On Tuesday 29 November 2011 the Hon Peter Garratt, Minister for School Education and Minister for Early Childhood and Youth, announced that a new National School Improvement Framework (NSIF) will be developed over the next three years and introduced in 2015 under changes to the Rewards for School Improvement initiative.

“We expect that the new framework will involve nationally consistent public reporting via MySchool, feedback from parents and tracking how well a school performs over time,” he said.

For Independent schools, school improvement may be linked to funding. Each school will be expected to develop a School Improvement Framework. The territories, states and various Catholic Education offices have already begun developing them to inform and guide improved outcomes for sectoral schools.

Common elements occurring in the frameworks developed by state education authorities to date are summarised as follows:

**Aims:**
- Aspire to excellence
- Raise academic performance
- Achieve and sustain school improvement

**Why:**
- Allows us to reflect on the quality of our practices
- Identify strategic priorities
- Embed programs which are effective, challenging and engaging.

In effect, at Brigidine, we have already begun this process in developing our Strategic Plan, Towards 2020, and now ensuring its implementation in our daily practices. All those in positions of leadership in the College are developing their Operational Plans to support the strategic intents of the five focus areas: faith, wellbeing, learning, community and resourcing. These plans will enable all staff to assess what is needed to implement the plan and work towards creating opportunities to embed excellence and encourage growth. The Operational Actions are the actions, determined by the manager in discussion with his/her team, necessary to support the Goals, Objectives and Management Actions of the School Improvement Framework.

**Mrs Jane Curran**
Principal
2012 HSC Results

Brigidine High Achievers in 2012

“We are very proud of the fine achievement from our 2012 HSC students. The girls have excelled across a diverse range of subjects and at all levels, particularly those whose extraordinary dedication has placed them in the top ten of the state. Their results are a collaborative commitment by students, teachers and parents. The College could not be prouder.”

Mrs Jane Curran, Principal

Competition of the Higher School Certificate and of all the years of study leading up to Year 12 is the culmination of so many experiences and achievements. The College community congratulate all the girls from the Class of 2012.

Some of the highlights of results for the Class of 2012 are:
From a cohort of 135 candidates in the 2012 HSC at Brigidine College, 42% gained a place on the Distinguished Achievers List for at least 1 achievement of Band 6 (a mark of 90 or above).
The Dux for 2012 was Philippa Reeves, who achieved an ATAR of 99.50 and the Proxime was Aneile Marshall who achieved an ATAR of 99.35.

Four students were placed on the All Rounders List for scoring 90 or above in 10 or more units: Philippa Reeves, Aneile Marshall, Isabella Hall and Katherine Vail.

In addition there were some excellent achievements across a breadth of studies.

• 1st in State – Food Technology
  Madeleine Andrews

• 5th in State – Italian Continuers
  Alexandra Kopp

• 13th in State – English Standard
  Ashlee Page

• 14th in State – English Standard
  Sarah Stamp

• 2 selected for TexStyle
  (Textiles & Design)
  Rosalinde Czyznik, Jessica Shlager

• 2 selected for OnStage (Drama)
  Marianna Learmonth for Costume Design
  Hanna Blanche, Asha O’Brien-Grubednikas, Danielle Toson and Dominique Trauer for their performance, Universal Foreigner

• 1 nomination for Encore (Music)
  Lauren Beck

• 1 nomination for Callback (Dance)
  Samantha Eismen

It is notable that there was depth to the academic success of the 130 eligible students:

• 3 students achieved an ATAR >99
• 22 students achieved an ATAR >95
• 35 students achieved an ATAR >90
• 66 students achieved an ATAR >85
• 83 students achieved an ATAR >80

Mrs Sue Martin
Assistant Principal
Teaching and Learning

Accelerating Academic Achievement

Teaching and Learning

Not so long ago, it seemed everyone was talking about 21st century skills and the need to change our pedagogy to ensure students were appropriately equipped to deal with the challenges of the future. Having been in the 21st century for thirteen years it seems timely to consider what this presently means. It was initially a more reflective statement on the nature of change and whilst that is still relevant, the real issue for educators today is the pace of change and working effectively with the previously unknown things created by it.

It used to be that ‘in my day’ change was referenced against generational change but the last ten years in education have seen more change than at any other period of time. Since the start of the 21st century the classroom has been introduced to the world of Wikipedia, iTunes, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and podcasts.

Their impact on communication, collaboration, critical and creative thinking has been profound. Those 21st century skills are practised in a completely different context now compared to thirteen years ago. Nearly every household has a touch screen tablet with a customised set of apps, to access and use information instantly and conveniently. We forget that the first iPad was released on 3 April 2010, three years ago. At the turn of the century who had conceived of such a thing? As it happens, Steve Jobs must have considered the possibility, imagined it and designed it into a commercial reality. This is the thinking that is transforming our world, faster than we realise and in ways previously unknown.

The new strategic intent for learning embraces this idea. To reframe the learning paradigm as one of possibility, growth and personal success is to ask teachers to imagine a learning future for the girls of Brigidine College, consider the possibilities unfettered by past practices and design them into practical and achievable realities. The strategic goals of enabling each girl to achieve her potential, delivering an engaging curriculum that meets the needs of now and the future, creating opportunities that build capacity for the future and instilling in each girl a confidence to transform her learning into action, are timeless. How do we that in a rapidly changing educational context requires a new paradigm that enables possibilities to become realities.

The introduction of the Australian Curriculum has presented a catalyst for change with the chance to evaluate our practice and consider improvements that align with the strategic goals. The general capabilities of literacy, numeracy, information and communication technology (ICT) capability, critical and creative thinking, personal and social capability, ethical understanding and intercultural understanding that are embedded in the syllabus documents focus our attention on a rich opportunity to think deeply on knowledge, understanding and skills in the planning process and produce integrated programs that offer more than they did previously. The use of technology, the construction of meaningful assessment, the consideration of individual learning needs with appropriate adjustment and resourcing are all opportunities to consider possibilities for an improved learning future.

All Heads of Department and their teachers have been asked to reflect on their practice and open their minds to ideas that embrace our strategic goals and contemplate what really is possible.

Mrs Sue Martin
Assistant Principal
Teaching and Learning

“The ATARs for our 2012 students have risen at every cut-off point. The number of students achieving an ATAR above 95 doubled and more than 50% of the cohort achieved an ATAR above 85. This is really pleasing as it shows us that the girls have improved within the Bands and that aiming for just one more mark has been a powerful goal that has worked.”

Mrs Sue Martin, Assistant Principal Teaching and Learning
As we look forward to moving into our wonderful new Performing Arts Centre in 2014, we need to look for opportunities and possibilities that will enable each girl to achieve her potential in Music. With new spaces for rehearsals and the improvement in facilities there is the prospect to involve more students in making music. As such, we are currently expanding and developing our instrumental and ensemble programs with the introduction of a Chamber Choir, Rock Band and Ensembles for Flutes, Clarinets, Saxophones, Brass, Guitars, Ukuleles and Percussion. This will inspire us to present more concerts and provide more opportunities for performing, leading to the possibility of music tours and scholarship programs.

Other ideas that we are investigating include the instigation of an instrumental program in Year 7 Music classes where every student learns an instrument, and the option of grading Music classes to allow for more extension and remedial work. The introduction of House Chores run by senior Music students is another idea that would create more leadership opportunities and, again, provide more prospects for performance.

Embracing the challenge to deliver an engaging curriculum that meets the needs of the 21st century has led to many departmental discussions. The concepts of lecture-style seminars and online units of work that allow students to work at their own pace are options that can now be integrated into our curriculum with the support of our enhanced technology.

With our aims to raise academic performance and aspire to excellence it is indeed fitting that we explore all the possibilities and continue to dream as our new building becomes a reality.

We are spending the next two terms planning our programming for the Australian Curriculum and at the heart of our planning we will hold in mind the main mathematical skills we want our students to develop. The following verbs were listed by Anne Watson and John Mason in 1988 as being the kinds of mental activity which they believe together “typify mathematical thinking”: Exemplifying, Specialising, Completing, Deleting, Correcting, Comparing, Sorting, Organising, Changing, Varying, Reversing, Altering, Explaining, Justifying, Verifying, Convincing, Refuting, Generalising and Conjecturing.

We plan to offer students experiences that allow them to practise these skills within the context of traditional mathematics alongside some meaningful applications. We also intend to streamline our scope and sequence of topics and highlight the connections between topics. Perhaps we can then go some way towards addressing the negative perception of mathematics that exists and develop our students’ abilities to think mathematically.

Mrs Rebecca Lovelock
Head of Mathematics

Australian Curriculum and Thinking Mathematically

Mathematics

For more than three decades there have been calls to reform the way mathematics is taught and learned. The new Australian Curriculum offers a great opportunity to address that. Mathematics is a highly interconnected subject that involves understanding and reasoning about concepts and the relationships between them, yet every year across the country, thousands of disinterested students fail to appreciate these connections and leave school believing mathematics to be completely irrelevant to them and their lives.

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Mrs Rebecca Lovelock
Head of Mathematics

Thinking the Fertile Question

Religious Education

In the 21st century Religious Education is expected to be at the core of the teaching and learning that takes place in the Religious Education classroom. The fertile question arises out of the kind of thinking that Religious Education not only offers a solid theological framework from which to draw academic understanding, but also offers a significant values based pedagogy that can shift a student’s self-understanding. Religious Education is a discipline that lends itself particularly well to the fertile question. This is because Religious Education not only offers a fertile question, it can be broken into subsidiary questions that can be broken into further questions.

The fertile question is:

- OPEN – there are several different or competing answers
- UNDERMINING – makes you question your basic assumptions
- RICH – cannot be answered without careful research and is usually able to be broken into subsidiary questions
- CONNECTED – relevant to you as a learner
- CHARGED – has an ethical dimension
- PRACTICAL – is able to be researched given the available resources.

The fertile question questions both teachers and students to ask questions that are rich, unfamiliar and unexpected. Through asking such questions, all are compelled to think, as responses cannot be drawn from ‘pat’ answers.

Mrs Ingrid Thompson
Head of Religious Education
Personalised Learning

Learning Support

An inclusive enrolment policy creates a range of diverse learning needs. To meet these needs, it is necessary to create structures which allow for the greatest number of students to be supported to realise their potential. Forward planning is necessary to identify and address the range of needs and bring about the most beneficial outcomes for all. For some students, this may mean simple adjustments to assessment tasks which enable them to perform to the best of their ability. For others it may involve the creative planning of new courses that challenge and engage them as individuals across a range of subjects.

The development of new programs in areas such as Life Skills Creative Arts in Stage 6 has been designed to cater for the individual preferences of students with specific disabilities, allowing them to follow their own relevant pattern of study from a mix of drama, visual arts, music and textiles. Other dimensions of the total learning experience have been delivered through music therapy and the Butterfly Café, giving further breadth to the curriculum by providing real-life learning experiences and strategies which have relevance and meaning for life beyond school.

The innovative use of technology has been explored through programs such as Successmaker and Read and Write Gold. These not only offer students greater access to the curriculum but also a chance to build their basic skills and improve at their own rate. Further technology improvements include the introduction of iPads and similar devices to address the specific learning needs of students through some of the innovative applications which enhance reading, speech and literacy/numeracy targets. The opportunities to individualise learning in an online environment continue to be explored.

Mrs Helen Thomas
Head of Learning Support

Critical and Creative Thinking

Honours Program

Last term the 2013 Brigidine Honours Program was launched with a presentation evening. This celebrated the Research Projects undertaken by Junior, Intermediate and Senior Honours students who appraised the independent learning they had undertaken and shared their appreciation of their chosen research questions. Examples of their research included an evaluation of whether fame is futile and if the stars still give us meaning. The evening showcased the essential capacity of the Honours Program to foster possibility, growth and success.

During this year’s weekly Honours tutorial sessions, held in the College Library, students have explored the nature of creativity and the process undertaken to realise an idea. The new Brigidine building project has provided ample resources, in the form of close analysis and presentations from the architects and builders, on the process of making a concept real. This has stimulated engaging discussions and encouraged students to think laterally.

The importance of effective public speaking has also been addressed and students have evaluated how to structure their ideas and deliver them powerfully. They have assessed the impact of TED Talks and studied public addresses.

To cultivate more ingenious and innovative thinking, girls may also attend The Philosophers’ Corner – a series of seminars that encourage critical thinking and explore the history of philosophical ideas. The Café de Flore will also be open for a one day seminar which enables students to learn about and debate the ideas purported by some of the world’s eminent philosophers.

Further to this, the residential creative writing course, Across the Water, will be accessible to students in Years 9 and 10 as an Honours Initiative. In addition, a one day seminar on creative expression, Moving Beyond: A word dropped carelessly on a page, has also been added specifically to meet the needs of Extension students in Years 11 and 12.

Ms Catherine Hickie
Honours Coordinator

Exploring Future Study and Work

Careers

It has been said that to be happy in work, a person should find the thing they love to do, and do it. If only it was that simple.

Whilst this statement appears idealistic, there is some truth to it. It leads to questions such as, how do you find out what that thing is and how do you get to do it? These questions are not easily answered but it is possible for anyone to make progress on the answers. Be purposeful about understanding the things that you prefer to do and what you are good at. Recognise the things that bring energy to your life and then make the connections to the world of work. These deliberate steps are the beginning of career exploration.

The role of the Career Counsellor at Brigidine is to help our students understand their preferences, identify the things they are good at and enjoy doing, and learn how to include them in their future work. It is about future possibilities. It is about helping students to find their beginning in future study and work, not just one single destination for life.

Within the Year 10 Career Program opportunity is given for students to engage more purposefully with who they are and how that can link to future study and career options. This is done through a career exploration tool called My Career Match. In Year 11, students will undertake a Personality Type assessment to further explore work through this understanding.

With this knowledge and personal understanding, students should then be confident in making choices that are congruent with themselves and recognise when they are indeed working toward doing the thing that they will love to do.

Can I encourage all who talk to young people to shift the focus from asking what they want to do with the rest of their lives? Instead, ask them about themselves, listen to them, hear their dreams and, with the wisdom gained through your own experiences, support them to be bold in pursuing things that they love to do.

And, yes, maybe it really is that simple.

Mrs Pamela Ledley
Career Counsellor
Rebuilding Brigidine

Capital Appeal

2012/2013 Capital Appeal

The success of our College Capital Appeals from 1999 to 2006 is evident by their contribution to the cost of construction of our Chapel, Religious Education Centre, Stowe Hall and renovations to the Romuald Hall, Quadrangle area, canteen and bathrooms.

The Board launched the 2012/2013 Capital Appeal to assist with the funding of Stage 2 of the Masterplan. In late 2012, Year 12 and some Year 11 parents were invited to attend an evening presentation by the College Principal, Mrs. Jane Curran, regarding the Masterplan and her vision for our College. With Jane, Brett Kimmorley, Chair of the 2012/2013 Capital Appeal, presented a review of the College Funding and Capital Appeal details demonstrating past parental support.

During April to June 2013 Di Lawrence, Director of Development and Community Relations, continued raising funds from Years 8 to 10 to attend these evening presentations.

Your support of the Capital Appeal program will assist the earlier completion of Stage 2 of the Masterplan.

Please visit our website to view more details regarding the current Capital Appeal Program.

All gifts to the Capital Appeal will help, no matter what size. If you are interested in becoming a Capital Appeal 2013 donor please contact Di Lawrence on 02 9886 6278 or email dlawrence@brigidine.nsw.edu.au.

It is time to build on the generosity of parents who participated in the 5 year pledge Capital Appeals from 1999 to 2006. Some parents in those Capital Appeals were gifting up to $10,000 per year over a 5 year pledge. Many parents gifted $1,000 per year over the 5 year pledge.

The Honour Boards listing all the donors names to the Capital Appeals from 1999 to 2006 that are currently located in the Convent Mezzanine area will be moved to the Bowie Hall at the end of this year.

We look forward to including your name on the Honour Board for the 2012/2013 Capital Appeal.

Mrs. Jane Curran, Di Lawrence and myself have commenced our monthly tax deductable gifts to Capital Appeal 2012/2013. This Capital Appeal is based on a 3 year pledge from donors.

Thank you for your support and participation in this exciting time of development at Brigidine College St Ives.

Mr. Brett Kimmorley
Chair – 2012/2013 Capital Appeal

Rebuilding Brigidine

Masterplan Update

By the time this edition of The Bridge goes to print, the first floor of the Performing Arts building will be taking visible shape beyond the site fence, and preparations will be well in hand for the construction of the roof.

Our contractor for the Stage 1 works, Co-Wyn Building Contractors, has proven to be an excellent choice, with the work progressing as fast as the weather has allowed and to a high standard of quality.

Within approximately the same time frame would be significant. There are savings to be made in site establishment costs. The build would be much easier, quicker and cheaper if Stage 2 could be brought to weather tight while there is still access for long trucks – before the tennis court and landscaping are completed. And the completion of both stages at once would provide welcome relief both to the College and our neighbours from the rigours of life next to a building site.

In this, of course, any and all contributions from the College community will be very significant in enabling us to proceed.

Brett Kimmorley’s article in this issue of The Bridge describes the ways in which you can help turn this exciting proposal into a reality.

Mr. Michael Layden
Director of Support Services

The project is running on time and on budget, so that we can look forward to occupying this excellent new Drama and Music facility for the beginning of the 2014 school year.

As the work has progressed, we have been looking long and hard at the possibility of bringing forward the construction of the Stage 2 Science building which will rise upon the eastern end of the Stage 1 car park slab.

The advantages of completing both stages within approximately the same time frame would be significant. There are savings to be made in site establishment costs. The build would be much easier, quicker and cheaper if Stage 2 could be brought to weather tight while there is still access for long trucks – before the tennis court and landscaping are completed. And the completion of both stages at once would provide welcome relief both to the College and our neighbours from the rigours of life next to a building site.

After careful consideration, the Board has approved the initial steps required to make this happen, subject to strict financial requirements. A Development Application for Stage 2 was lodged with Council on 8 March, and careful costings are being undertaken prior to a tender process. Very close monitoring of the College budget will be maintained to ensure that the project will proceed only if we are fully confident in its financial viability.
At the end of Term 1 the Bowie Hall stage was transformed into the classic high school immortalised in the musical Grease, for this year’s Brigidine College Musical. Over 100 students were involved, performing three evening shows to a rapturous reception from an audience of family and friends of the community. This production was an outstanding example of how good music and comic scenes can be ably led by the ensemble of lead cast members: Dan Gie, Madeleine McCauley-Rizzo and Charlotte Ronksley (Kenickie).

Grease proved to be one of the most successful Brigidine musicals in recent memory as the talented cast brought iconic songs such as ‘Summer Nights’, ‘Hopelessly Devoted To You’ and ‘You’re The One That I Want’ to life on stage.

Whilst the cast had to hang up their poodle skirts and letterman jackets at the end of the show’s run, in the words of the Pink Ladies and Burger Palace Boys — ‘we’ll always be together… we’ll always be together… wop ba ba lu mop, and wop bam boom!’

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Mr Chris Rutherford
Director
Students in Years 7 to 10 experienced a very successful and positive Camps program in 2013. Year 7 girls attended the Aussie Bush Camp at Tea Gardens and enjoyed the opportunity to develop stronger friendships and connections in a positive environment. Years 8 and 9 experienced camps with one night in tents and another night in cabins. While experiencing minor hardship being deprived of some home comforts, our students had a lot of fun and developed stronger connections with their Mentor groups. The Year 10 camp was a new initiative in 2013 with an ‘Urban Challenge’ around Sydney. Students explored the cultural and social diversity of life in Sydney while travelling together using their own resources to make decisions and get to their destinations. All camps were an opportunity for our girls to learn more about themselves in a different and challenging environment and to bring that learning back to their everyday lives.

Mr Brian Loughland
Assistant Principal
Pastoral Care

Y ears 11 and 12 experienced successful retreat programs whereby both staff and student evaluations reflected positive outcomes. At Brigidine retreats have long been a distinctive and important feature of College life. All retreats aim to give students and teachers a community experience in a relaxed environment in order to foster unity within the group based on confidentiality and trust. This year both groups celebrated a Mass and liturgies of forgiveness. Year 11 girls attended either a Street Retreat or a Spiritual Retreat, both with the theme ‘My True Self: Re-discovering myself and others’, intended to stimulate and engage students as they prepare for their final years of secondary education. Activities are designed to open students to their spirit dimension as well as fostering a sense of community and a heightened awareness of their own giftedness and that of others.

This year, 80 girls opted for the Street Retreat and were placed in venues across Sydney including Catholic Health Care Services, Sir Eric Woodward School, Mercy Friends Day Centre, Edmund Rice Centre, Sacred Heart Hospice, Youth Off The Streets, St Vincent de Paul Centres and Brigidine House.

Others attended a Spiritual Retreat at St Joseph’s Spirituality Centre in Baulkham Hills. This retreat centred on the analogy of the mask. Students explored the ‘masks’ they wear that often get in the road of who they really are. With the support of sacred place, prayer, meditation and anointing liturgies the group encountered a deeper understanding of their faith and their relationships.

The Year 12 Retreat aims to build on the Year 11 Retreat experience by extending self in relationship to their family, their peers and God. This year the seniors journeyed to Lutanda Centre, Mount Victoria, on a spiritual retreat where the theme ‘To Everything there is a Season’ was designed to prepare the girls for the stresses and challenges of the HSC year and beyond.

Mr Bill Gleeson
Assistant Principal
Religious Formation
In January, ten Year 12 girls travelled with Mr Gleeson and Mrs Gibson to Cambodia. The immersion was organised in partnership with Catholic Mission and we experienced the culture and activities of everyday life. We travelled all around Cambodia to the different provinces in a minibus, visiting a variety of Non-Government Organisations (NGOs). These included schools, orphanages, medical clinics and centres for the disabled and refugees. At each organisation we were given insight into the care they provided for the Khmer who are struggling.

This was an extremely successful and rewarding project for all involved.

Sophie Clisby
Year 12

Fifteen Year 11 and 12 students were involved in purchasing and donating over 40 bikes to primary school children in a rural community in Cambodia over the December 2012 - January 2013 break. The girls worked through the logistics of where to buy the bikes, how to transport them to the project and organised how the bikes were distributed and to whom. This task was completed with precision as the girls demonstrated their organisational skills – one of the key personal growth outcomes of the trip.

Another key outcome of the trip was to build a fence around the perimeter of the school using only local building materials. This was paid for by funds raised at barbecues conducted by the girls months earlier. Building the fence by hand meant the girls had to dig almost 100 metre-deep holes for the posts, then attach long strips of split bamboo as rails. They worked efficiently and the bamboo could not be cut quickly enough to keep up with them. The team used the extra time to prepare and paint the entire exterior of the school.

With a significant amount of money left over from their 12 month fundraising efforts, the girls were able to purchase new school bags for the remaining 230 students who did not receive a bike. Many of the students used to come to school carrying a plastic bag. No longer! The students designed their own 19 day trip and made daily decisions about accommodation, transport options, food choices and financial accountability.

This was an inspiration to all of us.

Ms Jo Baker
Teacher in Charge

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Welcome to Brigidine

We are blessed with new staff who bring to the College their skills, expertise and enthusiasm.

Our new staff members for 2013 are:

Mrs Leanne Miller: Head of Library Services
Mrs Radell Carlson: History
Mrs Rebecca Lovelock: Head of Mathematics
Ms Leah Crockett: Audio Visual Coordinator
Mrs Tawney Peachey: Head of TAS
Mrs Helen Wood: Learning Support (Semester 1)
Mr Charles Lovelock: Head of Co-curricular Music
Ms Aleisha Conlay: Publications Coordinator
Ms Lucy Hayward: Mathematics

We welcome them to our community.

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Goodbye and Farewell

We are sad to say ‘goodbye and farewell’ to our long-standing staff; Mrs Lorna Hall, Mr Michael Palme, Mr Allan Carters and Mrs Sue Brown. They will be greatly missed and we wish them every success for the future.

Below are some extracts of speeches given at their send-offs.

Lorna Hall

Ask anyone to describe Lorna and there will be a myriad of answers, but the three most common adjectives are funny, generous and outrageous! Her sense of humour and fun have kept colleagues and students entertained and enthralled for the past 18 years. She is exceedingly generous and compassionate and has given of her talents unstintingly in many areas of the school.

Throughout her years at Brigidine Lorna has cheered on Fatima as House Patron, played oboe and directed Musical productions, conducted the Concert Band and worked tirelessly to create and maintain staff morale – instigating such gems as the second-hand gift auction and dress-up days for staff. This is all in addition to her outstanding strength as a classroom teacher to motivate and encourage all her students to achieve their very best.

Lorna’s gift to Brigidine was her enthusiasm, humour and passion for music. In the words of Bono, “Music can change the world because it can change people.” Lorna has enriched our lives; we have been blessed with her talents and we thank her whole-heartedly.

Mrs Ros Boyd
Head of Music

Michael Palme

Michael started at the College in February 1982. During his time at Brigidine Mick had a number of roles. He has always been a much loved and well respected member of the teaching staff at Brigidine for many years. He has been Head of the Mathematics Department since 1997 and has always been passionate about teaching Mathematics. We will miss his enthusiasm and we wish him well in his new venture.

Mrs Maree Lindsay
Mathematics

Allan Carters

Allan is a wonderful cook and years ago we used to celebrate our birthdays with a special lunch. Allan would bring in his best china and silverware and we’d all make a dish, with Allen doing a brilliant main course. We’d have a terrific 30 minute lunch before the official school lunch break began and the students descended on us!

We wish Allen a healthy and fulfilling retirement and many years to enjoy it. We thank him for all the years of work and friendship we shared. He was always ‘The Boss’, and while we let him think we were afraid of him, it wasn’t true.

Mrs Philippa Goddard
Library

Sue Brown

In the early years, the tradition in the Home Economics Department as it was known then was to hold an annual fashion parade. Sue would spend hours preparing the girls for the parade, with lunchtime practices in the Textiles rooms and a Sunday practice in the old Romuald Hall. We would put on two shows, one at 6pm and the other at 7.30pm, on the last Wednesday of Term 3 every year.

Students from all Year groups would take part. In fact, almost every Year 7 and 8 girl would parade their skirts or t-shirts and shorts to the sounds of Celebration by Kool & The Gang. And the senior girls would model their formal wear to the sound of Madonna’s Vogue. Some things are hard to forget!

The idea was that the Year 11 students would run the show but as you can imagine, that didn’t always happen! Sue would spend endless hours putting together the music and running around arranging for the delivery of the catwalk, which would cost us a small fortune every year to hire. Thank you for your enormous contribution Sue and best wishes from us all.

Mrs Jan Whiddon
TAS
Developing a Growth Mindset

The College staff enjoyed an informative and challenging presentation from one of Australia’s most prominent adolescent psychologists, Andrew Fuller. Andrew has published many significant texts on managing today’s adolescents including Raising Real People and Tricky Kids. His presentation to Brigidine staff explored the notion of developing a ‘growth mindset’ in our community.

After exploring the recent developments in brain research and the links to learning in young people, Andrew took the staff through some practical and sensible strategies to ensure students stay connected in lessons and utilise fully their capacity to learn. Essential elements like healthy eating, getting enough sleep and maximising attention spans were discussed and supported with substantial research.

Andrew Fuller’s humorous and lively presentation style ensured that the day was a memorable one for staff. His presentation set a platform for the implementation of ‘Positive Education’ in the College and a greater awareness of the adolescent brain and adolescent learning.

Mr Brian Loughland
Assistant Principal
Pastoral Care

Threatening storms and ominous weather warnings didn’t deter the brave parents and staff determined to enjoy a great night of fun, food and drinks at the Aussie Fare held in February – and they were not disappointed! The PandF committee and a fantastic group of volunteer parents assembled a brilliant selection of food celebrating Australian cuisine and culture. Our new Year 7 parents were there in great numbers and were welcomed by the College Principal, Mrs Jane Curran and parents from other years. The PandF presented the College with a cheque for $35,000 to support refurbishment costs of the Library. This generous contribution was raised through PandF activities and the support of parents across the College.

A big thank you to all involved in what was a fabulous night of food and friends!

Laura Hurstfield
PandF President

Gerardette Seeto
PandF Functions Coordinator
The energy was almost enough to lift the roof off Warringah Aquatic Centre on 27 February when students across all Year groups participated in this year’s Swimming Carnival. In a wonderful display of costumes, colour and team spirit students cheered each other on across the entire day. The enthusiasm and leadership displayed by Year 12 was infectious and the response by the rest of the student body at times almost made staff for their energy and commitment and to all parents who supported their daughters on the day. Congratulations to Fatima on their well-deserved win.

### House Points

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### 2013 Age Champions

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<td>Mia Rolfe</td>
<td>Kaisha Leighton</td>
<td>Annabelle Oh</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Jacqueline Feurtado</td>
<td>Katie Manning</td>
<td>Isabelle Ronksley</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Orla Flynn</td>
<td>Kate Menzies</td>
<td>Madison Long</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Jasmine Follett</td>
<td>Olivia Findlay</td>
<td>Sophia Tonoli</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Louisa Bartels</td>
<td>Sophie Grieve</td>
<td>Brooke Menzies</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Madison Spencer</td>
<td>Nicole Cowan</td>
<td>Tierney Seeto</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### AWD

- Ellen Hester
- Equal 2nd: Rebecca Baczkowski, Alison Gillis

### Open 50m Invitational Champion

- Nicola Cowan

### School Swimming Champion

- Madison Spencer
Sports and Cocurricular Clubs

Sports

Gymnastics
Emma Nedov of Year 12 won a Silver medal on the beam in the Dyiak Cup in Gymnastics against gymnasts from all over the world. Alexander Dyiatin is the first athlete in Olympic history to win eight medals in one Olympic competition, a feat he accomplished in the long horse vault.

Kayaking
Emma Douglass of Year 11 has been selected for the 2013 Australian Junior Olympic Hopes Canoe Sprint Team. She will compete at the Junior Olympic Hopes Regatta in Racice, Czech Republic in September. Emma was selected based on her performance at the recent National Sprint Championships in WA where she won 3 bronze medals in her U18 events. This will be Emma’s second year in the Olympic Hopes team.

Netball
Georgia Marshall of Year 11 was awarded another yearly scholarship with NSW Institute of Sport (NSWIS) after her performance as Captain of the U17 NSW team at the Nationals in Darwin last April where the team finished third.

Softball
Amelia (Mim) Cudicio of Year 12 was selected for the Australian U19 team and will travel to the United States and Canada in June this year to compete in the U19 World Cup. She has also been granted a scholarship with the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) which involves travelling to Canberra on weekends to train with members of the Australian senior team. In addition to this, Mim was the recipient of a prestigious 2012 NSW Catholic Schools Blue. This award is presented to only one athlete per sport each year from all NSW Catholic Schools. Mim’s ability has now also been recognised beyond our shores with the offer of a 2014 Softball scholarship from the University of Hawaii.

Sailing
Pia Doyle of Year 10 competed in the NSW All Schools Sailing Championships at Belmont. Over a week of racing Pia and her crew accumulated enough points to finish first in the 13s Division, fourth in her Class and 11th across all Classes. As a result of her efforts Pia has been selected to take part in the Youth Development program run by NSW Sailing.

Swimming
Allie Gillis of Year 10 placed second in the 100m freestyle and third in the relay and butterfly at the Special Olympics Centenary Championship held in Canberra in April.

Water Polo
Madison Spencer of Year 11 competed for NSW in the U18 Club National Water polo Championships in Perth over the school holidays, winning Gold.

Centre for Excellence

Lions Club Youth of the Year Quests
The quest focuses on the leadership achievements of students in Years 11 or 12. Marks are awarded for leadership, personality, general knowledge, community involvement and academic and sporting achievements.

College Senior Vice Captain, Isabelle Kerstan, took part in the Frenchs Forest Lions Club quest, where she was the winner of the Public Speaking Award at the Presentation evening.

College Captain, Alex McInnes, represented Brigidine at the St Ives Lions Club quest.

In these competitions, Alex and Isabelle both gave exceptional five-minute speeches relating to the trip they undertook to Cambodia earlier this year.

Mock Trial
Enthusiastic students from Years 10 and 11 take part in this competition run by the Law Society of NSW. This year’s team was made up of Rebecca Elder (Barrister 1), Lucy Stafford (Barrister 2), Rhea Karanakan (Solicitor), Rebecca Bau-Gasper (Witness 1), Natalie Adams (Witness 2) and Alice Edwards (Court Official).

CSDA Public Speaking
Seven students from Years 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12 participated in Round 1 at Marian College, Kenthurst. Abbey Butler and Téa Delle Vergin of Year 7 and Jade Spencer of Year 8 progressed to Round 2, held at Our Lady of Mercy College, Parramatta. The girls spoke beautifully and should be proud of their achievements.

Rostrum ‘Voice of Youth’ Public Speaking Competition
Ellen Trimble of Year 8 spoke for six minutes on the topic The Games People Play. Her speech was humorous and she impressed the audience with her poise and confidence.
The annual reunion for the Pioneers was held at the College in March. The Pioneers are the women who were the first students of the College in the 1950s. The theme of this year’s reunion was “Compassion”. The day commenced with a Mass celebrated by Father Jim Elmore and Sr Maureen Keady. The Pioneer group within their Eucharistic celebration pondered the Word of God through both the experience of compassion and the movement into the to go in peace to continue their journey supporting and encouraging one another to live compassionately.

The day was also a special celebration for the Class of 1963, being the 50th reunion. We congratulate the Class of 1963 and share their joy at becoming Brigidine Golden Girls.

The annual Reunion Day for past students and staff was held on a beautiful spring day last October when we celebrated with the Classes of 1972, 1982, 1992 and 2002. The 40, 30, 20 and 10 year reunions commenced with an ‘Open House’ at the College. The alumni groups gathered at the Chapel to catch up with some of their former teachers and reconnect with their old classmates. They also enjoyed a tour of the College with current students as their very capable tour guides. For many, it was the first time they had returned to the College since they were students and they were all impressed with the many changes that have taken place. Seeing the old classrooms brought back fond memories and they shared some great stories of their student days.

The annual Back to Brigidine Reunion Day for the classes of 1973, 1983, 1993 and 2003 will be held on Saturday 26 October 2013. Reunions will commence with an Open House at the College from 2pm–4pm when past students are welcome to visit and see the many changes that have taken place since their graduation. It is also a great time to catch up with past staff. Each year group will then attend their own individual celebrations. More information can be obtained by contacting the year group organisers directly.

Class of 2003 – 10 year reunion
Contact Zoe Smith: zoesmith_6@hotmail.com

Class of 1993 – 20 year reunion
Contact Deb Hohnen: Division@optusnet.com.au

Class of 1983 – 30 year reunion
Contact Paula Jones-Pitt: paula_pitt@optusnet.com.au or Yolande Schilt: yolandeandpeter@bigpond.com

Class of 1973 – 40 year reunion
Contact Wendy Baxter: wbaxter@brigidine.nsw.edu.au

Calling members of the Classes of 1974, 1984, 1994 and 2004
2014 is your 40, 30, 20 and 10 year reunions. We are currently looking for organisers for these year group functions to be held in October 2014. If you can help please email Wendy Baxter, Alumni Coordinator wbaxter@brigidine.nsw.edu.au or call 9688 6254.
Great Connections

The Brigidine community would like to offer their congratulations and best wishes to a special lady, Denise McElhone, who has recently celebrated her 80th birthday in true style with a week of celebrations on Plantation Island in Fiji, attended by all 43 members of her family including 25 grandchildren.

An extraordinary connection exists between Brigidine College and the McElhone family.

Denise’s husband Andy was an architect and played a key role in the early development of the College. His extensive work included the design of the McCammon Wing (six classrooms), the extension of the Science laboratories (the McCammon Wing), the erection of a second extension to the Romuald Hall (offices and kitchen facilities) and the Sr Adrian Wing. That such excellent facilities exist at all is a tribute to Andy McElhone’s devotion and professional expertise.

Andy’s firm McElhone Lo Rapisarda continued their association with the College in later years with the design and supervision of the tennis courts and the refurbishment of the Convent, St Brigids’ Chapel and PE centre.

However the McElhone connection does not end there – Denise and Andy have always been very involved in College life. They were active members of the ParentFac committee and all their seven daughters were educated at Brigidine and continued on to university:

1. Mary (Class of 1979) was College Vice Captain and now practises as a solicitor.
2. Anne (Class of 1980) was College Vice Captain and Lourdes House Captain and is now a teacher.
3. Margaret (Class of 1981) was Lourdes House Captain and appeared in the first college musical ‘The Mikado’ in 1976 and is now a teacher.
4. Kate (Class of 1983) was Lourdes House Patron and a prefect and is now an architect.
5. Sally (Class of 1984) was a prefect and is now a social worker.
6. Leonore (Class of 1987) appeared in several Brigidine productions and is now an architect.
7. Jane (Class of 1989) was College Captain and is now an accountant.

Denise is still often seen at the College attending many events, proudly supporting her grandchildren who are current students – Eleanor McElhone of Year 11, Isabelle McElhone of Year II, Madeline Baillie of Year 10 and Amelia Baillie of Year 12 – so the wonderful McElhone connection continues.

We would like to thank Denise and her family for being such an integral part of our Brigidine community.

Archives

The Brigidine Archives has a good collection of school uniforms from 1954, however, there is only one example of the summer dress worn from early 1960 through to about 1971. The material was fawn with a thin vertical maroon stripe and a thin horizontal white stripe creating a check. The dress had pleats, a belt and three maroon buttons at the front. If you have one of these uniforms hidden away in a cupboard we would love to look after it for you. Or if you have any material left over, the archive could have replica uniforms made for displaying.

Another uniform in short supply is the red, pleated sport skirt worn from 1981 through to 1986. Again, if you have one gathering dust in a cupboard the Archives would really appreciate a donation.

We display the uniforms throughout the year at reunions and other special events where students both past and present enjoy seeing the evolution of the Brigidine College St Ives school uniform.

A woman with a Vision

Sr Joan Smith CSB

It is with sadness that the College advises the death of Sr Joan Smith CSB who was a past Principal of Brigidine College St Ives from 1989–1995.

Sr Joan came to Brigidine from St Clare’s College, Canberra to be Principal for 5 years. She was an academic woman of vision who came to the position with clear goals of building upon the College’s strengths, to develop the students’ creativity, challenge their intellectual reasoning and prepare them for a changing world all within a holistic educational environment. She wanted to invigorate the College and raise its public profile and prestige. Sr Joan displayed an obvious interest in scholastic debate. As she believed all of this to be undermined by Catholicism, Sr Joan encouraged the profile and demonstration of spiritual development within the College.

Seizing upon the Department of Education’s new broad-based interrelated curriculum, Sr Joan provided students with courses – Philosophy/Logic and Computing Studies – and subject options – Woodwork and Metalwork – often not available in other girls’ schools.

To ensure the resources for these courses were available she embarked upon major building projects and an enhancement of the staff skill base.

As someone with a love of flowers and appreciation of the impact aesthetics has upon an institution’s ambience, Sr Joan also turned her attention to beautifying the fabric of the College.

Sr Joan and the College encountered many challenges in fully implementing courses available in other girls’ schools.

Following the leave of the College, Sr Joan taught English to final year BA students at the University in Chongqing, China.
Alumni

Weddings

Emilia Ryan, Vice Captain, Class of 2000

Emilia Ryan and Joel Lowe were married at their home in Collingullie NSW on 10 November 2012. The newlyweds moved from Wagga to Collingullie last year to finally settle after playing gypsy around the state for a number of years.

The wedding was attended by family and close friends including Emilia’s former Brigidine class mates who travelled from all over Australia to attend the celebration. It was a casual garden affair with guests enjoying the entertainment provided by the Tin Shed Rattlers.

Emilia is currently on maternity leave looking after the couple’s 16 month old son Banjo.

Joel, who grew up on a property just outside Henty NSW, finally settle after playing gypsy around the state for a number of years.

The happy couple had a delayed honeymoon in Thailand a few months after the wedding to fit in with the university break.

Jessica and Tim have bought a home in Wyoming, Gosford.

Bianca Chidrawi, School Captain, Class of 2004

Bianca Chidrawi married Christopher Parington on 6 April 2013. The couple met at the 21st birthday party of close friend Eliza Coller (Fatima Vice Captain, Class of 2004).

There were many Brigidine connections at the wedding ceremony: Maid of Honour Eliza Coller and bridesmaid Emma Poole (Fatima House Captain, Class of 2004), Mother-of-the-bride Glenda (current Science teacher at the College) and many past students, parents and teachers were among the guests.

The marriage took place in Dalton Chapel at St Ignatius’ College, Riverview, celebrated by Fr Peter Dowd. The reception was held at the Taronga Centre, where guests dined and danced, enjoying a splendid Sydney sunset over the harbour.

Jessica currently works as a freelance artist and graphic designer. Jessica and Tim have bought a home in Wyoming, Gosford.

Where are they now?

Megan McGrath (nee Liddy) Class of 1993

I can’t quite believe it’s been 20 years since I graduated with the Class of 1993. Although it doesn’t seem that long ago, plenty has happened.

After leaving school I went to the University of Technology, Sydney where I completed my Human Movement Degree majoring in Sports Management. I then travelled overseas backpacking with friends before returning to Sydney to work. After spending some time working in Corporate Health, I moved into Sports and Corporate Event Management where a career highlight was my involvement with the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games in 2000. I was later offered the role of General Manager for the Layne Beachley Aim for the Stars Foundation. This foundation provides financial and moral support to young women across Australia to help them realise their dreams in academic, sport, business, environmental and community pursuits. We support young women who have initiative and passion, who are committed to achieving a dream and courageous enough to ask for help along the way.

I am really enjoying leading a foundation where I believe we are making a difference to aspiring girls around the country. I feel so fortunate to be able to combine a busy home life with a challenging job that I love and believe in.

With a daughter enrolled for Brigidine in 2015, my hope for her is that she enjoys her secondary schooling as much as I did, makes the most of all the wonderful opportunities Brigidine offers and leaves with a confident, young woman ready to pursue her interests and the journey along which they take her.

Stephanie Oesterheld Class of 2008

Stephanie has recently completed her fourth year of a 5 year Chemical Engineering and Science degree at the University of Sydney and gained valuable work experience during the summer break with Newcrest Mines. The job was ‘fly-in, fly-out’ from Perth to Telfer Mine – a gold and copper mine in the Great Sandy Desert, 1,700ks northeast of Perth.

Stephanie has been accepted to complete her degree on exchange to Aarhus University in Denmark commencing September this year. She plans to travel around Europe for two months before University begins with Sophia Goodwin (also Class of 2008), who has completed a degree in Occupational Therapy. Stephanie hopes to then return to Telfer Mine as a graduate in 2014.

Jessica O’Connor, College Captain, Class of 2002

Jessica married Timothy Switzer in March 2012. Timothy is the brother of Corinne Switzer, Class of 2001, Jessica’s bridesmaid was her sister Rebecca Junghans (nee Fitzgerald) Class of 1997. The wedding had a Japanese theme and Jessica wore a beautiful antique Japanese kimono obi with her wedding dress. The reception was held at the Edogawa commemorative gardens at Kooringal High School in Wagga Wagga.

Jessica O’Connor married Richard Abraham last July at the Botanic Gardens overlooking the harbour.

In the photos you may recognise a few of the Brigidine girls: Maggie Davey (nee Robinson) and Erin Coggins – both Class of 2002 House Captains, and Jessica’s sister Liz O’Connor Class of 2008 – also a House Captain! Lots of Brigidine ‘old girls’ attended as well.

Jessica is currently in her second year of post-grad as a medical resident at North Shore Hospital and has just finished a rotation in Paediatrics and about to start another term in the Emergency Department.

Jessica and Richard have just bought their first home – an apartment in Northbridge.

Stephanie Oesterheld at Telfer Mine, WA

Megan McGrath with Layne Beachley

Stef Oesterheld at Telfer Mine, WA

Alumni

Where are they now?
Term Dates

2013 Term Dates for Students

Term 3
Tuesday 16 July: TERM 3 COMMENCES
Friday 20 September: TERM 3 ENDS

Term 4
Monday 7 October: Public Holiday
Wednesday 9 October: TERM 4 COMMENCES
Thursday 5 December: TERM 4 ENDS

2014 Term Dates for Students

Term 1
Thursday 30 January: Year 7 and New Student Orientation Day
Friday 31 January: TERM 1 COMMENCES
Friday 11 April: TERM 1 ENDS
Thursday 17 April – Monday 21 April: Easter
Friday 25 April: ANZAC Day

Term 2
Tuesday 29 April: TERM 2 COMMENCES
Monday 9 June: Queen’s Birthday Holiday
Friday 20 June: TERM 2 ENDS

Term 3
Tuesday 15 July: TERM 3 COMMENCES
Friday 19 September: TERM 3 ENDS

Term 4
Monday 6 October: Public Holiday
Wednesday 8 Oct: TERM 4 COMMENCES
Thursday 4 December: TERM 4 ENDS

Reunion Dates 2013

Class of 2003
10 Year Reunion
26 October 2013
Contact Zoe Smith: zoe_smith_8@hotmail.com

Class of 1993
20 Year Reunion
26 October 2013
Contact Deb Hishon: Dhishon@optusnet.com.au

Class of 1983
30 Year Reunion
26 October 2013
Contact Paula Jones-Pitt: Paula_j_p@optusnet.com.au
or Yolande Schilt: yolandeandpeter@bigpond.com

Class of 1973
40 Year Reunion
26 October 2013
Contact Wendy Baxter: wbaxter@brigidine.nsw.edu.au