Welcome to our November Newsletter

BRIGIDINE COLLEGE
COMMENCEMENT 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 29 January 2013</td>
<td>• STAFF RETURN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Wednesday 30 January 2013| • COMMENCEMENT OF YEAR 7 & NEW GIRLS IN OTHER YEARS.  
                           | 8.30am to 12.30pm                                                     |
| Thursday 31 January 2013| • WHOLE SCHOOL RETURNS                                                |
|                       | Years 7 & 11 - 8.30am to 3.20pm                                        |
|                       | Years 8, 9, 10, 12 - 8.30am to 12.50pm                                  |
| Friday 1 February 2013| • FEAST OF ST BRIGID                                                   |
|                       | Years 7 – 12 all day                                                   |
|                       | 9.30am Opening School Mass & HSC Awards Ceremony 9.30am Cullen Centre  |

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.
- Parents should not drop and pick up daughters in Aeolia Street.
FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Our 2012 school year is quickly drawing to a close. It certainly has been another busy, challenging and exciting year in our community. We come to that time of year again when we welcome the opportunity to reflect on its challenges, successes and achievements. Our community has much to celebrate. As with every year the events have seen the Brigidine spirit and the sense of justice even more alive in our community in so many ways.

I came across this piece of writing on attitude which also displays resilience and adaptability, perhaps we can learn from it. So I take this opportunity to share it with you:

ATTITUDE

She is 92 years old, petite, well poised, and proud. She is fully dressed each morning by eight o’clock, with her hair fashionably coifed, and her makeup perfectly applied, in spite of the fact she is legally blind. Today she has moved to a nursing home. Her husband of 70 years recently passed away, making this move necessary. After many hours of waiting patiently in the lobby of the nursing home, where I am employed, she smiled sweetly when told her room was ready. As she manoeuvred her walker to the elevator, I provided a visual description of her tiny room, including the eyelet curtains that had been hung on her window. “I love it!” she stated with the enthusiasm of an eight-year-old having just been presented with a new puppy. “Mrs Jones, you haven’t seen the room... Just wait”, I said. Then she spoke these words that I will never forget: “That does not have anything to do with it”, she gently replied. “Happiness is something you decide on ahead of time.” Whether I like my room or not, does not depend on how the furniture is arranged. It is how I arrange my mind. I have already decided to love it. It is a decision I make every morning when I wake up. I have a choice. I can spend the day in bed recounting the difficulty I have with the parts of my body that no longer work or I can get out of bed and be thankful for the ones that do work. Each day is a gift, and as long as my eyes open, I will focus on the new day and all of the happy memories I have stored away... just for this time in my life.

Old age is like a bank account. You withdraw from what you have already put in.

I believe — that our background and circumstances may have influenced who we are, but we are responsible for whom we become.

I believe — that no matter how good a friend is, they’re going to hurt you every once in a while and you must forgive them for that.

I believe — that just because someone doesn’t love you the way you want them to, it doesn’t mean they don’t love you with all they have. I believe — that true friendship continues to grow, even over the longest distance. The same applies to true love. (Author Unknown)
Reminders - Upcoming Events

- **Friday 14 December 2012 - PRESENTATION DAY** commencing at 1.00pm in Cullen Hall. It is compulsory for all students from Years 7 – 11 to be present for this event. Parents are invited to attend this event.

- **Friday 14 December** – Last day of lessons for students

- **Monday 17 December 2012 - Yr 11 Tutorial**

- **Tuesday 18 & Wednesday 19 December** – **PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS**. Appointments can be made between 8.30am – 11.00am and 1.45pm – 3.20pm. **Students are expected to accompany their parents to the interviews in school uniform**. Reports will be posted to parents prior to these days. Bookings are now open and can be made on [www.sobs.com.au](http://www.sobs.com.au). These will close at 10pm on Sunday 16 December. Interviews are strictly 5 minutes. If you require more time or there are no suitable times available for a specific teacher, parents will need to contact the teacher directly to arrange an alternate interview time. Parents can change their interview times any time prior to the closing date by revisiting the [www.sobs.com.au](http://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 will be available to parents who attend these events and park in the car park on 14 December, 18 December and 19 December 2012**

Even though the countdown is truly on for the upcoming holidays and festive season, it is important that the students remain focused and engaged. Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Mrs Antoinette McGahan

**YEAR 10 to UNSW**

On Tuesday 27 November, much of Year 10 had the opportunity to visit the University of New South Wales for ‘A Day @ UNSW’. Students investigated courses in the faculties of Arts and Social Sciences, Business, COFA, Built Environment, Science, Law, Medicine, Engineering and [UNSW@ADFA](http://www.unsw.edu.au). There were activities, workshops and lectures to help students determine what university degree is right for them. The day was very well organised by UNSW and students seemed to enjoy it as did teachers who accompanied them—Ms Aloisi, Ms Dawson, Ms Dable and Ms Wallace.

**LINK TO CAREERS BULLETIN**

For up-to-date Career’s Information go to Link to Bulletin No. 17

[Link to Careers Bulletin No 17](http://www.unsw.edu.au)
NEWS FROM THE PARENTS & FRIENDS

The AGM was a successful evening and we have a full committee for 2013, minutes can be found on the school website.

SECOND HAND UNIFORMS. Helpers Needed.
With the end of an era of Mega Cheap school books via the 2nd hand book sale, we would like to preserve the opportunity to donate pre loved uniforms and sell them to our families very cheaply. To do this we need parents to assist. An ideal occasion for a uniform sale would be parent teacher interviews (December 18 and 19) BUT we can only proceed with a decent compliment of parent helpers. If you can offer an hour or two of your time on either day we may be able to proceed with a sale. Please contact Allison via email allirob07@gmail.com or SMS your info to 0414940706.

A reminder that the Music Concert is on this Friday (November 30). Parents are welcome to bring a plate of supper to share with both audience and stars alike.

Thank you
Allison Roberts (P&F President)

NIGHT PATROL
On the 14 November, Jasmin Cummings, Maxine Williams, Merlyn Romit and I met at the gates of Brigidine College with plenty of fruit, biscuits, drink and enthusiasm. We were a few hours away from being in Martin Place and providing food and a warm drink to the homeless of our city.

We would like to thank Mrs Dawson, Ms Chaloner and Ms Aloisi and parents Mr and Mrs McNally and Mr Broderick who gave up their time to support Night Patrol and allowed us to see life from a different perspective.

Night Patrol started at Petersham, where we collected the Vinnie’s Van and packed it with coffee, tea, Milo, sugar, hot water, cups etc along with the food we bought and the freshly baked biscuits made by the junior girls in the Healthy Treats program ably assisted by Ms Jarman.

Our first stop was Ward Park in Surry Hills. There we were greeted by families with young children and other individuals who were extremely grateful to have a cup of coffee, a biscuit and someone to speak to. It was amazing to see that whilst we had no idea who we were serving, I found no difficulty speaking with anyone despite our different interests and backgrounds.

We then drove to Martin Place in the city here we served and spoke to over 100 people. Not all were homeless, some had temporary accommodation and others just could not afford food. Night Patrol taught me that all people are the same regardless of their socioeconomic background. It also taught me that stigmas associated with the homeless are false. Night Patrol was an enriching experience for myself and my peers; one that we will never forget.

Tanya Balakumar Year 11
ART SHOW 2013
Planning and creation has already begun for the 2013 Art Show! Year 8 have been busy making stop animations and constructing sculptures for the Art Show. Look out for a sneak preview later this term!

Mrs Louise Smyth
Art Department
BISHOP DELANY INTERNATIONAL VISUAL ARTS COMPETITION
Brigidine College Randwick has registered to be involved in an International Visual Arts Competition. A select group of Year 8 students will have an incursion during periods 5 and 6, 30 November and periods 3 and 4, 7 December to complete an artwork. Students have been selected based on their art making in class and the criteria for the competition. Let us hope someone in Year 8 wins!

Ms Deirdre Brennan
Visual Arts Coordinator

SPORTS AWARD
Congratulations to Jessica Thornton who has been awarded the Bradley Mathews Memorial Award by Randwick City Council. The Bradley Mathews Award is a very prestigious award given to an athlete attending a secondary school within the local council area.

Jessica was selected for this award in recognition of her outstanding achievements in Athletics. Jessica has developed her ability in the 100m, 200, and 400m events over the years and is now competing at National Level.

Congratulations Jessica on your incredible achievement and best of luck in the coming years with your Athletics.

Mrs Elder
Sports Coordinator
YEAR 9 DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY STALL DAY
On Friday 23 November the Year 9 Elective Design and Technology students presented their unique and original products through the stalls they set up on the Cullen verandah. Loads of people came to buy presents for themselves or as Christmas gifts for family and friends.

The design and technology students put a great deal of effort into designing, manufacturing and marketing of their products. We also learnt lots of new things whilst studying this unit.

The opportunity to create, run and manage a small business was a unique and valuable experience. We are grateful to be able to develop new skills and work with our friends to create a successful stall.

Thank you to everyone who bought some of these amazing products. The stall raised over $300 dollars which will be given to charity.

Mr Richard Hainsworth
TAS Department
YEAR 7 AND 8 ART AWARDS

*Bridget Roberts* has received an ‘Excellence in Art Award ’ for the 2012 SCHOOLS ART COMPETITION for her monoprint by Write 4 Fun.

*Bridget Roberts* and the following students have also been invited to have their artworks published!

*Lana Moody, Eliza Graaf, Katerina Lyras, Sandy Wooden, Natasha Cahill, Emily Conrecode, Sara Downey, Anastasia Kharitchova, Marina Hatzigiannis, Georgia Cooper, Yvonne Banh, Tatyanna Pogonza-Dumas, Lowri Funnell, Lauren Edward, Lilian Glassick.*

This was an Australia wide competition and the high standard of our students placed them in the top 5% of the entries for the competition. Their artworks will be published in a new book called ‘Art Attack’. Letters have been sent to parents asking permission.

Write4 Fun is a donating all money raised by the sales of this book to ‘Learning Links’ which is a non profit organisation that assists children who have difficulty learning and their families.

I would also like to acknowledge *Christina Lucantonio* who also participated in the competition.

You can obtain more information at [www.write4fun.net](http://www.write4fun.net) and [www.learninglinks.org.au](http://www.learninglinks.org.au)

We hope to have the artworks returned by the end of August to exhibit in our annual visual arts exhibition.

**Ms Deirdre Brennan**

Visual Arts Coordinator

LIBRARY NEWS

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Our school involvement in Remembrance Day this year included a display of photographs and letters of WW1 Australian soldiers, a digital photo display, a Remembrance Day Book for teacher and student reflection, a Remembrance Day banner decorated with silk poppies and fresh rosemary, rosemary oil burning and poetry recitation. Members of Mrs Day’s junior Religion class are pictured engaging with the display and reciting the beautiful poem ‘In Flanders Field’ by John McCrae, which begins:

*In Flanders Fields the poppies blow*
*between the crosses,*
*row on row that mark our place;*
*and in the sky the larks,*
*still bravely singing,*
*fly scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the dead. Short days ago we lived,*
*felt dawn, saw sunset glow,*
*Loved and we loved,*
*And now we lie in Flanders fields.*
FELICITY PULMAN AUTHOR TALK
On November 28 Year 9 were treated to an author talk by Felicity Pulman who gave the girls a host of valuable tips about writing and reading. Felicity went back to school to do her HSC when she was in her 40s, with her plunge into formal education leading to a university course and an extremely successful career in young adult fiction writing. Felicity has seventeen published novels, with the Janna medieval mystery series proving the most popular here at Brigidine. The pictures below capture Felicity offering advice to one of our aspiring writers.

TUDOR DAY
On October 25 we celebrated Tudor Day in the library with Year 9 elective History, Mrs Giuffre, Ms Chaloner and the library staff. The day involved the exploration and celebration of all things Tudor, with student presentations, Tudor dress-up, library displays, films depicting the era and a Tudor feast making the day highly memorable.

Ms Trish Kennedy
Teacher Librarian
YEAR 9 COMMERCE EXCURSION
On Friday 16 November Year 9 Commerce classes went on an excursion to Luna Park. The purpose of the excursion was to examine Luna Park Pty Ltd as a business. A one hour power point presentation included the history of the park, current marketing strategies utilised, a visual history of the various faces of Luna Park over the years and how management has dealt with noise complaints from nearby residents in recent years.

After the presentation, students were free to go on as many rides as they wished. Despite what started as a dreary day weather wise, a fun day was had by all.

Ms J Nicolas
HSIE Commercial Coordinator
EDUCATION IN TIMOR LESTE

Here is a ‘photo essay’ on education in Timor Leste. Education in Timor Leste is made difficult because of the multiple languages that are used in the classroom. Students will speak an indigenous language at home, read text books in Indonesian and speak in Tetum in Primary school and Portuguese in Secondary school. Once they leave school, students want to learn English. One young Caritas Australia worker in Timor Leste was able to speak 7 languages!

Education is also complicated by the lack of national curriculum, although there is activity to improve this situation. Also, there is no centralized body to make sure that teachers are properly trained. The education of most participants in the education system, students, teachers and administrators, has been disrupted by the political unrest in the country of the last quarter of the twenty-first century.

Walking to school. Some students will carry back packs donated by Unicef, whilst others will walk 3 kilometers with water to water the plants at school.

The Marching band that greeted us at Baqui Secondary School in the Oe-cussi enclave.

The assembly hall made out of traditional materials and in traditional style at Bacqui secondary school.

Fatubena Primary school in Oe-cussi.

Ms Monica Jarman
**ST BRIGID’S FIRE: CEO SOCIAL JUSTICE DAY REPORT**

On the 21 November Ms Chaloner and eight students attended a Social Justice Day at Southern Cross Catholic Vocational College, Burwood and organized by the CEO. This event centred around the theme of "The Gift of Family in Difficult Times" and mainly focused on the social and economic hardships many families in Australia and around the world face each day. The event also looked into issues such as street children around the world, working towards justice and ending child detention.

There were two very well respected special speakers: Bishop Chris Saunders and Jonathon Ngor. Jonathon, now an adult, spoke to us about being one of the 20,000 boys who were known as the "Lost Boys of Sudan". Both gentlemen were very inspirational as they spoke of their lives and the social works that they are now involved in.

The Social Justice Day was a great experience as we were surrounded with about one hundred other young people like ourselves, from other schools around Sydney, and we were able to discuss ways in which we could improve social justice and make a difference within our school community. This event made us more aware about the social issues that occur around the world and gave us the will power to continue to strive for social justice. We would also like to thank Ms Chaloner for attending the day with us and supporting us with our social justice goals.

_Tanya Balakumar, Year 11_

**ST BRIGID’S FIRE**

**CHILDREN IN DETENTION**

St Brigid’s Fire is continuing its investigation into the Children in Detention and hopes to share its knowledge with the school in the near future. We are looking forward to engaging the whole school community in activities to raise awareness about this issue.

Last week 8 girls attended a Social Justice Day presented by the CEO: Annmary Anthony, Tanya Balakumar, Emma Bowen, Sarah Burgess, Hannah Denney, Paige Holland, Beth Meldrum and Tanya Thongpanich. Students were able to attend a variety of workshops. Emma and Tanya from Year 9 were inspired by a workshop on Children in Detention. They have reported back to St Brigid’s Fire and will report to the whole school on Tuesday.

Katie McQuaid from Year 10 has also been very helpful in keeping us informed about current developments in this situation and has collected the following links for us to visit.

- [http://www.chilout.org/chilout-media-releases](http://www.chilout.org/chilout-media-releases) A link to recent press releases from Chilout, Children out of immigration detention organization. This organisation is predominantly run by younger people concerned about their peers in detention.
- [http://www.immi.gov.au/visas/humanitarian/](http://www.immi.gov.au/visas/humanitarian/) This is a government site that will help you to understand some of the language used in this issue e.g. What is the difference between a refugee and an asylum seeker or an immigrant?

_Ms Monica Jarman_
BUSH HAVEN NEWS
Two pieces of news from the Bush Haven Garden Group this month.

BUSH HAVEN DAY – MONDAY 26 NOVEMBER.
Last Monday our team of Year 10 Bush Haven volunteers joined with Mr Milanov, Mrs Dawson and Mr Burg to continue with our ongoing maintenance of our Bush garden along the Coogee Bay Rd entrance to the College.

A variety of necessary tasks were carried out, including: making adjustments to the extended sprinkler system which we installed in July; cleaning up fallen branches and prunings, and putting them through a shredder; continuing weeding (always an ongoing chore!); spreading yet more mulch (once again generously supplied by Randwick Council); and putting in new plants. The area that received most of our attention was the area behind lab D01. With all the weeds pulled out, a thick layer of mulch spread, and some more ground-cover plants put in, this area is now looking much more pleasant.

A big thank you to our Year 10 team of Joanna Cheng, Leoni Suniary, Carina Lam, Vivienne Deng, Chantelle Lieu, Erica Soon, Annmary Antony, Catherine Chan, Alex McManus, Olivia Cannon, and Lulu Lyons.

The girls hard at work (and demonstrating some novel ways of wearing dust mask)
TRIP TO BURRENDONG ARBORETUM – SEPTEMBER 2013.
We have made contact with the curator and the Trustees of the Burrendong Arboretum, near Wellington in central NSW, and offered them the services of our Bush Haven team to help them with planting, weeding and other tasks.

Our offer was gratefully accepted, and so we are now in the planning stage of organising a trip to the Arboretum in September 2013. The plan is to spend 4 to 5 days at Lake Burrendong, near the Arboretum, and have a variety of activities, mostly centred around helping the Arboretum volunteers. Other activities may also be included, such as: visit to Wellington Caves, maybe Western Plains Zoo, and photography lessons from Arboretum volunteers.

The proposed dates are from Thursday 19 September to Tuesday 24 September. Cost has yet to be worked out, but may be in the vicinity of $200 - $250.
We have had some enthusiastic response from Year 10s but nothing from Year 9s or Year 8s. Numbers will be limited and first preferences will go to girls who have been involved with Tree Day and Bush Haven activities.
If girls are interested they will need to get an Expression of Interest form from Mr Burg.

Mr Kevin Burg
Science Department

SECOND HAND UNIFORMS FOR SALE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GARMENT</th>
<th>SIZE</th>
<th>CONDITION</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 x Sports Jackets</td>
<td>14/small</td>
<td>Good/Fair</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 x Sports Track Pants</td>
<td>S/M</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>$15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 x Pullover</td>
<td>S/M</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact Margret on 9665 2881.
Please leave a message