Welcome to our March Newsletter

Dear Parents,

AND WE ARE DIFFERENT
(Walter Brueggemann)

We are counted your people.
We are grateful to be called by You, and
Glad for our special way of faith in the world.
You have marked us and named us and signed us,
And we are different,
Different memories,
Different hopes,
Different fears,
Different commands,
Different ways of being
The difference we find glorious, but at other times a burden too severe.
We yearn to be like the others,
Like the others in power,
In money,
In freedom,
In certitude,
In security,
Like the others,
Uncalled, unburdened, unembarrassed.
We come to You in the deep trial of difference and likeness.
Engage us in our difference,
Give us courage for our different vocations,
And energy for our different hope.
In the name of the crucified, Easter One, so unlike all the others.
Amen
Reflection
One of the identifiers of adolescence is “the deep trial of difference and likeness”. You might observe that your daughter is very busy trying to be as different from her family as she can while at the same time trying to be as similar to her friends as possible. In this prayer/poem Brueggemann expresses the tensions felt by all Christians about being different. Like adolescents, any individual today who is a religious adherent experiences feelings of difference and this can mean being embarrassed by the judgments others make of us: holy rollers, hypocrites, naïve ninnies. The problem comes from the way that faith has been presented. Those outside the Church could be forgiven for believing that faith is a belief in dogma rather than a response to experiences that come from the core of our being. The set of beliefs that we give assent to with our minds is a result of the experience of human hearts over thousands of years. There seems little point to me to believe in the resurrection if we have never claimed, for example, what it feels like to be a “new person” when worry or a difficult task has “died” and we are free of it. I can only speak for Catholics; we look for experiences of resurrection all the time in our present lives. We have experiences that we can name as a resurrection experience that others would not. Faith means that we look at the world differently, we interpret the events of our lives differently and the beliefs of our Faith are a great help in this process of naming and claiming.

On Wednesday of next week we will celebrate Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is a day of penance on which we begin the preparation of our hearts so that we can receive with a fresh heart and mind the multifaceted beauty of Easter. Last year after our ritual distribution of the ashes, when everyone at Brigidine was asked to “turn away from sin and accept the Gospel”, I walked up the street to the bank. The young woman behind the counter said in a very caring way “You’ve got a black mark on your forehead” “Yes, I know,” I said, “I’m a Catholic. It is Ash Wednesday” She looked back at me blankly “Oh”. I left then as I sensed that she didn’t understand and I didn’t want to go into a lengthy explanation which might have me looking and sounding strange. There I was: “happy” to be different but not enough to want to explain myself. Jesus, so truly “unlike all the others”, I didn’t know where to begin.

Funding for Non Government Schools
I have included as an attachment the Executive Director of School’s letter about funding for our schools. There is a great deal of concern about what will happen because of the rhetoric coming from The Greens. Brigidine would not be able to function if we lost Government funding. The MySchool website is up and running from Friday 4th of March. It will be interesting to see what this government controlled website will make of the discrepancy between funding for Catholic systemic schools and government schools.

Open day Wednesday 2 March 2011.

Many thanks to all the students who stayed to help us with Open Day. It was most successful and I hope that our intentions had the desired outcome; that those parents who are considering Brigidine for their daughter’s education received a truthful sense of the school ethos and activities. It is a very big afternoon for the staff and students but one which is most worthwhile. I am particularly grateful to the parents who provided tea and coffee and a chat about the school to prospective parents.
P and F Meet and Greet Cocktail party.
This event was held last Friday night and was a very happy occasion. The food was prepared by Ms Ginzburg our TAS Coordinator and the Year 12 Hospitality girls who also served us. Mr McFadden rehearses The Lateens our musical ensemble which plays at school functions and he was there as a support to the girls as he does not conduct The Lateens. A number of girls who had a key role in this group were in Year 12 last year and it is wonderful to see their places taken by some of the younger students.

Thank you so much!
Many thanks to parents Rebecca Cocks, Alison Roberts, Sue Suchy and Alison Roberts (and husbands!) who did all the organizing and serving drinks. Our small P and F desperately need a Secretary so if you can help you would be welcomed with open arms. Please consider coming to our next P and F meeting on WEDNESDAY 11 MAY AT 7.00pm.

Mock trial and Public Speaking 2011
These competitions have begun with Brigidine up against St George High School on Tuesday 1 March in the Mock Trial. Ms Jenny Nicolas and Ms Nerylin Cheeseman train our team of “solicitors and witnesses”. The girls were narrowly defeated and the staff were very heartened by the girls’ ability to think on their feet. Ms Andrea Mansfield is our Public Speaking and Debating Coordinator in 2011. Ms Mansfield has organized two girls for each level in the Public Speaking Competition, which starts on Friday 4 March. All these experiences give the girls a great sense of confidence and accomplishment. Any parent who can help us with adjudication of Public Speaking and Debating should contact Ms Mansfield. Each school is expected to provide adjudicators and these can be thin on the ground!
Visit to Randwick by St Ives Student Leaders
A little bit of history was made on Thursday 17 February when the student leaders from Brigidine St Ives visited the student leaders at Brigidine Randwick for the very first time ever.

Sr Chanel Sugden CSB was the energy behind the visit and was helped in her organization by two members of the St Ives staff and our own Ms McGahan and Mrs Day. The girls had a wonderful day together just getting to know each other through the common bond of the Brigid/Brigidine story.

The St Ives girls had a tour of what was once Mt St Brigid Convent “the heart of the Brigidine NSW province” and seemed very interested and connected to the story. When the St Ives girls left in the mini bus there was much waving and hanging out of windows (after much hugging and declarations of mutual admiration). They have all got new “friends” on Facebook. The staff too had a lovely day; it always makes us happy to prepare something that gives the girls so much joy and deepens their connection to the great woman Brigid and all the other great women who have created our schools.
CGSSSA Touch Football Championships

Congratulations to all the students who competed in the Touch Championships at Parramatta on Wednesday 2 March 2011. Brigidine entered three teams in the Championships with the Open Team reaching the Semi Final along with the U15 Team. Our Junior B team were very successful in winning the Plate Division of the Championship, defeating Trinity Auburn in the Grand Final 1-0.

A huge thank you must go to our Coaches Mr John Ryan, ex-student Emma Ryan and Jason King. Their support for touch football within the College has been ongoing over many years and their efforts and support is greatly appreciated especially by the players themselves. Congratulations to all our teams especially the Junior Bs and your competitive spirit and great sportsmanship.

JUNIOR B

- Roisin Broderick Year 9
- Kathryn Masterson Year 9
- Rose Seelin Year 9
- Natasha Toms Year 9
- Jennifer Chan Year 9
- Bronte Franklin Year 10
- Ruby Price Year 7
- Emma Temple Year 7
- Amelia Rubio Year 7
- Caitlin Duffus Year 7
- Shanelle Peeti Year 7

TUESDAY TOUCH

Good luck to our 7 Teams that have reached the Grand Final in the Eastern Suburbs Touch Competition. The Grand Finals will be played on Tuesday 8 March 2011 at Queens Park, so come along and support your friends. Good luck Girls!!!

Ms Kate Emerson
Sports Coordinator

May Brigid Bless the House wherein you dwell.

Ms Kate Edmondson
Principal