Welcome to our February Newsletter

Good Thinking

WE WOULD KNOW MORE OF YOU (Walter Brueggemann)

You are the God of all truth, the God of deep hiddenness. God of all hiddenness who show yourself in your being hidden, Who hides yourself in your disclosures, We would know more of you Of your goodness and mercy, Of your large purposes and long term dreams. In your presence we become aware of how little we know of ourselves, Of our interests and passions, Of our fears and dreads, Of our own wonderment and gifts In your truthfulness, let us know more of you And in knowing you, ourselves as well. We pray in the name of Jesus, where we see you fully, And ourselves clearly. Amen

I bought a copy of "Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth. Prayers of Walter Brueggemann" on the holidays and found the prayers inspiring in their honesty about what it means to be attempting to live in faithfulness to the Gospel of Jesus. This prayer, like many in the collection, has the absence, or hiddenness, of God as its theme. It is only in hindsight that we say about our faith journey "God, you were there all the time and I did not know it" and prayers like this one encourage us when we wish God to be a bit more like us, a bit more visible. Brueggemann is a famous Biblical scholar. I will use his prayers in the Newsletters throughout the year.

BRIGIDINE BASICS:

Brigidine College

OPEN DAY

will be held on

Wednesday

2 March 2011

from

2.30pm to 6.30pm

All Welcome.
CLOISTER TIME
A line in our school hymn “Hymn to St Brigid” has bothered me as the vocabulary is a little anachronistic. In the hymn we ask St Brigid to turn to us “mid the world and in the cloister”. Cloister always is explained to our Year Seven girls but I don’t think that they remember. It is certainly not a word that is used in everyday speech. I am indebted to Father Peter Hearn MSC who at our Mass for the opening of the school year and for the celebration of the Feast of St Brigid, used “cloister” as the theme of his homily. Cloister – not a place of bricks and mortar any more at Brigidine College, but certainly a place in the heart of each person; a place within where privacy and silent abiding freedom rules, where great discoveries of self knowledge are made, where we believe as Christians the Indwelling God is found.

In recent years Catholic schools have not been successful at teaching students to access this inner “cloister”. Prayers are “said” however what we need to be doing is to be using prayers as language which will help our girls encounter the Indwelling God as an experience. With Richard Rohr, “I use ‘prayer’ as an umbrella word for any interior journeys or practices that allow you to experience faith, hope and love within yourself.” Every Day 8 (Wednesday) during Homeroom time we will have a guided meditation that will require silence and stillness from the students. I am calling this (thanks Fr Peter) “cloister time”. Apart from the spiritual and emotional benefits of this time, when the girls sing “mid the world and in the cloister” they will bring an immediate relevance to the words

STAFF NEW TO BRIDIGINE IN 2011
Mr Mark Baldwin: Mr Baldwin is our Admin Coordinator and as such is a member of the Executive of the school. He is also a teacher of Business Studies and Geography
Ms Sue Egan: Ms Egan has worked at Brigidine before and her daughters also came to the school. Ms Egan is our Mathematics Coordinator
Ms Sharon Coleman: Ms Coleman has also taught here before and is our Assistant Mathematics Coordinator
Ms Nicole Bassil: Ms Bassil is a teacher of English and is an ex student.
Ms Andrea Mansfield: Ms Mansfield is a teacher of English and Religion. She is also our Debating and Public Speaking Coordinator.
Ms Michelle Gouveia: Ms Gouveia is a Science teacher
Mr Winston West: Mr West is with us for 2011 and is a teacher of Geography, Maths and Science
Ms Evette Martinovich: Ms Martinovich is replacing Ms Eisenberg for this term

OUR SYMPATHY
On behalf of the Brigidine Community I extend our sympathy to the Kane Family on the death of Mrs Eithne Kane whose funeral was held at OLSH Church Randwick last Friday. It is said most truly that Mrs Kane struggled courageously with a debilitating disease and she was lovingly cared for by her husband, Joe, and daughters Aeoife and Noleen. May Eithne rest in Peace.
COMING EVENTS
- **Tuesday 22 February:** Year 12 Information Night. A letter has been sent home with the students.
- **Wednesday 23 February:** Year 11 and 12 Biology Excursion. Permission note sent home and required for the girls to participate.
- **Friday 25 February:** Parents and Friends Meet and Greet starting at 6pm.
- **Wednesday 2 March:** OPEN DAY. Senior girls are expected to assist with this very important afternoon for Brigidine each year.
- **Wednesday 2 March CGSSSA Touch Football.** Permission note sent home and required for the girls to participate.
- **Thursday 3 March:** Year 10 History Incursion here at school. Permission note sent home.
- **Friday 4 March:** Brigidine Swimming carnival at Botany pool. Buses will be provided for Year 7 and any girl who has a difficulty in getting to and from the pool. (Please see the arrangements below).

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The Annual Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday 4 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 8.00am Roll Call.

Students in Years 8 to 12 must make their own way to the pool and home. Roll Call will be at the pool at 8.45am. 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 ring the infoline phone number – 1902 262 019 (max $1.10 per minute) and put in our school code 1076. This will give you a recording regarding the carnival. 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. If you do not wish to dress up your 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 Emerson – Sports Coordinator
Mrs Trish Kennedy has been exploring the digital resources available in the local library. The girls have the possibility of being able to access the resources of a whole range of other libraries throughout the world. Please read Ms Kennedy’s piece on what the local library offers.

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF RANDWICK LIBRARY?
If you are a member of Randwick City Council Library (which includes the central library Bowen, along with Matraville and Randwick branch libraries), hopefully you know about the many excellent e-resources available to you simply through the use of the membership number (on your card) for log-in.
One of the e-resources includes a large number of free and fabulous databases. While some of these databases are more relevant to juniors than seniors, juniors will still benefit from Encyclopedia Britannica and the Literary Reference Centre, to name a couple.
Seniors will find a treasure trove of information for English, Science, History, Geography, Business Studies, Legal Studies and Religion and Health, with some newspaper and magazine sites of potential benefit to Design and Technology students.

Free Tutoring Chat Site: At the bottom of the list of databases, you will find a free tutoring site, possibly of more benefit to juniors than seniors, but it’s up to you to check it out!
Saving Articles: If you wish to save an article from a database, hit ‘download as pdf’ at the top of the article (if it appears) and save the second version of the document.

HAPPY RESEARCHING! - Ms Kennedy

ENROLMENTS for 2012
If you have another daughter who you wish to come to Brigidine, please put in an application form asap. It is important that I know how many sisters are coming when I get to the stage of making offers. 2012 Application forms are available from our Reception.

TRIUMPHANT TYPING
10 WEEK TOUCH TYPING COURSE AT Learning Links – 11 Rainbow Street, Kingsford phone 93985188.
$5.00 a session; $50.00 for the program
Students need to be able to type quickly and accurately if they are to make the most of their lap top computers. This is a good idea for a secondary student.
FUNDRAISER FOR SOUTHERN SUDAN

Last Saturday night 200 people gathered in Synan hall to support the work of Sr Phillipa Murphy in Southern Sudan. Sr Philippa is a member of the Daughters of the Sacred Heart and as she said to me, “still a Brigidine girl”. Fifty of her classmates from the Class of 1976 came to support her and her work. There was a great buzz in the Synan Hall; a real “Brigidine” evening with committed people having a terrific talk and fun together. The night had been organized by a committee of friends and relatives of Sr Phillipa. Everyone remarked on the help given by Ms Donna Ginzberg and Ms Kylie Little, who with the Year 12 Hospitality students prepared a great deal of the food and other Year 12 girls who helped as waitresses. Mr Allan Mc Fadden rehearsed the Lateens and came to support them as the ensemble played during the night. Ms Sue Horne, who is a member of the class of 1976 and friend of Sr Phillipa, was central to the setting up and cleaning for this function. These four Brigidine staff members caught the vision and commitment needed to support Sr Phillipa in Southern Sudan and their work is an example of the good will and generosity that over the years have gone into making Brigidine the place that it is. No school can gain the title “good” without having a staff who are prepared to do so much more than their salary requires and we have many such teachers here. For this I am very grateful.

Sr Philippa wrote to thank me for the role Brigidine played in the fundraiser. I include her letter here.

Dear Kate,
I was hoping you might be able to put some of what I write into your next news letter. I want to say a deep heartfelt thanks to you and all the members of the BCR community who helped to make the fundraiser on Saturday night such a huge success. I really did appreciate all that you gave us to make the evening so wonderful. I wanted to say thank you to your students, what gracious young women. After the fundraiser I couldn’t help but reflect on the values that were paramount when I was a student at BCR, hospitality, compassion, kindness and justice ...and I realised these values are still a reality at BCR today.

Thanks again to all staff, students (especially Years 11 & 12); education must be apriority in South Sudan if young men and women are to be free from the oppression and persecution of the past. Please be assured that your great efforts on Saturday evening will make a huge difference in the lives of the extremely poor young men and women I educate in South Sudan.....

In conclusion I leave you with the words of a Year 9 female student from Mapuordit:
‘My family want me to go to school to get a good education. Each day I walk for 2 hours to come to school; now the rain has started it takes 3 hours. I like school and in the future would like to be a nurse, have a good husband and enjoy life together.’

With gratitude and a wish for God’s peace,

Philippa Murphy OLSH

Ms Kate Edmondson
Principal