Welcome to our February Newsletter

Dear Parents,

My thanks to each of you for the preparations that have gone into getting your daughters ready to return to school. From my perspective, we have started off smoothly. The first day is exciting and then things settle and it just like we were never on holidays. Our Year Twelve leaders came in to school a day early to help the Year Seven girls get their heads around lockers and timetables and this gave some very solid support to staff and our new girls on their first day in a secondary school. Thank you Year Twelve.

Before the end of February each family will receive an information package from me about activities at Brigidine this year. At this stage I want to point out these dates to you

**Tuesday 19 February 7.00pm Cullen Hall.** This is the Stage 6 evening when a representative of the Board of Studies comes and explains HSC assessment, final HSC results and the calculation of an ATAR. This is open to all parents but most especially the parents of Year Eleven and Year Twelve students. This is a very informative evening.

**Friday 22 February Cullen verandah:** P and F Meet and Greet

**Friday 1 March:** Brigidine swimming carnival

Letters will go home with your daughters about these events.

### COMING EVENTS

**Wednesday 13 February 2013**  
Ash Wednesday

**Tuesday 19 February 2013**  
Year 12 Information Evening

**Friday 22 February 2013**  
P & F Meet and Greet

**Wednesday 6 March 2013**  
College OPEN 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.
- Parents should not drop and pick up daughters in Aeolia Street.
If you would like to be planning your year and you are wondering about events here at school, your daughter’s planner has all important events named. In addition you can view our school calendar on the website. A hardcopy of the school calendar will be sent to you in the information package before the end of February.

At the opening assembly I spoke to the girls about the importance of putting learning first. For adolescent girls, relationships, feeling very close and connected to others, are most important. This is very normal, however, it is the role of her parents and teachers to lead them to the next stage of development where they realize that they must make a commitment to building a life on personal gifts. No one else can do this for an individual and in fact relating can be a way of escape from the pain and risk of self actualization. Parents should think through how much time is reasonable for a girl to spend communicating using technology and insist that the phone and computer are closed down for the evening. Girls need times of silence and quiet in order to live a balanced life and to rest in their own space at home without being caught up in the addiction of wondering who might be trying to contact them.

I encourage the girls to observe themselves working at their studies at home. There is no such thing as “no homework.” The senior girls always have a great deal to do. Junior secondary girls always have their Science to learn by heart, their Mathematics problems to practice and their novel to be reading. After that they begin on assignments; these require well developed time management skills. Learning at home is a self directed activity and parents should observe the activity of learning. The girls have their timetables in their planner so parents can check the classes held on any particular day. They must learn facts by heart; a parent can help by hearing these as a test at home. This is true for all subjects, but so many girls fall behind in Mathematics and Science because they have not done the rote learning required to keep on top of the content.

All our rhetoric at Brigidine is about strengthening their identity as school girls. The more they see themselves as full time learners who are girls and not girls who are part time learners and part time shopaholics the greater chance there is that they will achieve personal excellence here at Brigidine.

**St Anne’s**

Last year we slowly developed a room which was once Mother Declan’s Kindergarten room, then the “rhythm room” and then a big classroom DC5, into a room for prayer which we will call St Anne’s. We can’t call it a chapel as we won’t ever have the Blessed Sacrament there. We have put a high quality carpet down and have covered the eastern wall with a large mural on which are the images of Our Lady of the Southern Cross, the indigenous Madonna and child from the Church of the Annunciation at La Peruse, Brigid from the Randwick window and Mary MacKillop when she was fourteen. The rays of the resurrection radiate over these images from a cross which has the lamp of learning at its centre. In the corner is the life sized statue of St Anne and Mary as a child. This statue used to stand at the entry to St Anne’s dormitory here at Brigidine in the boarding school days. I am very happy with how room looks and we will add to it as the money and the inspiration come.

In the holidays long wearing vinyl was put down throughout the Delaney building. This has given a much needed lift to the appearance of this building.

The entrance to our school continues to be a worry to me and I hope that I can tell parents about plans for the improvement of our entrance before the end of this first term.

Ms Kate Edmondson - Principal
FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Welcome back everyone to 2013! A special welcome to our Year 7 students, the graduating class of 2018, and all the new students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11. Students at Brigidine are well known for their friendliness and hospitality in making new members to our community feel welcome. I am sure before long everyone will feel like they have been here for a long time.

I also welcome the new parents to our community and hope their years of association with the College are fulfilling and rewarding. I do ask parents to contact the College if there are any problems or concerns. Your first point of contact should be your daughter’s home room teacher.

Welcome to new staff, Mr Jon Campbell, Ms Lorraine Spillane, Ms Mairead Ross, Ms Edwina Fairall, Ms Kim Cook, Mr Justin Scivetti and Ms Amy Smith and welcome back to Ms Moly Lee to our College community. Before no time they will also feel a part of the wonderful community we have here.

Behaviour Management Policy
This will year we will be implementing the principles of our new Behaviour Management Policy. The new policy is committed to developing and maintaining quality relationships within the College environment. Restorative practices underpin the Behaviour Management Policy by pursuing inclusiveness and collaboration. It is a process that assists in the management of students with challenging behaviours whilst upholding the respect and dignity of every individual involved in the process. The aim of the policy is to promote a high degree of responsibility and respect in students allowing them to be accountable for their actions and behaviour. A key feature is to provide students with the opportunity to manage and change their behaviour. We will continue to work on the policy in 2013 to oversee its implementation and fine-tune procedures.

Attendance Welfare Package
In Term 3 of 2012 we successfully implemented a new electronic attendance and welfare package. Sentral Education has allowed us to electronically mark student attendance. We also began sending parents SMS messages notifying them of their daughter’s absence and/or lateness. These processes have had a significant impact on reducing student absences at the College. We will be continuing with the processes and procedures in 2013 with the plan to further refine them.

Peer Support
The Year 7 will be following the Peer Support Program which allows them the opportunity to buddy with a Year 11 student. This provides them with the excellent chance to seek all they need to know about Brigidine, and assists them in settling in and making new friends.

Meet and Greet
We have our annual Meet and Greet Evening scheduled for Friday 22 February. This evening is a very enjoyable and social evening where new parents are welcomed. The night starts at 6.00pm and everyone is welcome to attend.
**Ash Wednesday**

On 13 February we will gather together as a community in a liturgy for Ash Wednesday, which is the beginning of six and a half weeks of preparation for the most important feast day in our Church calendar, Easter. Ashes are an ancient symbol of sorrow for things we have done wrong. During the liturgy staff and students will receive a marking on the forehead of ash which shows our commitment to Jesus Christ and God.

**Swimming Carnival**

Our annual College Swimming Carnival takes place on Friday 1 March. This is still a school day and **attendance by all students is compulsory.** Parents and friends are most welcome to join us on this fun filled day. The carnival will be at Botany Aquatic Centre Swimming Pool in Jasmine Street Botany. Further details are included in the latter part of this newsletter.

**Getting Organised**

The beginning of the school year is the ideal time for students to:

- Make up a **study plan** after prioritising other activities in their life;
- Map out the school year in terms of **tasks to be completed**;
- Set up an interruption free **study space** at home for completion of tasks;
- Ensure all **equipment and books** are purchased and available to them;
- Find out what resources and assistance are available to **support** them;
- Establish a **routine** for studying and completing homework; and
- Look ahead to the future and set personal and educational **goals**.

Everyday name something that you have learnt.

I am looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible during the course of the year. Please let me know if I can be of assistance to you.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Mrs Antoinette McGahan
Assistant Principal

**YEARS 7-10 PAINTING IN THE VISUAL ARTS**

As we commence a New Year our Year 7 students have newly purchased uniforms and many students have updated their uniforms to start the New Year. Years 7-10 will shortly commence painting in the Visual Arts Classroom.

There are aprons in the art rooms and every girl is responsible to wear an apron to protect her school uniform. If a student gets paint on the uniform the manufacturer states it can be removed with just hot water. I have found the water need to be very hot and I suggest you wear thick rubber gloves and use a nail brush. Blue seems to be the most difficult colour to remove, especially on the white blouses. **Sards Wonder soap** can be purchased as a bar of soap and used on the stain. After many years in the art room I have found Nappy San has become a good friend if the item is soaked.

The Visual Arts Department is keen for the girls to enjoy painting while still protecting their uniforms.
STILL LIFE DRAWING IN THE VISUAL ARTS CLASSROOM
Every class in the Visual Arts spends the first 3 minutes of the lesson completing a still life drawing in the back of their Visual Arts Process Diary. Girls early to class have more than 3 minutes. If we are studying Art Criticism or Art History girls still have 3 minutes of drawing. The objects change every cycle and we are continually looking for objects with interesting shapes. Donations are always accepted and we often drop into St Vincent De Paul to see what is new. Pictured is an awesome teapot donated by Mrs Dawson and jug by Mrs Edmondson.

This exercise can be viewed as merely building drawing skills. Eye hand coordination is developed and so are observational skills. The importance of this activity is in the brain. The power is in imaging, as a device for understanding and remembering complex information. Both hemispheres of the brain are literally given an ‘aerobic workout’ as the dominant left side of the brain forces the right side of the brain to work. I am not inventing the wheel here, but riding qualitative research made 30 years ago.

As the Visual Arts Coordinator from 2012, I have wanted to develop and celebrate the creative potential of every student in the Visual Arts. As we commence a new year the Visual Arts department will renew its enthusiasm to develop every students’ potential. It is amazing what you can achieve once everyone makes a commitment to a 3 minute exercise on a regular basis.

Ms Deirdre Brennan
Visual Arts Coordinator
RANDWICK CITY COUNCIL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2013

Brigidine College Randwick would like to congratulate Kate Buchanan (Year 9) who has won the Randwick City Council’s Photographic Competition in the 13-18 year category.

The standard of entries was very high and after a long and difficult judging process, the judges selected Kate for her creative photo entitled ‘A Father’s Refection’. The image captures a black swan in the Randwick Environmental Park wetland. You can find a copy of her photo on the Council’s yoursayrandwick website at the following link
Kate will be enjoying a photographic course as part of her prize.

Ms Deirdre Brennan
Visual Arts Coordinator
SWIMMING CARNIVAL

THE ANNUAL SWIMMING CARNIVAL WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY 1ST MARCH AT BOTANY POOL.

Students in Year 7 will be bussed to the pool and back to school at the end of the day. Year 7 must arrive at school for 8.00 Roll Call. It is estimated that students will be back at school between 2.30-3.00pm

Students in Years 8 to 12 must make their own way to the pool and home. Roll Call will be at the pool at 8.30am. If any student in Year 8 to 12 needs to catch the organised school bus they must fill in the permission note and return this to their roll teacher. If catching the bus you need to be in the Main Quad at 8.00am. The carnival will commence at 9.00am and finish at approximately 2.00pm.

All student supervision will conclude at 2.15pm Therefore, could all parents/carers please ensure that your daughter has made adequate arrangements for her return home at the conclusion of the carnival. Pool authorities do not permit children to remain at the pool and they must leave at the conclusion of the carnival.
Please note that the Swimming Carnival is a compulsory College event. If your daughter is absent on the day of the carnival due to illness, please contact the school and inform them of her absence either by leaving your message on voicemail or contacting the office at 8.00am. On her return to school she must present a doctor’s certificate to her roll call teacher.

The carnival will be held regardless of weather
All students must come prepared with hats, sunscreen and drink bottles. If it is wet weather you are advised to bring appropriate clothing.

If you are still not sure about the weather conditions or if the carnival will go ahead SMS ‘Brigidine’ on 19922767. This will send you a message regarding the carnival. The message will be available at 7.00am on the day.

Canteen facilities will be available from 10.30am.

Dress for the Carnival
Students may dress up in their House Colours for the carnival but they must make sure they are in appropriate clothing to travel in. NO PAINT IS TO BE USED AT ANY TIME AS DRESS UP. If you do not wish to dress up you are to wear correct PE uniform.
All students must be aware of sun safety and wear appropriate clothing to prevent sunburn as well as using sunscreen and wearing a hat. Stay hydrated and drink plenty of water.
We hope to see lots of participation from all girls and great team spirit. Good luck to all teams and all swimmers.

Ms Kate Elder – Sports Coordinator
SPORTS NEWS

Congratulations to Molly Blakey of Year 10. Molly represented Australia at the Australian Youth Olympic Festival.

The Australian team was made up of 30 athletes from all over Australia and Molly had some incredible results.

*Molly won Gold in the 400m and broke the Australian record that has stood for 10 years! Molly also competed in the 4 x 100m relay, winning Gold and the Medley Relay winning Bronze.*

Molly now qualifies to compete at the World Youth Championships in the Ukraine in July this year.

Mrs Kate Elder  
Sports Coordinator

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Contact: Nancy Kwiatek 0488 260 177 / 9665 9069

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Contact: Belle Kong (parent) at 0430 020 629 or email: belle.kong@yahoo.com.au.

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Contact: Diana Maglione 0418287750 / 0430 232 550