Welcome to our April Newsletter

"Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here.”
Mark 16:6

May we all have a happy, sunny Easter holiday.
Ms K Edmondson
Principal
An Enrichment Program for High Achieving Students in Years 7 to 10

Engage Challenge Achieve Connect: Learning Labs

The Education Faculty at the University of Wollongong is holding a secondary school gifted and talented program in the July school holidays called Learning Labs. Workshops include Creative Writing, Drama, Engineering, Physics, Journalism, History, Computer Programming, Graphic Arts, Philosophy and Law.

This is a program for students to interact and challenge each other. There are scholarships available for students in financial hardship or who have to travel a distance.

Duration: 2 days
Date: Monday 9 and Tuesday 10 July, 8.30am to 3.00pm
Fee: $135
Where: University of Wollongong Campus
For Years 7 to 10, curriculum pitched at a Year 11/12 level
Application: Go to www.uow.edu.au/educ/learninglabs
For further information please contact Cathy Young 9568 8426. Expires 26 May 2012.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

As I take the time to write this I cannot help but think this has been an absolutely amazing term filled with so much. This week I felt quite privileged to have attended a spirituality retreat with a focus on ‘The Awareness of the Presence of God’. It is always difficult for any of us to take the time to actually reflect and renew ourselves in this modern day society. This retreat made me stop and just “be” which is so difficult to do when we are rushing all the time. From this experience I have come away feeling calmer and nourished knowing that;

‘Awareness puts us into contact with the universe. It mines every relationship, un masks every event, every moment, of the meaning that is under the meaning of it. The question is not so much what is going on in the room, but what is happening to me because of it. What do I see here of God that I could not see otherwise?’ (Sr Joan Chittister)

Thank you

Brigidine is a place which offers students many different opportunities to become a part of a wonderful, caring and supportive community. Our College is exactly that place where each student is cared for and nurtured. I am sure that both staff and students are looking forward to the holidays. I take this opportunity to thank the staff for all their hard work and support throughout this incredibly busy term.

Project Compassion

I am so proud of our students and our community. The girls have worked so hard as a united group to raise well over $6300 for Caritas. The girls have really taken on board it only takes a little to make a big change. This will make a significant difference in the lives of those who less fortunate than ourselves. Congratulations to each and every member of our community.

Founder’s Day Mass – Date change

Please take note of this change of date the Mass for our Founder’s Day has changed from Wednesday 20 June to Wednesday 18 July 2012.
Term 2
Term 2 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.

**Holy Week & Easter**
This week is arguably the most important week in our Church’s Liturgical calendar... A time when, as a faith community, we reflect on struggle, sacrifice, and risk. The Easter message is always one of renewal and hope that a new life and deeper love can grow. I wish everyone the blessings of Easter. May the hope of Easter and the joy of our Risen Christ be real in our lives every day.

**To the Students**
As Term 1 ends I remind all students across all years that this is the opportune time to reflect on what you have achieved and what you need to do before Term 2 begins. Each student can still make a difference in her performance and achievement before the end of Semester 1.

Finally I wish everyone a well deserved, restful and safe holiday. Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

*Mrs Antoinette McGahan*
Assistant Principal

**LIBRARY NEWS**
*What our kids are reading...*
This year, student requests for particular authors and series have driven most of the fiction purchases in the library and it’s evident that our girls are lapping up fantasy. So why exactly is that?

If we take *The Hunger Games* as a case in point, then there’s plenty of reason to follow the example of the girls. This smart, fast-paced trilogy represents the response of ordinary people to a corrupt central government some time after a 4th World War. While the novel includes yet another love triangle (an emerging fantasy staple), many aspects of the love story are highly original and there’s so much more to the tale than romance. The love angle is woven into a political picture where reality TV meets government manipulation of vulnerable citizens and Katniss, feisty female teenage protagonist, is at the heart of the action.

The idea that good fantasy helps us to engage with reality is supported by the way that this novel provokes our reflection on the nature of justice and worthwhile relationships. Fantasy also stimulates our imaginative capacity and provides us with a break from our everyday world. But for troubled readers, fantasy may offer an extra dimension of comfort. Tamora Pierce, a successful fantasy writer has commented: ‘Fantasy is also important for... readers like I was, from families that are now called dysfunctional... nothing carried over into my thoughts and dreams until I discovered fantasy... I could see the interplay and the lasting power of light and hope. It got me through” (2007, Lennard, p. 199).
Shared reading creates strong bonds between our girls, which is one of the reason we have purchased many popular titles in multiples this year. Joyce Mercer observes, ‘As a social practice, part of the appeal of reading Twilight comes from the ways girls use it to support and enhance their relationships’ (2010, p. 26).

Of course, we can apply the Twilight phenomenon to a host of other reading experiences, including that of The Hunger Games. An awareness of the social dimensions of shared reading shapes our practice in the BCR Library and has inspired our 2012 Book Club.


Some BCR Hunger Games fans

**Book Club**

Our next Book Club will be held on Friday, March 30. Kay Proos from Shearers on Norton, Leichhardt, will be speaking to the girls about a range of books and they will have the opportunity to do some ordering. Book Club girls will be able to eat their lunch during the talk and should find the experiencing relaxing and fun after their term assessment.

**Library fines scrapped**

We’ve decided to end library fines for a number of reasons. Most overdue books are only a day or so late and most students express their regret about late returns. Generally, our students recognise that library resources are shared resources that everyone has a right to access. For the rare situation involving returns that are very late and consistently late, we prefer a more constructive response than library fines – that of Library Service. Library Service will simply involve five or ten minutes of student assistance to the library staff at lunchtime or recess and should be a positive experience. Library Service will have a much better chance of shaping responsible student behaviour than imposing a fine that is generally paid by the parent.

**Return Reminders** will be posted on a notice board in the library with other library news items. The names of girls with overdue resources will no longer be read out in homeroom but there will be a weekly reminder for students to check the Return Reminders list.
Books deemed Lost
If a student fails to return a book after it has been overdue for four weeks, a request for return will be sent to the parent[s]. Unfortunately, if the book fails to appear after an additional two-week period (six weeks overdue in total), parents will be billed and the book will be reordered. A refund cannot be offered if the book turns up after this time-frame as the whole reordering/re-accessioning process would already be on track. We thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Ms Trish Kennedy
Teacher Librarian

MOCK TRIAL NEWS
Last Wednesday night our Mock Trial team competed in their 1st trial for the year against St Andrew’s Cathedral. In a closely fought trial our team was able to convince the judge, beyond reasonable doubt, that the defendant was guilty. However, regarding the overall trial, Brigidine was defeated by only 3 points. The team managed to present an excellent trial despite the fact that this was the first trial for most of the team. Congratulations and well done girls.
The team consisted of:
- **Barristers:** Claire McCarthy and Maua Aluni
- **Solicitor:** Amanda Liem
- **Witnesses:** Stephanie Gregor and Beth Meldrum
- **Magistrate’s Assistant:** Anna Macdonald

Jennifer Nicolas
HSIE (Commercial) Coordinator.

Congratulations to Jessica Mc Bride and Heidi Cummings who competed in the NSW State Age Surf Life Saving Championships and won a gold medal for their performance as part of the under 12 relay team - a fantastic result in a highly competitive field!
**Bridie Molihan** reached the final of the swim races, **Jessica Mc Bride** reached the finals of the sprints and **Heidi Cummings** reached the final of the flag race!

CGSSSA SOCCER 2012
The CGSSSA Soccer Competition was held last Wednesday, 28 March 2012 at Meadowbank Fields. It was a rainy day and the girls did a fantastic job both on the field and supporting each other from the sidelines.
The Junior team played 3 round games, winning one, drawing one and losing one. Unfortunately this was not enough to move them through to the next level. The Seniors won all 4 of their round games finishing at the top of their pool and advancing them through to the Semi Finals. In the Semi Finals was a tough match for a Seniors who were defeated 3-0.
Congratulations to all the girls on a wonderful day, everyone showed determination, enthusiasm and teamwork, WELL DONE.

Ms Jennifer Michaels
PDHPE Department
YEAR 7 CAMP AT COLLAROY CENTRE

Camp at Collaroy Conference Centre was a fantastic and memorable experience. I feel as if I have formed many new and strong friendships. Each activity involved team work, cooperation and much fun. Many of the activities challenged our strength and our courage but in the end we were all proud of ourselves.

My favourite activity was The Giant Swing. Initially, I was so frightened and if it wasn’t for the encouragement of my friends, I probably wouldn’t have done it. Once we were strapped in the swing, we were lifted 16 metres above the ground! It was reassuring to know that my friends were looking after me. Upon reaching the top, I nervously peered down to see 13 girls watching me soar as high as the treetops. My body started trembling and I lost my grip on the rope.

As the countdown began, I pulled the rope and whoosh; I was swinging 16 metres in the air. As I got unstrapped, I was still trembling with fear but also with much excitement. I managed to overcome my fears and succeed in such a thrilling activity. I was proud of myself and all the other girls in my group.

My overall experience at camp was outstanding. The activities were awesome and I have made many wonderful friends. It was great to forget about school and homework and just have fun. Thank you to all the helpers involved in this fantastic trip and a big thank you to Mrs Parsons for organising the camp and giving us a positive, memorable and fun start to Year 7.

Mikaela Jackson – Year 7
WORLD YOUTH DAY LAUNCH
The World Youth Day launch was actually very interesting and compelling. To be honest, I had been expecting something extremely religious with not a lot of fun or entertainment involved, but that wasn’t the case. We had a lovely little liturgy with “Prayers of the Faithful” among other things to keep with the religious tones involved with World Youth Day, but many of the pictures and videos shown to us (Years 9 and 10) actually looked pretty amazing. Not only because of the places (Madrid from last year and Rio for 2013) which look fantastic but also because of the people you’d get to meet, the general upbeat vibe of the event and the experience you would receive from being around a different culture.

When the videos were finished, a cute kind of cheesy little dramatization advertising World Youth Day was put on for us by Year 10 students Roshani Soneji, Alex McManus, Tori King, Kate Williamson and Sara Burgess which got a laugh or two. Overall, I felt that the World Youth Day launch was pretty great and very well done. It certainly got myself and others interested in going to Rio to attend in 2013.

Courtenay Sherwood – Year 10 Winifred
RANDWICK BOTANY HARRIERS
Randwick Botany Harriers would like all students to be made aware of its Club Runs that are held in the local area for students of all ages and all levels of ability. The runs are held on either Saturday mornings or afternoons and the distances range from 2km to 8km.
For further enquiries please contact Jim Davies 0438574584 or Tess McKillop 0423225799.

RETREAT MORNING FOR MEN WITH PATRICK MADRID.
Renowned Catholic theologian, author and speaker is visiting Australia from the USA and will be speaking at a special retreat morning for men on **Saturday 19 May** at St Patrick’s Cathedral, Parramatta. The topic of his talk will be “Turn away from childish things and become the man Christ wants you to be”. RSVP and Enquiries contact lmfevents@sydneycatholic.org, 9390 5290 or visit www.lifemarriagefamily.org.au. Follow the link for further information:
Bernard Toutounji
Education Officer, Life, Marriage and Family Centre, Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney

SECOND HAND UNIFORMS FOR SALE
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- Long Sleeve White Shirt  Size 16  brand new
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