

Brigidine College Newsletter

August 2011
Issue # 011

COMING EVENTS

* Monday 15 August
Trial HSC Concludes

* 16 To 21 August
World Youth Day
Week – Madrid



* Friday 19 August
CGSSSA Athletics

Welcome to our August Newsletter

Next Monday, 15 August, is the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is the principal celebratory day of all that Mary is for us as Catholics. The feast has been celebrated on 15 August in the Western Church since at least the sixth century C.E. It was only on 1 November 1950 that the Bull *Munificentissimus Deus* was promulgated by Pope Pius XII and the idea that Mary did not die but was assumed body and soul into heaven became a part of the infallible teaching (dogma) of the Church. The Dogmatic Constitution of the Second Vatican Council, *Lumen Gentium*, reasserts the teaching and says that "The Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all the stain of original sin, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, when her earthly life was over and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things."

The timing of the promulgation of what had been a traditional belief of the Church since ancient times into infallible teaching is very important in our understanding of what the Church is offering the world through it. The disastrous tragedy of the Second World War with all its human abuse and growth in technology to enable mass destruction was raw and fresh in people's minds. I don't know if there are adjectives and metaphors to truly describe the things that human beings did to each other during the Second World War. In 1950 the Church countered the idea that human beings are another kind of expendable animal with a teaching that asks us to believe that we are beings of body, mind and soul, three elements made inseparable by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Through the Assumption of Mary we are shown the holiness of our bodies; our bodies are sacred gifts which require profound respect from ourselves and others. God loves and imbues our bodies, our hearts, our minds our souls.



In the Judeo Christian tradition two others (men) were taken up bodily into heaven; Elijah the greatest of the prophets who went up into heaven in a chariot of fire and Enoch who “walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him (**Genesis 5:24**). The assumption or “translation” of these men into heaven was because of their closeness to God so it makes sense that the Church would teach that the First and Greatest Christian, Mary the mother of Jesus, would also be so gifted by God at the end of her earthly life.

In the northern hemisphere 15 August is the height of summer, a time when the munificence of creation has found its culmination; a time just before the change of season when the world begins to “die” into autumn and winter. We all know that the abuses of human beings towards each other continue. Who we say we are, who we believe ourselves to be in our own miniscule worlds and in the cosmos, gives birth to our actions. This August we celebrate the Assumption against the tragic backdrop of the riots in England. For me the riots prove that there are no societal mores in “developed” societies that are held to fast so as to guarantee our physical safety and well being. To a world which wants to blame police, parents and governments, the Church offers a teaching and a celebration of a deep reality that invites joyful responsibility for who we say we are as human beings. The Feast of Mary’s Assumption on Monday will be welcome Good News and a relief from the culture of despair that is growing in the developed world.

YEAR TEN CANBERRA TRIP

The girls appeared to have great fun on this Camp. It was a very educational experience for them to see the important places of our nation’s capital. I was asked by a number of girls “Who pays for all this” and I told them that tax payers do. You could see little light bulbs going on and the world expanded a little for them. I wish to thank our new Yr 10 Coordinator, Mrs Louise Smyth, for all her effort and leadership in regard to the Canberra trip and to Ms Battley, Ms Moldrich, Ms McColl, Ms Mansfield, Ms Coleman and Mr Morgan for attending and assisting with the organization. We are fortunate to have such generous staff who want to give such a good experiences to the girls.

DATE CLAIMER

Monday 7 November will see a guest speaker give us a presentation on Girls and Friendship. This evening is for parents who are seeking to understand the importance of friendship to girls and the pitfalls involved in friendship choices. The evening will be held in Cullen Hall and will begin at 7pm. This will not be one of our free parking nights.

May Brigid bless the house wherein you dwell.

Ms Kate Edmondson
Principal



FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

It's the end of Week 4 already. The term just seems to fly past. The Year 12s have almost finished their HSC Trials and their time with us is quickly coming to an end and the Year 11s are preparing to become the leaders of our community. It is an exciting time for all especially for our Year 12s as they begin to pave a life after Brigidine.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

It is important that the students understand that their travel passes are a privilege. When the travel application form was completed by you, it had a Code of Conduct for school student attached. By signing this application form, you are agreeing to abide by this code of conduct which is quite detailed. So when students fail to follow these rules, they risk huge fines and confiscation if the travel passes are used inappropriately. We are reminding parents and students of the following rules associated with travel passes

1. Students must behave appropriately by respecting the needs and comfort of other passengers
2. Give up seats to all adults and disabled passengers
3. Obey reasonable directions from the driver
4. Respect property by not vandalising it
5. SHOW or SWIPE travel passes to the driver
6. Use the pass for travelling directly to and from school ONLY
7. Travel passes are NOT to be used after 7.30pm
8. Travel passes are NOT to be shared or borrowed

BEHAVIOUR IN PUBLIC

I do believe it is important that parents work closely with the school. Part of this includes nurturing the girls towards being responsible citizens both within the Brigidine community and in the wider community. So I would like to continue by reminding the girls that whilst we acknowledge that each girl is unique, when they are in school uniform they represent the entire Brigidine community. Each student is expected to be on her best behaviour at all times especially when in public. This means that students are

- To behave with respect and dignity;
- To be courteous and polite;
- To refrain from using inappropriate language;
- Not to loiter in shopping areas, at train stations or at cafes;
- To travel directly to and from school without any diversions unless physically accompanied by a parent or guardian;
- To be wearing the correct full school uniform; and
- To act in a responsible and mature manner.

DIARIES

A reminder that the diary 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

The school day commences at 8.35am when the first bell rings. **Please make sure your daughters arrive at school at a time that allows her to be in class at 8.40am.** 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 a lunchtime. If a student receives TWO 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



YEAR 10 - CANBERRA EXCURSION

Year 10 travelled to Canberra for an overnight excursion on Thursday 5 and Friday 6 August this Term. We had 120 girls and 8 teachers on 3 buses each visiting 8 different venues, all at different times over 2 days! The girls toured Parliament House, The Australian War Memorial, Questacon, watched gymnasts practice at The Australian Institute of Sport and even managed to fit in night Ice Skating.



The girls impressed us with their informed, thoughtful and intelligent questions and observations during the tours of the venues. I would like to commend them all on their cooperative attitude and excellent behaviour during the trip. Thank you to Miss Alley, Ms Kirby and Ms Harvey for their hard work in planning the excursion. Thank you also to Ms Edmondson, Mr Morgan, Mrs Battley, Mrs Moldrich, Mrs Coleman, Miss Mansfield and Miss McColl for their good humour and energy on the trip.



Mrs Louise Smyth
Year 10 Coordinator



YEAR 11 BUSINESS SERVICES AND HOSPITALITY WORK READINESS

Year 11 Vocational Education students studying Business Services and/or Hospitality will be going out on their first work placement in the coming weeks.

As preparation for this experience the students had two guest speakers come and speak to them on the subject of work readiness.



The students were lucky enough to have Evelyn Palmer from Sydney Business Education Partnerships and Danielle Andrews who is the HR Manager at the Motor Trades Association as well as the Chair of Auto Skills Australia. They explained what each student can personally gain from attending work placement and the expectations of the employers. Both women emphasized three important words: **attitude, enthusiasm and initiative**. We thank both Evelyn and Danielle for taking time out from their busy schedules to speak to our students. Hopefully, all of our students will enjoy their work placements.

Mrs Dawson
VET Teacher

SPORTS NEWS

TUESDAY TOUCH any girl entering the Tuesday Afternoon Touch at Queens Park, your money to register will now be placed on your school fees – **You do not need to bring money to the office**. If you have already paid, you will be refunded.

CAKE STALL

There will be a Cake Stall on 30 August at lunch time to raise money for the CGSSSA Dance Teams. Come along and support the girls in the Main Quad.

Congratulations to *Rachel Howard*, Year 12, who was awarded a Silver Medal after competing in the NSWCCC Cross Country at Eastern Creek Championships on the 3 June.

Ms Kate Emerson
Sports Coordinator





NATIONAL SCHOOLS TREE DAY – 29 July 2011

For the past five years, successive groups of enthusiastic volunteers have been working on our Brigidine Bush Haven Project. The aim has been to restore a little patch of the threatened Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub Ecosystem on the Coogee Bay Road frontage of the school. The Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub Ecosystem once covered the entire area between Port Jackson and Botany Bay, and was one of the most biodiverse ecosystems in NSW. Today less than 1% remains!

So, on Friday 29 July, another band of Tree Day volunteers set to work under the sunny blue skies. Our purpose was mainly maintenance. The heavy rains over summer and autumn had encouraged a prodigious growth of weeds, and also some root fungal infections which led to the death of some of our earlier plantings. So, it was hard to work, digging out weeds, pruning some of the more vigorous growers, and replacing some of our deceased earlier plants. As well, a more formal border planting of native grass species was put in along beside the walk way.

By the end of the afternoon, many bags of weeds were carted off to the dumper bin, and we were able to look at the result of our day's work with satisfaction. Ongoing maintenance will continue each Friday at lunchtime, as members of the Native Garden Club continue to keep on top of the weeds.

We express our thanks to Randwick City Council's Community Nursery, which has continued to assist our Bush Haven Project by providing plants and advice.

A big thank you to the girls who worked so hard on the day and to Mrs Dawson and Mr Milanov for their efforts also.

Mr Kevin Burg – Project Coordinator



SCIENCE NEWS

The Science Department is delighted to announce the successful selection of two Year 11 students; **Paloma Siles** and **Zsuzanna Ihar**, into the prestigious National Youth Science Forum in January 2012. The girls will be heading off to either Canberra or Perth.

The NYSF program consists of a mix of scientific, formal, personal development, and social activities. These range from laboratory visits to sports evenings and from a bush dance to group dynamics.

The main objective of the two week forum is to ensure that every NYSF student is exposed to the widest possible range of study and career opportunities in science, technology and engineering so that they can make an informed choice.

Brigidine has had students attend these forums in the past, and they have universally commented on how rewarding the experience was for them. We look forward to Paloma and Zsuzanna informing our community about their experiences early next year through various media.

Ms Phyllis Tapp
Science Coordinator

YEAR 7 REFLECTION DAY

Every year we have a Reflection Day to celebrate God and our Religion. We work on the unit we are currently studying. For Year 7s it is 'God and People in Creation'. We discussed what a fun day we would have and then did some warm up games with a PE teacher. It was a battle in the end between two teams and it was very close in the end with both teams playing fairly and with skill.

The year then split into our Religion classes and we then formed groups of 6-7 to test our creative skills by producing a poster revolving around our religion unit. We made a slogan, a symbol that represents creation and some of God's creations. We shared our work with our year groups.

We took a break for recess and came back in to start on the booklet we were given with various activities to complete. This gave us a chance to consider what God has provided for us and that we should respect what God has. All of us then went inside to watch the movie 'Avatar'. We realised this movie is a metaphor of the world and its people today. This gave us something to reflect on and what mankind is doing to our world.

We ended the day with a prayer, it was a very successful day and we all thoroughly enjoyed it.

By Imogen Brazil and Natasha Cairns – Year 7



SKI TRIP 2012

WHEN: July School Holidays 2012

WHO: Years 8 and 9 students are welcome to attend



- Supervised by Brigidine Staff members
- Return Coach Transfers Ex-Sydney
- Daily National Parks Entry
- Daily Resort Transfers
- 5 Nights Accommodation – Multi Share
- 5 Breakfasts
- 5 Dinners
- 5 Day All Mountain Lift Pass
- 5 x 2 hour Group Lessons
- 5 Day Hire of Skis, Boots and Poles
- 5 Day Hire of Parka and Pants

Approximate Cost \$1000 - \$1300

Venue and Cost will be finalised in early 2012

Expressions of interest are obligation Free.

Expressions of interest are to help staff liaise with interested students & gather further information.

Please submit your Expression of Interest to Miss Michaels or Miss Alley by WEEK 5 Term 3, 2011.

HAIRSPRAY the MUSICAL

Some members of the cast of Hairspray the Musical will be visiting the school at lunchtime on September 15. The Brigidine Community has been offered a special on discounted tickets. Tickets are \$55.00 each for selected performances. Go to www.ticketmaster.com.au for bookings. **Book online and select any Wednesday 1pm & 8pm or Thursday 8pm performance, enter the code 'stage', select your seats then follow the prompts to the Check Out!**

Ms Fiona Foster
Drama Department



