Welcome to our August Newsletter

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

How fast is Term 3 flying by!!! We have a number of school events happening over the next few weeks. Students have begun preparing their acts for our famous Brigidine Has Talent which happens on the last day of this term.

Preparations are well and truly under way for Year 12 and their final week of school. Even though this is exciting, it is a little sad as well. The Year 11 students will begin their exams for the end of their Preliminary HSC course. Year 10 will have Trail School Certificate tests. This will be the last year of the School Certificate. We are still waiting to learn what the alternate credential will be. Our Year 9 and 10 leaders will be taking part in the Sydney Alliance Forum which is all about building a strong civil society. This will be a great experience for the girls.

As you can see it certainly is a busy time and amidst all of this busyness I encourage all the students to remain focussed on their work and continue to do their best in all they do. Students must always work to achieve their full potential. Realistic high expectations always need to be supported by positive reinforcement if we are to keep all our students motivated to continue to strive for their personal best (PB) in all that they do.

Managing Challenging Behaviours

Managing challenging behaviours as parents and as teachers can be demanding and difficult at the best of times. There are many theories and models around that can offer constructive recommendations and assistance. One such model is using the restorative principles and practices. The principles guide how you speak and how you act towards others.
Ted Watchel, President of the International Institute for Restorative Practices, Pennsylvania states: “The fundamental unifying hypothesis of restorative practices is disarmingly simple: that human beings are happier, more cooperative and productive, and more likely to make positive changes in behaviour when those in positions of authority do things with them, rather than to them or for them. This hypothesis maintains that the punitive and authoritarian to mode and the permissive and paternalistic for mode are not as effective as the restorative, participatory, engaging with mode. If this restorative hypothesis is valid, then it has significant implications for many disciplines.”

The restorative principles emphasise three principles of fair process:

**Engagement** – involving individuals in decisions that affect them by listening to their views and genuinely taking their opinions into account.

**Explanation** – explaining the reasoning behind a decision to everyone who has been involved or who is affected by it.

**Expectation clarity** – making sure that everyone clearly understands a decision and what is expected of them in the future.

Using the restorative principles can provide the motivation to make relationships work, a fundamental requirement of building and maintaining a safe and caring environment at home and at school. The use of the restorative affective questions can contribute towards a common language and practice in everyday interactions, not just to challenge behaviour. This practice is respectful and inclusive, with a focus on fostering healthy relationships at home and at school.

These affective questions are:

- What happened?
- How did it happen?
- How did you act in this situation?
- Who do you think was affected?
- How were they affected?
- How were you affected?
- What needs to happen to make things right?
- If the same situation happens again how could you behave differently?

The aim of using these questions is to

- Focus on the specific behaviour or incident without blaming;
- Draw out who was affected and how they were affected; and
- Direct questions toward problem solving.

**Uniform**

The girls look very smart in their Winter Uniform when worn correctly. Some of the girls need to be reminded that make-up is not to be worn with the school uniform, and that excess jewellery (beyond that permitted in the College Diary) will be confiscated. When travelling to and from school the blazer must be worn. The navy blue College jumper is not worn to and from school unless it is under the blazer during winter.
Finally as our next newsletter is not until the end of week 8, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our fathers a very HAPPY FATHERS’ DAY. Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

With many thanks to all parents for the support you give to your daughter’s education at Brigidine.

Mrs Antoinette McGahan

**NSW SCHOOLS’ TITRATION COMPETITION**

The final results have come in from the NSW Titration Competition, which was held in May this year. We entered 7 teams of 3 at the Moriah College venue.

Our most successful team was **Anjali Thakur, Alex Svejkar, and Chanelle Whitty**, with a combined error score of 100. This earned this team a Certificate of Excellence. Congratulations and well done!

Two teams gained Certificates of Merit: **Bronte Courtney, Rebecca Lockett and Suzy Ihar** (score 114) and **Caroline Cham, Jessica Chan and Claire Mahendradatta** (score 171).

Unfortunately, none of our teams made it into the National Titration Championships this year.

However, three of our girls achieved very well individually. **Rebecca Lockett had a perfect score of zero** – in other words, her analysis of the unknown solution was perfectly accurate – no error! What a fantastic achievement!

**Jessica Chan had an error score of 1, and Bella Poidevin’s error score was only 16.** Congratulations on your great work!

The challenge is now out for next year’s Titration competition. Year 11 chemists take note!!

Mr Kevin Burg – Science Department

**YEARS 9-12 NOTEBOOK COMPUTERS**

It has become apparent that a significant number of students are not exercising the full duty of care expected when using the notebook computers issued as part of the Government’s "Education Revolution" roll out.

Students are expected to keep their laptop secure when at school, making sure it is locked in their locker when not in use and not leave it in the yard unattended. All students have a school locker and are expected to have a school issued combination lock on that locker. Unfortunately some notebook computers have been found recently left at risk of theft and damage, left out of the locker or in an unlocked locker.

Teachers report that some students are not bothering to bring their notebook to school when it is required for use in various lessons. Some are not using the hard shell protective case as advised, with the result that there have recently been many cracked screens, which are a costly and inconvenient to replace.
As most parents of students in Years 9-12 signed an agreement indicating that they would ensure their daughter used and cared for the notebooks properly, we would be grateful if parents and guardians could support the College by regularly reviewing the care and use of machine(s) allotted to the Brigidine student(s) in their family. Please make sure that cases are used, no unauthorised stickers or graffiti deface the machine and that it is kept secure.

Earlier this year new batteries were ordered so that all Year 12s could swap exhausted batteries for a new one at no charge. It is most disappointing that almost half the batteries are still waiting to be claimed.

We have found that the students who do the right thing; use their case and proper charging procedures; bring their notebook each day; get a relatively trouble free life from it and benefit greatly from this useful study tool.

Mr M Rawlings
eLearning Administrator

FLAG THIS DATE
The Annual Art Exhibition is on again. Opening is next Wednesday night so dress up and enjoy a special evening on the school calendar. Entry is free so families can attend. The Lateens provide musical entertainment through the night and there is food and drink available. Parking is FREE in the car park if tickets are validated by Mrs McGahan during the evening. As there is no parking on school grounds nor is there access to the school through the car park, parents will need to walk around via the shops and enter the school through the small lane (Brigid Lane) parallel to Synan hall. The visual achievers of the school look forward to your attendance. There will be a message board for you to express your ideas about their artwork. Everyone is a critic so please support this wonderful night.

Mrs Routh
Visual Arts Coordinator

Visual Art Exhibition Synan Hall
Opening Night 7pm Wednesday 31 August, 2011
Continues Thurs 1 September 9.00am-5.00pm and
Friday 2 September 9.00am – 12:30pm
Special Guest Artist - Brenda Tye
Music by THE LATEENS
Free Admission
YEAR 9 MADNESS DAY

Madness day 2011 was an enjoyable experience for the Brigidine girls as we learned so much about ourselves and each other. It was a truly eye opening experience full of inspiring speakers, new friends and solutions to the problems which are facing our generation.

We learnt that there is no need that should be ignored and how working as a community can achieve much more than as individuals. The gathering of both Eastern and Western schools made us recognise that the Catholic community is strong and we can rely on one and other despite our postcodes.

Keely, Kate, Jen, Samantha M, Maddison T, Jemima, Sara, Cassandra, Madeline.

Ms Siobhan Aloisi
Year 9 Coordinator
YEAR 11 BUSINESS SERVICES
Congratulations to all of the year 11 Business Services students who have just completed their week out on work placement at a variety of business enterprises both in the local area as well as in the city. Some of our students also backed up after completing a week doing their Hospitality work placement as well.

Thank you so much to all of the employers for mentoring our students and to all of the students who represented the college so well with many glowing reports coming back from their employers. Some of our students liked work placement so much they weren’t looking forward to coming back to school but others couldn’t wait to be back with their friends.

Overall, it is a learning experience for all of these students and has built upon the skills that they learn here at school and has built their confidence about their skills and abilities in the practical aspects of the course.

Mrs Rowena Dawson
VET Department
SPORTS NEWS

CGSSSA DANCE
This year we will be entering three teams in the CGSSSA Dance Championships; in Jazz, Tap and Hip Hop. In order to raise money for the costumes, we will be holding a cake stall on Tuesday 30 August, so please bring along some extra money on this day to help support the girls.

SPORTS AWARDS
The Annual Sport Awards will be held on Tuesday 6 September at 11.45am to 12.45pm in the Cullen Centre.

Students who have represented the school in CGSSSA Teams that have successfully gained a place in the Championships will be recognised for their achievements along with the Outstanding Team Members for each sport and the Junior and Senior Sports Champions. All students are expected to wear correct school uniform or sport uniform if they are receiving an award. Parents are most welcome to attend this Awards Ceremony.

SYDNEY KINGS VISIT BRIGIDINE
On Monday 19 September the Sydney Kings Basketball Team will be visiting Brigidine to play against our team that will be competing in the National Basketball Championships in December at Bendigo. The event is called “So You Think You Can Play” and it will be used as a fundraiser to assist the team with travel expenses. The game will be played from 2pm to 3pm and all Year 7 and 8 are invited to attend. Students who are attending are asked to donate a Gold Coin on the day. So make sure you remember to bring your coin along so you can support the Brigidine Team and cheer them along to hopefully give the Kings a run for their money.

Congratulations to Hannah Denney who competed in the Australian Road Walking Championships in Canberra. She came 8th in the U18 5km road walk. What an incredible achievement for a young girl in Year 10.

Congratulations to Rachel Howard Year 12, who competed in the Australian Cross Country Championships in Canberra.

Ms Kate Emerson
Sports Coordinator
CGSSSA ATHLETICS 2011

On Friday 19 August, 33 Brigidine students participated in the CGSSSA Athletics Carnival held at Sydney International Athletics Centre, Homebush. We entered in both Track and Field events and achieved fantastic results as well as gaining 3rd overall in division 1 for the second year in a row!

The standard at the Carnival was very high. On the day the girls were energetic and showed great sportsmanship and encouragement to all team competitors. Despite the tough competition, many girls managed to still place in various events and came home with many ribbons and medals.

The following girls gained overall places on the day and are to be commended for their efforts:

**JESSICA THORTON**
- 1st 13 yrs 200metre, 1st 100metre Dash,
- 2nd 800metre Run, 2nd 400metre & 1st Long Jump

**BROOKE EMERSON**
- 1st 13 yrs High Jump

**RUBY VAINGALO**
- 1st 13 yrs Shot Put

**MONIQUE TAUKAMO**
- 1st 13 yrs Discus Throw

**AMELIS RUBIO**
- 2nd 12 yrs 400metre, 3rd 1500metre Run & 3rd 800metre

**TAHLIA BAVADRA**
- 2nd 17yrs 200metre Dash

**FONTINI LYMBERIS**
- 3rd 100metre Dash

**MOLLY BLAKEY**
- 1st 14 yrs 200metre Dash, 1st 400metre, 1st 100metre Dash & 1st Open 100metre

**ILLANA ELKOF**
- 1st 14yrs High Jump

**JOSEPHINE FEDELE**
- 1st 15 yrs Shot Put, 3rd Discus & 2nd Javelin

**BROOKE SRBINOVSKA**
- 1st 12 yrs Shot Put & Discus

**RUBY BREEN**
- 3rd 12 yrs 200metre, 1st Long Jump & 2nd High Jump

**MONIQUE TAUKAMO**
- 1st 14 yrs Shot Put, 3rd Discus & 2nd Javelin

**BROOKE SRBINOVSKA**
- 1st 12 yrs Shot Put & Discus

**RUBY BREEN**
- 3rd 12 yrs 200metre, 1st Long Jump & 2nd High Jump

**HANNAH DENNEY**
- 1st 1500metre Walk

Big congratulations to all our Junior relay runners who placed 1st Overall

**JUNIOR RELAY TEAM:**
- Jessica Thorton
- Ruby Breen
- Fotini Lymberis
- Eliza Connolly

Thank you to Ms Emerson who coordinated the Field events and helped manage the team, Mr Baldwin who helped coach the field events and also to Ms Michaels who acted as announcer on the day your help was very much appreciated. Lastly thank you to the parents who came to watch and support the team.

Most of all, well done to our CGSSSA Athletics representatives! We are proud of your efforts and look forward to holding our place in division 1 next year.

Ms Scardino
PDHPE Department
The Drama department is pleased to announce that on 15 September, one of the stars of the smash hit musical HAIRSPRAY will be visiting the school. On the day they will be giving a brief performance and also participating in Q&A session with our students.

The HAIRSPRAY Company is offering parents, staff and students of the school the opportunity to see the show at Star City Lyric Theatre for the price of $55.00 for an A-Reserve seat. All you have to do is log on to www.ticketmaster.com.au

Select any Wednesday 1pm and 8pm, Thursday 8pm or Sunday 6pm performance, enter the code word “STAGE”, select your seats and then follow the prompts to the Check Out!!

For more information and news on other shows, please visit www.stagedoorpromotions.com

Ms Fiona Foster
Drama Department