Welcome to our March Newsletter

Dear Parents

On Monday Brigidine, with other schools in Randwick was the subject of an article in the Sydney Morning Herald. The article had “The Xfactor that adds up to schooling success” as its headline. The journalist used information from MySchool to compare the schools’ performances on NAPLAN with the money received per student in the different schools. It is a relief to see journalists at last showing that Catholic systemic schools are not receiving more money per student than students in State Schools. In fact Brigidine was quoted as receiving $11,337 per student which is below the state average of $12,539. There are so many aspects to education in Australia that need to be aired and discussed so that real gains can be made; the perennial funding debate is a distraction from deeply felt issues.

The article was complimentary about Brigidine’s academic performance given the tax payer and parent funds invested in the school. This observation is truthful and of course it is wonderful to be in the newspaper with a positive report. I have to say though that the article made me cringe inwardly. It is well said that all comparisons are odious and this comparison was being made with sketchy and emotion laden information. I felt for the teachers who are working in very challenging situations in Randwick schools whose work is invisible to MySchool readers. Most of the wonderful work for children in any school goes without fanfare.

I was upset by the article too because Brigidine is not a business or a shop where education is for sale and I worry that there are those who might read the article and be attracted to the school because it is a “good deal”. This materialistic and grasping attitude is the antithesis of education in the Catholic tradition.

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Coming Events

- **Monday 26 March 2012**
  - Year 12 Exams Begin

- **Wednesday 4 April 2012**
  - Night Patrol

- **Thursday 5 April 2012**
  - Year 12 Exams end
  - Holy Thursday
  - Last Day of Term 1

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 8.40am.
- We have Hoteroom at 10.30am.
- Parents should not drop and pick up daughters in Aeolia Street.
Those in Catholic schools do what we do with devotion and a great sense of commitment and integrity. This is a gift to others; it cannot be demanded and cannot be paid for with money. The necessary response is respect and a similar commitment to our values by those who seek inclusion in our school communities.

So what is the Xfactor at Brigidine? I don’t have to think hard about this as the evidence is before me everyday.

1. **Generosity.** A good teacher is generous with her talents and her time. The great majority of Brigidine teachers and support staff will walk many extra miles to help a student, to make a process work better or to make an opportunity available to the girls. Students are encouraged to be generous and helpful to each other.

2. **Care of Staff.** “Virtue has its own reward” is a saying made for those who work in schools. People who work in schools get a buzz from helping others and being a part of a community. A school is a very exciting place with so many different activities going on all the time and so many individual needs colliding and commingling. It is energizing to be around young people. Truly, there is never a dull moment. As altruistic as our task is, however, no one wants to work in an abusive environment. My most important task is to bring together all the elements of our school culture that allow staff to have a good experience in their work and not an abusive and disheartening one. Happy, hard working staff members who are proud of their ability and believe that can freely express their abilities in their work are the very best adults to nurture the girls.

3. **Brigidine is a community.** We have a wonderful heritage which is beyond price. Our present position is built on the lives of all the Brigidine sisters who once lived and worked here for no salary. We are beneficiaries of the generosity of staff members, parents and students who have known that something special is created when individual desires are put aside for the sake of the important needs of the school community. No amount of money can buy this understanding and the effects of its practice. Self discipline, supported by stated expectations of behaviour, creates a harmonious community where individuals can relax, enjoy teaching and learning and just being alive.

4. **A place of covenants.** A covenant is the biblical word for promise. All staff at Brigidine sign contracts as do parents and students. We have all made promises to be people who will support the culture and ethos of our Catholic school. Intrinsic to those promises is individual compliance with the expectations of the community and a generosity and integrity which transcend rules and enrich the whole school.

I am proud of what we are able to achieve for our girls with the resources we have. I am so without making comparisons with other schools. I know the details of this joyous and worthwhile struggle and so I continue to resource staff for ongoing professional development, insist on respectful behaviours and attitudes and demand that the girls dress in the school uniform so that the wider community is given a message that our girls are well cared for at Brigidine. Everyone makes a knowledgeable contribution; everyone thoughtfully participates; that is the Xfactor for any human community.

**Ms Kate Edmondson**
**Principal**
FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

This term has certainly been extremely busy and I am sure that both staff and students are looking forward to the holidays. So as Term 1 draws to a close, it is very important that students look back at what they have achieved so far and what they need to do before Term 2 begins. As we are now almost half way through Semester One, students can still make a big difference in their reports. The senior students have their assessment booklets outlining the assessment tasks planned throughout 2012. This is very valuable and allows students to successfully plan prepare and complete tasks.

Thank you & The Year 7 Camp

I must thank the teachers who attended the Year 7 Camp this year. It is an enormous commitment from teachers to be away from their families. Thank you Mrs Parsons, Mrs Day, Ms Ainsworth, Ms Catanzariti, Ms Tita, Ms McColl, Ms Chaloner, Mrs Lee, Mrs Gouveia, Mrs McCarthy, Mrs Giuffre & Mrs Bassil. I am sure the girls had a wonderful time and appreciate all that their teachers did for them.

Mr Baldwin and I took 12 Year Leaders up to Collaroy to spend some quality time with the Year 7 students. Ms Lesley Thwaites kindly volunteered to drive us up and spent the entire time with us. The leaders were very excited to be doing this which has become part of what we do at Brigidine. The Year 7 students also loved seeing their Year 12 leaders visit them and participate in some of the activities. We managed to get back home just after 11.30pm very tired but feeling quite satisfied that our journey was a great success.

A huge thank you to Ms Lesley Thwaites for giving up her time, to the Year 12 Leaders Sacha Evans, Paloma Siles, Jordan Franklin, Tiffany Alexander, Jennifer Nicolas, Sonala De Silva, Meaghan Hackett, Kate Myers, Molly Cocks, Maddi Rawson, Mairead Cleary and Kate Murphy who gave up precious study time and to Mr Baldwin. A word of thanks to OLSH Kensington who allowed us to use their school bus.

Lent & Project Compassion

Lent is a time to prepare for the gift of the resurrection. Lent has a huge significance in our lives because it is a time to reach out to others which may include rebuilding broken relationships, working harder at existing relationships, spending more time with family or doing something to help others.

Our school leaders have done an amazing job in encouraging our community to be generous in giving those less fortunate than ourselves through Project Compassion. To date the girls have collected almost $4000 and there are still 2 weeks to go. This is a great effort and I am hoping the girls will continue this generosity until the end of term. It only takes a little to make a big change in the lives of others.
**Behaviour In Public**

So I would like to remind the girls that whilst we acknowledge that each girl is unique, when they are in school uniform they represent the entire Brigidine College community. Each student is expected to be on her best behaviour at all times especially when in public. This means that students are

- To behave with respect and dignity;
- To be courteous and polite;
- To refrain from using inappropriate language;
- Not to loiter in shopping areas, at train stations or at cafes;
- To travel directly to and from school without any diversions unless physically accompanied by a parent or guardian;
- To be wearing the correct full school uniform; and
- To act in a responsible and mature manner.

**End of Term**

All students are expected to attend every day over the next couple of weeks. It is normal school week except for some minor interruptions on the last day of term for a Holy Thursday Liturgy. Next term begins on Monday 23 April and students are expected to return in their winter uniform. Winter uniforms should be checked for size and length so any alterations or adjustments that are needed can be made well in advance.

**Head Lice**

There has been a report of head lice in the school. We are asking that all parents examine their child’s hair for signs of lice infestation. The lice themselves are often hard to find because they move around on the head. Therefore, you should be looking for the eggs or nits.

These appear as tiny silvery white specks attached to the hair shaft near the scalp. Dandruff and hairspray may look similar but these are easily brushed away, the eggs are not. Other signs of lice infestation may be a red rash and scratch marks on the scalp, nape of the neck or behind the ears.

If you child has contacted head lice do not be alarmed. Although the condition is unpleasant, it is easily treated with a specialised treatment like Quellada, which is available from your local chemist. After using Quellada (according to the directions on the pack), use a fine tooth comb to remove the dead lice and eggs. Any articles which may harbour lice such as clothes, towels and bed linen should be washed in hot water and detergent. Combs and brushes should also be washed in hot soapy water.

As head lice are highly contagious it is suggested that you examine and treat all members of the family at the same time. It is always advisable that hair longer than shoulder length is appropriately tied back.

Finally, thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

*Mrs Antoinette McGahan*
UNIFORM SHOP
Fitting for Brigidine vests and cardigans will take place in Term 2 on Monday 21st and 28th May. These items are not compulsory but are in addition to the school jumper which is compulsory. Full payment must be paid at time of fitting:

- Vest $54.00
- Cardigan $72.00

Mrs Anne Scivetti
Uniform Shop Manager

Faith to the EXTREME Camp Notice
This April school holidays (Monday 16 April to Wednesday 18 April) there will be a combined Diocesan Youth Camp at Crosslands Youth & Convention Centre, Galston where you can take your faith to the Extreme! Extreme is all about encouraging young people in Years 7 to 10 in their faith. The camp is hosted by Catholic Youth Services Sydney and Catholic Youth Parramatta who will use fun activities, multimedia, drama, music and share testimonies! Cos is $120 which covers accommodation, transport, meals and all activities. To register download a registration form from www.cys.org.au and return by Monday 2 April to annabel@cys.org.au Questions? Call Annabel on (02) 9764 4357. Join us for three days that will CHANGE YOUR LIFE. Don’t miss out! For more information, please see Mrs Ross.

Mrs Robyn Ross
Youth Ministry Coordinator

GET REAL YOUTH EVENT
On Friday the 16th of March, five representatives from years 10, 11 and 12 attended the “Get Real” evening at Holy Family Parish Maroubra. The evening aimed to encourage us to become more active in our faith as well as provide answers to the questions that sometimes arise in our technological world. After a delicious barbeque dinner, we listened to an insightful talk from Cardinal Pell on the topic of Science and Religion, as well as a short presentation from Fr Brennan, who is a Professor of Physics and Philosophy, on the Book of Genesis and the Big Bang. Both were highly informative, engaging speeches which left us all with a greater understanding of science and its importance to our understanding of religion. We then enjoyed music from Gary Pinto, composer of the World Youth Day 2008 song ‘Receive the Power’ and met many other young people from across the Sydney Archdiocese. Overall, the evening was a thought provoking and enjoyable event and we would like to thank Mrs Ross for organising this opportunity for us.

Kate Myers - Year 12

MOCK TRIAL NEWS
Our second Mock Trial For the year will be held Wednesday 28th March. The trial is against St Andrews Cathedral and will be held at Brigidine in CU1 at 4pm. Parents and friends are all welcome to attend. Good luck to the team

Ms Nicolas
HSIE (Commercial) Coordinator
NIGHT PATROL

Once a month on a Wednesday Night, students from year 11 and 12 have an amazing opportunity to help out in the Saint Vincent’s Night patrol. Coffee and hot chocolate are provided to the homeless, but the real thing being offered is company. For many, this would be the only contact they would have received all day. I have participated in many night patrol evenings, and I want to be a part of the program for the rest of my life.

One man described his lazy Wednesday to me; a late wake up, a casual breakfast in Hyde Park, then a walk around the city. It really hit home that his late wake up was in Central Station. His breakfast was found from people’s leftovers on the seats in Hyde Park, and his walk was to find more food and shelter for the next evening. Another man I spoke to was a part of the church band and was nervous about the concert coming up. A female had come to Australia for an internship, but her circumstances turned unexpectedly, and she was left on the street, still going to work each day, acting like nothing was wrong. This sort of experience cannot be put in words; I urge all of your daughters to volunteer at night patrol.

The response for volunteers from the school community has been overwhelming. So overwhelming we have not had the opportunity to respond to everyone. Thank you to all the Parents, Staff and Students who have put down their name to be involved in such a worthy cause. We shall be in contact soon as the chance to do training and go on night patrol is all starting to get some momentum in Term 2.

Mr Mark Baldwin
Administration Coordinator
THE CLANCY PRIZE. - McGlade Gallery, ACU, Strathfield.

Last Friday night, on behalf of the Brigidine College school community, Ms Edmondson, Ms Brennan and I attended the 13th annual Religious Art Exhibition for Sydney’s Secondary Catholic Schools. Our school was represented in the exhibition with art works by Alex MacDonald, who completed her HSC last year, Jasmine Alzate, now in year 11, and a collaborative work by our Year 8 class of 2011 of which I was part. The theme for the artworks was ‘There where you are, you will find God’, which were the words of St Mary MacKillop. The Year 8 collaborative work was named ‘Journey’ and was made up of sculptures created with recycled materials and found objects, to provide an interpretation of where ‘we were in life’. There were 12 entries in total for the collaborative works category and Brigidine was awarded one of the three major prizes in this section. I was very pleased to accept the award on behalf of the Year 8 art class, the students and teachers.

The students who made these works were: Yvette Keevers, Sarah McCormick, Crystal Whiteley, Mary – Anne Pizzaro, Bronte Carolan, Brigette O’Connell, Aiofe Kane, Amanda Ligori, Jasmine McGowan, Alexandra Godfrey. An unexpected, but welcome bonus was also presented to me in the form of a ‘lucky door prize’ into which all the schools represented were entered. Brigidine College won a voucher for art materials provided by Eckersley’s Art supplies.

The major prize for the evening is the Clancy Prize, named after Cardinal Edward Clancy who said “Religion and art have been closely related from earliest times…and religious art is a powerful force in the service of humanity”. It was a great experience to attend the opening night of the exhibition, to be there to appreciate the talents of the students, created under the guidance of their teachers in the nurturing environment of Catholic education.

Sarah McCormick Year 9
YEAR 11 EXCURSION TO THE ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Lunch with Pablo
The Year 11 Visual Art students went to the Art Gallery of NSW in order to look at “Picasso: the Masterpieces”. We looked at its relationship with our current study, the female form. It was an enthralling and unique experience seeing many paintings that we had looked at in great depth in class in real life, especially looking at works such as The Bathers as the details bordered on surreal.

While at the art gallery of NSW we also took the chance to visit the Art express which displays New South Wales choice of admirable HSC Visual Arts Body of Works. To be honest, many of the works were quite intimidating; particularly when one noted that these were students were only a year older than us.

Finally we viewed the new John Kaldor section of the art gallery; it was truly fascinating to see postmodern works and ideas in action. Personally I was in awe at the fact that there was a beautiful Anish Kapoor work which one could look at for infinity and still not quite understand its full depth and meaning. The day was huge and there were so many opportunities to challenge our understanding of the Visual Arts.

Claire McCarthy Year 11

Brigidine College are winners at the Randwick City Council 2012 Art Competition and Prize
Jeslyne Fung won 2nd prize and Carolina Knight won 3rd prize in the 12-19 Years old section of the Randwick City Art Prize. The prize celebrated International Women’s Day Community. It is a wonderful achievement for the girls.

All the girls who exhibited are to be congratulated. These artworks are nearly as big as the girls, pictured from left to right are Sofia Lekkas, Carolina Knight, Jeslyn Fung and Krysta McMah.

Ms Deirdre Brennan
Visual Arts Coordinator
TAS - HOSPITALITY NEWS

Congratulations to Elizabeth Calvert, Paige Holland and Lucy Wilkinson of Year 11 Hospitality for their fine effort in preparing and serving High Tea at Sydney City Council’s Pyrmont Community International Women’s Day celebration. The girls were highly commended for their manner and skill. This event was a valuable catering experience for the students, but also a wonderful opportunity to be involved with organisations assisting women through hardship and suffering.

For these girls, this catering event was one of many undertaken this year so far in Hospitality. A team of enthusiastic Year 11 and 12 students also catered the Meet and Greet function as well as the Open day cupcake extravaganza.
Congratulations to Jessica Thornton who competed in the Australian Junior Athletics Championships last weekend at Homebush. Jessica was awarded the **U15 Australian Champion** in the 100m, 200m and 400m. Jessica also competed in the U16 4x100m relay and 4x200m relay and won gold in both of these events. Jessica competed in five events and won five gold medals. Jessica is ranked 15th fastest time this year for the U15’s 400m and 3rd fastest time this year for the U20’s 400m.

Jessica Thornton also competed in the NSW Stage Age Surf Life Saving Championships. Jessica won GOLD in the U14 flags and then competed up an age group at the Open Championships and received SILVER in the U15 sprints. We will definitively be following your athletic career closely. Good luck Jessica

**Congratulations** to Vanessa Panousis. Vanessa has been selected in the U17 Australian Basketball Team. Vanessa will be travelling to China next month to compete in the pre World Championship Tour!

**TUESDAY TOUCH FOOTBALL**

Brigidine College were awarded **Championship School 2011 - 2012** in the Eastern Suburbs Schools Competition.

At the beginning of the season Brigidine entered 16 teams into the championships; 15 teams made it to the Semi Finals and 10 teams qualified for the Grand Final. Out of these 10 teams we had 6 winning teams taking out the championships in their division. Congratulations to all those teams for their incredible skill and effort that has been present since Term 4 last year.

A huge thank you to all the parent managers who organised their teams each week and assisted them through coaching and substitutions: Christine Murphy, Damien Cocks, Peter Bambridge, Jane Franklin, Pauline Chan, Rhonda Seelin, Alan Trevitt, Scott Bennett, Debby White, Peter Bowen, Manuel Pikos, Darren Peeti, Kim Dobra, Melanie West, Liz Riley and Ian Mead. Thank you to all parents who come along each week to support their daughters and the team. Thank you to John Ryan for the professional running of the competition and all the referees.

Congratulations to the following girls who were voted **Best and Fairest** throughout the 2 term competition.

- Hannah Denney Senior C
- Jennifer Chan Junior B
- Mayliss Caillon Junior C
- Madison Downey Junior D

Reminder to all Tuesday Touch Girls, to return your top to your captain by 30 March. If the top is not returned by then, it will be charged to your school fees.

Ms Kate Emerson
Sports Coordinator
TOUCH FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS

Brigidine 1
Natalie Murphy
Kate Murphy
Jessie Seelin
Bronte Price
Lily Rayment
Arielle Kurz
Sheridan Paine
Mairead Cleary
Cobi Bedford

Parent: Christine Murphy

Brigidine 3
Rebecca Ward
Grace Bambridge
Kylie Maris
Grace Manolas
Montanna Geraghty
Charlotte Murray
Holly Gooch
Tylar Morelli
Lisa Scott

Parent: Peter Bambridge

Brigidine 10
Tara Hayes
Grace Kilponen
Caitlin Ochan
Georgia Akle
Allish Mead
Mayliss Caillon
Annalisa Brioschi
Emily Donohoe

Parent: Ian Mead

Brigidine 12
Anna Molihan
Alex Godfrey
Emma Bowen
Grice Lavorato
Sinead Docherty
Bronte Carolan
Tatum Sinclair-Harris
Sophie Chadwick
Tanya Thongpanich
Madison Downey

Parent: Peter Bowen

Selection of the Staff Cheer Squad and ‘Mascot’
CGSSSA SWIMMING
Our 2012 CGSSSA Swimming Squad competed at Ryde Aquatic Centre on Thursday 15\textsuperscript{th} March. This year our squad was up against some talented opposition in the pool competing in DIVISION 1. The girls gained some excellent individual results and we placed 6\textsuperscript{th} on the day. We are still awaiting results to determine which students will be selected in the Combined Catholic Colleges team. Congratulations to all girls and we wish all CCC representatives the best when they compete at the next level.

2012 Swimming Squad
- Emily Barrett
- Grace Galway
- Brooke Emerson
- Emma Thomson
- Hayley King
- Liana McMorrow
- Georgia Thomson
- Emma Smith
- Sophie Thomson
- Isabelle Power
- Casey Trivas
- Jaci Fiala
- Neve Tobin
- Hannah Sinclair
- Hannah Denney
- Neve Tobin
- Natalie Murphy
- Kate Murphy
- Bella Raymond
- Sophie Thomson
- Isabelle Power
- Casey Trivas
- Jacqueline Fiala

CRESSO TRIVIA NIGHT
Cresso is an aid group that works to ensure the health, safety & education of displaced or orphaned children by the conflict in Burma.
- **Supported by the Local Community**
  All prizes have been donated to us from Local Business’ in Coogee/Randwick Area
- **Don’t miss out - Book a table now**

Your team can be as big or small as you like
- **Call Andria: 0415 257 793 to book**
- **Friday 25 May 2012 – Starts @ 8pm Bar Open from 7pm**

**Coogee Diggers Club**: Corner of Carr and Byron St, Coogee

Entry: Only $10 per person or $15 Entry + 3 x Raffle Tickets
There will be lots of **Prizes** to be won & all money raised will go to help orphaned & displaced children from Burma.
YEAR 8 VISUAL ARTS UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY

On 23 February after the Brigidine Swimming Carnival, Year 8 Visual Arts Students had the opportunity to participate in an underwater photography class. We learnt different techniques of how to catch the movement of water. We also had the option to bring props that would flow in the water to add more colour and to create visual interest.

We all had a really good time and are keen to have another lesson. Best of all, everybody got some amazing pictures showing water at its best! The above image is what we aspire to do in the future.

The other images are of some Year 8 students. The art rooms looked great for open day with our photographs.

Thanks to Ms Brennan and Mrs Symth. ‘When can we go again’?

By Sally Walker and Natalie Melis Year 8.5
Helping learner drivers become safer drivers
FREE workshops for parents and supervising drivers

To provide practical advice about:
- Current laws for L and P licence holders.
- Supervising learner drivers.
- Completing the Learner driver log book.
- The benefits of supervised on-road driving experience.

The next workshop in your area will be held:

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