

Brigidine College Newsletter

May 2012
Issue #006

COMING EVENTS

Monday 7 May
P & F Meeting 7.00pm in
DC5

7 to 11 May
Year 12 Work Placement

15, 16, 17 May
NAPLAN Years 7 and 9

18 May
NAPLAN Catch up day

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.
- Supervision of girls begins at 8.20am. Girls should be in either the Main Quad or the Canteen Quad.
- We have Homeroom at 10.30am.
- Parents should not drop and pick up daughters in Aeolia Street.

Welcome to our May Newsletter

When in Rome for the canonization on Mary MacKillop in 2010, the then recently deposed Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, visited Fr Adolfo Nicolas SJ, the present Father General of the Jesuit order. In the casual way that one employs when having morning tea with someone, Rudd asked Nicolas what he believed to be the major challenges facing western society. Nicolas replied "the globalization of superficiality." Bishop Greg O'Kelly "Schools Confront the Globalization of Superficiality" in *Eureka Street* 26 April 2012.

In his article Bishop O'Kelly names the plethora of choices available in the western developed world as responsible for "the globalization of superficiality" and exhorts schools to address the issue. Christians live giving close attention to making the death and resurrection of Jesus incarnate in our daily life. We have a whole language to assist with this lifelong direction and we also have to manage the dilemmas that accompany what is a way of life. I don't think, though, that living with depth is just about Religion. For someone who has a great love for goat farming and the making of excellent goat cheese, that person will also have to find a great depth of competencies within themselves to achieve what they have named for themselves as personal excellence. As soon as we name high standards and dreams for ourselves, we are in for a struggle.

I love the little story Jesus tells about the person who knows that there is a treasure buried in a field and so she goes and buys the field to get the treasure. Brigidine is the field. Here at schools are all sorts of brambles and rocks that girls labour over if they want the treasure. The miracle that we want each girl to experience is that, in fact, once found, the treasure is permanently hers in her own heart and mind. This is an experience we try to lead girls to. The globalization of superficiality I see here at school is in the girls who are unfamiliar with personal struggle and simply don't believe in it.



Their sense of personal excellence is derived from a culture of being able to choose to do the easiest thing and they are certainly not going to buy into the ideas of personal excellence with which we present them at school. Ideas about punctuality, acting responsibly so that others may have rights, not having a tantrum when faced with someone saying no and meaning no, can throw them completely.

Girls who have this mindset don't learn by being lectured to, but of course they have to endure some of that. What parents and teachers have in common is that we journey through life with girls and set boundaries around them so that they have a chance of experiencing the deep competencies that will assist them to live a purposeful, satisfying life.

I was very encouraged this week by the support the school received from the parents of Year Eleven girls in regard to their uniforms. It is very easy to trivialize about school uniforms. As I point out to the girls, sixteen year olds don't make enrolment decisions, adults who like to see well cared for girls do. I expect the girls to look as well cared for as they are. It is not too much to expect the girls to notice that they have grown and their hems need taking down or that they need a new item for their uniform and to alert their parents to it. It can be another stunning idea that that they are expected to give something back to the community that is nurturing them. The sexualisation of girls is no joke and is a very big part of Fr Nicolas' globalization of superficiality; a girl modestly dressed in her school uniform challenges that. Here at Brigidine it is just great to be just a girl; no apologies. For a few girls it is a big struggle to have no choice than to be a part of that challenge

Ms Kate Edmondson
Principal

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Welcome back everyone to Term 2. The holidays almost seem like a memory; hopefully everyone had a relaxing and refreshing break ready to face the challenges of Term 2. Over the coming weeks students will have a number of formal and informal assessment tasks especially as we approach reporting time. Students can still vastly improve on their performance from Term 1 if they diligently apply themselves to all aspects of their work. Students are encouraged to do their individual best at all times.

ANZAC DAY

Last week the school community commemorated ANZAC Day. Thank you to Mrs Patrice Andersen, Mrs Kerry Giuffre and Miss Sarah Chaloner from our staff who organised a memorable ANZAC Day service. We were most privileged to have the presence of Colonel Franklin, one of our parents, from the Australian Army address the College community presenting a thought provoking and inspiring speech.



YEAR 12 PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

The Year 12 Parent Teacher Interviews will be held on Wednesday 16 May between 2.30pm and 6.30pm. Year 12 students are expected to accompany their parents to the interviews in school uniform. Reports can be collected from the office prior to the interview.

Bookings can be made on www.sobs.com.au as of Monday 7 May and will close at 6pm on Tuesday 15 May.

Instructions regarding bookings on line are available [here](#).

Interviews are strictly 5 minutes, if you require more time please contact the teacher directly and make alternative arrangements. If there are no suitable times available on the schedule for a specific teacher, parents will need to contact the teacher directly to arrange an alternate interview time outside the allocated schedule. Parents can change their interview times any time prior to the closing date by revisiting the www.sobs.com.au website. Parents wishing to change their interview times after the closing date should contact the school directly on 9398 6710.

PARKING PASSES ARE AVAILABLE TO PARENTS FOR THIS EVENT.

PLEASE NOTE - All students will be dismissed at 12.52pm on Wednesday 16th May to allow the Year 12 Parent Teacher Interviews to take place. Students are expected to go directly home at this time. Years 7 – 11 Parent Teacher Interviews will take place on Thursday 28th June between 8.30am and 7.00pm and on Friday 29th June between 8.30am and 3.00pm. Further details will be provided as we approach these dates.

NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program: Literacy and Numeracy Testing for Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 will take place from Tuesday 15th May and Thursday 17th May. The outline of these days is below:-

- NAPLAN Yrs 7 and 9 – LANGUAGE (45mins) and WRITING (40mins) on Tuesday 15th May
- NAPLAN Yrs 7 and 9 – READING (65mins) on Wednesday 16th May
- NAPLAN Yrs 7 and 9 – NUMERACY - CALCULATOR (40mins) and NON CALCULATOR (40mins) on Thursday 17th May
- NAPLAN – Catch up day on Friday 18th May

PARKING

I would like to remind parents that Brigidine College is a site that presents difficulty for parents electing to drop off and pick up their children. To ensure safety at all times, parents are asked to remember the following:

- The drop off and pick up zone is on Coogee Bay Rd. Please adhere to the parking signs.
- There is **NO PARKING** in Aeolia Street.
- The worst times to collect and drop off your daughters are between 8.20 am—8.30 am and 3.20pm—3.30 pm. Perhaps you might consider arriving and departing outside these times.
- Double parking is **ILLEGAL** and jeopardizes student safety.
- **IT ONLY TAKES A MINUTE TO CREATE AN ACCIDENT.**



HOUSEKEEPING

- *All students should be in their winter uniform. Blazers are to be worn to and from school unless it is an exceptionally warm day. Jumpers are not to be worn to or from school. Please check the length of daughter's uniform as the skirt length should be to the middle of the knee.*
- Students are to travel directly to and from school. There is to be NO loitering at train stations, bus stops, shops, cafes or shopping centres.
- If your daughter is absent from school, please ring! A note of explanation is required on the day of her return.
- If your daughter requires time off to attend an appointment, please make sure a note is sent the day prior or on the day.
- If you are planning or organising an extended holiday, please download the appropriate leave application forms for submission to the school principal, Ms Edmondson.
- If your daughter suffers from asthma, we ask that you ensure she has her spray with her at all times.
- The school day commences at 8.35am when the first bell rings. The girls are expected to go to their Period 1 at this time so they are present when the roll is called at 8.40am; 8.20am is the best time to arrive at school. **Please make sure your daughters arrive at school on time.** A reminder that any student who is late to school twice **without a written note of explanation from parents**, will automatically be placed on a lunch detention of 20 minutes. Three lunchtime detentions will incur a one hour detention on a Tuesday afternoon.

The school community is only as strong as the support of parents in these matters. We appreciate your support and cooperation at all times.

Mrs Antoinette McGahan

NIGHT PATROL TRAINING FOR INTERESTED PARENTS.

There is some mandatory training that needs to take place for any parent to take part in our Night Patrol program.

St Vincent de Paul has booked a training session on the advised date below. The training is not rigorous in any way. It contains some information about the service, the clients that present at the bus, some Workplace Health and Safety information, a power point presentation as well as a session ending Q&A.

Could you please RSVP me ASAP via email or via the School as places are limited.

Day : Thursday

Date: 5th July

Time: 6pm-7.30pm

Place: Charles O'Neill Way | 1B Thomas St | Lewisham NSW

Mark Baldwin

Administration Coordinator

Brigidine College Randwick



COLLECTION OF STUDENT DATA

The Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) has requested that the school provide them with details of all students' residential addresses (not student names) and students' level of education (primary or secondary). This information assists DEEWR in administering funding to our Catholic systemic schools.

As we do not provide family or student names to DEEWR, we can assure you that the data provided will in no way identify either the student or the family.

A notice from DEEWR that provides further information on this data collection is attached. If you have any questions after reading the DEEWR notice, please call the DEEWR SES Funding helpline on 1800 677 027 (free call).

[Click here for DEEWR Privacy Notice](#)

Congratulations to *Jessica Thornton* who competed in the Australian Surf Life Saving Championships at Kurrawa. Jessica competed in the 15 years beach sprint and won Gold, even though she is still under 14. At the State Little Athletics she won Gold in the 200m and Silver in the 100m and Bronze in the 400m.

CGSSSA Term 2

This term we will be competing in Cross Country on 9 May and Basketball on 23 May. Make sure all students attend all necessary meetings and training and good luck to everyone involved.

Mrs Kate Elder
Sports Coordinator

MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION



Our next Mock Trial will be held on Monday 21 May at 4.15pm at Brigidine in CU1.

The team will be competing against St Clare's Waverley. The trial should conclude at approximately 7.30pm. Students, family and friends wishing to attend to support the girls are most welcome. Good luck girls!

Ms J Nicolas
HSIE Coordinator



Congratulations also to Year 12 students *Cassie Cicarelli and Stephanie Gregor* for their prize winning blog which reviews a range of films and books with an engaging combination of reflective analysis and humour. See <http://littlebitliterate.blogspot.com.au/>

The activity of blogging is of value for the girls, not only honing their writing skills but allowing them to build on a mode of interaction that may help them to further social and professional goals in the future. Cassie made this comment about her blogging experience: 'It was refreshingly different from essay writing and great to be able to share our views on our favourite books and films with an audience.'

Library donations

From time to time, donations are made to the library and we thank our parents and ex-students very much for their interest in resourcing our learners. While we are grateful for all donations, decisions about selection will always be determined by the Brigidine Collection Development Policy which is focused on user needs. Our Semester 2 Library Competition will involve student creation of black and white Book Plates which acknowledge parental donations of \$25 – made via the school office – donations which will be put towards book purchases driven by the girls' most frequent requests. The winning Book Plate, to be announced and published in Book Week during August, will link your family's identity to high demand books. We take this opportunity to thank Mrs Trefley, mother of ex-students Sophie and Anna, who recently donated Art books in excellent condition and Mrs Patterson, mother of Nham in Year 7, who has generously donated a number of books. If you do not wish to be acknowledged for your donations in this newsletter, please let us know in advance.

We have received a signed copy of *Shadowplay* by Claire Asquith, thanks to William Jolliffe, a prominent UK Catholic, who has set out to raise an awareness of the richness of Catholic culture through book donations to thousands of Catholic schools across the world. *Shadowplay* is a scholarly, yet immensely readable work supporting the thesis that Shakespeare, who had Catholic patrons, coded his own Catholic beliefs in his both his plays and poetry and was playing his role in an attempt (led by the Jesuits) to reverse Anglican hegemony.

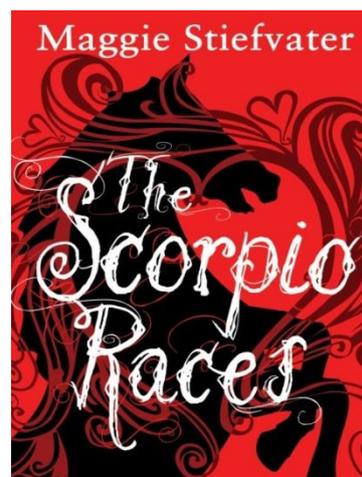
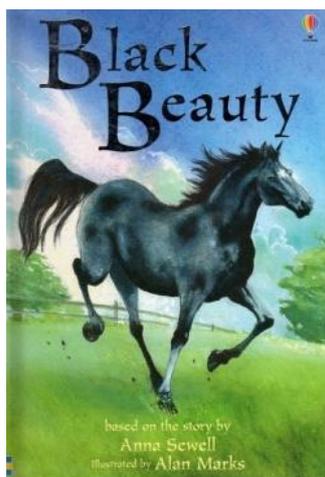
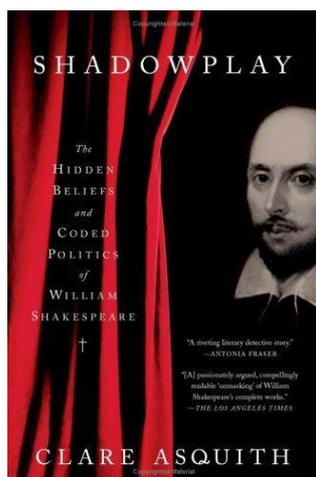
What our Girls are Reading...

The enduring appeal of the horse book, a diverse yet easily identifiable genre, is evident in the reading tastes of Kristen Mueller, one of our keen Year 9 readers. While *Black Beauty*, an 1877 realistic classic, is Kristen's all-time favourite, *The Scorpio Races*, a smart and original 2011 novel, may be a classic of the future as it has roped in many of our readers. Now let's hear from Kristen: '*The Scorpio Games* by Maggie Stiefvater is a thrilling book that keeps you guessing all the way. It tells of how the human characters in the novel are affected by the capaill uisce, water horses that are immensely beautiful and powerful but also extremely dangerous. Throughout the book, you are trying to figure out the characters but don't truly know them until the end. You are rooting for a romance that the two main characters aren't even suspecting and hoping they don't get killed along the way. This book is for Year 7 up.'



The following website has some great suggestion for horse book lovers of all ages:

<http://www.horse-books-pony-stories.com/horse-fiction.html>



<http://trish-kennedy.blogspot.com.au/>

<http://bcrhooked.blogspot.com.au/>

Ms Trish Kennedy
Teacher Librarian



