Welcome to our February Newsletter

St Brigid's Blessing

May Brigid bless the house wherein you dwell
Bless every fireside every wall and
Bless every heart that beats beneath its
Bless every hand that toils to bring it joy
Bless every foot that walks its portals through
May Brigid bless the house that shelters you

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday 22 February
ASH WEDNESDAY

Friday 24 February
SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Friday 24 February
P & F MEET & GREET EVENING

BRIGIDINE BASICS

- The hem of a student’s uniform touches the floor when kneeling.
- Every girl is to be at school by 8.30am at least. Teaching commences at 8.40am.
- We have Homeroom at 10.30am.
- Parents should not drop and pick up daughters in Aeolia Street.
Dear Parents,

This is the first newsletter for 2012. Brigidine is always an action packed place and these first weeks of 2012 have been no different. St Brigid’s feast day (1st February), like the rest of this summer, was cool and pleasant for our Opening Eucharist.

Students from the previous HSC year attend this Mass and are given an award from the school for achieving over ninety percent in one or more subject. I always find it very touching to have our Year Seven girls, who have so much before them, present at the same time with immediate ex students who have their days as a Brigidine school girl behind them.

We pleased at the award ceremony after mass, to congratulate Lauren Ogilvie who was Dux of the year. Lauren achieved an ATAR of 99.45. Lauren gave a most gracious speech about her time at Brigidine and also gave the girls some advice about how to succeed. The advice never changes: be well organized, work consistently and listen in class.
It wouldn’t come as any surprise to you to hear that holidays are when I do a lot of reading. A Carmelite nun called Ruth Burrows, who has written a number of other books, was asked to write the Archbishop of Canterbury’s 2012 Lent Book. There are a number of particularly beautiful paragraphs in *Love Unknown*; paragraphs in which the author is able to articulate the essence of what it means to be a Christian. On Christmas Day I read this paragraph

“gazing on this tiny human being, while affirming the reality of what we actually see, hear and feel: a human child like any human child; a humanity as real as our own; we must as strongly affirm what we do not perceive with our senses: this Child is God. Totally man, totally God, an impenetrable mystery! Let all mortal flesh keep silence, in awe and adoration, yes, but we ponder it from this angle and that. Impenetrable, it remains our joy. How dreadful it would be to so rationalize what we see, and the information we are given, of God in human form, treating it as if it were a scientific puzzle capable of solution if only we could find the key. Whatever we grasp with our minds cannot be God. To grasp something means that we possess it, control it, that it is less than us. Such acquisitions can never satisfy the human spirit that is made for the infinite. Our longing, our need is for infinite Mystery and we can be satisfied with nothing less” *Love Unknown* p 93.

Everything we are doing at Brigidine is about developing in the girls the capacity to transcend the easy and the obvious in themselves and their society. The self discipline and the intellectual virtues required by their learning, our insistence that they try to do ordinary things extraordinarily well and our insistence that they have a mode of being here at school which recognizes that they are part of an integrated community are intended to create within them a disposition of mind and heart which will engage with Mystery. We too believe that “the human spirit is made for the infinite” therefore the skills for the ephemeral for which they girls are so well prepared by youth culture will not prepare them to receive the deepest longings of their hearts.

While the quote from Burrows integrates Christian belief, it makes a very good point about the basis of all human spirituality. If you want spirituality then, awe, wonder, gratitude and the happiness that we are sustained by a Mystery much more central than ourselves are essential.

I heard a cricket commentator say on the holidays that it takes 10,000 hours of practice to master a skill. This also applies to all the psychological, intellectual and emotional skills that lead to the ever deepening life in the Spirit which is our destiny and purpose.

**Welcome**

I give a very sincere welcome to **Ms Deirdre Brennan** who is here permanently as Visual Arts Coordinator and to **Ms Sarah Chalenor** who is a permanent member of the HSIE department. Welcome back to **Ms Monica Jarman, Ms Maria Daniels** and to **Ms Jo Dable**. Ms Dable is now in a job share position in Science with **Ms Michelle Schneider** who also taught at Brigidine a number of years ago and has returned to us. One of our counsellors **Ms Amy O’Hehir** has returned from us after a time of Maternity Leave.

I hope these staff members experience a happy and professionally rewarding time at Brigidine.
The Year 7s are wearing the new style of uniform beautifully. My sincere thanks to all the preparations that went into having your daughter begin here again, or for the first time.

May Brigid bless the house wherein you dwell.

Ms K Edmondson
Principal

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
Welcome back everyone to 2012! As usual it has certainly been somewhat busy but always a smooth start to the year. I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing all the familiar faces again and also it has been very rewarding to welcome all the new members to our community. So a special welcome to our Year 7 students, the graduating class of 2017, and all the new students in Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. Students at Brigidine are well known for their friendliness and hospitality in making new members to our community feel welcome. I am sure before long everyone will feel like they have been here for a long time.

I also welcome the new parents to our community and hope their years of association with the College are happy and successful. I do ask parents to contact the College if there are any problems or concerns. Your first point of contact should be your daughter’s home room teacher.

Welcome to new staff and welcome back to others to our College community. Before no time they will also feel a part of the wonderful community we have here.

Pastoral Care
This will year we will continue our work in embedding the principles of our Pastoral Care Policy and implementing the Pastoral Care Program across all the year groups. Pastoral Care is about building quality relationships. Most importantly it is about having a sense of community and working together collaboratively. We believe that improved relationships lead to improved academic outcomes because the school environment is safe and secure for all our students.
**Peer Support**
The Year 7 will be following the Peer Support Program which allows them the opportunity to buddy with a Year 11 student. This provides them with the excellent chance to seek all they need to know about Brigidine, and assists them in settling in and making new friends.

**Ash Wednesday**
On 22nd February we will gather together as a community in a liturgy for Ash Wednesday, which is the beginning of six and a half weeks of preparation for the most important season in our Church calendar, Easter. Ashes are an ancient symbol of sorrow for things we have done wrong. During the liturgy staff and students will receive a marking on the forehead of ash which shows our commitment to living a life based on the Gospel.

**Swimming Carnival**
Our annual College Swimming Carnival takes place on Friday 24th February. This is still a school day and **attendance by all students is compulsory**. Parents and friends are most welcome to join on this fun filled day. The carnival will be at Botany Aquatic Centre Swimming Pool in Jasmine Street Botany. More details have been included in the latter part of this newsletter.

**Getting Organised**
The beginning of the school year is the ideal time for students to:

- Make up a **study plan** after prioritising other activities in their life;
- Map out the school year in terms of **tasks to be completed**;
- Set up an interruption free **study space** at home for completion of tasks;
- Ensure all **equipment and books** are purchased and available to them;
- Find out what resources and assistance are available to **support** them;
- Establish a **routine** for studying and completing homework; and
- Look ahead to the future and set personal and educational **goals**.

I am looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible during the course of the year. Please let me know if I can be of assistance to you.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

*Mrs Antoinette McGahan*
*Assistant Principal*
SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The Annual Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday 24 February at Botany Pool.

Students in Year 7 will be bussed to the pool and back to school at the end of the day. Year 7 must arrive at school for 8.00 Roll Call. It is estimated that students will be back at school between 2.30-3.00pm.

Students in Years 8 to 12 must make their own way to the pool and home. Roll Call will be at the pool at 8.30am. If any student in Year 8 to 12 needs to catch the organised school bus they must fill in the permission note and return this to their roll teacher. If catching the bus you need to be in the Main Quad at 8.00am. The carnival will commence at 9.00am and finish at approximately 2.00pm.

All student supervision will conclude at 2.15pm. Therefore, could all parents/carers please ensure that your daughter has made adequate arrangements for her return home at the conclusion of the carnival. Pool authorities do not permit children to remain at the pool and they must leave at the conclusion of the carnival.

Please note that the Swimming Carnival is a compulsory College event. If your daughter is absent on the day of the carnival due to illness, please contact the school and inform them of her absence either by leaving your message on voicemail or contacting the office at 8.00am. On her return to school she must present a doctor’s certificate to her roll call teacher.

The carnival will be held regardless of weather. All students must come prepared with hats, sunscreen and drink bottles. If it is wet weather you are advised to bring appropriate clothing.

If you are still not sure about the weather conditions or if the carnival will go ahead ring the infoline phone number – 1902 262 019 (max $1.10 per minute) and put our school code 1076. This will give you a recording regarding the carnival.

Canteen facilities will be available from 10.30am.

Dress for the Carnival

Students may dress up in their House Colours for the carnival but they must make sure they are in appropriate clothing to travel in. NO PAINT IS TO BE USED AT ANY TIME AS DRESS UP.

All students must be aware of sun safety and wear appropriate clothing to prevent sunburn as well as using sunscreen and wearing a hat. Stay hydrated and drink plenty of water.

We hope to see lots of participation from all girls and great team spirit.

Good luck to all teams and all swimmers.

Ms Kate Emerson
Sports Coordinator
LIBRARY NEWS:
Girls hooked on books love to chat!
On Wednesday at lunchtime, fuelled by treats such as Ms Jarman’s chocolate cake, fifty-five girls had their say at the BCR Book Club. At this exciting first meeting, students from 7 to 10 helped shape the future of the Club, giving their stamp of approval to a range of activities including member purchase of books, participation in library competitions and the creation of promotional films for favourite books. The BCR Book Club has two branches: Hooked on Books for 7-8 and Book Chat which caters for 9-10.

For Ms Jarman, Mrs Darcy, Mrs Solberg and myself, it was a pleasure to see the girls having so much fun. After all, book clubs are just as much about friendship and good times as they are about literature.
I finally got to meet Kyubey owo who has made some interesting contributions to the blog – as have many girls. Students and parents, check out the library blogs for Hooked on Books and Book Chat, respectively.

Trish Kennedy
Teacher Librarian
YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Welcome back everyone. For those of you who are new to Brigidine I would like to introduce myself. My name is Mrs. Robyn Ross and I am the Youth Ministry Co-ordinator. The role of the Youth Ministry Co-ordinator “is to help take forward the Catholic Life of the school by further strengthening the partnership between the school and local parishes and for engaging young people into responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the Catholic faith community”.

Throughout the year I will let you know of all the activities that will be on offer in the Randwick/Botany Deanery as well as youth events organized by our Catholic Education Office and other youth agencies.

On the 16 March there will be a Youth event hosted by St Therese’s, Mascot. The event will take place in the Parish Hall. Please watch this space for further details regarding this event. CYS (Catholic Youth Services) website lists further initiatives and activities. Have a look and see what is on.

The first meeting for those interested in forming a music liturgy group will be on Monday, Day 6, 20 February, at lunchtime in C12.

Mrs. Robyn Ross
Youth Ministry Co-ordinator

WINTER UNIFORMS
Year 7 and all new students need to make an appointment to have Winter Uniforms fitted.

FITTING DATES:
Saturday 18 February
Saturday 25 February
Saturday 3 March
Saturday 10 March

Please phone the Uniform Shop or have your daughter come into the shop on a MONDAY ONLY between 8.00am and 2.00pm to make an appointment.

Fittings are ESSENTIAL on these dates, as orders need to be placed by 12 March to ensure delivery by the end of Term 1.

Anne Scivetti
UNIFORM SHOP MANAGER
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<td>Year 12 Information Evening</td>
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<td>Friday 24 February</td>
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<td>Wednesday 7 March</td>
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<td>Wednesday 16 May</td>
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<td>Tuesday 26 June</td>
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<td>Thursday 28 June</td>
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<td>Friday 30 November</td>
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FOOTBALL - GET MORE GAME TIME WITH EAST’S FC

East’s FC is currently seeking male and female football players for the coming season in the under 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 age groups (as well as all younger age groups). East’s is a large junior soccer club participating in the eastern suburbs club competition. It makes every effort to avoid clashes with school training and playing times and has many players who successfully play club and school sport. If a clash does occur then we accept that school sport comes first. If you want to get more game time this season come along to our trials on Saturday 18 February at Queens Park (meet near Darley Road children’s playground) - under 13 at 4.00pm and older ages at 5.00pm.

For more information boys should contact John Clayton (jhclay@bigpond.net.au) and girls should contact Oonagh Power (opower@eastsf.com.au); or visit the Easts FC website (www.eastsfc.com.au).