Dear Parents, Friends and Guardians

ANZAC Day
It was a privilege to be a part of the Marymount contingent at yesterday’s Burleigh Heads parade and memorial ceremony. We had just over 80 children and their families and our staff join together with our colleagues from Marymount College for the annual day of remembrance. I would like to thank these families and staff for taking the time to be with our school as we joined in with the local community to remember those who have served our country, and to pray for those who still do in far flung places around our world. It appears that the day is getting bigger and bigger each year and it is important that our children be able and ready to continue the tradition of honouring those who serve our country in the name of peace.

Vale Sharon Van der Meer
It was with great sadness that I write to inform the community of the passing of one of our parents, Sharon Van der Meer. Sharon lost her battle with cancer in the early hours of Tuesday morning. She went peacefully into the arms of our God at home whilst surrounded by her family. I would ask that you keep her husband Jack, and their children Isabella (Yr 12), Olivia (Yr 7) and Isaac (Yr 5), in your prayers over the next few days as they mourn the loss of Sharon. Her life will be celebrated in a requiem mass on Monday, 30 April, at St Benedict’s Catholic Church at Mudgeeraba at 10.00am.

We will have staff representing our school at this mass but we will not be taking a school group of children. If parents wish to take their children to the mass then it is important that you discuss with them beforehand what the ceremony will entail and the emotions that will come forth. As it is a full requiem mass it is envisaged that the service will go for at least an hour and a half and as such parents would need to be with their own children throughout.

News on Diane Gawler
As many parents may know, our Parent Reception secretary, Diane Gawler, has been away since the start of the year with a bad knee injury. Diane had major reconstructive surgery on her knee on Tuesday and is still in hospital recovering from the operation. She hopes to be out soon and into physio and rehabilitation work with a view to return to school later in the year. I am sure that Diane would appreciate your prayers during this time. We continue to thank Anna Rofe who has very ably filled in for Diane during her absence.

School Photos – 9 & 10 May
Our school photographs will be taken on Wednesday and Thursday 9 & 10 May. Full details and notes about these will go our next week. Please ensure that the children are neatly attired and that if needed, hair lengths or styles are addressed.

Queensland Catholic Principals’ Conference
I will be away from school from next Tuesday until Friday as I will be attending the Queensland Catholic Primary Principals’ Conference in Mackay. This conference is held every 2 years and is a valuable learning time for us all. Annette O’Shea, our Assistant Principal, will be our Acting Principal during my absence.

Enjoy the rest of the week

Yours in Christ

Greg Casey
These are details of upcoming events organised by Patron Parents on behalf of the families in the respective classes. Invitations have also been distributed via your child. In most cases, there is no need to RSVP; you are most welcome to simply turn up and enjoy the company of others!

**Year 1P — Zarraffa’s, Stockland**  
Friday 27 April - 8.45am - Steph & Amanda

**Year 0M — Coffee Club, Stockland**  
Monday 30 April - 9.00am - Kylie & Kristy

**Year 3R — Coffee Club, Stockland**  
Friday 4 May - 8.45am - Nicole

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Did you know……?

The Ode comes from For the Fallen, a poem by the English poet and writer Laurence Binyon and was published in London in The Winnowing Fan: Poems of the Great War in 1914. This verse, which became the Ode for the Returned and Services League, has been used in association with commemoration services in Australia since 1921.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.

Red poppies

The Flanders poppy has long been a part of Remembrance Day, the ritual that marks the Armistice of 11 November 1918, and is also increasingly being used as part of ANZAC Day observances. During the First World War, red poppies were among the first plants to spring up in the devastated battlefields of northern France and Belgium. In soldiers’ folklore, the vivid red of the poppy came from the blood of their comrades soaking the ground. The sight of poppies on the battlefield at Ypres in 1915 moved Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae to write the poem *In Flanders fields*. In English literature of the nineteenth century, poppies had symbolised sleep or a state of oblivion; in the literature of the First World War a new, more powerful symbolism was attached to the poppy – the sacrifice of shed blood.


Enjoy the rest of the week

*Bernadette Christensen*

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Mr Hoy will not be here on Wednesday 2 May so there is no band rehearsal or lessons from him. Mr Radford will be here as normal. There are no lessons for Band for Years 5 and 7 students during NAPLAN (Wednesday 16 May) but Years 4 and 6 will go ahead as normal.

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Drop in and take a look at our vegie garden next to the tuckshop.

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**Refugee Day**

On behalf of the families who enjoyed a wonderful day at the beach, I would like to thank you all for your kind donations. The swimmers, towels etc were all clean and showed great respect for the families who received them. Thanks also to those families who purchased brand new items of wetsuits, shorts and beach toys. They were greatly appreciated. This year we had three bus loads of beautiful people; about 91 children plus adults. Some adults swam in clothes that were donated as we ran out of swimmers. The rain held off and the young Tallebudgera lifesavers did a wonderful job of playing with the children and keeping them safe in the water. I am sure the children slept well on the bus on the way home after a fabulous day at the beach and you all contributed to their enjoyment.

*Jane Lennon*
ANZAC Day 2012

Remember our Diggers
25th April
**Tennis**

**IMPORTANT CHANGE**

**OUR TENNIS NIGHT ON THE 20th APRIL HAS BEEN CHANGED TO SATURDAY 12th MAY**

4pm - 7pm

We are conducting a tennis information and playing night on Saturday 12th May. Come along and have a social hit with your family and friends, enjoy a sausage sizzle and discuss the following opportunities:

Coaching Information - Meet and discuss our coaching programs; Practice tips and routines.

Playing opportunities: Beginner Fixture Program: Teaching the basics of fixture play and available times.;

Friday Night Social Teenage Doubles Challenge: Term 2 could see the re-introduction of this once popular program; Court Hire: - casual or permanent:

WE NEED ADVICE ON NUMBERS TO HELP WITH CATERING ON THE 12th MAY.

Book at Tennis Courts or phone the numbers below.

**REMEMBER: Mums, dads and the children. Bring your rackets and runners and join in this fun night.**

Call John & Trish GREIG

0417 634 524 - 0439722369

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**Burleigh Heads Catholic Parish**

Parish Office Hours 9.00am to 5.00pm

3 Sunlight Drive, Burleigh Waters (Postal PO Box 73, Burleigh Heads)

Parish Manager: Mr Jim Littlefield

Parish Pastor: Fr Pat Molony

Parish Pastoral Team

Associate Pastors: Fr Huong Van Nguyen & Fr Peter Gablonski

Pastoral Associates: Sr Patricia Tomlinson

PHONE: 5576 6317/5576 6466  FAX: 5576 7143

EMAIL: burleigh@bne.catholic.net.au

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Thank you to students, parents and teachers for supporting our Fish and Fried Rice Day. Thank you also to our tuckshop volunteers for giving up their time to make sure all were fed.

We are still receiving orders from our old tuckshop menu. Please make sure you have the yellow AUTUMN/WINTER 2012 MENU. There are plenty available at the tuckshop.

**ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEK.....**

Monday 30 April......Tanya Allomes

Tuesday 1 May.......Deborah Hopkins & Jacqueline Oldroyd

Wednesday 2 May...Terri Burke & Leanne Reid

Thursday 3 May......Paula Mendoza & Michelle Corker

Friday 4 May.....Summa Edwards **HELP NEEDED PLEASE**

Thanks to all our volunteers, and please remember to let me know if you are unable to attend on your rostered day.

Have a great week

**Vicki Turner**
Recently I read two articles, “Just let the children grow” (Nikki Gemmell; Weekend Australian), and “Mind your manners please” (Elissa Lawrence; U on Sunday, Sunday Mail, April 1, 2012). Both articles discussed parenting today, in comparison to bygone generations. Whilst there may have been similar underlying philosophies, the articles were rather contradictory in nature.

Both articles acknowledged that over the past decades, there has been a significant shift in the way parents raise children. In “Just let the children grow”, to some degree Gemmell challenges parents on current trends. In the etiquette courses (Manners Maketh Etiquette and Little Etiquette) as outlined by Lawrence in her article, it could be argued that parents are being justified in excusing themselves from certain responsibilities. The etiquette programs for children (eight to eleven years) acknowledge that manners are a learnt skill and thus demand explicit teaching. Essentially, the philosophy behind the etiquette programs is no different to Gemmel’s notion of parenting, in that parents generally acknowledge the importance of instilling certain values in their children. Proponents of the programs argue, “If you value those etiquettes yourself, then absolutely it is money worth spent.” Of course standards espoused in the course, may not fit well with all parents. I refer specifically to issues such as gender stereotyping (another entire discussion in itself) in the program rule:

Girls must be dressed as if they are going to a special function. Girls wear dresses: boys wear a collared shirt and long pants.

Gemmell draws on psychologist McGrath arguing that parents have been engaging in child-centred parenting, which has resulted in less resiliency for both parents and children. In the past, children were both taught, and expected to be, tough and to overcome and endure some hardship or pain. It is argued that in the past, parents placed a higher value on their children being independent, and also being active contributors to community.

One of the certified etiquette trainers argues that “all children can be bad-mannered but it seems to me that more and more are not being taught how to consider other people, to consider their neighbour, to stand up on a train or bus. They are only being taught to worry about themselves.” This is also supported by Gemmell who cites examples of parents as they go into “righteous battle for their precious darlings” at all cost and with little regard for anyone else. She proposes that today’s approach is more narcissistic and less empathetic towards others. A sense of community is often lost in the quest for “success” or “happiness”.

The biggest contradictory feature of the articles is that Gemmell throws the challenge and solution back to parents. Lawrence’s article on the other hand could be perceived as giving license to parents to abrogate responsibility for modelling and instilling certain values in their children. It suggests that a two-hour session (for children up to eight year olds) or two-day course (seven to eleven year olds) is a satisfactory and adequate approach to the teaching of good manners. Few would argue that good manners and etiquette are not simply out-dated and old fashioned, but important in any civilised society. However, to suggest that parents can pay for this learning to be conducted through a formal course is open to challenge. I would argue that even if the course was undertaken with the very best intention, without good follow up by way of parental modelling, the intended outcomes of the course are likely to fall on deaf ears.

One of the parent’s justifications for enrolment of her children in the etiquette course was that she saw the reason was no different to enrolment in a swimming program, stating, “It’s better coming from a qualified instructor.” Another parent’s reason for enrolment was her concern about “passing on her poor etiquette”. She wished for her children to get the “polishing” from someone with “far more experience” than she could offer stating, “I am limited.” To believe that an external provider may be more qualified to teach good manners than a parent suggests a lack of confidence in parenting.

Gemmell too raises this concern:

There’s been a big shift in the past decade, a real loss of parenting skills.
The most challenging of justification for me to accept was from the parent who argued that since she did not listen to her parents, then she could not expect her children to listen to her!!!! Of course, the assumption here is that those same children who do not listen to their own parents, would be very respectful listeners to others. I fail to see the reasoning here.

Professor Matt Sanders agrees that manners are an essential survival skill but cautions that there is no substitute for the role that parents play in this:

…the most important source of training in social etiquette is what happens every day at home between parents and their children. It's never a responsibility that can be abrogated. Whatever children learn outside the home, unless it is reinforced and consolidated in the home it’s not going to work. It’s good that parents want to school their children in these skills but the most important lesson for parents to remember is that children will emulate the things they see in the home.

Gemmell argues that the degeneration of parenting skills has led to kids now being more resilient than their parents. She argues that part of the problem is that parents are thinking and responding emotionally and too often through the minds of the child. Psychologist Helen McGrath describes a teacher’s dream parent as one who is an advocate for their child, but one who does so with courtesy; one who respects the teacher’s right to teach and doesn’t wish or demand the school to solve every problem or friendship fallout.

Children need to negotiate many and varied experiences and to solve problems along the way. McGrath cautions about the raising of self-esteem to a level where we now sometimes see a counter-productive narcissistic approach to life and events. She proposes that this “I'm better than everyone else, and I will get my way” syndrome is a result of the increase in self-esteem without the counterbalance focus on empathy.

Over competitiveness, a media–driven value style, and a lack of confidence have all contributed to a situation where our children are challenged more than ever before. We need to be careful to give them the time and the opportunity to develop as “children” and enjoy the thrills and spills along the way. I particularly like Gemmell's choice of conclusion to her article, taken from the age-old and much-loved Christopher Robin to Pooh:

Promise me you’ll always remember: You’re braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.

Finally, I have said before and I repeat, that I congratulate the parents of Marymount children. I am not the only one who makes mention of the beautiful manners and respect shown in the children’s interactions with each other and with staff. It is an absolute pleasure and affirming to hear the greetings and thanks that they so often extend, both here at school and also outside of the school surrounds. This signals very good parenting and the fact that the behaviour is not restricted to one context, suggests the children have the behaviour well ingrained. The recipe for home and school working together is well tested and in this case, most effective.

Have a great week and I hope you’ve found the reading worthwhile.

Annette O’Shea