Dear Parents,

St Frances de Sales was a French Bishop who became renowned for his advice about growing in the spiritual life. His writing was so copious that he became the patron saint of writers. Daniel Delany, the founder of the Brigidine Sisters, was a devotee of Francis who lived a century before. It is through Daniel Delany that we have the words Daniel attributed to Francis which are our school motto: "nothing is as strong as gentleness; nothing is as gentle as real strength." I haven’t been able to find where St Francis de Sales wrote these words, however, they certainly sound like something he would write. Probably the main theme of his spiritual advice is "stop being so hard on yourself". I include here an excerpt from a letter he wrote to one of the many women who sought his wisdom. I find Francis to be a master of the metaphors needed to express our relationship with God. There is great advice here for many girls in the school who are battling with what is called in psychological terms "perfectionist shame": things have gone well but not perfectly and the resultant feelings are those that usually accompany failure.

"We have to put up with others, but first of all, with ourselves, and patiently accept being less than perfect. Good heavens, dear daughter, what makes us think that we can enter into a state on interior rest without going through normal setbacks and struggles? First thing in the morning, prepare your heart for peace: then take great care during the day to call it back to that peace frequently and as it were, to again take your heart in your hand. If you happen to do something that you regret, be neither astonished nor upset, but, having acknowledged your failing, humble yourself quietly before God and try to regain your gentle composure. Say to your soul 'there you have made a mistake, but let’s go on now and be more careful.' Every time you fall, do the same.
When you are inwardly peaceful, don’t miss the opportunity to perform as many acts of gentleness as you can—no matter how small these acts may seem; for as our Lord says: ‘To the person who is faithful in little things, greater ones will be given.’ But most important, don’t lose heart, be patient, wait, do all you can to develop a spirit of compassion. I have no doubt that God is holding you by the hand: if he allows you to stumble, it is only to let you know that if He were not holding your hand, you would fall. This is how He gets you to take a tighter hold of his hand.” quoted from: Francis de Sales, Jane de Chantal-Letters of Spiritual Direction. John Farina(ed) pg 158

Farewell Mr McFadden
Yesterday the Year 12 Music class prepared a superb farewell for Mr McFadden. We were all touched by the girls’ words of gratitude and Mr McFadden’s words of reflection about his life and career. Mr McFadden retires from teaching on the last day of this term, but not of course, from his many creative endeavours.

Congratulations
Congratulations to Mrs Antoinette McGahan: At the end of term One Mrs McGahan was seconded by the CEO to be Principal of All Saints Girls School at Liverpool. The CEO has decided to extend the position to the end of 2014 and wish Mrs McGahan to continue. She has therefore resigned her position here at Brigidine. We offer her congratulations and best wishes. The position of Assistant Principal at Brigidine is advertised now with an appointment to be made in Term Four.

May Brigid bless the house wherein you dwell

Ms Kate Edmondson
Principal
FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Upcoming Events (week ten term 3 & weeks 1 & 2 term 4)

13 September  
Year 11 Exams conclude
Year 9 Geography Excursion to Cronulla

16 September  
Last Day of Formal Lessons for Year 12

17 September  
Year 12 Informal Day

18 September  
Year 12 Graduation Day & Assembly

19 September  
Bush Haven Burrendong Arboretum Excursion
OLSH Year 5 Library Visit

20 September  
Last Day of Lessons for Term 3
Brigidine’s Got Talent
Bush Haven Burrendong Arboretum Excursion

7 October  
Public Holiday

8 October  
Staff Spirituality Day

9 October  
Students Return for Term 4

14 October  
Higher School Certificate Commences

17 & 18 October  
Year 11 Retreat at “The Tops”

The end of Term 3 and the beginning of Term 4 is a time of great transition at a school such as Brigidine. We farewell our Year 12 students and send them off to prepare for the HSC and we welcome our Year 11 students as our new school leaders. The first lesson of Term 4 will be the first lesson for these girls in their HSC year. While other years are finishing and finalising their year’s work our Year 11 students have begun their life as the HSC class of 2014.

NAPLAN Reports were due to be distributed this week, however an error in the Test Administration Centre has set this back until at least the week of 13 October.

Mr Anthony Morgan
Acting Assistant Principal
SPORTS NEWS

CGSSSA TENNIS REPORT, 2013
The CGSSSA Tennis Championships were held at Parramatta City Tennis Centre on Thursday 5th and Friday 6th September in extremely hot conditions. Day one of the tournament began with the Singles event where Brigidine entered 3 very talented players:

Junior Singles – Mina-Louise Brcic – Year 7
Intermediate Singles – Taylor Trompp – Year 9
Senior Singles – Rhiana Weller – Year 12
Our girls played with great determination and sportsmanship. They were fantastic representatives of the College. Unfortunately none of our girls made the semis this year however they all walked away with a few wins under their belts.

The Doubles event was held on Day Two of the tournament and Brigidine entered a doubles pair in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior Divisions.

Junior Doubles – Mina-Louise Brcic (Year 7) and Heidi Cummings (Year 8)
Intermediate Doubles – Taylor Trompp (Year 9) and Tiffanie Leung (Year 9)
Senior Doubles – Rhiana Weller (Year 12) and Kyla Marais (Year 12)
Again, our teams did a fantastic job in the Doubles competition. Our Junior team won two of their matches convincingly but unfortunately didn’t make it to the semis.

Our Intermediate team sailed through their pool rounds and were up against Loreto in the semi. The game went for over an hour and with a change in tactics, they came back from behind to win the semi in a tie-breaker. Unfortunately, they were beaten by Santa Sabina in the final but not without a fight!

Our Senior team played their pool rounds well, however, they didn’t make it through to the semi’s either. It was lovely to watch them play so well and enjoy their last ever CGSSSA tournament as students of the College.

Thank you to all the parents that drove out to the tournament, your support was very much appreciated. Most of all, congratulations to all of our tennis representatives; we are very proud of you.

Mrs Culhane and Mrs Gordon
Rhiana Weller, Kyla Marais, Heidi Cummings, Mina-Louise Brcic, Tiffanie Leung, Taylor Trompp

Taylor Trompp, Mina-Louise Brcic, Rhiana Weller

Intermediate Runners Up - Taylor Trompp and Tiffanie Leung
WHATS HAPPENING IN PD/H/PE YRS 7 & 8
As part of the PD/H/PE syllabus, students in all years (7 -10) participate in an element of dance. This term the girls in years 7 & 8 have been working hard preparing for their assessment, Year 7 – Bush Dance and Year 8 Aerobic Dance. Girls worked in groups for their presentations and were enthusiastic as they took to the stage to perform with some excellent results achieved. The PD/H/PE staff members were thoroughly entertained, but also know how difficult it is for some students to perform in front of their peers, the overall result was great. Year 9 will commence term 4 participating in Cultural (theme) dance which will go towards the students Semester 2 assessment.

Mrs Karen Aktins
A group of year 10 students went to a 3 day science program called STARS (Science Thinking and Research Skills) to develop their interest in science and critical thinking skills. The venue was Marist College Kogarah, Bexley and the theme for this year was Space.

The program was run by the Catholic Education Office and there were many other schools participating. Throughout the program, we couldn't stay with each other, but had to mix with the students from the other schools. It was a bit awkward at first, but it was great to make friends with the other students who shared similar interests to us in science.

There were many activities over the three days including: looking at the ethical issues of space exploration, solving mathematical problems relating to circular motion, and having the chance to program a simple robot. It was a very interesting program and we met lots of new people.

We would like to thank the Science Department for providing us with this opportunity, and special thanks to Ms. Morton and Mrs. Bournazos for accompanying us.
**TREE DAY AT BRIGIDINE**

On Friday 16\(^{th}\) August, an enthusiastic team of 21 bush gardeners from Years 10 and 11, assisted by Mr Milanov and Mr Burg, tackled the task of taming the wilderness in our bush garden. Bringing order to the rampant growth of our native plants was the order of the day, as the girls weeded and pruned and removed some of the shrubs that had died. Many trips backwards and forwards to the garbage skips were made, carrying bags of weeds and pruning’s, and sections of tree trunks.

By lunchtime, the task at the Coogee Bay road front of the school was complete, and attention was turned to the gardens around the Cullen Lawn. The main task here was weeding out infestations of Cobbler’s Peg weed and Green Cestrum. Once again this task was tackled with enthusiasm, and by the end of the day all were tired, but very satisfied after a job well done.

Many thanks to Grace Kane, Roxanne Brown, Krysta McMah, Elberta Cheung, Olivia Cannon, Chantelle Liew, Erica Soon, Jess Lee, Adeline Ho, Vivienne Deng, Alex McManus, Katie McQuaid, (all of Year 11) and Christie Chandra, Natalie Chandra, Teebana Balakumar, Holly Fishwick, Hannah Kim, Miriam Mercer, Louisa Stevenson, Zoe Luck, Florrie Lafon (of Year 10).

Many of these girls will be heading up to the Burrendong Arboretum, near Wellington, to use their Bush Gardening skills in assisting the staff and volunteers to install new plantings at the Arboretum. They will be away for 6 days, departing on 19\(^{th}\) September and returning on 24\(^{th}\) September. We wish them well on this trip!

Mr Kevin Burg

**New Programs at the Museum of Contemporary Art**

The Museum of Contemporary Art is offering **After School Art School** for students in Year 10-12. The program is run over five Thursday evening sessions, and encourages the students to examine contemporary art-making techniques while mentored by an artist and MCA artist educator. They also have a free evening for students aged 12-18, on the 18 August and 10 November.


It enriches your Visual Arts education to reach and meet students from other schools who have an interest in the Visual Arts at a leading arts centre such as the MCA.

**CLARINET LESSONS**

Clarinet lessons are available at school this term with our new teacher Daniel Watterson. Any student interested in lessons should collect a form from the music department. Lessons are $30 for a half hour lesson. We also have Clarinets for hire at $150 per year.

Ms Ainsworth

Music Department
DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY [MAJOR DESIGN PROJECTS – SHOW CASE]

Last Wednesday evening the major works of Year 12 Design and Technology were exhibited for family, teachers and friends. The night was an accumulation of many months of hard work and commitment.

Thank you year 12 Hospitality students for catering the evening.

A fantastic effort during such a busy time and what about the cake? Spectacular!

Thank you parents and families for your unending support, patience and understanding. I know these projects have taken over your homes and lives and we could not have made to the marking day without you.

And to our senior designers: congratulations. You’ve done it.

Mr Hainsworth
ANNUAL VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION 2013

The evening was warm and the music of the Lateens filled the air as we Unleashed the Visual Arts on our students, parents and friends. The courtyard was filled with dogs made by Year 8 2012 and 2013. They brought humour and warmth to the exhibition.

Tullow was a wash of colour from our Year 7 and 8 students. Our elective classes in Year 9 exhibited ceramics and sumi ink landscape drawings, while Year 10 had appropriated artworks.

Two Visual Arts prizes were also exhibited in Tullow. Our Year 7 students won the Collaborative Art Prize in The Clancy Prize. Copies of the artworks and prizes from the Delany International Art Competition were also exhibited. Our students won First, Second and Third prizes.

Synan Hall had works from Years 10-12, including Video works from Year 10, Year 11 Photography and Visual Arts. Cassie Ciccarelli’s First Prize winning Video from the Randwick City Art Prize was exhibited.

The main focus of the evening was the Bodies of Work for Year 12 Visual Arts. The Year 12 students explored a range of ideas about their world, using a variety of materials. They had conceptual strength and they had pushed the material practice. This Year 12 students were my class and their Bodies of Work demonstrated the girls’ commitment to the art making process.

Wendy Sharpe was to be our special guest speaker to open the exhibition. Due to an unexpected death in her family she was unable to attend. Merilyn Fairskye kindly returned this year to open the exhibition.

The exhibition does not happen without support and assistance from many: Ms Edmondson and the School Executive for their ongoing support; The Lateens with Mr McFadden and Ms Ainsworth. Mrs Harbutt, Mr Keyes, Mr Megacidis, and Mr Scivetti. The exhibition is a team effort and I would like to thank Mr Hainsworth and Mrs Smyth who work in the Visual Arts classrooms to produce the stunning work with our students.

A special thank you to Mrs Allison Roberts for her enthusiasm and the ongoing support of the P&F ensures the success of the evening.
Year 10 Selected for V Feast

Congratulations to Abbey Dorian and Sophie McClellan in Year 10 Visual Arts. Their video 'Isn’t it Ironic” was selected to be shown in V-Fest this year. Their video will be screened at the Chauvel Cinema Paddington on 17 September. Everyone is welcome to attend. Congratulations to the students and Mrs Smyth.

Ms Deirdre Brennan
Visual Arts Coordinator

Language Perfect iPhone app is LIVE!

We’re REALLY excited to announce that the official Language Perfect iPhone app is now LIVE!

Click here to download the app for free!

Tell your students to download the app now, and to use their normal Language Perfect username and password.

This means Language Perfect now works on iPad, iPhone and iPod touch!

PS: Android coming soon!

Mrs Johnson Language
Department

Free French Lessons

Free French Lessons at the Alliance Française for BRIGIDINE COLLEGE students!
If you are interested please see Mrs Johnson