Welcome to our March Newsletter

“We mend and renew the world by strengthening inside ourselves what we seek outside ourselves, and not by demanding it of others or trying to force it on others”

Sometimes you can read something that sums up a complex experience with a simplicity that frees the mind and heart to see the world less stressfully. This quote from Richard Rohr in his text *The Naked Now* expresses the central, energizing paradox of Christianity. Only by opening our minds and hearts and by critical observation of the operation of our thinking and feeling world can we hope to make the kind of peacemaking impact on the physical world that we long for and which we believe is God’s will for Creation. It is a bulwark against helplessness and cynicism and a challenge to a preening self importance that needs to die. It is not a message that young adolescents want to hear and unfortunately, immature adults. It requires a shift from the world of blaming, of looking outwards to find the fault in others. One of the joys and privileges of our work as teachers is to speak with a girl who is making a sincere attempt at taking responsibility for all that she is. Talk to a group of Year Nine or Ten girls who are in trouble and you will feel like collapsing under the weight of all that is wrong in their world and how they are being wronged. Their ears are deaf to a message of personal responsibility for the part they play in a situation.

Between Year Eight and Year Twelve, the girls learn that accepting responsibility for themselves is not scary and repressive. The point is that it is an experience of the heart and mind, that once achieved is known as an irresistible, nurturing food for the soul that provides the energy for personal growth. It is common for a naughty girl in Year Eight to say to an authority “You can’t make me do anything!” I always agree with her; it is her thoughtful cooperation I seek not a mindless compliance. The girl who says this, however, usually believes that she can make those around her (including the adults) do what she wants. If she has too much power in her family to have adults doing for her what she should be doing for herself, a deeply held belief that she can demand all sorts of things from others at will is reinforced. Eventually if she is even a tiny bit open minded and hearted, she will have an experience where she realizes that this belief is a fantasy to forget; she starts to experience the freedom of responsibility and realizes that it is so much more freeing and joyous than she had imagined.
The boundaries we set for our girls here at Brigidine are about trying to give them these experiences that lead to personal growth. All our rules are an attempt to get the girls to experience an integrity of being that will strengthen them as individuals while also strengthening the school as a community. We have many wonderful Year Twelve girls this year who understand in a deep way the relationship between the needs of the community and their individual needs. One of my struggles as Principal is to ensure that the school does not sink under the demands for accountability and service made on it by individuals, Church and Government when there is not a corresponding gift of commitment and cooperation made to the school.

Enrolment Interviews
I have started interviewing girls to come into Year Seven next year. Application forms for sisters of girls presently at Brigidine should be at the school office by 29th April 2011.

Process for Girls who are Late
Teaching begins at 8.45am and Brigidine girls are not allowed to disturb the lesson if they arrive late to school for no good reason. Every girl is expected to be at school by 8.30am. Supervision of students in the Quad and Canteen begins at 8.20am.

Public Speaking
I was very proud of Paloma Siles, Stephanie Beshara, Lucy Bracken, Olivia Kilponen and Lauren Edwards who made it through to the zone finals of this competition at Santa Sabina last Friday night. The girls spoke with intelligence, integrity and clarity. Paloma (Year Eleven) and Lauren (Year Seven) were selected to go through to the Grand Final on Friday 18 March at Brigidine St Ives. Thank you to Ms Mansfield for her organization. The debating season is just around the corner.

Visit by Mr. Peter Garrett M.H.R. and Education Minister
Mr. Garrett will attend a School Assembly on Tuesday May 3rd. We will save the handing out of awards for our Touch Football victories on that day. Mr. Garrett will address the school as well as handing out other awards appropriate at the time.

Swimming Carnival and Year Seven Camp
These are now over for another year. I hope that you enjoy the photos that will be up on the website. The attendance of the girls to the Swimming Carnival was excellent and the Year Twelve leaders make it fun for everyone while the PE staff has the organization of races well under control. On behalf of the community I express our thanks to Ms Parsons, Mr West, Mrs Day, Mrs Catanzariti, Mr Zilich, Mrs Giuffre, Mrs Eves. Ms Bassil, Mrs Little, Ms Ainsworth, Ms Tita and Sister Margaret who left their usual routine of home and school to attend the camp. Ms Parsons does all the organization of the Camp and Mrs McGahan and Mr Baldwin ensure that everything continues to run smoothly in the school with so many staff away.

May Brigid Bless the House wherein you dwell.
Ms Kate Edmondson
Principal
CGSSSA Tennis

Congratulations to Shannon Cleary who has been selected into the NSW Combined Catholic College Tennis Team. Shannon and her sister Mairead competed in the Pizzy Cup and from this competition; Shannon has been selected into the NSW Team which is quite an achievement. Shannon will now compete in the NSW All Schools Tennis Championships at Bathurst in April. Good luck Shannon.

Year 7 Collaroy Centre Camp

On 7 and 8 March, all Year 7 students were given the opportunity to attend a Camp at the Collaroy Centre. This Centre is set amongst native bushland and it really gave our students an opportunity to challenge themselves and at the same time to develop new relationships.

The activities ranged from abseiling, flying fox, swing by choice orienteering and BMX bike riding. The first evening ended with a beautiful Prayer Liturgy led by Year 12 Leaders, Chantelle Towma, Katie Nejaim, Courtney McNally and Mary Ellen Yannakis and Miss Watson. It was a successful camp and my appreciation to Year 7 Pastoral Teachers – Mrs Little, Mrs Eves, Mrs Giuffre, Ms Catanzariti, Miss Ainsworth and to Mr Zilich, Mr West, Ms Tita, Sr Margaret Daniels and Mrs Day.

Mrs Adriana Parsons
Year 7 Coordinator

TUESDAY TOUCH – GRAND FINAL

Congratulations to all 7 teams who competed in the Grand Finals on Tuesday 8 March 2011. Five teams won their Grand Final and Brigidine College was awarded the Championship School for the fifth year in a row. Credit must go to these students who compete every Tuesday in Term 4 and Term 1. Their commitment to their sport is incredible.

Thank you very much to Ms Michaels who organised the students this season and supervised the 14 teams each week. Thank you must also go the parents who play the role as coach each week. Without your support we would not be able to provide the students with this opportunity.

Congratulations to the following teams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Awarded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Junior A</td>
<td>Hannah Denney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior B</td>
<td>Lindsay Bennett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior A</td>
<td>Jennifer Chan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior B</td>
<td>Kate Murphy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior D</td>
<td>Hannah Rayment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior C</td>
<td>Jacinta Park</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Awarded Best and Fairest in their Division

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Awarded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Junior A</td>
<td>Brigidine 6 Winners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior B</td>
<td>Brigidine 14 Winners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior A</td>
<td>Brigidine 2 Winners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior B</td>
<td>Brigidine 3 Winners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior D</td>
<td>Brigidine 11 Winners</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CCC TOUCH
Congratulations to the following Brigidine students who have been selected into the CGSSSA Touch Squad

- U15’s Team - Molly Blakey and Ruby Price
- Open Team - Kate Murphy, Natalie Murphy and Jessie Seelin

Good luck with your selection girls!

ANNUAL SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL.
Our school carnival was held at Botany Pool on Friday 4 March and we were blessed with perfect weather conditions. The day was full of spirit with enthusiastic cheering and competitive swimming making for a successful carnival.
Thank you to all the people who help make the carnival a fun day for all. All staff especially the PD/H/PE staff, the Officials from NSW Swimming and Mr & Mrs Watts who have been assisting at our carnivals for many years.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR SWIMMERS AND AGE CHAMPIONS

12 Years Age Champion - Ruby Breen
13 Years Age Champion - Jessica Thornton
14 Years Age Champion - Hayley King
15 Years Age Champion - Emma Smith
16 Years Age Champion - Gabrielle Raymond
17 Years Age Champion - Kate Murphy and Natalie Murphy
18 Years Age Champion - Stephanie Thornton

School Champion 2011 - Stephanie Thornton

Congratulations to the House Spirit Shield Winners - WINIFRED
Captained by Cabrini Broderick and Nadia Moore

Congratulations to the Winning House - AQUINAS
Captained by Michelle McFadyen and Tahila Bavadra

Ms Kate Emerson
Sports Coordinator