Dear Parents,

The circumstances of my life caused me to be sitting with my future son in law half listening to the Oscars. I heard the lyrics of the opening song “We Saw Your Boobs” and asked him if I was hearing correctly. He then went on to tell me about the achievements of Seth McFarlane who was the MC and the author and singer of the song which was the opening number of the Oscars. The song (complemented by male group dancing) was a list of all the movies in which actresses were portraying characters who, in one point in the story, have a bare chest and shoulders. The actresses too were named in the song. I run hot and cold in regard to analysing popular culture. This 2013 Oscars’ song and dance struck a sensitive chord in me and I was compelled to think hard about it.

As one writer in the commentary about this year’s Oscars said, making fun of something doesn’t make it funny. Popular culture seeks to be a free expression of the human experience in all its dimensions; an expression that is free of the boundaries created by community values and taboos and is accessible to all. The rationale behind such a belief is that people will recognize themselves in the artifacts of the culture and value what they see or make changes if they think it right to do so. Artists have fought hard to have the right to portray ugliness, violence, sex and nudity and our Christian canon is also full of these elements of the human experience. Actors are very high in the popular culture pantheon. The women actors of McFarlane’s song are serious about their craft and have been acclaimed for their excellence. I am appalled at the irresponsibility of the creators of this year’s Oscars for commencing the show by lampooning the work of these great artists. It has been a long struggle to have movies regarded as great art; how can the sustaining of artistic excellence in the film industry be assisted by the effect of juxtaposing the expertise of actresses with a boy’s frisson at seeing a woman’s breasts?

COMING EVENTS

Monday and Tuesday
11 and 12 March 2013
Year 7 Camp

Wednesday 13 March 2013
Year 10 Community 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.
In the wild, the mother lioness boxes the ears of the bachelor boy lions who, experimenting with their growing prowess, come too near the pride’s cubs. My problem with popular culture is that human frailty only has value if it suits dramatic need. It is all very well to talk about freedom of expression but the context in which the message is delivered is heavy with high stakes meaning. As human beings, the actresses have their journey to success to respect and their sense of self to protect. There is also the wider context of all the girls who look up to the actresses; are our girls seeing that even if a woman has achieved popular culture’s ideal; thin, beautiful, clever, rich, accomplished, she can still be made into a joke by an juvenile male worldview? What hope then do ordinary women have of staying clear of abuse? No wonder anxiety is rife among young women who daily negotiate abusive material in social media.

“We saw Your Boobs” might have worked as satire, if our society had been able to rid itself of violence against women. Our girls are struggling to be at home with all that it means to be female in a society dominated by images of women that are pre packaged ready for commodification and are highly sexualized. The girls may well be interacting with young men who are learning about sexuality through on line pornography. They are all trying to find their way to their best adult selves in a confusing abyss. Surely even to the most secular mind, the huge amount of money generated within the film industry and the amount of money required to stage the Oscars, money that after all is used to only entertain the world’s wealthiest people, carries with it the responsibility to be careful about the impact of its messages on the minds of anyone who goes to the movies and has affection for the actors.

This is my opinion of this year’s Oscars and in a post Christian, post modern world all is but interpretation and opinion. This means that there is little possibility of leadership. One side issue of the great difficulties facing the contemporary Church is that its moral voice is down to a faint whisper. The abuse of the vulnerable by members of the Church has silenced its beautiful, scholarly, truth seeking voice which assists in understanding human subtleties. Our girls are all the poorer for it and in the sadness I feel for them, and for our Church, there is nothing to sing and dance about.

Correction regarding laptops

In my annual letter to parents I wrote about the payment for broken laptop screens in an ambiguous way. Parents of the girls who have Government Issue laptops (girls in Years Ten, Eleven and Twelve) must pay for any broken screens. The school will pay for one broken screen in the life of the lease for girls in Years Seven, Eight and Nine whose laptops are leased by their parents. Parents of these years must pay for any further broken screens. I encourage all parents to support the school in having high expectations for the safe use of the laptops. Year Eight girls in particular have been spoken to sternly about leaving their computers unattended in the canteen quad. A laptop should be in its case being carried by the student or locked away in the student’s locker.
Open Afternoon

We had a very successful Open Afternoon last Wednesday. So many people say that they are interested in Brigidine because they have friends whose daughters attend here and they hear good things about us. Our parents and our girls give us our best advertisements. Thank You.

Cocktail party

Many thanks to the P and F committee for organizing our welcome cocktail party held on Cullen verandah. It is always good to see people catching up with those they have known before, meeting parents of their daughter’s friends and getting a feel for Brigidine. It is important that parents keep in touch as the girls attempt to become more independent.

Ms K Edmondson
Principal

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Thank you to all the staff and to the many students who attended and assisted in making Open Day 2013 another huge success. Our students were excellent and showed how proud they are of their school. Each and every one of our students was great Ambassador for Brigidine. The staff have been planning and working hard for weeks – thank you again. Our parents served tea and coffee to future Brigidine parents. Congratulations and thank you to our Brigidine community – students, parents, friends and staff.

PROJECT COMPASSION 2013 & CARITAS AUSTRALIA

As many as 8 million children die every year from malnutrition and preventable diseases such as diarrhoea, measles and malaria. This equates to 22 000 children dying each day. Did you know that almost all these children live in developing countries?

I strongly encourage each girl to become the voice and the hands of these children in our world who have so very little, who live without water, electricity and schooling and who often have very little food. They also live with disease and have a low life expectancy. Lent is a time for us to make an extra effort to help those less fortunate than ourselves. Make Lent a time to start putting into action some of the things that Jesus taught us about helping others.

This year we are asking that every family gives a minimum of $10 to CARITAS as part of the Project Compassion Appeal for 2013. This means each girl would contribute less than $2 per week during Lent. We ask parents to encourage their daughters to do this as Caritas is the main Catholic charity and giving money to charity is a major part of our Catholic tradition. There are 3 weeks remaining of Lent and the girls can still make a difference. The girls are asked to place their gift of $10 in an envelope with their name and homeroom and then drop the envelope into the fees box at Reception. If students would like to donate
more, we certainly welcome this. Members of the Liturgy Committee will be visiting each Homeroom to remind the girls about this great cause and the process.

**PROMOTING GOOD MENTAL HEALTH & WELL BEING IN CHILDREN**

Parenting Ideas is a website by Michael Grose. The web address is [http://www.parentingideas.com.au](http://www.parentingideas.com.au) and I encourage parents to visit this site as a resource to assist in the many challenges that are faced by being a parent. Michael Grose suggests 10 ways that good mental health in children can be supported by their parents. He talks about promoting good mental health and wellbeing in children as being all about encouraging them to have opportunities that strengthens their ‘resilience’. This is all about having the ability to ‘bounce back’ after something has upset or unsettled them. We all know that everyday life brings a myriad of challenges that can either affirm us or challenge us. So being healthy and well in mind involves handling those situations without letting them get the best of us or overwhelming us.

I am going to list Michael Grose’s 10 tips for promoting good mental health and wellbeing in children as food for thought. I found these not only relevant for children but also for us as adults who are essentially models for our children.

They are as follows:

1. Model good mental health habits by minimising your own stress levels.
2. Make sure your children get enough sleep. Children need between 10-12 hours sleep per night to ensure proper growth and development. Teenagers can get away with 9 hours sleep.
3. Encourage exercise – a healthy body leads to a healthy mind.
4. Give them creative outlets – opportunities for pursuing hobbies and interests will assist them to be immersed in activities and forget about time and place.
5. Provide a space of their own – this can be difficult when bedrooms might be shared, so creating a time out space can be organised instead and is important.
6. Talk about their troubles – if your daughter has a problem, let her know that her concerns are important to you.
7. Help them to relax – encourage relaxing activities, teach them how to meditate or to be still. This is a challenge even for us as adults as we live such busy lives.
8. Have two routines – a week day routine and weekend routine. Weekdays are usually busy with sporting commitments. Weekends should a little more relaxing.
9. Foster volunteering and helpfulness – encourage your children to be connected to others by joining groups and socialising.
10. Bring fun and playfulness into their lives. Allow time and space for children to be spontaneous and to do something different.

Michael Grose concludes by suggesting that it would be helpful to see these first as building blocks of mental health. He makes the point to not ignore or trivialise them. He strongly encourages us talk to our children and somehow tie these activities to their mental health.
Finally Michael says to do this our own way and in our own time.

I found this extremely helpful and interesting and I hope that as fellow parents that this is helpful for you and your families.

Finally, a reminder to parents that there is NO PARKING in Aeolia Street. Collection and drop offs should happen on Coogee Bay Road in the designated areas provided by council. The exit of the girls on to buses is very problematic for us and we are not helped by parents who are parked in Aeolia St.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Mrs Antoinette McGahan
Assistant Principal

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**Sacramental Program 2013**

Would you like your daughter to be Baptised or Confirmed?

Confirmation is usually held for Brigidine and Marcellin College students in September.

Send you daughter’s name to

info@bcrandwick.catholic.edu.au

Attention Mrs Day
YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS TERM 1 2013

Event 1 - iBelieve CYS Camp.
This camp will take place over the April holidays at Springwood and is open to students from years 7 through to 10.

Event 2 - Gracefest
This year the focus of Gracefest will be on welcoming Cardinal Pell back from the Conclave, celebrating the election of our new Pope, and preparing for WYD13. Date of this event is Saturday 23 March 6.30pm-10.00pm at St Mary’s Cathedral Hall.

Any student interested in attending either of these events please see Mrs Ross YMC.

Mrs Robyn Ross
Youth Ministry Co-ordinator

ANTIOCH OPEN NIGHT - SUNDAY 10TH MARCH
An Invitation
The OLSH Antioch Community cordially invites all parents and families to an “Open Night”; an opportunity to get a glimpse of what takes place each Sunday at our gathering. The evening is also a great opportunity for families who may have daughters/sons/grandchildren interested in joining Antioch in the next
few years - children are most welcome to attend. You will get an idea of what we are about - a vibrant youth group who support one another and understand the importance of faith in our lives. All welcome!

- What: Antioch Open Night
- When: Sunday 10th March 2013
- Where: Ventnor House (Church car-park)
- Time: 7:15pm (straight after 6pm Mass)
- RSVP: Please RSVP by reply email latest Thursday 7th March as we will be serving drinks and finger food and need to prepare accordingly.

Contact: antiocholshrandwick@gmail.com

OLSH KENSINGTON IS CELEBRATING ONE HUNDRED YEARS
Ex Students are warmly invited to the following events:

- The Ex Students’ Mass in the Convent Chapel on Sunday 19 May 11am; and the
- Centenary Dinner at La Montage Leichhardt Friday 13 September 6:30pm

For more information email info@olshkensington.catholic.edu.au

REGIONAL PARENT FORUMS 2013 – Catholic Social Teaching
Please click on the link for information regarding the Catholic Education Office’s Regional Parent Forums 2013 ..\Catholic Social Teaching.pdf

SPORTS NEWS

Congratulations to Monique Taukamo who competed at the NSW Little Athletics Regional Championships, with some amazing results. Monique competed in the U15 age group and received:

- Gold in Shot-put,
- Gold in Discus,
- Silver in Long Jump; and
- Bronze in Triple Jump.

Congratulations to Monique Taukamo, Ruby Price and Amanda Ligori who have been selected in the Junior NSW Oz Tag Team.

Good luck to all our Tuesday Afternoon Touch teams competing in the Semi-Finals and Finals. We gave 12 teams in the Semi-finals and we wish them good luck and hopefully they will move into the Grand Finals.

CGSSSA VOLLEYBALL 2013

CGSSA Volleyball is a new and upcoming sport at Brigidine. The 2013 Volleyball team brought new skill, enthusiasm and determination to the court and delivered at the recent Gala Day. The team consisted of seasoned players, Hannah Denney, Maua Aluni, Elyse Harmarnis, Emma Smith, Roisin Broderick as well as rookies Bronte Franklin, Rebecca
The day started off with a bang, with Brigidine winning their first set and finished on a greater note with Brigidine winning their first and last game against Mr St Joseph’s. All members improved immensely over the day but unfortunately they didn’t make the Semis. Congratulations to all the girls on a very entertaining and enjoyable day.

**Miss Jennifer Michaels**  
**PDHPE Department**

**EQUESTRIAN**  
Congratulations to all the students who competed in the NSW State Equestrian Interschools’ Championships from 28 February to 2 March 2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Results</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natalie Melis</td>
<td>1st 90cm am2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4th 80cm am2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11th 80cm am7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11th 90cm am7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoe Cass</td>
<td>Combined Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kate MacLennan</td>
<td>4th Novice 2b dressage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breenne Irvine</td>
<td>6th 60cm combined training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stefanie Cass</td>
<td>80cm Show jumping</td>
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</tbody>
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**TUESDAY TOUCH QUEENS PARK**

**Semi-Finals Results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Score</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brigidine 10</td>
<td>def Emanuel 3 17-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Clares 4</td>
<td>def Brigidine 11 4-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brigidine 12</td>
<td>def St Clares 5 8-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brigidine 13</td>
<td>def OLSH 9 5-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OLSH 12</td>
<td>def Brigidine 19 9-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moriah 2</td>
<td>def Brigidine 14 8-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brigidine 5</td>
<td>def Brigidine 4 10-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Brigidine 7  def OLSH 4  7-3  
St Clares 3  def Brigidine 8  4-3  
Brigidine 17  def OLSH 11  11-5  
Brigidine 18  def Moriah 3  4-3

**GRAND FINAL 12 MARCH 2013**

4.00pm  Brigidine 10  v  St Clares 4
        Brigidine 12  v  Brigidine 13
5.00pm  Brigidine 5    v  OLSH
        Brigidine 7    v  St Clares 3
        Brigidine 17  v  Brigidine 18.

Good luck to all our teams.

**NSW COMBINED CATHOLIC COLLEGE**

Any student who would like to attend trials as an individual in Netball, Basketball, Cricket and a variety of other sports, need to register now ONLINE. This is for students who are representing their sport at a very high level and would like to trial for Rep Teams at NSW Catholic Schools level.

All information regarding selections is now on the website and parents need to register in order to enrol their daughter. Please follow the directions below:

**Parent Access**

1. Please go to the website [www.csss.nsw.edu.au](http://www.csss.nsw.edu.au)
2. **GO TO THE HELP BUTTON**
3. Select **I AM A PARENT/GUARDIAN.** You can either retrieve your password or get a password.
4. Set up a PARENT ACCOUNT
5. Now you can log in
6. Select the sport you are interested in
7. Select REGISTER. Here you will either be asked to make an EXPRESSION OF INTEREST or to REGISTER. This is different for each
8. Once you have completed all the information an email will be sent immediately to the diocesan/association rep, principal and sports coordinator for approval (Consent)
9. Select you payment option – direct deposit or credit card. You will not be marked as paid immediately as accounts need to be manually reconciled. This usually takes 7 working days.
10. You can log in at any time to see the status of your registration.
11. Please make sure your details (email address and mobile) remain up-to-date so that you can be emailed or sent a text message.

**Ms Kate Elder – Sports Coordinator**
BRIGIDINE LIBRARY LAND

Thanks to…

Thank you Anne Jarman for giving above and beyond the call of duty in your capacity of casual library technician and for Lovely Legs – the exquisite late C19 Japanese table that we use for our digital photo displays. I know I’ll be in trouble for thanking you but acknowledgement is well overdue. Generosity is clearly a family trait because Monica Jarman who is currently on leave, followed up three days casual work in the library with a morning of extremely useful voluntary work.

Thank you to Sister Naomi and Sister Theresa for your donations of interesting books, in particular the books that have enriched our collection relevant to Catholic culture. Thanks to Sister Kathleen Butler, the archivist for the Brigidine Sisters, for your help in our preparation for St Brigid’s Day, and thank you Rosie for your scanning of all those photographs I selected. Thanks to Sister Sheelah, Sister Theresa, Sister Naomi and Sister Margaret for visiting our exhibition and providing us with feedback and encouragement. Thanks to Sister Monna for answering my questions and for allowing us to copy some wonderful photographs of her at various stages of her life. Thank you also to the lovely library helpers who are captured in a later photograph.

St Brigid’s Day in the Library

St Brigid’s Day, on February 1, was clearly a day of great importance for our College and the library hosted quite an extensive exhibition which included a digital photo display of St Brigid iconography, explanatory text relating to Saint Brigid, an photographic display, including photographs of some of the sisters who arrived in the nineteenth century, student recounts of their heartfelt memories of the Brigidine Sisters and ten dolls dressed up in Brigidine costumes that capture the passing of time.

The Brigidine Sisters have always valued education which they rightly link to the growth of the whole person. In a 1951 Brigidine Information Booklet for women considering becoming Sisters, this reference to teaching reflects ideas about education that were very advanced for the time: ‘To teach well is a great art... Text books are dead letter matter. Teachers are active, intelligent interpreters, capable of inspiring, animating and enlightening the intellects confided to their care.’

The girls were particularly taken with the photographs of Sister Monna who was depicted as a Bride of Christ at her Reception in 1949, in her role as Principal some decades later and as the wonderful seasoned woman that she is today. Sister Monna was educated by the Brigidine Sisters at Coonamble and later as a boarder at Brigidine College – for her Kindergarten studies only – but that experience was enough to inspire her love of the Brigidine Congregation.

Mother Loyola Fraser who died in 2008 is remembered with great admiration and affection by many of her ex-students and the display included a photograph of her receiving her MA in English Literature at Sydney University in 1951. Janet Morrissey, from
the Brigidine Randwick Leaving Certificate class of 1956 says of Mother Loyola: ‘Mother Loyola’s passion for literature, particularly poetry, was obvious to anyone who sat in her classroom. The poetry of Hopkins, Wordsworth, Yeats and Donne still inspires and exhilarates me – whole lines often pop into my mind or spring from my lips and remind me how much Loyola is responsible for my love of the written and spoken word... she made words dance!’
St Valentine’s Day

We celebrated St Valentine’s Day in the library with a host of Romance novels taking us on that journey of heartache and triumph. Our genre displays drive a lot of the borrowing – there’s nothing like a bit of focussed marketing!

Open Day

Open Day on March 6 was a wonderful library event that we celebrated with the English and History Departments. The library contributed to the History display through its collection of trench art (art made from old cannon shells and other spent metal), a WW1 bayonet and rare books representing the war that were produced at that time. We supplemented a magnificent Tudor dressed mannequin with our Henry the 8th and Tudor Rose banners and an array of books. History also used facsimiles of photographs and artefacts to bring to life their ‘Tales from a suitcase’ exhibition, evoking the WW2 Holocaust experience in a poignant fashion. And where would Open Day have been without the two Greek Goddesses who arrived to grace the event?
The English Department used a digital chocolate wheel, driven by children and parents, for Question selection. As the English staff explained, any teacher seated in the ‘Hot Seat’ had to answer questions truthfully. In this way, the English staff members were compelled to answer such questions as ‘What were Brigidine’s English results in the 2012 HSC’ with the response: ‘We were the top systemic school in NSW and in the top 50 schools overall’!
While our library exploits and enjoys digital technologies, we are also mindful of the role of the material object in teaching and learning. With this philosophy in mind, we purchased Ms Skeleton for the library very recently. While she is a medical skeleton of value to Science and PD & Health students, she also adds an appropriate ambience to our Gothic literature displays.

Here she is, greeting parents and their children on Open Day with a pile of her favourite books and Miss Havisham’s veil. The children clearly enjoyed her company.
Library helpers

I did not have to ask for library help this year; in fact, I had ten Year 7 girls who had loved their primary school library experience so much that they were clamouring to help – and what a gorgeous group of girls they are! I’ve pictured them below.

Shopping Spree Book Club

We have our first Shopping Spree Book Club of the year on Thursday March 14 in the library at lunch time in the library. The girls are permitted to eat in the library but we request that they bring their lunch or buy it at recess as the doors will be closing fairly promptly. There will be an unveiling of newly purchased books and Kay from Shearer’s Book will be reviewing books for student selection and school purchase. Our girls love Book Cub because they pick while we pay – a pretty good deal!

Trish Kennedy
Librarian

Mock Trial

Last Tuesday night our Mock Trial team competed in their 1st trial for the year against St Clare’s College. In a closely fought trial, Brigidine and St Clare’s initially tied, however, the judge had to make one team the winner and the final score of 178 to 177 prevailed. The team managed to present an excellent trial despite the fact that this was the first trial for all of the girls. Congratulations and well done girls.

The team consisted of:
- Barristers: Grace Kane and Tirza Luwia
- Solicitor: Carina Lam
- Witnesses: Corrine Lawrence and Kate Williamson
- Magistrate’s Assistant: Jess Lee

Jennifer Nicolas
HSIE (Commercial) Coordinator
PUBLIC SPEAKING

On Friday the 22\textsuperscript{nd} of March, 13 girls from years 7-12 represented the college in the CSDA Public Speaking Competition. Each girl showed a sophisticated understanding of their chosen topic and spoke with utmost confidence. Big congratulations to all the girls who participated.

Year 7- Anjali Satheesh and Giorgia Goutzas

Year 8- Chiara Harbutt and Heidi Cummings

Year 9- Lauren Edwards and Saskia West

Year 10- Tara Hayes and Amelia Rubio

Seniors- Claire McCarthy, Jasmine Lawrence and Grace Cane

Giorgia Gouzas and Lauren West were successful in the preliminary round and competed in the CSDA Zone Finals at St Mary’s Cathedral on Friday the 1\textsuperscript{st} of March. Both girls spoke at a very high standard and narrowly missed making the Finals. Congratulations girls on making it so far!

I would like to extend a huge thank you to Ms Kate Edmondson for supporting the junior speakers during their preparation, and to Stephanie Beshara who adjudicated both the preliminary round and Zone Finals and Ms Edwina Fairall for adjudicating the Zone Finals. These nights cannot run without the help of the Brigidine Community. Thank you.

DEBATING

The Debating season is fast approaching. Trials for the teams will be held in weeks 7 & 8 for the opportunity to gain a place in the team. The girls who try out will need to make a commitment to attending each Friday night debate throughout the season.

Debating cannot be run without adjudicators. Anyone who is interested in attending an adjudication seminar to adjudicate and help me out this year is more than welcome. Please contact me at the College. The adjudication seminar will be held at Domremy College Five Dock on Tuesday 12\textsuperscript{th} of March 2013 at 6:30pm.

Miss Lisa McColl
Debating and Public Speaking Coordinator

UNIFOM SHOP NEWS

New orders for Cardigans and vests will be taken on Monday 18\textsuperscript{th} and 25\textsuperscript{th} March. Payment must be made at time of fitting

Cost:

- Vest $55.00
- Cardigan $70.00

Mrs Anne Scivetti
Uniform Shop Manager