Welcome to our November Newsletter

THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING. This is the final feast of the Church year of 2011. Advent next and then Christmas.

We teach girls to bow or genuflect before the tabernacle when they go up to OLSH church for Mass. Most girls are happy enough to comply with this and see it as carrying out a sacred ritual correctly. The practice is a remnant of the customs of courtesy and obeisance which belong to another time. In ancient times when a King passed, the people lay prostrate with their faces in the ground. Those having an audience with the monarch had to back out of a room rather than turn their back. Men and women also used to bow and curtsey to each other. It was a way of affirming the other by giving a physical sign of recognition. Bowing and lying prostrate before a King (or a Queen) is “I acknowledge that you are greater than me” in body language.

Unexpected freedoms come with the Christian belief that God is greater and knows better than humans do. It is wonderful to relax into being an ordinary human being and let God get on with being the omniscient one. Jesus himself was obedient to the Father’s will “to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God highly exulted him..” (Philippians 2.8-9). Our naming of Christ as King of our hearts and minds means that we say that we are giving all the beautiful ideals and values of the Gospels power over us. We are saying “these values and ideals are greater than me” They truly reign in our hearts when they are helping us see the lesser gods that we worship like money, a beautiful body and the high esteem of others. How can we not see our world with all its suffering and not be filled with longing that the ideas and values of Jesus would be adopted by all of us as if they were the orders of an absolute monarch of old? But, God doesn’t work that way. God wants the obedience that comes from a free human heart choosing what is good and freely enslaveing itself to that goodness. As Catholics, when we enter our sacred space and see the light that tells us that Jesus is present in the tabernacle, our preparation for prayer is to bow low and so proclaim “Your love is greater, You know better, You are in control”.

COMING EVENTS

Thursday 24 November
Junior Music Performance Night 7pm

Friday 25 November
Combined Leaders Day with Brigidine St Ives, Indooroopilly & Randwick

Tuesday 29 November
Parent Advisory Council Meeting
STUDENT ATTENDANCE AT NSW SECONDARY SCHOOLS

It has always been accepted that parents are responsible for ensuring that their children attend school regularly. It is now enshrined in law that parents are so responsible and the Government has much greater expectation of Principals in regard to granting exemptions for students whose parents are asking for them not to attend school.

As from next year, there will be official forms that parents have to fill out rather than simply writing a letter requesting leave. I am letting people know now that there are circumstances in which I will not give a certificate of exemption e.g: wanting leave for an overseas holiday during a crucial time of HSC study. The final details of these new procedures have not been signed by the Minister for Education. There will be much more information about this at the beginning of next year. It is compulsory for parents to follow the procedures that will be set out for them by the Catholic Education Office on behalf of the Government.

May Brigid bless the house wherein you dwell.
Ms Kate Edmondson
Principal

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

This week 158 Year 7 students for 2012 experienced the real taste of Brigidine’s hospitality and spirit on their Orientation Day. Most appeared to be somewhat nervous but in no time the girls relaxed and were excited to be at their new school. I believe they had a wonderful time and are eagerly looking forward to next year. Thank you to Mrs Adriana Parsons for her organisation along with the assistance of the Year 7 Team, Ms Narelle Watson for the work with Peer Support Leaders, Peer Support Leaders and also thank you to our support staff, and teachers who assisted in all facets of the day.

Parenting

Parenting as we all know is a 24/7 job. Nothing in life really prepares us for trials and tribulations of this role. The main thing to remember is the turbulent times don’t last forever but do contribute the responsible young adults that our teenagers become. Part of our role is to make sure that we are always loving, understanding and persevering.

I encourage parents to access some these helpful parenting article and websites to familiarize yourself with the support available and of what to aware.

Helpful Parenting Articles & Websites
Helpful Hints for Single Parents
http://www.cyh.com/cyh/parenttopics/usr_index0.stm?topic_id=101
Being a Dad
http://www.cyh.com/cyh/parenttopics/usr_index0.stm?topic_id=55&precis=null
Making Parenting Easier: Development Milestones  

Minimising Conflict  

Violence and Conflict  

Suicide Awareness  

Parenting Tips: Michael Grose  

Four Goals of Misbehaviour  
http://www.lifematters.com/4goals.html

Positive Parenting  
http://www.lifematters.com/recovery.html

Effective Rules for Consequences  

Early Childhood  

Internet Safety  
http://www.netalert.net.au

**Year 10**

Our Year 10 students have finished their School Certificate exams. Most of the girls seemed pleased with the papers. The girls will begin the Year 10 Alternate Programme this week.

**Uniform**

It is really important that your daughters are reminded of our school rules regarding uniform. So please remind them that:

- No makeup is to be worn
- One pair of earrings – studs or sleepers only in the lowest part of the lobes
- Hair is to be neat and tidy usually tied back with ribbons in uniform colours
- White ankle length socks with bottle green trim only
- **Traditional black school shoes - lace up only.**
- The PE uniform is not to be worn to school except when specifically students have sport.
Variations to the uniform are not permitted. Refer to the school diary for more details.

Students are always reminded to remain focused, think positively and strive for their personal best in all they do. Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

*Mrs Antoinette McGahan*

**YEAR 11 ECONOMICS EXCURSION**
On Thursday 10 November Year 11 Economics students went on an excursion to the Reserve Bank of Australia, Martin Place. After a quick run through the RBA Museum, which consisted of a display of historical notes and coins, the students listened to a most informative lecture by an RBA Research Economist. The visit was most timely given the state of the global economy and the essence of the lecture was to address the role of the RBA in its attempt to minimise the effects of the European Sovereign Debt Crisis on the Australian economy.

After the address we watched two short films from the RBA archives – one on the history of the construction of the RBA at its current site in Martin Place and the other showed the TV advertisements of 1988 that were used to introduce the polymer dollar notes to the Australian public.

Students were then treated to a lecture on the security features of Australia’s polymer notes. All in all a most enjoyable and informative excursion.

*Miss Jennifer Nicolas*  
*Economics Teacher*

**SPORT UNIFORM**
A reminder to all students that Bike Pants can be ordered through the uniform shop on Mondays. They cost $25.00 and money must be paid when ordering. These pants can be worn at Touch on Tuesday afternoons and if competing in CGSSSA Athletics and Cross Country.

All students will be able to purchase the Rugby Jumper as part of their P.E. uniform starting in 2012. All orders must be placed at the uniform shop and cost is $65.00

*Ms Kate Emerson*  
*Sports Coordinator*
CGSSSA AQUATHON REPORT 2011

On Monday 14 November the Brigidine Aquathon Team competed in the CGSSSA Aquathon at Merrylands Pool. This is a Biathlon event which consisted of a 400 metre swim and a 2km run which had been reduced due to the extreme temperatures on the day.

We had 51 competitors from year 7 through to year 11 competing. All of the girls involved put in a great effort and performed exceptionally on the day despite the extreme heat!

We were up against tough competition competing against schools such as Santa Sabina & OLSH Kensington and many more. However Brigidine came through with pleasing results. The Junior team placed 2nd overall and both the Senior teams & Intermediate team placed 1st overall and Brigidine managed to gain the Winning School Shield again for the third consecutive year!

Big congratulations to the following girls:

- In the Junior teams event Jessica Thornton and Brooke Emerson placed 3rd overall.
- In the Senior team event Natalie Murphy and Kate Murphy who placed 3rd overall.
- In the Individual event Georgia Thompson gained 3rd overall and Bella Raymond 2nd overall.

Well done to the following CGSSSA Aquathon Representatives. We are very proud of your efforts.

JUNIOR TEAM

Runners: Jessica Thornton, Celine Sayegh, Chloe Morrissey, Katherine Cannon, Jacinta Mandelik, Amelia Rubio.
Swimmers: Brooke Emerson, Sally Walker, Emma Thomson, Sinead Docherty, Samantha Benbow, Caitlin Goutama

INTERMEDIATE TEAM

Runners: Monique Hoareau, Bronte Carolan, Emily Donohue, Alexandra Godfrey, Bridget O’Connell, Hayley King, Cassandra DeFrancesco, Molly Blakey, Kate Williamson.
Swimmers: Maxine Williams, Poppy Aldous, Tara Hayes, Anna Molihan, Liana McMorrow, Grace Galway, Samantha Murray, Ailish Mead, Keely Trevitt.

SENIOR TEAM

Runners: Kate Murphy, Sacha Evans, Natasha Azarov, Emma Phibs, Hannah Denney, Emily Neilan, Jennifer Chan, Kelly Creman, Mairead Cleary.
Swimmers: Natalie Murphy, Alexis Mavrantonis, Molly Cocks, Erica Williamson, Jacqui Fiala, Sophie Thomson, Illana Eklof, Bronte Franklin, Amelia Romaniuk.

INDIVIDUAL EVENT:

Georgia Thomson, Hannah Sinclair, Ruby Breen, Bella Raymond.

Thank you to Ms Mazzeri and Mrs Gordon who also helped with the organisation of the team.

Mrs Pauline Coleman
PDHPE Department