace had afternoon tea with staff and then enjoyed a relaxed visit with 6/7D. Archbishop Mark enjoyed being told that the large cross and ring he wears are very expensive and make him look awesome! He was then off to Prep D where he sat in a circle with the children and talked and sang a song with actions. I think he particularly appreciated being told, quite definitely, that he shouldn’t call himself ‘old;’ rather he should use the word ‘elderly!’ We all enjoyed the visit and the Archbishop promised to return.

Ins and Outs
Wednesday 10 September
Curriculum Planning – Julie Reuter 3D with Donita Sullivan

Thursday 11 September
Terry Grogan at Senior Leaders Conference
Friday 12 September
Terry Grogan at Senior Leaders Conference
Curriculum Planning – Tony Kelleher 4B with Donita Sullivan
Monday 15 September
RE Planning - Nicole Jenkins 5B, Roseanne Hughes 6/7D 8.45-1.25
James Nottingham Seminar: Tegan Burr 2A, Jeffery Ross 7A, Donita Sullivan, Matthew Hannah
Tuesday 16 September
ICLT Project Team with Matt Hannah—Bernie Baillie (0D), Kath Donohue (1A), Joanne Lee (3B), Tony Kelleher (4B), Emily Kosior (5D), Luke Parnemann (6A)
James Nottingham Masterclass: Lauren Solomon 2C, Roseanne Hughes 6-7D, Glenda Morgan

Keep Saturday October 25th free!
Why? Because EXPLORAMA returns to the University of the Sunshine Coast with 15 full-day amazing workshops 9am - 3pm. Something for every problem-solving, creative and curious child. Schools and parents are invited to nominate children. Early-bird discount online registrations open September 1. We can’t wait to see you all again. It’s going to be another amazing day!

AUSSLAN Mass for the Deaf
The next Auslan-Supported Mass at St Michael’s will be held on Sunday 1 June at 8am. An invitation is extended to all who would like to attend this Mass, with morning tea afterwards. This is an initiative of the Central Deanery Pastoral Council. Enquiries to cathedral@bne.catholic.net.au. Other Auslan Masses will be held on 14 September (8am) and 23 November (8am).

NSW University Spelling Competition
Thirty-two Stella Maris students participated in the NSW University Spelling in July.
The following children received a Credit for their Spelling skills:
CREDIT: Dominique Meehan, Imogen Small, Samuel Henrick, Charlotte Carnell, Grace Camp, Stefan Smith, Juliana Kaszas, Eden Henrick
Congratulations to all students who participated. Certificates will be awarded at Thursday’s Assembly.

The next P&F Meeting is set for Tuesday 9th September (tonight) commencing at 6:30p.m. in the staffroom.

Everyone welcome.

Uniform Shop Hours
Monday 8.00am - 10.00am
Wednesday 10.15am - 3.15pm
Thursday 8.00am - 1.00pm

Parent Portal — NEWS
By now all the emails to provide folks with Usernames & Passwords have been sent. As I have received several returns I am concerned that folks still don’t have access. There are a variety of reasons for the “bounce backs” of the initial email. IF YOU haven’t received an email with access to the portal information please contact the office with your current, valid email address and I will compile a second round of send outs. ANY feedback on the site is welcomed…… Terry

Parent News
No APRE News for the next 4 newsletters as Judith is on long service leave.
MUSICAL NEWS

QUOTE OF THE WEEK
“Bach gave us God’s Word. Mozart gave us God’s laughter. Beethoven gave us God’s fire. God gave us Music that we might pray without words.” – quote from outside an old opera house

CLASSROOM NEWS This is a reminder that parents/caregivers are invited to join us for our ‘Music Open House’ in each of the Prep – Year 5 classrooms during their regularly scheduled Music time in Week 10. Invitations were sent home last week. Parents are asked to sign in upon arrival at the Music Room (rather than the front office), and are reminded that we will have to hold fast to the 40-minute time slot for each group who will be visiting the various Music classes.

MUSICAL NEWS – ‘THE WIZARD OF OZ’ Our fifth afternoon rehearsal is Wednesday 10 September in the Hall for all cast. Backstage crew – Group D only will be required today and are reminded to bring a change of clothes for painting as well as a pair of thongs. It is important that we have as many cast members as possible to ensure a productive use of the time we have at these rehearsals. Parents are reminded that students are requested to stay until 5pm (if at all possible), to allow us to rehearse as many scenes as we are able to during this time.

Once more, parental assistance would be greatly appreciated to paint various props and backdrops for the musical. If you can provide some time and wish to help, please let us know or join us this Wednesday between 3:15 – 5pm. You don’t have to have a child in the musical to join in and help. Anyone is welcome. We would, however, like to say thank you to those parents and staff who assist each Wednesday afternoon in so many different ways. Your help is invaluable!

Don’t forget to check your emails each Sunday afternoon for important updates as well as the rehearsal schedule for the week.

DATE CLAIMERS
Musica Viva – Best of Brass – Prep to Year 7, 10 September
The Wizard of Oz – Rehearsal 10 September (3:15 – 5:00 In the HALL for all cast. Backstage crew Group D only required this week.
Assembly – 11 September - Percussion Ensemble will be performing
The Wizard of Oz – Rehearsal 17 September (3:15 – 5:00 in the HALL for all cast. Backstage crew Group A only required this week.
The Wizard of Oz – Rehearsals 1 October (Backstage Crew only – all groups), and any parents who are able to assist with painting and props
The Wizard of Oz – Rehearsals 2 October (8:30am – 4:00pm) ALL CAST
The Wizard of Oz – Rehearsals 3 October (9:00am – 4:00pm) ALL CAST
The Wizard of Oz – 15 October to Saturday 18 October
Music Count Us In – 30 October

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NEWS - Lesson timetables for next term will be drafted over the next three weeks and notice to alter or cancel enrolment in the music program is required in writing over the next three weeks to avoid any additional charges. Please email twynyard@bne.catholic.edu.au if you have any further questions.

Recruitment, re-enrolment and enrolment for 2015 will commence early next term and parents are asked to watch this space for details about the process.

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

P & F Meeting in the Staffroom @ 6.30pm
Musica Viva
1A & 1B Liturgy in the Chapel @ 9.00am
Last Day Term 3
1st Day Term 4
P & F Meeting in the Staffroom @ 6.30pm
Musical “The Wizard of Oz”
Pupil Free Day
International Teacher’s Day
P & F Meeting in the Staffroom @ 6.30pm
Tuckshop Helpers Lunch
Year 7 Dinner Dance
Year 6 Dinner Dance
Years 6 & 7 Graduation Liturgy
School year ends

Principal’s Awards
September 11 2014

Tuckshop News

Tuckshop News...

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Tuckshop News...

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THIS WEEK’S SPECIAL
Pulled Pork Roll with Apple Sauce & Gravy $4.00

Last Day of Term Sausage Sizzle notice should come home today with every child. Please fill in the tear-off slip and return with money to the Tuckshop by September 17 as sausages, bread, etc. need to be ordered. Help with the BBQ on Friday morning (19 September) would be greatly appreciated.

Give me a call. Cathie.

Wed 10/09
T Goring
P Geitz

Thurs 11/09
S O’Donnell
L Martin

Fri 12/09
L Corcoran
S Thompson
P Simpson
K Barbuto

Tues 16/09
L Mancini
D Stubbs

Ingredients Roster
Muffin Mixes & Fruit Salad Items

Group 5
A Corboy, C Penn, C & M Hubbard, D Christie, F Ellis, J Fuller, K Kretzers, K Bidmade, L Wiseman, M Hirling, M Ratcliffe, N Pace, O Robins, A Berthier, S McGahan, T Maas, V Portors, S McNamara.

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Parents play their part to protect and care for children and young people in our community by providing loving and supportive environments and by showing how to have respectful relationships.

Being a new parent can be challenging. Accept offers of help (especially the ones where cooked meals are involved!) Link in with services that support you — New Parent Groups can be fantastic.

It’s ok to reach out and ask for support. Discover what helps reduce your stress and assists you to best care for your children.

Parenting courses can help you be the best you possibly can be.

Listen to your children and involve them in planning things as a family.

Parenting isn’t always easy. Share your experiences and skills with other parents — it can help you realise that you are not alone.

Take time out when you feel stressed or upset — look after yourself.

Parenting can be positive — notice the good times too.

Make plans for enjoyable “family time” — this can help build close relationships.

Talk about safety with your children. Talk about what being unsafe might look and feel like at home, in the community, online or at school.

Make plans about what to do if they feel unsafe.

Celebrate your children and their achievements, values and interests and support your children when times are tough.

This will build a strong family that is loving and safe.

Get involved in your community. Joining groups will help you and your children to have fun and meet people.

NAPCAN would like to acknowledge the Aboriginal Traditional owners of the many lands and waters across Australia.

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

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Christine Craig - Guidance Counsellor/ Psychologist
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