

# Brigidine College Newsletter

July 2011  
#010

## Welcome to our July Newsletter

Dear Parents,

I was listening last week to an interview with a close friend of Mark Zuckerberg (founder of Facebook) who said that Mr Zuckerberg believed that our lives should be transparent to each other. It seemed to me that the interviewee was talking about ordinary people however the interview took place around the time of the demise of the News of the World and so I naturally made the connection with the outrage over the intrusion into the privacy of grieving people.

We won't find direct moral guidance in the Bible about privacy and what should and should not be regarded as private. The idea that it would be a good thing if the actions and thinking of each individual was there for all to see and comment on was not in the world view of the mainly agrarian communities of the ancient world that gave us our Scripture. This is not to say that people did not gossip; the difference in our world is that we live with deeply systematized gathering of information about anything and everything. It is very difficult to evade knowledge that you would rather not have because of a personal moral stance. Information about other people which may be regarded as immorally intrusive by some appears willy nilly on our screens and all, no matter what the moral stance, are forced into collusion with the reporting. For many years there have been attempts to close down stories told about individuals in the media and the reply has always been, "We are giving people the news they want.. Look at our sales." Never once in this last incident, did I hear that comment as a rationale for the hacking into the phones of people in grief. A line had been crossed and "everybody was just appalled." I was surprised at the surprise and outrage. You only have to look at some of the vision and text in the media on any day to imagine that any thoughts about privacy and preserving human dignity went out the window years ago.

The present situation in the media gives Catholics a great opportunity to display the different way of being human that God gave us in the life and resurrection of Jesus. Is Mr Zuckerberg's transparency between individuals really a promotion for the end of the idea and experience of guilt or other sensitivities? Our Catholic tradition of reconciliation and penance has been closely accompanied by the importance of confidentiality.

## COMING EVENTS

### MONDAY 1<sup>st</sup> AUGUST

\* Trial HSC Begins

### THURSDAY 4<sup>th</sup> AUGUST

\* Year 10 Canberra  
Excursion

### TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> AUGUST

\* P & F meeting  
7.00pm in DC5



For Catholics secrecy and discretion are correctly about freedom. One of the things we try to teach the girls is that they don't have to tell everyone everything. This can be very difficult as the girls (especially in junior secondary years) can see telling everything as a sign of great love and devotion to each other. To be shut out of a secret and the "latest" news is one powerful way that the girls hurt one another. They can also bully a girl who is "holding out" on them. Our hope is that every girl comes to a deep realization that they have a right to their own secret dreams, hopes, longings and all manner of irrational interpretations that might be hurting them. Who they reveal these to becomes a decision taken freely in order to gain more inner freedom and clarity; it is too a privilege for the listener who receives this information with reverence and empathy. None of us, old or young, will speak about ourselves with people who clearly seek to use that information against us.

This is not to say that there are not many times when only the literal truth will do. If a Brigidine girl has spoken falsely, stolen, cheated or bullied then I hope that she can show her sensitive conscience by feeling guilty. It is healthy to feel guilt about these things; to ask for forgiveness, to experience the humility of being human, to think it all through and how it all happened, to learn about self and then to take a fresh step out into life with a feeling of greater control. She doesn't though have to become transparent to all. It does not mean that everyone has to know the details. We always give girls who have been in trouble and are worried about gossip a couple of ideas about what to say to rebuff others who are seeking sensation.

If anyone has any questions about the nature of the Good News for our girls then the freedom of control over personal information is surely a big part of it and a great gift of our Catholic doctrine to the world. I think keeping a sharp eye on the magazines coming into the home and the programs watched on TV and Internet is a great sign of personal holiness in the contemporary context. As Paul said to the Christians in Phillippi:

***Whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.....and the God of peace will be with you.***

This is life giving advice for our girls and for all of us. Following it leaves little time for the unhealthy and immoral images and notions promulgated in the modern media.

### **NOW FOR THE BIG NEWS**

Our Junior Netball team has won its section of the CGSSSA Netball competition. This competition has been going since the 1940s and this is the first time Brigidine has been able to win so this is a very "big" win for us. Mrs Mazzeri gives the details further on in the Newsletter.

**Orthodontics** An orthodontist in Randwick has sent me three vouchers which give 50% off the initial consultation with him. I will give them to the first three girls who come to ask for them at the student office.

May Brigid bless the house wherein you dwell.

**Ms K Edmondson**  
**Principal**



## FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Welcome back! I hope everyone managed to have a refreshing and most enjoyable break. This term will be as busy as every other, so I hope that each girl is ready to give her very best in all that she does this Semester. Our Year 12 students will begin their Trial HSC next week. So I would ask that we keep them in our prayers and thoughts during this stressful time.

### WYD

World Youth Day in Madrid Spain is on from 16 – 21 August 2011! Mrs Robyn Ross along with 4 of our Year 10 students will be part of the Shores of Galilee pilgrimage. It's hard to believe that all the hard work and organisation that has been invested in preparing for World Youth Day is about to bear fruit. A huge thank you to Mrs Robyn Ross for her immense hard work, dedication and fundraising over the last 18 months.

We have now reached a time to pray that the Holy Spirit will move our students to renew their faith and deepen their commitment to the Gospel through all the World Youth Day activities.

### Parent Teacher Interviews

It was very rewarding to see so many parents / guardians at the Parent and Teacher Interviews last term. Thank you to all our parents and staff for their participation in this significant day. It is always a great opportunity for parents and teachers to discuss the successes and concerns with regards to their daughter's progress so far. We received a great deal of positive feedback from parents, staff and students about the timing of the interviews. We will be evaluating this day further with respect to continuing this model in the future.

### Homework

The beginning of a new term is always an excellent opportunity to remind parents and students about our Homework Policy which states that the purpose of homework, like schooling, is learning. When conscientiously undertaken, homework is a valuable aspect of the learning process and should complement what is being done at school. Brigidine College recommends the following as a guide to how much homework each girl should be completing on a regular basis:

- Years 7 – 8 should be completing between 1.5 – 2 hours five times per week
- Years 9 – 10 should be completing between 2 – 2.5 hours five times per week
- Years 11 –12 should be completing on average 30 hours per week.

Understandably it may not be possible to do homework every night due to other commitments but this should be used as an average and where other commitments consume time on some nights, other nights should be set aside for study to compensate.

Please remember to write a short note in the planner explaining why homework is not done and when the work will be completed. This is more than satisfactory for all homework with the exception of the Formal Assessment Tasks for which the process is outlined in the Assessment Handbooks.



## College Planner

A reminder that the planner is a valuable tool for student organisation and for communication between home and school. It is a good idea during each week for parents to actually check and sign their daughter's diary.

## HOUSE KEEPING REMINDERS

- If your daughter is absent from school, please ring! A note of explanation is also required on the day of her return.
- If your daughter requires time off to attend any appointment, please make sure a note is sent the day prior or on the day. Parents should endeavour to make these appointments outside school hours if possible.
- If you are planning or organising an extended holiday, please inform Ms Edmondson in writing well in advance of departure.
- The school day commences at 8.35 am when the first bell rings. **Brigidine girls are expected to be at school by 8.30 at the latest.** Any student who is late to school three times without a written note of explanation from parents will automatically be placed on 20 minutes of detention during lunchtime. If a student receives three of these lunchtime detentions, then they will be required to attend a one hour detention on a Tuesday afternoon. The tally does not restart every term.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

**Mrs Antoinette McGahan**

## P & F MEETING

It was good to see many new people coming along to the P & F meeting last term. This meeting provides the opportunity to contribute to decisions concerning the College. The next meeting is to be held at 7.00pm Tuesday 9 August in room DC5. **All welcome.**

## CLASS OF 1981 REUNION

Brigidine Randwick Class of 1981 is holding a 30 Year School Reunion. All students from the year are most welcome to attend the evening and catch up with old friends. For details go to: <http://www.baysideswimming.com/brigidine>



## PIERRE DE COUBERTIN AWARD FOR 2011.



**Congratulations to Rachel Howard Year 12 who has been awarded The Pierre de Coubertin Award for 2011.**

Rachel has represented the College in Athletics, Cross Country, Touch and Aquathon since Year 7. She has reached an extremely high level of competition especially in Cross Country, representing at the NSW All Schools Championships. Rachel received her award from the NSW Olympic Council at the State presentation held at Homebush on Friday 24 June. Well done Rachel!

### UPCOMING SPORTS EVENTS

#### CGSSA ATHLETICS

Carnival 19 August  
Training 10 and 17 August.

#### CGSSA TENNIS

8 and 9 September  
Trials will be held in the next two weeks so read Daily Notices carefully.

#### CGSSA DANCE

14 September  
Trials will be held for the following categories:  
➤ TAPP Wednesday 27 July at Lunchtime  
➤ JAZZ Thursday 28 July at Lunchtime  
➤ HIP HOP Friday 29 July at Lunchtime

*Students must bring appropriate shoes and meet in Cullen at lunch.*

#### TUESDAY TOUCH – QUEENS PARK

Start organising your teams to enter the Eastern Suburbs Schools Competition. Girls need to organise teams of 9 and have a Parent Manager. Read your Daily Notices carefully and attend all meetings if interested in entering a team.

**Ms Emerson**  
**Sports Coordinator**



## CGSSA NETBALL

On Wednesday 27th July, (we were finally blessed with some sunny weather!), three teams represented the College at the CGSSA Netball Gala Day at Cintra Park, Concord. All three teams played fantastic netball on the day, qualifying for the Quarter-Finals. Unfortunately, the Intermediates and Seniors were narrowly defeated, but it was not over the Juniors!

After completing their round undefeated, they advanced through to the Semi-Finals and Finals! The girls were about to make Brigidine history as they advanced through to the GRAND FINALS!! Under the brilliance of Mrs Karen Atkins, where she used not only her strategic expertise in defence and attack, but her exceptional motivational skills (I don't think she had much of voice by the end of the day!) the Juniors played a thrilling match to defeat Monte 21 to 9! What a fantastic result for the College! We are absolutely over the moon!

We would like to thank our fabulous umpires who assisted us on the day, *Daniella and Ciara Natoli, Zoe McAnespie and Beth Meldrum*, our assistant manager *Samantha Vassallo* and to our parents who came out to support the teams on the day.



### JUNIOR TEAM:

Monique Taukomo, Olivia Gooch, Brooke Emerson, Ruby Green, Charlotte Yazigi, Shanelle Peeti, Jessica Thornton, Cheslea Winder.

### INTERMEDIATE TEAM:

Emma Smith, Roxanne Brown, Kate Williamson, Cassidy Gissane, Molly Blakey, Ashlie Condie, Constance Lymberis, Brittany Fong, Rose Seelin.

### SENIOR TEAM:

Shauna Haretuku, Jade Evans, Jasmine Smith, Alexis Mavrantonis, Nadia Moore, Maggie Robinson, Nicole Ashbury, Mairead Cleary.

**Ms Kathy Mazzeri - PDHPE Department**





Marcellin College is organising a three weeks trip to Italy in April 2012, cost \$4100.00 (plus \$700.00 Tax).

Brigidine girls are invited to participate.

For more information please contact Mrs Monica Johnson 9398 6710 or [monica\\_johnson@bcrandwick.catholic.edu.au](mailto:monica_johnson@bcrandwick.catholic.edu.au)



**ARTES CHRISTI**

SEEKING THE FACE OF CHRIST THROUGH THE ARTS

**OPEN AUDITIONS** are now on for Artes Christi's 2011 musical **JOSEPH**. This is a fantastic chance to perform with a Catholic Theatre company as a singer, actor, dancer or orchestral player.

Auditions: 14 July to 1 August at the BXVI Centre (235 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills).

To register email [arteschristisydney@gmail.com](mailto:arteschristisydney@gmail.com) or phone 0414 099 515 or visit

[www.arteschristi.org.au](http://www.arteschristi.org.au)

growing  
faith

INAUGURAL

Growing  
Faith  
Conference

Equipping parents  
Exciting kids  
Enriching families

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27 2011  
[growingfaith.com.au/conference](http://growingfaith.com.au/conference)

### Growing Faith Conference – August 27 2011

*Growing Faith*, an initiative of Youthworks (publishers of Connect, a CEP product) is proud to convene its inaugural one-day conference at Thomas Hassall Anglican College, Middleton Grange (near Hoxton Park) on 27 August 2011. Registration for the conference is via the Growing in Faith website, where visitors can also find practical resources and support on issues such as early childhood parenting, teenage damage control, marriage recovery and spiritual growth. Teachers, parents and carers are invited to sign up for the free monthly e-newsletter via [www.growingfaith.com.au](http://www.growingfaith.com.au) and also follow on Facebook – [www.facebook.com/growingfaith](http://www.facebook.com/growingfaith)



