

Brigidine College Newsletter

23 September 2011
Issue # 014

COMING EVENTS

Term 4
Students return
Monday 10 October
2011

Monday 7 November
2011
'Girls and Friendship'
Parent evening
7.00pm in Cullen Centre

Change of Date
P & F AGM
Tuesday 25 October

Welcome to our September Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Graduation 2011

Our girls had another golden finish yesterday for their Graduation Day. It is always immensely gratifying to see the girls so happy both to be finished school and with being Brigidine girls. The day is meant to go seamlessly for the girls and parents; it is a lot of work behind the scenes for the staff. I think that we would all say that it is well and truly worth it to see the girls so happy. It is not really goodbye. We will see them during the duration of the exams, and then there is the breakfast on Cullen verandah when their results come out. At the Mass of St Brigid on 1st February 2012 the girls from the HSC class of 2011 who received a Band 6 for a subject will be presented with an award and the girl who achieved the highest ATAR and is therefore DUX will address the school.

Congratulations

Year 11 student **Suzi Ihar** is one of 21 students in New South Wales to be chosen to receive an Order of Australia Certificate of Commendation. In the nomination, we were able to write about Suzi's work in social justice and community building here at Brigidine and in the local community. Suzi will receive her award from Governor Professor Marie Bashir in November.

Refurbishment work over the holidays

Parents at Brigidine pay a parent levy. Over the holidays the funds raised from this levy will pay for the refurbishment of Synan Hall and the painting and carpeting of a number of classrooms. After this the big project will be the refurb, indeed a whole re think of the library and our entrance in to the Folly and Connolly Williams wings.

A happy, safe and relaxing holidays to everyone. May Brigid bless your dwelling place.

Ms Kate Edmondson
Principal



FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Our Year 12 students finished this week. They definitely seem to have thoroughly enjoyed the many planned events over the last couple of days. The girls are extremely privileged to have such dedicated teachers who are so prepared to go beyond the call of duty to provide them with lasting memories of Brigidine College.

The Year 12 Graduation Assembly and Mass are always special occasions which will be remembered by the girls for many years to come. I would like to take this opportunity to wish our Year 12 students good luck and thank them for all they have contributed to Brigidine over the years. I pray and hope that each and every one of them always remembers to strive for her absolute best in all that she does.

The upcoming holidays will be a time of rest, refreshment and rejuvenation for all members of our community especially for the final term. I do believe that it is important that the students remain focused and return prepared to do all they can to make a difference in their final semester report.

House Keeping Reminders

- **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 be should just above the knee or on the knee. There will be a uniform check in the first week. The length of the uniform must be correct. Please see page 16 of the Student Diary.
- **Students return Monday 10 October 2011.**

CYBERBULLYING AND BULLYING

This week Text Messages, Emails, Social Networking Sites and Picture Messages are covered.

TEXT MESSAGES

'SMS bullying, or text-bullying, is the most common form of cyberbullying. One in six Australians count their mobile phone as their most prized possession. Imagine having the most important thing you own infiltrated by a bully.

"It's worse [than traditional bullying] because you can't get away from it; the texts can land on your phone wherever you are and at any hour."

"Even though it's just a few words in an SMS, it can still hurt and I want people to know that they shouldn't let it go. Tell the police, your parents or someone else, because there's no need to suffer."

According to the Australian Crime Act, it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace or harass or offend another person.'



EMAIL

'Email is the third most common form of cyberbullying.

Email can be used by a cyberbully in a number of ways: Sending harassing or threatening messages; attaching viruses to emails; or even including private information about a victim and sending it to hundreds of people.

There are many more ways email has and can be used as a weapon. One email can be sent to hundreds of people, across the globe, at the touch of a button.

"It was a non-stop nightmare...I dreaded going on my computer," says one girl of an incident where she was constantly being bombarded by threatening emails.'

SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

'Online social networking sites like MySpace and Facebook have become increasingly popular with children as a place to go to meet other people, communicate, and post photos and blogs.

"Three years ago, [kids] would have written notes to one another. Now they post it on a web site for thousands of people to read."

Anyone can go to one of these sites and create their own personal space, often writing in an online diary there or posting photos from the party they went to last weekend. You invite others to view your site and enable the visitors to post comments.

In a recent survey of MySpace pages more than half of teenagers posted pictures of themselves online, some posting pictures of themselves in bathing suits or underwear, or photos of their friends in suggestive poses.'

PICTURE MESSAGES

'Picture messages are small photos, taken with a camera phone that can be sent to other mobile phones, or to the internet, instantaneously.

In one case, students at a local high school used a camera phone to take a photo of a classmate in the shower after gym. The picture was sent throughout the school in minutes.

"Marcus Andrews, 11, was the victim of a vicious attack in the school corridors...Children pounced on him, broke his arm, and photographed his agony with their mobile phones, before emailing the pictures to friends."

All this information comes from <http://www.cyberbullying.info/>

Have a safe and wonderful holiday and thank you for your continued cooperation and support

Mrs Antoinette McGahan



SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

On the night of Wednesday 14 September, seven Brigidine girls gathered with twelve Marcellin boys for Eucharist and the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation. Five young people were Baptized and all were Confirmed. It was a most beautiful, hopeful occasion. I found myself wondering why the Baptism of older children touches me more deeply than that of a baby. Perhaps it is as Br David said in his closing remarks; it is so wonderful for us that young people whose experience of Catholicism is in their school have freely chosen to join the Church. There was one reason to attend the Eucharist and that was to express our love of them through prayerful ritual. Their families and friends were obviously very proud of their children and I was very proud of the poise and simplicity with which the Brigidine girls presented themselves.



Once again, we are so gifted in our Randwick Parish priest Fr Hearn who always engages the young people so well and puts them at their ease.

The sacramental program runs at Brigidine and Marcellin every second year. The Brigidine girls were prepared by Sr Jan O’Neil csb who met with them once a week after school. Thank you Sr Jan.

Ms Kate Edmondson
Principal

CasPa Festival- “Tell me a Story”

Next year CasPa will be putting on a musical festival called “Tell me a Story”. It will involve a massed choir item and instrumental ensemble group. We are inviting all girls in Years 7 and 8 this year at Brigidine to take part. The concert will take place in Week nine of Term Two 2012. Any girls wishing to be involved in this performance need to see Miss Ainsworth as soon as possible.



**Miss Ainsworth
Music Department**



Bringing parents up to speed
thriving not just surviving
a **FREE** interactive forum for parents
and adolescents

Saturday 29 October 2011 – 1.00pm to 4.00pm at Randwick Town Hall 92 Avoca Street, Randwick.

Find out about mental health issues for young people, have your questions answered and develop strategies to thrive. Forum will include:

- Expert speakers
- The Resilience Doughnut (how to build resilience)
- Your questions answered by the professionals
- Meet your local youth services.

Book online: www.parentscouncil.nsw.edu.au

Information: Rowena Stulajter, Community Development Manager, NSW Parents' Council
9955 8276 www.randwick.nsw.gov.au

CGSSSA DANCE

Congratulations to all the students who participate in the CGSSSA Dance Championships. Big congratulations to the Tap Team who gained 2nd place in a very tight competition. Our Hip Hop and Jazz teams dazzled the audience and were unlucky not to gain a place.

A huge thank you must go to the Dance Teachers Shelley Bays and Leorah, who worked so hard with the girls for many hours to get them ready for the day.

Congratulations to everyone involved and to our Year 12 students who have represented the school for the last time, we appreciate your efforts during your final term at school

Tap Team:

*Mia Sfaira; Becky Wilson; Belinda Banks; Melanie Brennan; Holly Jones; Bronte Courtney;
Sam Ellison; Monica Hourigan; Emma Brophy; Sophie Chadwick; Beth Meldrum; Katie Nejaim*

**Ms Emerson
Sports Coordinator**



CGSSSA TENNIS REPORT, 2011

The CGSSSA Tennis Championships were held at Parramatta City Tennis Centre on Thursday 8 September and Monday 12 September. Day one of the tournament began with the Singles event where Brigidine entered 4 very talented players:

Junior Singles:	Taylor Trompp – Year 7
Intermediate Singles:	Nikki Miakinkow -Year 10
Senior Singles:	Mairead Cleary – Year 11
Open Singles:	Shannon Cleary – Year 12

All of the girls played with determination and were great representatives of the College.

Our most successful results of the day came from **Mairead Cleary** of Year 11, who was runner up in the Senior competition and **Shannon Cleary** of Year 12, who won the Opens championship convincingly for the second year in a row. Congratulations to all the girls on a wonderful day.

The Doubles Event began on day two of the tournament and Brigidine entered a Doubles pair in the Juniors, Intermediate and Opens divisions.

Junior:	Taylor Trompp - Year 7 and Tiffanie Leung – Year 7
Intermediate:	Rhiana Weller – Year 10 and Lara Clifton - Year 10
Opens:	Mairead Cleary - Year 11 and Shannon Cleary -Year 12

Our teams did a fantastic job again in the Doubles competition.

Our Junior team of **Taylor Trompp and Tiffanie Leung** sailed through the rounds and semis. The final was a great match, but unfortunately the girls were defeated by Santa Sabina in a close one.



Tiffanie Leung and Taylor Trompp



Mairead and Shannon Cleary

Our Opens Doubles pair won all of their round matches, and then went on to defeat Loreto in the final! Well done to **Mairead and Shannon Cleary** for another excellent result!

Thank you to all the parents who drove out to the tournament, your support was very much appreciated. Most of all congratulations to all of our tennis representatives, we are very proud of you.

Ms Michaels
PDHPE Department



COMBINED CATHOLIC COLLEGES ATHLETICS

Congratulations to all girls who participated in the CCC Athletics on Friday. A special congratulations to **Jessica Thornton** who received 13 years Age Champion and **Molly Blakey** 14 years Age Champion, an incredible achievement at such a high level. More individual results will be posted as they arrive.

CCC ATHLETICS RESULTS

- Rachel Howard 2nd place 1500m, 3rd 800m
- Jessica Thornton 1st 100m, 1st 200m (Broke Record), 1st 400m, 5th Long Jump
- Molly Blakey 1st 200m, 1st 100, 1st 400m
- Hannah Denney 2nd 1500m Walk
- Brook Emerson 6th High Jump
- Monique Taukumo 9th Discus 13 years
- Josephine Fedele 6th 15 years Shot Put
- Brooke Srbinovska 5th 12 years Discus, 3rd Shot Put
- Ruby Breen 4th 12 years Long Jump
- Ruby Vaingalo 4th 13 years Shot Put

SYDNEY KINGS BASKETBALL

On Monday, five players from the Sydney Kings Basketball team came to Brigidine to play against our elite players who will go to Bendigo to the National Schools Basketball Championships.



The Brigidine girls WON, defeating the Kings 28-26. The afternoon was supported by Years 7 and 8 who also had the opportunity to get many photos and autographs. This was another great afternoon for all at Brigidine.

Ms Kate Emerson
Sports Coordinator





The Australian Red Cross Mobile Blood Service will be at
COOGEE OVAL, Alfreda Street, (opposite McDonalds) on:
Thursday 6 and Friday 7 October 10.00am to 4.0pm

*Every blood donation saves three lives and every donation makes a
huge difference in the lives of many people.*

BUSINESS STUDIES AND ECONOMICS COMPETITIONS

Earlier this year, Year 12 Business Studies and Economics classes sat the UNSW Schools competitions. The competitions attract over 14000 participants from Australia and New Zealand.

Congratulations to the following

Economics students:

Distinction: Nathalia Hardie

Credit: Isabella Poidevin

Merit: Lucy Aleshina, Melanie Fernandes and Alex McDonald

Business Studies students

Credit: Karina Alzate and Uyen Nguyen

Merit: Amy Denny

Ms J Nicolas

HSIE Commercial Coordinator



