Welcome to our June Newsletter

Last week I was granted a short time of Long Service Leave to go with my brother and sister to the reunion of students of Horseshoe Bay State School on Magnetic Island. My father was the first permanent teacher of this school in 1951, the provisional school having been built by parents in the middle of someone’s pineapple farm and opened with fifteen students in 1949. While I was born when Mum and Dad had five years on "The Island", only my brother who is ten years older went to the school. My sister and I were there for Mum and Dad, hoping that our hearts would catch glimpses of them as our young parents in this paradise.

It was in every sense of the word a pilgrimage for us. My brother found all the old places; including the houses our family had lived in. At the reunion he met again with his little best friend, his first friend who was a girl, and who now as a grandmother, came with little black and white photos chronicling childhood fun and an autograph book where I was thrilled to recognize my parents’ scripts in messages written to her before they left in August 1956.

My brother’s friend, Gillian, told me the story of her mother saying that her little four year old was bored at home and Dad saying that she should bring her along to school. She showed me the corner of the schoolroom where Dad used to put a pillow and blanket down for her to have an afternoon sleep. This story must be balanced with the crack over the knuckles that came as he trained both Gillian and my brother to give up writing left handed. No one else came with a story of physical punishment; I had rather dreaded meeting this bitterness but we were only surrounded by the noisy happiness of people being together and remembering.
My sister and I had grown up hearing stories of the things that happened when they lived on The Island. We had four wonderful days putting a context to the names and stories told so often by our parents. We retold the stories and laughed and wondered over the difficult conditions of those times and also how great it must have been for our brother to have a childhood living 100 metres from a tropical beach.

We all know that it is unhealthy to hold on to old bitternesses and to so anchor ourselves in the past that we cannot have a present. A pilgrimage such as the one I have just undergone is a physical journey to validate a spiritual journey. I visited the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Townsville where I was baptized and where I could give thanks for my family, the gift of my faith and for all that has been in my life. This was no abyss, this was the lighted path with very obvious junctions and connections. Being able to retrieve so much from the past and feel its effect in the present has been a joyful blessing. It is lovely to be home again.

Ms Kate Edmondson
Principal

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

I am certain that both the teachers and students are feeling the impact of what seems to be a very hectic term thus far. Events such as NAPLAN Tests, Assessment Weeks, Debating, Night Patrol and Athletics Carnival just to mention a few have been quite dominating. The term is far from over and there is still so much to do. We still have 4 weeks to go and during this time staff members are busily preparing Semester Reports for our upcoming Parent and Teacher Interviews amongst a myriad of other activities.

THE FEAST OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS – 24 May

This special and significant Feast Day of Our Lady Mary Help of Christians has been celebrated in Australia since 1844 but the history to this day, dates back to the start of the 1800's when Napoleon Bonaparte had gaolied Pius VI. The early Church in Australia turned to Mary in what was a time mostly without priests. During this time it was largely the Rosary that kept the faith alive. Catholic Australia remained faithful to Mary, and was the first nation to choose her, under the title of Help of Christians, as Principal Patroness.

I thank Mr McFadden, Mrs Ross, Ms Ainsworth and Mrs Day for all their support with the beautiful Mary Help of Christians Mass which was held at St Mary’s Cathedral last week. Our choir, orchestra, Years 7 - 11 student leaders and teachers were outstanding and added so much to the wonderful celebration.

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

We have had yet another successful Athletics Carnival on Friday 25 June even though the weather made us doubt whether it would actually go ahead. The day was enjoyed by staff and students. It seemed to be filled with healthy and fun competition. Congratulations to our newest house, WINIFRED, for their success in winning the carnival.
Thank you to Ms Emerson, Ms Atkins, Ms Gordon, Ms Michaels, Ms Feain, Ms Culhane and Ms Mazzeri for the very efficient and smooth running of such a great day. Days such as these are only possible because of the generosity of the staff. So I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their support and cooperation on this day. Many thanks to all those parents, grandparents and friends who were able to join us at this event.

DEBATING
Last Friday 25 May, our debating teams competed against St Clare’s Waverley. All our teams were absolutely fantastic. Congratulations to those teams who won which were – Years 7, 9, 11 and 12. Special congratulations to Year 7 as they remain undefeated. This week we will be competing against Marcellin College Randwick at home. An invitation is open to all members of our community to attend these debates. Debates will begin at 6.15pm.

A huge thank you to Ms Lisa McColl for her meticulous organisation especially in the support and preparation that is made available to our debaters. We wish the girls all the very best during upcoming rounds.

YEARS 7-11 PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS
The Years 7 – 11 Parent Teacher Interviews will take place on Thursday 28 June between 8.30am and 7.00pm and on Friday 29 June between 8.30am and 3.00pm. Students are expected to accompany their parents to the interviews in school uniform. Reports will be posted to parents before these interviews. This is a great opportunity for parents to discuss the strengths and challenges in relation to their daughter’s progress during Semester 1.

Bookings can be made on www.sobs.com.au as of Monday 4 June and will close at 10pm on Tuesday 26 June. Instructions regarding bookings on line will be included in the latter part of this newsletter. 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.

Instructions regarding bookings on line are available from http://www.bcrandwick.catholic.edu.au/uploaded/file/Miscellaneous/SOBs%20Parent%20Instructions.pdf

The following teachers will not be present during the upcoming Parent Teacher Interviews as they will be on extended holidays with their families –

- Mrs S Bournazos
- Mrs A Schiano
- Ms L Sandell
- Mrs D Ginzburg
- Mr A Penteado
If you wish to see any of these teachers, you may contact them during school hours and make a time to meet or talk with them.

**PLEASE NOTE – Parking passes are available to parents for this event. The last day of lessons for Term 2 will be on Wednesday 27 June.**

**FOUNDER’S DAY CELEBRATIONS**

This year we will celebrate Founders Day with a walkathon at Centennial Park on Thursday 21 June. The day will commence with Roll Call at 9.30am on the field opposite the dome which is located near Loche Ave or Hamilton Drive. Students will be asked to make their own way to the park. Each child will receive a sponsor card and each student is encouraged to raise a minimum of $20. All funds will go to purchasing educational and recreational resources to be used by the students. We have organised prizes for the following categories:-

- Best dressed in each year group;
- Most raised by a student overall; and
- The Year group that raises the most.

**These days are compulsory and all students are asked to be at school to support these worthwhile events.**

The theme for the Walkathon will be launched at our College assembly on Tuesday 12 June. The girls will be encouraged to dress up in this theme.

Lunch will be provided and will consist of a sausage sizzle with a drink. There is no access to canteens. Following lunch there will be a parade displaying the costumes worn by the students and games. The day will conclude at about 2.00pm. Students will be dismissed from the park and they will need to make their own way home.

On Wednesday 18 July, **this is a change in date**, the celebrations will continue with a mass at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Randwick beginning at 9.30am. Parents and friends are invited to attend this special celebration.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

**Mrs Antoinette McGahan**
BRIDGIDINE COLLEGE
RANDWICK PRESENTS

The Good
Food and
Design Show
ON
FRIDAY 8TH
JUNE 2012

An EXPO showcasing the work of TAS via a fashion parade, multimedia show, night market and good food.

The evening will commence at 6:00pm
Tickets are seated: $7 each or $24 for a family of 4 (includes food, refreshments and fashion parade)

Night food market items will also be available for purchase from 6pm.

Fashion parade will begin at 7pm sharp
Cullen Centre.

Tickets will be available on the night at the door
ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Once again we were blessed with almost fine weather for our Annual Athletics Carnival and although a little damp, we were able to run all events and produce some excellent results. One of these included Molly Blakey who broke the 15 years 200m record which has been held since 1983, running the 200m in 25.34secs! Some other records of Molly’s included 15 years 100m 12.04 and the 100m invitation in 12.44. Jessica Thornton also broke 2 records in the 14 years 100m 12.09 and 14 years 200m 26.03.

Thank you to all staff especially the P.E. staff who worked all day on a variety of jobs to ensure the smooth running of the carnival. Thank you to all the student helpers who assisted the staff and to Mr Chris Conway, the paramedic, for donating the Best Dressed Award.

Congratulations to all House Captains on preparing their teams for the carnival and to all the Age Champions.
12 years Age Champion - Paige Winder
13 years Age Champion - Ruby Breen
14 years Age Champion - Jessica Thornton
15 years Age Champion - Molly Blakey
16 years Age Champion - Monique Hoareau
17 years Age Champion - Hannah Denney

SCHOOL CHAMPION: Ruby Breen
HOUSE SPIRIT SHIELD: AQUINAS - Captain Molly Cocks
Vice Captain Alexis Mavrantonis
WINNING HOUSE: WINIFRED - Captain Madeleine Rawson
Vice Captain Eleanor Thatcher Smith

Mrs Kate Elder - Sports Coordinator
VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION, WEDNESDAY 28 August 2012. OPENING 6.00pm

Everyone is invited to celebrate the artistic achievements of the girls at the annual Visual Arts Exhibition.

Year 12 has been photographed working in art room on their Bodies of Work. You will notice there is diversity in their artist practice. All the students have a variety of ideas they are exploring in their art making. Their artworks will form 50% of their mark for the HSC in Visual Arts. They are looking forward to celebrating their achievements at the annual exhibition. We hope to see everyone there.

Ms Deirdre Brennan
Visual Arts Coordinator
During the initial weeks of this term, Year 12 hospitality classes took part in work placement in a diverse variety of restaurants, catering establishments, and hotels that all provided a great learning experience. Working in commercial kitchens throughout the durations of the week, students not only gained valuable experience and knowledge about the hospitality industry, but met and socialized with a vast variety of new people, cultures, and cuisines.

Locations ranged from Sailor’s Thai in The Rocks, the gourmet Alio Restaurant in Surry Hills, Ravesis Hotel on Bondi beach - all providing the students with new experiences, skills and qualifications that will aid them in any future ventures in the hospitality industry.

The experience provided us with a glimpse of life as a Chef and put our futures into perspective, some girls even received great opportunities and potential future jobs. The chance to gain such valuable knowledge and experience at such a young age is extremely valuable and greatly appreciated by all the students. Not only did we each enjoy a fun week, but we all gained priceless knowledge that has set us up for the world ahead.

Article by Monique Bryson & Lucia O’Keefe – Year 12
LIBRARY NEWS

Donation: Rare books with current appeal
We thank Barbara Harvey, one of our library technicians, who has generously donated the six volumes of the science fiction *Amtrak* series. Barbara comes from a family of voracious readers and was enticed into reading the series by her teenage son in the 1980s. While this best seller sci-fi series, published between 1983 and 1994, is currently out of print, it continues to have a strong fan base, with some first editions selling for close to a thousand dollars. A film adaptation, to be known as *The Talisman Prophecy*, was optioned by an Australian production company in 2007: see [http://www.thetalismanprophecy.com/wp/](http://www.thetalismanprophecy.com/wp/)

We intend to purchase a much greater range of dystopian fiction, fiction which shows us where oppressive and ignorant practices could take us in future imagined worlds. While some educators believe that ‘gifted readers are more likely to read fantasy and science fiction than average students’ (Halsted, 2009, p. 219), in our library, we’ve seen reluctant readers and literature buffs alike united in their appetite for the dystopian novel of the moment... Yes, you picked it – *The Hunger Games*. Phillip Reeve’s comment that the young are drawn to dystopian fiction so ‘they can draw a bleak satisfaction from imagining adult society reduced to smoking rubble’ (2001) is amusing but the fact is that holocaust dystopia is aimed at preventing the world from going up in smoke.

As well as her work as a College Library Technician, Barbara assists the Art Coordinator, Deirdre Brennan.

What Our Girls Are Reading...
At Brigidine College, most 2012 fiction purchases have been driven directly by surveyed student genre preferences and specific book requests. So what’s driving the current passion for gothic fiction?

In a survey on attitudes to vampire literature conducted by Norine Dresser at the end of the 1980s, the appeals that teenagers reported included:

- the attraction of forbidden love
- identification with the desire for love
- vampires’ possession of immortality
- the power to control the opposite sex
- marginality: identification with a vampire as someone who is different

According to Dresser, one adolescent respondent described vampirism as ‘fascinating because the vampire is usually an unwilling victim of a bodily change that he cannot control’ (De Marco, 1997, 26-29). Looked at from these perspectives, gothic literature seems to be meeting a range of psychological needs, including the need to adapt to the changes accompanying adolescence, so it shouldn’t be dismissed as stuff and nonsense. For those who feel tempted to scoff at paranormal romance, bear in mind Lauren Adam’s observation that today’s Twilight serves as a Wuthering Heights for many teens (Adams, 2010, p. 60). So Brigidine Mums – hands up if you once had a thing for Heathcliff! (I’m afraid I still do – my husband accepts this).

Some fun, light, yet insightful books for juniors that represent vampirism and gothic culture as emblematic of difference include The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod series and the Vampire Kisses series.


Author Visit: Marele Day
On May 23 we were treated to a visit from Australian writer, Marele Day, the author of The life and crimes of Harry Lavender, a HSC text for the girls doing Standard English. Marele, an ex-student from Sydney girls High School, is an entertaining and informative speaker who provided the girls with many insights into the writing process, the HSC Module Distinctive Voices and the back stories behind some of her characters. Life and Crimes, a cutting edge feminist-detective novel from the 1980s, is a must-read for anyone after a witty and compelling narrative about a feisty female battling Sydney’s dark side. We will most definitely be inviting Marele back to BCR and happily she is keen to return.
Above, writer Marele Day, suitably attired in a trench coat, is flanked by library staff: (from left to right) Julie Solberg – Library Technician and mother of three Brigidine ex-students; Trish Kennedy – TL; Jennifer Darcy – Library Technician. This particular *Harry Lavender* cover (there have been four) is Marele’s favourite and, coincidentally, it is the cover we selected for our display posters (as opposed to the HSC edition).

Left: Our Year 12 girls engaged themselves eagerly in note taking during Marele’s presentation in the school library. Right: Tony Penteado is one of our strong band of English teachers.

**Trish Kennedy – Teacher Librarian**
12 BUSINESS SERVICES WORKPLACEMENT.

Last week the year 12 Business Services students did their 2nd week of work placement at their respective businesses. The students did a variety of tasks such as following Workplace Health and Safety Procedures, working as a team member, using the computer, telephone and other office equipment as well as handling mail and handling of files.

All students received positive reports from their supervisors and three of them were offered jobs after they finish year 12 which is very positive feedback for the students.

We would like to thank the following businesses as it is sometimes hard to accommodate students into their workplace and takes them away from their duties. Many, many, thanks to the employers and supervisors at:

Adams & Co; Belle Property Randwick; Cope Promotions; Galilee Catholic Primary School; L J Hooker Maroubra; Randwick City Council; St Margaret Mary’s Primary School; Taylors Estate Agents Randwick; Teekay Shipping; Toni & Guy.

Mrs Dawson.
CGSSSA BASKETBALL 2012
The CGSSSA Basketball Competition was held last Wednesday, 23rd May 2012. The Seniors played at Menai Indoor Sports Centre and our Juniors and Inters played at Bankstown Basketball Stadium.

All 3 teams played brilliantly and cruised through their round games moving comfortably through to the semi finals. Again the girls’ skills were on display, with all 3 teams winning their semis and moving through to the grand final.

The grand finals were a much closer affair, with all 3 teams competing against Monte. The Juniors played a flawless game, defeating Monte convincingly, 23-12. Our Inters unfortunately were not strong enough this year going down 26-31 and our Seniors lost by 3 points in a nail biter. All of our girls played wonderfully and represented the school with real Brigidine spirit.

Congratulations to all the girls on a very successful day.

Miss Michaels and Ms Mazzeri
LEGAL STUDIES

On Friday the 18 May the year 11 Legal Studies class ventured into the long and anticipated excursion to the Downing Centre in Sydney’s CBD. As novice court attendees we embraced the opportunity with both hands. The students could choose which court rooms to attend and ultimately chose what interested them most.

As the court cases transpired before our eyes we realised the awkwardness of entering someone else’s private life, judging their past and determining their future.

Lunch time was a pleasant break only to fill Mr Baldwin with inquisitive questions and the overall experience of the excursion. We were all eager to get back to more court cases. Overall the experience was engaging and awesome. The excursion enabled us to gain an insight into the complexity of the Australian legal system and provided us with improved knowledge. In one way or another it seemed that we captured different stories and experiences and we welcome another excursion like this.

Madeleine Wheatley – Year 11
a conversation with

the executive director

CATERING FOR DIVERSITY: Meeting the needs of students at both ends of the learning spectrum.
Addressing the challenges facing ‘Gifted and Talented’ students and children with ‘Special Learning Needs’

All parents are warmly welcomed and schools are encouraged to send at least two parent representatives.

Tuesday 5 June 2012
7.00 pm - 9.00 pm
Catholic Education Office
Southern Region
300 The River Rd Revesby
(02) 9772 7000

Tuesday 12 June 2012
7.00 pm - 9.00 pm
Catholic Education Office
Eastern Region
33 Banks Ave Croydon Park
(02) 9644 3900

Tuesday 26 June 2012
7.00 pm - 9.00 pm
Catholic Education Office
Inner Western Region
3 Keating St Lidcombe
(02) 9643 3600

RSVP pcs@ceosyd.catholic.edu.au

These evenings are great, Dan explained how important it is for families and schools to work together.

Dr White is one of the most engaging speakers I have ever listened to, his input and the ideas of other parents makes this night a must!