Welcome to our September Newsletter

Dear Parents,

On Tuesday 6 September, we held our Sports Award Assembly and Sr Sheelagh was there to present the Sister Sheelagh Cup for school spirit which was won by Aquinas House. The girls love Sr Sheelagh and she is a popular addition to our assemblies. The older girls remember her in the school on a daily basis when they came within the penumbra of her happy nature and remember the fun of helping her with her charity fundraising. It is not an easy time to be a Brigidine Sister; they are elderly women now. When they entered the Congregation in their youth they probably didn’t predict that in their old age they would be carrying responsibilities that in former times would have been taken on by the younger nuns. As an outsider who loves the Brigidines, everything I observe about them is inspirational and interesting. I think every Brigidine Sister who is not ill continues to work at one of the priorities of the Congregation; the number of activities might have to be cut back but no one retires to do nothing. I have never heard a word of self pity because of what appears to be the demise of the Congregation but rather there is an acceptance of how things are. Everything is in God’s hands and so all will be well. While there is Life there is Faith and while there is Faith there is a blessed and effective life to be lived; age is of little consequence.

Representatives of the Australian Brigidines went to Ireland in the middle months of this year for the Congregation’s Forum. From this meeting came the theme for the next four years “Let us go forward on the road that has brought us to where we are” This is a reworking of Philippians 3:16. “Only let us hold fast to what we have attained” (RSV edition). Here is deep confidence in what has been and will be. The theme invites reflection and retrospection which look forward hopefully. I have tried applying it to our Year Twelve students who are counting the days until the end of their school days.
It doesn’t work with our young women who are longing to start down a new road. Because they are young, all is anticipation and impatience; the end is so near, so tantalizing that concentration for some girls is impossible. A hundred different, exciting, terrifying roads suggest themselves.

Sr Dorothy Costigan will finish her time as Leader of the NSW Brigidine province very soon. Sr Dorothy has been a wonderful mentor to me and always greatly interested in the welfare of our school. On behalf of Brigidine Randwick I take this opportunity to wish her well, and all the Brigidines, as they move ahead on the road they chose hopefully long ago and which has not disappointed them. May our Year Twelve girls be so blessed that they too can one day say this. May Brigid bless the home wherein you dwell.

Ms Kate Edmondson
Principal

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
Last week we enjoyed our Annual Art Show which was just sensational. The show was a real credit to our community and to our hard working, talent and dedicated Art Department.

This week our Year 11 students have begun their final exams for their Preliminary course and our Year 10 students are sitting for their Trial School Certificate Tests. Year 12 are currently revising work in preparation for their HSC. This is a challenging time for our Year 12s as they need to remain focussed and on task but at the same time it is exciting because the end is so close. They really must keep applying themselves to all aspects of their studies.

CYBERBULLYING
Over the next few newsletters I will be talking about Cyberbullying and its various forms. As parents and educators we must be aware of what our children are up to and somehow help them understand the impact of what is happening. Cyberbullying is when bullying occurs through information and communication technologies, mediums such as mobile phone text messages, emails, phone calls, internet chat rooms, instant messaging – and the latest trend – social networking websites such as MySpace, Facebook and Bebo.

Did you know that Cyberbullying is a fast growing trend that many believe is more harmful than typical schoolyard bullying? It is very well known that most of us can be contacted 24/7 via the internet or our mobile phones. A result of this is that victims can be reached anytime and anywhere. So for many children, the reality is that home is no longer a refuge from the bullies. “Children can escape threats and abuse in the classroom, only to find text messages and emails from the same tormentors when they arrive home.”

Today I will be talking about Instant Messaging and Chat rooms. The information that I am providing comes from the website http://www.cyberbullying.info/. There are many useful websites that are easy to access and provide lot of information.
**Instant Messaging**

‘Instant messaging is basically a simulated 'conversation', occurring in real-time, with short, typed messages. Almost 93 per cent of children use the internet. Many would use instant messaging programs such as MSN, Yahoo!, and AOL each night.

Many children do not realise that instant messaging conversations are recorded. A bully can copy and paste the private information from these conversations into an email, and send it to hundreds of people at the click of a button.

Many people also try to use other people’s screen-names or email addresses, to trick you into thinking they are one of your friends, to get personal information from you.

"You feel as if no one can help you," says Alyssa, 14, who waited two weeks before telling anyone that she was being bullied by a boy who called her 'loser' and 'stupid' in instant messages. "It's a lonely, scary feeling."

**Chat rooms**

‘The second most common form of cyberbullying is bullying through chatrooms.

The anonymity of online communications means that kids feel that they can do things online they would never do in the real world. Cyberbullies do not have to witness the damage they inflict on their victims. Many children feel that they can say what they like on the internet, or even pretend to be someone else. "The internet is the perfect medium to write really nasty things without having to see the reaction on the other person's face."

Internet usage can be tracked and monitored by your internet service provider, like BigPond, Optus or AOL. Every word that is said and every site that is visited is logged and recorded. This type of communication is in fact, never totally anonymous.’

**House Keeping Reminders**

- The school day commences at 8.35 am when the first bell rings. **Please make sure your daughters arrive at school by 8.30am at the latest.** Period 1 begins at 8.40am. If students are late they are unable to go to Period 1 because this means they will be interrupting the lesson which is unfair for the teacher and the students. Next term students return in their summer uniform, so please make sure they have been checked in time. This means that the length of the uniform is important. The hem should be touching the floor when your daughter is kneeling with her shoulders back.
- Remember if you are picking your daughter up from school in the morning or the afternoon, then this should NOT be done in Aeolia Street.

As we approach the end of term, I encourage all students to remain focused and aim to achieve their personal best.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

**Mrs Antoinette McGahan**
SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE

WHEN          Monday 19 September 2011
WHERE          Tullow Room (located in the Main Quad)
TIME          2.30pm – 5.30pm

The 2nd Hand Uniform Sale operates on donations only, nothing is sold on consignment. Families who have donations for our Term 3 Sale could you please leave the uniforms at the school office.

NUMERACY AND LITERACY WEEK 2011

Thank you Students and Teachers for getting involved in the Monday to Friday morning quizzes, and the Numeracy and Literacy Trivia during Wednesday Lunch on 2 September 2011. It was wonderful to see so many people interested in their problem solving and simply having fun.

Congratulations to the following classes for their success in the morning Numeracy Quizzes
  - First Place : 12 Winifred
  - Second Place: 10 Winifred
  - Third Place : 9 Xavier

Congratulations to Emma Aston, Roshani Soneji and Mariana Espinell-Ramirez for gaining 100% on the Family Mathematics Competition.

Congratulations to the Year 9 student team CAVE: Chantelle Liu, Erica Soon, Alex Mc Manus, Ellanor Benjamin, Ester Hoo and Vivien Deng, on winning the Annual Numeracy and Literacy Trivia at lunch.

Many thanks to our Sponsors 2011 for their donation of prizes for the winners -RITZ Movie Theatre, McDonalds, AMF Bowling and Cadburys.

You may like to try the following Challenge Mathematics Question:
(Two prime numbers that differ by two are called twin primes. Find any pair of twin primes between 30 and 60).
(Answer on last page).

Mrs Sue Egan  -  Mathematics Coordinator
DAY OF HOPE
On the 1 September, Year 9 had their Community Day; the theme was a ‘Day of Hope’. An inspirational presenter from the Oxygen Factory, named Glen Gerreyn came to our school to share with us the values of life. How using positive attitudes and a totally different way of thinking can monumentally affect our future. His own personal story was very touching and really brought us to realise hardships that life can unfairly give us. He took us on a journey to inspire, motivate and transform our ways of thinking.

We must squeeze every drop out of our life and the possibilities and opportunities that we have are endless. Glen is an extraordinary communicator, clearly motivated by a passion for his message of hope, for every child, for every teenager and for every adult. Glen puts his own words into action, through the numerous programs that he has created, Glen has helped us realise the bigger picture. That we CAN achieve what we see as the unachievable and even when life kicks you down you have to ‘Pick yourself up, dust yourself off and try again’. The day with Glen impacted our way of thinking and we are all inspired to chase our dreams until we succeed in getting them.

Glen will definitely have a lot of new Brigidine friends on Facebook!

By Brenna and Tara on behalf of Year 9
YEAR 9 COMMERCE
Last Wednesday, Year 9 students studying Commerce took part in three interesting and engaging presentations on Financial Education, presented by Bryan, from the Commonwealth Bank Foundation.

The presentations took the students through Smart Earning, Smart Spending and Smart Investing - these all tie in with the topic Personal Finance which the students are studying at the moment. Asked what the students learnt from the day, some of the responses were: “You can have a million dollars by saving just $100 a week for 45 years”; “Gambling is high risk, low return” and “There is good debt and bad debt”.

Mrs Rowena Dawson

CGSSSA TENNIS
Good luck to all girls competing in this Championship, especially Shannon Cleary in her final year.

CGSSSA DANCE
Good luck to all the girls entering in the Tap, Jazz and Hip Hop Sections in the Championships.

CGSSSA ATHLETICS
Congratulations to the following girls who have been selected into the CGSSSA Athletics team to compete at the Combined Catholic Colleges Athletics championships at Homebush on 16th September 2011:

Jessica Thornton; Molly Blakey; Rachel Howard; Brooke Emerson; Illana Ecklof; Ruby Vaingalo; Josephine Fedele; Monique Taukamo; Brooke Srbinoska; Ruby Breen; Hannah Denney.

SPORTS AWARDS
Congratulations to the following girls who have been recognised for their outstanding achievements in Sport for 2011.
Outstanding Team Member 2011

- Rachel Howard  Aquathon  2010
- Natalie Watts  Aquathon  2010
- Natalie Romaniuk  Waterpolo  2010
- Natalie Watts  Swimming  2011
- Stephanie Thornton  Swimming  2011
- Maylene Lam-Hang  Gymnastics  2011
- Rebecca Johnson  Football  2011
- Kate Murphy  Touch Football  2011
- Emma Smith  Netball  2011
- Hannah Michael  Dance  2011
- Jasmine Smith  Basketball  2011
- Dru Toleafoa  Basketball  2011
- Rachel Howard  Cross Country  2011
- Molly Blakey  Athletics  2011
- Jessica Thornton  Athletics  2011
- Brooke Emerson  Junior Sport Champion  2011
- Jessica Thornton  Junior Sport Champion  2011
- Hannah Denney  Senior Sport Champion  2011

BAR AWARD COMBINED CATHOLIC COLLEGES  Shannon Cleary

CONTRIUTION TO REPRESENTATIVE SPORT 2006 – 2001  Natalie Watts

PIERRE DE COUBERTIN AWARD  Rachel Howard

SYDNEY KINGS VISIT BRIDGIDINE
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 Year 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.

Ms Kate Emerson
Sports Coordinator
VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION 2011

Many thanks to family, friends and students who attended our gala opening. Artworks don’t exist without audiences and our visual learners adore the adulation justifiably given when presenting their work. The educational value for our younger students was invaluable and the days following the opening were of a highly educational nature.

I would like to thank people who helped make the night a success. Parents of Year 12 Visual Art students provided items for the raffle and service through the night. I particularly thank Mrs Goodieson for organising the wonderful raffles each and every year I have been at Brigidine College.

The Lateens again proved they are the most wonderful musicians and we thank their teachers and their presence. My art staff, Richard Hainsworth, Barbara Harvey, Lisa McColl and Louise Smyth worked tirelessly on the construction and deconstruction of the show, and teachers and executive staff who assisted on the evening. Ms. Edmondson and Mr Beehag were supportive in many ways and we appreciate the opportunity provided.

Our artist guest this year was Brenda Tye. Brenda presented an overview of her practice and generously donated a work to our fundraising

We hope to see you at next year’s exhibition.

Mrs Sandra Routh
Art Coordinator
YEAR 9 EXCURSION

On Thursday the 11th of August, our Year 9 group of Brigidine College paid a visit to ‘Mary MacKillop’s Place’ in North Sydney. This place offered us a chance to learn about the determination and bravery St Mary MacKillop displayed throughout her life of dedicated charitable works.

Since opening in 1995, the museum has been engaging visitors with the story of Australia’s first Saint, Mary MacKillop and the co-founder of the Sisters of St Joseph. As a year group we were able to follow Mary’s life story from 1842 to 1909 and celebrate the legacy of this inspiring woman. This impressive and historic Chapel was built in 1913 in memory of Saint Mary MacKillop. It has become a place of pilgrimage for thousands of people who visit her tomb to pray and reflect.

After the intriguing visit to the museum, our day followed with a tour of Saint Mary’s Cathedral. St Mary’s Cathedral stands in the centre of Sydney as a Christian statement of grace and beauty. This Cathedral represents the spiritual origins of the Catholic Church in Australia. We were able to engage in the beauty and history of the vast cathedral, as we were taken on tour by some interesting volunteers. We witnessed the sacred tombs of many Australian Catholic icons such as Archbishop Polding as well as encountering the spiritual meaning an essence of the architecture. Overall year 9 had productive and meaningful day learning about the history of Australian Catholicism.

By Hannah Sinclair, Brittany Fong, Chloe Curtis and Maame Asante.
CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

YEAR 12 Major Design Projects marked!

Sleepless nights, last minute touch ups, panic and stress. These are the words that Year 12 Design and Technology students were all too familiar with over the past few weeks in preparation for the marking of their Major Design Projects (MDPs). The HSC markers viewed the girls’ works and critiqued their MDP closely – not missing any details of their project.

The D&T girls had worked on their design projects over months of strenuous research and design developments. The outcome of their projects proved to be absolutely outstanding and there were many show stoppers. A huge congratulation to the Year 12 girls who managed to pull through and put together a massive body of work – resulting in quality design solutions that can easily change the way we live in the near future.

Some designs included; a redesign of the Brigidine’s swim wear package (including the swimming costume, sports bag and towel), interactive wrist band, survival herb garden, anaphylactic fashion bag, an efficient train rail system, self esteem bra and so many more. Watch out world! – Brigidine Randwick girls will change the world of today!
These are a few pictures of our Pilgrimage following World Youth Day Madrid. Mrs Robyn Ross

Brigidine students in Amman Jordan, waiting for the tour bus to take us to visit Mount Nebo where Moses looked over the Promised Land for the first time and later died.

Baptismal site of Jesus (Bethany beyond the Jordan), one of the most recent religious and archaeological discoveries.

Jordan River. Students celebrated mass at this site and renewed their own baptismal promises.
Sabrina Lim Year 11 at the Mount of Beatitudes.

Jasmine Cummings Year 10 reading a scripture passage at Capernaum which was the centre of Jesus’ teaching and healing and home to Peter the Apostle.

Mrs Ross and students near amphitheatre and the Herodian Port at Caesarea. It was here the centurion Cornelius was baptized by Peter, becoming the first gentile convert to Christianity.
Mrs. Ross and students enjoy a panoramic view of the old city of Jerusalem.

Homeward bound. Short stop off in Paris before continuing our journey back to Australia.

More photos of World Youth Day Madrid are in latest edition of Catholic-weekly. Vol 70, No 4587 September

CHALLENGE MATHEMATICS

ANSWER: 41 AND 43