Welcome to our December Newsletter

COMING EVENTS
Monday 17 December 2012
Year 11 Tutorial Day
Tuesday 18 & Wednesday 19 December 2012
Parent Teacher Interviews
Thursday 20 December 2012
Staff Development Day
Friday 21 December 2012
Last Day of Term 4

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.

“A happy and safe Christmas to our girls and families from the staff of Brigidine College”
Dear Parents,
The end of the year again. I hope that your daughter has generally enjoyed school and is looking forward to Christmas, the holidays and returning again next year with all the glorious, normal hope of youth.

2012 has been a bit of a hard year for me. I have felt deeply the betrayal of Jesus’ legacy by members of our Church; and my heart goes out to priests like our wonderful MSC’s here in Randwick who are so generous to us at Brigidine and have to carry the pain of the sins of sexual abuse by other members of the clergy. Throughout the year we have all had to endure the martyrdom of shaming convictions and allegations, innuendo and the silencing in the Media of the present good and saving work of the Church. May the Royal Commission bring peace to victims and grace to the Church.

I include below an article by Columban Father Noel Connolly. I like his positive ideas and sensible historical context. Jesus said that we must be like yeast in the dough and salt to food. These profound and simple metaphors are a message about the importance of our faith to the wellbeing of society. Fr Connolly writes about being with people in the ordinariness of their lives and somehow communicating the wonder of what it means to be a human being in a redemptive relationship with God. The Christmas story - what appears to be just another birth to an insignificant couple in an insignificant village - is a prime example of the mystery of God made visible to the world through faith. Mystery, silence, arresting wonder; our hearts long for these, not thoughts, experiences. May they be ours this Christmas.

**Father Noel Connolly’s article**

Today we are called to proclaim Jesus in a radically new context, a pluralist one. Christendom is over and is unlikely to return. There will be no new age of one privileged faith and culture, at least in the “West”. The Enlightenment, the growth of science, the emphasis on the individual, and the process of secularisation, has taken away the supportive culture and plausibility structures we Christians have been used to. The institutions and customs that gave us credibility are now problematic, and secularism has undercut religious explanations.

We have been moved from the centre to the margins, from privilege to plurality, and from being at home to feeling threatened. Faith is now a decision against the tide. So how do we evangelise in such a culture? The first thing we must do is to stop regretting our loss and come to appreciate that pluralism is our reality and may even open new opportunities for faith and evangelisation.

We need to look for the Spirit’s presence in our postmodern society.

Mission history teaches us that the Church has always been truest to itself when it lived in a pluralist world, when it had to explain its faith and tried to learn from the faith of others. This was true of the early Church, of the Fathers and in most Asian countries. We were often at our worst when we had too much power and control.

The Australia we are called to evangelise in is home to many faiths and cultures. According to the last census, 47% of us were either born overseas or have a parent who was. And our Church is increasingly multicultural in its membership and clergy. Pluralism is inevitable and natural. People still hunger for God and for spirituality, but they do not look to the Church alone for answers. Many take a little bit of wisdom from here and there. We may not like that but we will have little credibility if we are defensive, negative and not open to pluralism.

We must recover the spirit of *Gaudium et Spes*. We live as fellow pilgrims who appreciate and share the joys, anxieties of our brothers and sisters. We search together with them for meaning, goodness, truth and beauty. And as Peter advised us, we are always “prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect” [1 Pet. 3:15](#).
There are three missiological principles that are important to remember.

1. All cultures, even ours, are places for transcendence and encounter with God. The Holy Spirit is active in our modern world. It is our job to discover, celebrate and build on this presence. To ask ourselves what is the Good News in and for this culture?

2. All cultures are also human constructs and are therefore ambiguous, containing “seeds and weeds” which need to be rejoiced in, condemned and evangelised.

3. The Gospel can only be received, appreciated and lived within a people’s culture. We have to speak to them in their terms, to find the evil and transcendence in their lives, to speak to their fears and hopes. Only an inculturated Gospel will call to deep and lasting conversion.

There are three possible reactions to our “postmodern” world: hostility, innocent acceptance or discernment. And discernment must always be done out of consolation or appreciation not fear or anger. We will be much more convincing evangelisers if people feel we know, respect and enjoy them. This is especially true with Australians who have always suspected religious people with all the answers. Our task is not so much to “pump religion” into people as to draw it out. To do this we must know the mystery in our own hearts and be ready to share it in a way that speaks to the mystery in our brothers and sisters.

Noel Connolly is a Columban missionary priest. He is a member of the Columban Mission Institute, Strathfield, in Sydney, and of the Broken Bay Institute. He also lectures in mission at the Catholic Institute of Sydney.

Disclaimer: CathBlog is an extension of CathNews story feedback. It is intended to promote discussion and debate among the subscribers to CathNews and the readers of the website. The opinions expressed in CathBlog are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the members of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference or of Church Resources.

Year Ten End of Year Program

I was very pleased with how our Year Ten girls responded to the week of preparation for Preliminary HSC study in Year Eleven. We were trying to establish a balance between more adult study skills and the fun activities of young adults. The Style and Beauty Day was particularly successful and our intention was to give the girls more understanding and control over effectively presenting themselves as young women.

In regard to the Preliminary HSC work load, the girls all had two separate interviews with teachers about their work ethic and study skills with our intention being that the girls will know what they are committed to from day one Year Eleven.

My thanks go to our wonderful team of parents who organized the Year Ten Social and who worked so well with the student organizing committee. Thank you to all the parents who came to supervise. It gave the girls a lot of joy and days of having something to look forward to as their school year was closing. Ms Aloisi, Ms McColl Ms Chaloner and Ms Gouveia all attended the social and were thrilled to see the girls so happy in their finery. Ms Dable was there from beginning to end; we are gifted with parents and teachers who have a deep commitment to nurturing the girls with quality relationships.

Kate Edmondson
Principal
FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Our community has much to celebrate as the 2012 school year finally draws to a close. I believe what awaits us is a well-deserved break to spend with family and friends whilst celebrating the birth of Christ. The last few weeks have been quite busy with bringing the year to a finish whilst simultaneously preparing for 2013.

The celebrations and blessings from 2012 were and truly have made this an exceptional school year. This year’s challenges, successes and achievements were most definitely filled with excitement and exhilaration. Our Presentation Day demonstrated perfectly the images that made the Brigidine spirit of *Strength and Gentleness* so much more alive in our community in so many ways. It was a privilege to acknowledge and celebrate the wonderful achievements of so many students in our community at our Presentation Day ceremony this week.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the entire Brigidine College community for their strong and continued support throughout this year as we worked together for ongoing school improvement. We have had challenges and initiatives in working towards a greater positive learning environment.

On behalf of the College community, parents, staff and students, I thank our College Principal, Ms Kate Edmondson, for all that she has done and continues to do towards making Brigidine a community that strives for excellence in all that we do, learn and work.

On a final note, Christmas is always a warm welcoming time of year. It is the season of goodwill and one that is filled with joy as we prepare ourselves for the coming of our Lord. As we journey through this very special time of year, let us remember the true meaning of Christmas. May the Christmas season bring love, peace and hope into all our hearts, into our homes and into our world. May it be a festive and joyous time for you and your families blessed with happiness, kindness, consideration and above all love. I hope that 2013 is a successful and prosperous year for all.

*A Christmas Blessing*

God grant you the light of Christmas,  
which is faith;  
the warmth of Christmas,  
which is purity;  
the righteousness of Christmas,  
which is justice;  
the belief in Christmas,  
which is truth;  
the all of Christmas,  
which is Christ.

We make this prayer through Christ, Amen.

Christmas blessings,  
Mrs Antoinette McGahan
BRIDIGINE’S MUSIC YOUTH MINISTRY GROUP

On Sunday 25 November the Brigidine Music Youth Ministry Group congregated in the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church to celebrate the feast day of Christ the King.

The Group comprised of many instrumentalists and vocalists, including: Catriona Stirrat (vocals), Caroline Recking (vocals), Louisa García-Dolnik (piano), Poppy Aldous (vocals), Naomi Little (vocals), Riley Cogan (vocals), Jasmine Lawrence (vocals), Jennifer Hoe (bass guitar), Tara Tjandra (violin), Fleur Chang (flute), Jessie Wei (violin), Jaynell Vila (vocals) and Angelica Queyquep (vocals). We were also delighted to be joined by other instrumentalists and teachers including Brett Adamson (Guitar), Jacob Siles (Drums), Monica Jarman (guitar), Robyn Ross (vocals) and Martin Hoe (guitar).

Throughout the week Brigidine Girls had participated in workshops hosted by Brett Adamson and Robyn Ross. During these workshops the girls practiced and learnt church hymns and songs in a fun and educational environment. On the day of mass we were joined by various staff members some of which included Ms Edmondson, Ms Ginsburg, Ms Day and Ms Harkins. All in all it was an enjoyable experience which we would like to continue throughout our future schooling at Brigidine.
YEARN 11 ECONOMICS EXCURSION

On Wednesday 14 November Year 11 Economics students went on an excursion to the Reserve Bank of Australia, Martin Place. After a quick run through the RBA Museum, which consisted of a display of historical notes and coins, the students listened to a most informative lecture by an RBA Research Economist.

The visit was most timely given the state of the global economy and the essence of the lecture was to address the role of the RBA in its attempt to minimise the effects of the European Sovereign Debt Crisis on the Australian economy.

After the address, students were treated to a lecture on the security features of Australia’s polymer bank notes. All in all a most enjoyable and informative excursion.

Ms J Nicolas
HSIE Commercial Coordinator
WHITE RIBBON WALK
On Friday 23 November, 46 volunteers and 4 teachers met in the Main Quad at 7.00am for a very early Roll Call before setting out for High Cross Park. There we joined thousands of people taking part in the White Ribbon Walk.

This was organised to raise awareness about the issue of domestic violence against women.

We walked down to Coogee where we listened to speeches on the issue and then made a pledge never to put up with or remain silent about violence against women.

There were many dignitaries in attendance and highlights for many were Hannah Denney’s interviews with various people taking part in the walk including Bicycle police and a very amusing interview with Mario Fenech - watch out for the BBC News to see some of these!

Thanks to all the girls for taking part and to the teachers who came with them - Ms Karen Crowe, Mrs Rowena Dawson, Miss Jarman and Ms Nicolas. We look forward to taking part next year as well in our endeavours to heighten awareness of this issue.

Miss Narelle Watson
Year 11 Coordinator
ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

BUSH HAVEN GROUP – BURRENDONG EXCURSION 2013
Plans are well in progress for our Excursion to Burrendong Arboretum in September next year (19th – 24th). We will be taking a group of volunteers from Brigidine to assist the Friends of Burrendong Arboretum with tasks including planting, maintenance, weed control and propagating endangered native plants. (Visit: http://www.burrendongarboretum.org/Burrendong_Arboretum/Welcome.html).

As well there will be opportunities for other activities around the Wellington area, such as Western Plains Zoo, Wellington Caves, Lake Burrendong. The Friends of Burrendong Arboretum have also offered to give lessons in photography, especially wildlife photography, as some of their members are excellent photographers.

Accommodation has been booked in Lakeside Cottages, at the Sport and Recreation Camp overlooking beautiful Lake Burrendong. (Visit: http://www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/lakeburrendong/).

We would like to take a group of 12 to 15, as this will provided a sufficient sized work force, and also minimise costs. At the moment 8 students have returned expression of interest forms. Girls do not have to members of our Bush Haven Garden Group in order to participate in this excursion, although if applicant numbers exceed our limit, preference will be given to regular Bush Haven gardeners.

This will be a great opportunity to have a holiday with a difference, to experience a little bit of our wonderful bush environment, and to enjoy the fantastic wildflowers that will be in bloom in the spring. Further information email kevin_burg@bcrandwick.catholic.edu.au
STREAMWATCH REPORT
Since our last Streamwatch report, we have done six more tests on the water quality of the stormwater channel at the North end of Coogee Beach. Over this time, we have experienced variable weather, with some rain, some very hot days, strong winds, large waves and high tides. All these have had effects on the water quality.

Oxygen saturation has ranged from 85% to 95%, all above Australian Water Quality Guideline minimum. Water temperature has been between 18 and 22°C. Turbidity has been constant, at 10NTU. pH has ranged from 7.0 to 8.5; conductivity has ranged widely, from 500 to 22000µS/cm – the high values coincide with high tide and wave activity pushing sea water up into the channel. Phosphate content has also been very variable, ranging from 0.05 to 0.43 ppm. The high values coincided with high numbers of silver gulls congregating in the water.

NOTE: WE DO NOT TEST FOR THE PRESENCE OF BACTERIA OR OTHER MICROORGANISMS, SO OUR RESULTS ALONE CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT THE WATER IS SAFE.

Mr Kevin Burg
Science Department

SPORTS NEWS
AUSTRALIAN ALL SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS ATHLETICS
Congratulations to Jessica Thornton and Molly Blakey who competed at the Australian All Schools Athletics Championships in Tasmania last weekend.

Jessica Thornton
- Gold Medal 100m
- Gold Medal 4x100 Relay
- Silver Medal 400m
- Silver Medal 200,
- Silver Medal Swedish Relay

Molly Blakey
- Gold Medal 400m
- Gold Medal 4x100 Relay
- silver Medal Swedish Relay
- Bronze Medal 200m

Molly needs to repeat her time in the 400m once more to gain selection into the World Youth Championships in the Ukraine 2013.

Congratulations to both girls and best of luck in the future with your athletics.

EAST’S BASKETBALL LEAGUE
The East’s Basketball League are interested in starting a competition in 2013 on Saturday afternoons from 3.30pm at Waverley College, for players in U12, U14 and U16.

If you are interested in getting a team together, then register your interest to info@eastsbl.com.au or visit their website www.eastsbl.com.au
BRADLEY MATHEWS AWARD
Congratulations to Lauren Edwards, Alex Horne, Imogen Brazil, Victoria Stojanovic who were nominated for the Bradley Mathews Memorial Award. These girls play for the Coogee Dolphins Netball Club 14 years.

The girls have been playing together for seven years and managed to win the Grand Final this year defeating the minor premiers.

Well done girls on your nomination and best of luck with your netball.

Mrs Kate Elder
Sports Coordinator

BRIDGIDINE COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT 2013

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

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<tr>
<td>2 x Summer Dress</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 x Swimmers</td>
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Contact Kelsia 0416851217