Friends
OF ST. BRIGID’S

SPRING 2011

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FRIENDS OF ST BRIDGID’S

Lifelong Learning Begins Early – Three Year Old Kindergarten Programme Introduced

This year St Brigid’s introduced a Three Year Old Programme to the Junior School. St Brigid’s recognises the importance of quality early learning and the learning programme has been developed with an emphasis on the whole child and the interrelationship between mind, body and spirit. This holistic approach highlights the children’s physical, personal, social, emotional and spiritual well-being as well as cognitive aspects of learning. Learning is a social and collaborative activity and takes place when connections are made between children, families and communities as well as reciprocal relationships and partnerships. Connections are also made to the natural world in understanding and respecting the natural environment and the interdependence between people, plants, animals and the land.

At St Brigid’s we recognise that children are learning from conception and develop in their own time and at their own pace. We understand that all children are strong, competent and unique and programmes have been developed to enhance them as creative and independent thinkers, great problem solvers and communicators who learn to grow through play. The Three Year Old Programme is an inclusive, fun filled and dynamic programme for early years providing a genuine education and care choice for families in an inviting and nurturing environment.

Mrs Jacque Fox
FRIENDS OF ST BRIGID’S

Kevin and Fiona Ball – “We believe St Brigid’s provides the best environment and education in the hills area.”

Ryoko Armstrong – “My daughter loves 3 year old Kindy and she is having a wonderful time. It has been great to be part of this lovely community. Not only our daughters, but our life is more colourful and enjoyable. Thank you.”

Tracy Gall – “The best thing about 3 year old Kindy is that my child feels free, safe, happy and loved by teachers and students.”

Kelly Sabetta – “The Kindy is fun, entertaining and structured. The best things about this Kindy are the diverse learning activities and quality facilities on offer.”

Michelle Parker – “My daughter loves it and is very happy everyday. Mrs Masella is fabulous. We are blessed to have been given the opportunity for our children to attend St Brigid’s.”

Lisa Wibberley – “It is a great programme for 3 year olds. There is so much on offer and to do, my daughter loves it. The programme is excellent and I would recommend it to anyone.”

The Good Food and Wine Show was held in Perth from 15 to 17 July with Celebrity Chefs including Manu Fieldel, Matt Moran, George Colombaris, Gary Mehigan and Anna Gare. Working alongside these high profile foodies was Year 11 student Lani Mumford.

Lani is undertaking the Kickstart Programme with Hospitality Group Training each Thursday and Friday and was chosen to be involved with the Good Food and Wine Show due to her outstanding work in the Programme.

Mrs Lesley Elder

Lani Shines At Good Food and Wine Show

Manu and Lani

George, Lani and Gary
The College is very proud of the splendid performances of our 2010 cohort. Highlights included no fewer than ten WA Curriculum Council Awards and 18 students gaining over 90 ATAR (Tertiary Entrance Rank). St Brigid’s was equal top in WA with 100% in both Secondary Graduation and the % of VET students achieving Certificate II or better. St Brigid’s also gained the highest percentage of first preference offers for University of any Catholic College with 81%.

**HONOUR ROLL**

Certificates of Distinction:
- Megan Ansell (2)
- Aisling McGovern

Certificates of Excellence:
- Crista De Nardi
- Megan Ansell
- Shannon Wyllie
- Hayley King
- Katie Tobiassen
- Shai Driver

Westscheme Award:
- Lauren Curtis

90+ ATAR:
- Crista De Nardi
- Megan Ansell
- Rachel Ezzard
- Rebecca Metcalf
- Chelsea Doncon
- Aisling McGovern
- Elizabeth Babic
- Elise Hyatt
- Stephanie Howard
- Ashleigh Sorbara
- Phillippa Constable
- Andrea Preciato
- Caitlin Williams
- Verity Greaves
- Emma Sims
- Tiffany Warne
- Kathryn McCain
- Laura McLean

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**Welcome to Akiri Kamikawatoko**

We welcome to the College our new Japanese Teacher Assistant, Akari Kamikawatoko. Akari is 20 years old and is from Kagoshima. She has been in Perth for a few months, and is staying until next March in the Boarding House. Akari would like to improve her English and enjoy the Australian lifestyle. If you see Akari about the College please say “Hello!” or “Konnichiwa!”.

**Left:** Akiri

Suzie Olman
Merilyn Major

Right: Akiri
Senior School Highlights

2011 in the Senior School commenced with the exciting news of some exceptional academic results from our 2010 cohort. Some of the many highlights included an impressive total of 10 Curriculum Council Awards including three Certificates of Distinction, two being awarded to Megan Ansell and one to Aisling McGovern, six Certificates of Excellence, to Crista De Nardi, Megan Ansell, Shai Driver, Shannen Wylie, Hayley King and Katie Tobiassen, and the Westscheme Award which went to Lauren Curtis. Crista De Nardi had the highest ATAR on 99.20 whilst 18 girls achieved an ATAR over 90. Other commendable aspects included the exceptional performances in Religion and Life 3A, English 3A, Visual Arts, Media and Dance, and the wonderful achievement of being the top school in WA in terms of the percentage of our students receiving first preference offers for University.

The 2011 team of student leaders has provided splendid leadership. Head Girl Olivia Di Leo and her Deputy Eleanor Davidson have both been outstanding whilst College Leaders Laura Ing (Ministry), Julia Primerano (Learning), Maddison Byrne (Arts), Beaudie Currie (Sport) and House Captains Johanna Borger (Docherty), Georgia Hill (McAuley), Bronte Walter (O’Connor), Bridget Sullivan (Rielly), Hanna Sibbald (Shine) Tahlia Ferreira (Watson), along with Head Boarder, Clare Ingram and Tahlia Ferreira and Courtney Payne as the boarding deputies, have provided good support.

House spirit as always has been excellent and there has been keen rivalry in 2011. Rielly won both the Swimming Carnival and the Public Speaking but trails the others at present, with a powerful Watson leading after victories in House Debating, Soccer, Cross Country, Master Chef and Project Compassion, with Docherty close behind after victories in the Homeroom Quiz and the Fun Run where the individual winner was Ashleigh Juffermans. In the area of student leadership it is very pleasing to announce that the Hasluck Awards have been reintroduced, and that St Brigid’s Year 11 student Joanna Pryce was selected to go to Canberra, sponsored by MLA for Hasluck, Ken Wyatt. This is our second winner, Paige Boyatzis having been selected in 2005.

As always, the series of wonderful events which provide the rich culture of St Brigid’s has again been most impressive in 2011 with a wonderful Opening Mass, splendid Dance Night, a fine production of A Servant Of Two Masters with Mazenod College, the Year 12 Retreat at Club Capricorn, and a very successful new venture, a three day Year 11 Retreat at New Norcia, where the girls were privileged to have wonderful spiritual opportunities provided by the Benedictine monks. A memorable talk from Abbot John was particularly inspiring.

The St Brigid’s Choir recently travelled to Sydney for a National Schools’ Choir Event, performed at several venues including the Sydney Opera House, and came away with the outstanding honour of a Silver Medal. Congratulations to Ms Erika Kujda, Ms Catherine Wade and all girls involved on a truly exceptional performance. Law Mock Trials and Interschool Debating have also been very successful.

The Academic Challenge Programme for gifted and talented students continues to thrive with record numbers in 2011.

A new Year 10 Camp at Anapana Ridge was most successful, as were the Year 11 and 12 camps at Rottnest. So far, 12 outstanding past students have spoken at the four Academic Challenge Seminar Breakfasts or one of the three camps. In Term 3, our first Academic Challenge Canberra Tour took place, highlighting history, law and politics, whilst also visiting Sydney and having a day skiing at Thredbo.

In late November a party of 31 leave on this year’s exciting Academic Challenge Europe Tour which includes Malta, Rome, Pompeii, Stratford, Cambridge and London. Tours in other areas have included a wonderful Immersion Tour to Cambodia in the Term 3 holidays.

Sporting highlights for first semester have included a magnificent victory in the “A Division” ACC Swimming Carnival, the first time St Brigid’s has won the top division. Congratulations to our new Sports Co-ordinator Coby Henderson, all coaches and swimmers on a wonderful achievement. The footballers were undefeated minor premiers in the elite “Moore Division” of WA School Girls’ Football, but lost narrowly to John Septimus Roe in a tough Grand Final at East Fremantle oval, whilst Basketball, Netball, Tennis, Soccer and Hockey teams performed well, with Hockey and Soccer also reaching the finals, and Hockey winning their Grand Final game.

Jim Miller
Head of Senior School
Ciao Italia! – Italian Study Tour

Ten excited students of Italian accompanied by Ms Calabro and Mrs McAllister recently participated in an enriching tour of a lifetime to Italy.

After an exhausting flight we landed at Malpensa in Milan at daybreak and boarded our coach to Reggio Emilia where the families from our host school Liceo Ariosto Spallanzani were eagerly awaiting our arrival. The tension and nervousness was evident as the girls met their families for the first time and were taken home to rest after a marathon journey. Awakening the next day to a town covered in snow was absolutely magical! This was the beginning of a beautiful friendship and cultural appreciation that evolved in the following weeks between the girls and their host families as they welcomed them into their home and cared for them lovingly. The bond that was established was evident as we left Reggio Emilia station amidst sad tears and emotional embraces.

Thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of the English Teacher, Elisabetta Sartori, the girls had the opportunity to experience Italian school life and were included in many extra curricular activities. The highlights were class excursions to Milan and Turin where students were able to integrate with the Italian teenagers and get an insight into their reality.

On leaving Reggio Emilia we embarked on the cultural component of our tour. Our first destination was Venice. It was very emotional for the girls to see this serene, dream city in real life. The days that followed saw us cruising the canals, walking over endless bridges, losing ourselves in the side streets and exploring the famous islands of Murano and Burano. A memorable, unforgettable experience was Sunday Mass in St Mark’s Basilica. After a final tour of the Grand Canal we arrived at the train station and caught the train for our next destination. Arrivederci Venezia!

Ciao Firenze! What an enchanting welcome to Florence! Sunday afternoon the city was overflowing with locals and tourists, leisurely shopping, sightseeing and enjoying the Christmas festive events. In the days that followed we took in the artistic splendours that the city has to offer and day trips to nearby Tuscan cities. An eventful day saw us attempting to straighten the Leaning Tower of Pisa, followed by a beach walk in the seaside town of Via Reggio, a walk along the walls of the medieval town of Lucca and finally dinner in our favourite trattoria in Florence.

As we moved on to our final destination, the eternal city of Rome, we were filled with excitement and sadness because we were approaching the end of the tour. The long but scenic train ride was useful for the girls to reflect on their experiences and observations and write their journal entries.

Rome never ceases to astound! We walked to the Pantheon and the Trevi Fountain and threw our coins into the fountain. We explored the treasures of the Vatican Museum and the grandeur of St Peter’s Basilica and were taken by surprise with a snowfall – a rarity for Rome! The last day in Rome we relived history as we wandered for hours around ancient Roman icons.

The tour was full of highlights, discoveries and cultural insights. We are delighted and privileged that we were able to instil into the girls so much passion, love and appreciation of such a remarkable country and culture.

The girls are to be congratulated on the enthusiastic manner in which they embraced all components of the tour. They were excellent ambassadors for St Brigid’s College and their country. The following comments from Elisabetta Sartori, the Italian exchange coordinator is clear evidence of this:

“I am just writing to tell you how positive the whole experience was, and how happy we all were to live the two weeks of friendship, cultural exchange, and mutual affection which really touched our hearts. The openness, good manners and liveliness of the girls were highly appreciated by the students and their families. Thank you then, for sending such a good specimen of the Australian character to our distant country; I am convinced that it is thanks to these opportunities of meeting and welcoming real people that the great ideals of peace and goodwill can be fulfilled.

We look forward to another enriching, successful Italian study Tour in 2012!”

Ms Maria Calabro
Mrs Elia McAllister
The Nations’s Capital Beckons

Year 11 Student Joanne Pryce spent some time in the nation’s capital, Canberra in mid-August as a guest of the Australian Government and the member for Hasluck, Ken Wyatt.

Joanne’s win in the 2011 Hasluck Leadership Award is a credit to her focus on excellence and commitment to her studies. The Hasluck Leadership Award is open to all Year 11 students in the Hasluck Electorate. Applicants are interviewed and assessed by a panel comprising a representative from Qantas, the Corporate, Political and Business sector and a community member.

All applicants were required to prepare a five minute speech on what it means to be an Australian and what Australia personally means to me. Joanne’s very empathetic and heartfelt speech focussed on the opportunities we have available to us in Australia and the sacrifices of the ANZACs which today enable us to live in such a free and peaceful country.

As a prelude to her visit to Canberra, Joanne who hopes to pursue a career in Law, spent a day at Parliament House in Perth as a guest of the Federal Member for Hasluck, Ken Wyatt and Head Boys and Girls from schools in the Hasluck region. During the visit, Mr Wyatt encouraged the pursuit of political careers by young women. Who knows, the visit to Canberra by Joanne may well see her change her career choice from Law to Politics.

Annamaria Cream
Director of Community Relations

Year 10s Skate the Night Away

The Year 10 Rollerskating social was held in Term 1 at the Morley Rollerdrome. The evening began with great anticipation with most girls arriving very early, some as early as 6.20pm for a 7.00pm start (it was great to see). It was also wonderful to see the girls skating throughout the night and they were all well behaved. The evening finished with a few casualties and I am sure that there were a few sore muscles and blisters – but all was well worth it.

I would like to thank the staff who attended the evening and helped make it a special night for the girls – Mr Derek Cumpsty, Mrs Jillian Gilbertson, Mrs Ruth Coad, Mrs Maria Calabro, Mrs Jill Hafekost and Mrs Anna Kidd.

Caterina Tomeo
Year 10 Team Leader
Leukaemia Foundation – World’s Greatest Shave

Early this year, five Year 12 girls shaved their heads in support of the Leukaemia Foundation. The Leukaemia Foundation raises money to provide further funding towards research to cure blood cancer for children and adults. Overall $6000 was raised.

The support of the school community was amazing, and having the whole Senior School in the Gym watching and donating and then having the Junior School pour through the doors to see what the noise was about really showed us what a community can do. At the lunchtime shave, over $2000 from the girls and staff was raised.

Having a shaved head has really had an effect on us. The five of us who shaved have noticed how we are treated differently and our eyes have truly been opened to what cancer sufferers go through when going out and doing completely normal things like shopping and walking.

Maddison Byrne Year 12

Boarders Lead the Way

We are delighted this year that eight boarders from Years 7 - 9 have been elected as Student Council Representatives. Congratulations to the following girls:

- Kristen De Marco – Ministry
- Georgia Rees – Sport
- Montana Ahwon – Learning
- Ashleigh Milne – Sport
- Melissa Sutherland – Arts
- Rebecca Elliot – Ministry
- Daffodil Joseph Anton – Ministry
- Gabriella Miller – Arts
- Sean Fitzpatrick - Arts
- Casey Dwyer – Ministry

Annamaria Cream
Head of Boarding
Choir Brings Home Silver

The St Brigid’s College Choir Tour to the International Music Festival in Sydney was an outstanding success. The girls were given some amazing opportunities and their development in terms of performance was outstanding due to expert adjudication comments and workshops by some of Australia’s finest musicians. The girls experienced world-class performances by international ensembles such as the Permonik Youth Choir from the Czech Republic, a Chinese Orchestra who performed their entire repertoire from memory and various concert bands from Singapore.

The Choir also had the opportunity to perform their repertoire at famous locations. These included the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Angel Place, St Andrew’s Cathedral and a once in a lifetime performance at the Sydney Opera House. Another highlight was the massed choir performance, where St Brigid’s College Choir joined with the Permonik Youth Choir, the Sydney Girls’ Choir and the Australian Girls’ Choir to perform with over 200 singers on the stage at the Sydney Conservatorium.

It wasn’t all hard work though - we must not forget all the wonderful sightseeing we did! We would not be proper tourists if we did not go on a Sydney Harbour Cruise, enjoy the views of the Harbour Bridge or visit the historic St Mary’s Cathedral. Those of us brave enough went up in the famous Westfield Tower and looked out over Sydney 304 metres above the ground!

We did loads of shopping at the Pitt Street Mall and Paddy’s Markets in Chinatown. We stepped back in time at the historic Rocks district and markets, and even met a real life guard at Bondi Beach! Most amazing of all however, was the Silver Medal awarded to the St Brigid’s College Choir at the presentation evening on the final night. To achieve this award is a huge accomplishment at an international festival.

Mrs Maryanne Coote
Year 8 Da Vinci Decathlon

On Friday 3rd June when most girls were having a sleep-in, a team of eight Year 8 students ventured off to Wesley College to take part in the annual Da Vinci Decathlon. The Da Vinci Decathlon is an academic interschool gala day operated in the spirit of an Olympic decathlon, with a variety of events of an academic nature, honouring the intellectual and artistic diversity of Renaissance man; Leonardo Da Vinci. The challenges were in the areas of Engineering, Art and Poetry, Science, English, Creative Producers, Forensic Sleuths, Games of Strategy, Mathematics and General Knowledge.

The girls spent many hours during lunchtimes for five weeks in preparation for the event which was held at Wesley College. In all, 24 other schools took part on the day and our girls did us proud finishing in 10th place! We are especially proud to announce that our girls scored 100% in Science finishing in 1st place and 4th in General Knowledge. These are great achievements.

The girls were a great pleasure to work with and the staff thoroughly enjoyed the time they spent watching them develop and grow as a team.

Mrs Nicola Lee
Welcome to Masterchef St Brigid’s Style

Late in Term 2, St Brigid’s College transformed into a hive of cooking activity, as 30 Homerooms and six staff teams competed to be awarded the title of ‘St Brigid’s Masterchef’ for 2011.

Students donned aprons, chef’s caps and the obligatory cravat to begin the event; whilst staff donned ‘hard hats’ as their creations were under construction. Each team was required to design and prepare the ‘ultimate salad’ in a time period of 20 minutes. This year, teams went beyond a simple lettuce salad and served dishes worthy to be tasted by any ‘refined palate’ and plating was quite unique, including a coconut, a cobb loaf and a whole pineapple.

This year saw the inclusion of a guest celebrity judge, Season 1 contestant from the Masterchef television programme, Josh Catalano, who deemed that the team from McAuley 5 and the staff team of Mrs Brown and Mrs Stallard, were the winners of the competition. The event has become renowned for its community building, as students, teaching and non-teaching staff work along side each other, in true ‘Mercy Spirit’.

I would particularly like to commend the Learning Leaders in Years 7 – 12, for their enthusiasm, leadership and hard work in the lead up to the event. 2012 preparations are already under way, as the theme will be the ‘Ultimate Barbeque’.

Ms Janine Walsh
Director of Curriculum
Staff and students enjoyed a Japanese flavour to House Focus Day recently. Houses came together for fun and games which began with Japanese style fitness called Taikusai. Many thanks to Mrs Suzie Olman, the House Coordinators and the House Leaders for a fun filled active session in the beautiful sunshine.
St Brigid’s College once again made the Grand Finals of the WA School Girls Moore Division League. We controlled 70% of the play in the first half but failed to capitalise, leading by just two points at half time. After half time, our opponents, John Septimus Roe used their opportunities better and won the game by ten points.

Tahnee Phillips and Angel Hayward were superb for St Brigid’s with Bridget Sullivan, Georgia Majko, Suraya Sambo and Laura Ing all contributing well.

Overall, it has been a fabulous season with the girls finishing ladder leaders at the end of the qualifying rounds. Our Year 12s showed great leadership throughout the season and helped keep alive the incredible record St Brigid’s has of making the finals every year in the 11 years we have played school girls football.

Mr Jim Miller

It’s Mine!

Catch me if you can.

Asha in action.

Suraya kicking in style.
Champion Schools Softball Team

The St Brigid’s Softball Team recently made it to the Semi Finals of the Champion Schools Competition. The team consisted of 13 players from Years 9-11 and a range of abilities from girls who have played before to those playing for the first time. The team finished 2nd in their pool only losing one game to Thornlie Senior High School. They progressed to the semi-finals unfortunately losing to Darling Range Senior High School. Overall, finishing 4th out of 12 schools was an outstanding result for the College’s first time in the Champion Schools Competition.

Mrs Leah Parry

Singapore Hockey meets the West

Earlier this year, the St Brigid’s Year 11 and 12 Girls Hockey team played in an exhibition match against a travelling Singapore team. The 20 strong team of girls from Anglo-Chinese Junior College in Singapore were in Perth for a training trip and were looking to play some practice matches in the lead-up to their 2011 season start. Having only a week and a half to prepare for the match, the St Brigid’s girls took on the challenge and coach Mike Mawhirt crammed in five training sessions in the short period of time to prepare the girls to the best of their ability.

The Singapore hockey team is the current runner up in the National A Division Hockey Tournament in the Singapore Junior College Competition. Despite their diminutive stature and lack of experience on a grass field, the Singaporean girls acquitted themselves very well against the St Brigid’s team. St Brigid’s had numerous early scoring opportunities against the visitors, but failed to capitalise due to some great defense and a few rusty attempts at goal. The Singaporean girls then managed to turn defense into attack and score the opening two goals to lead 2-0 at half time. St Brigid’s rallied after half time to score the first goal of the half thanks to a quality strike from Michaela Thorn. However the celebrations were short lived as Singapore scored the next two goals to win the match 4-1.

The game was a great success and a fantastic tune-up for the St Brigid’s girls prior to their season start in early May. At the conclusion of the match both teams relaxed and enjoyed each other’s company and shared stories of their very different playing conditions and home lives.

Mr Coby Henderson
Sports Co-ordinator
Sarah On Her Way To Cycling Success

Year 7 student Sarah Tucknott has been selected in the West Australian Cycling development squad as a pathway into WAIS (WA Institute of Sport). Her brother Reece is already in WAIS.

Sarah finished third in her first attempt at the 2011 Mountain Bike Nationals as a 12 year old racing in the Under 15s (technically she is too young).

She won four gold medals at the 2011 State Track Cycling Championships in the U13s. She then won the Champion of Champion’s Trophy for this achievement.

Annamaria Cream
Director of Community Relations

Science Alive and Well in the Junior School

This term in Science, Year 5 students have been learning about solids, liquids and gases and the properties of these.

Recently, they were fortunate enough to have a very scientific experience in one of the Senior School Laboratories. Ms Whan had prepared a fantastic experiment designed to investigate the melting points of different substances. The students worked very scientifically during their experiment and Ms Whan and the Year 5 teachers were very impressed. The Year 5’s are looking forward to using the Science Laboratory again next term.

Mrs Melissa Rickman and Miss Linley Waters
Year 5 Class Teachers
Year 7s Head to the Hills

On Friday 11th March the girls in Year 7 went on an exciting adventure to the Perth Hills Centre. At the centre, the girls broke up into their Humanities groups and teamed up with their guides for the first session. The girls went on their adventures, which ranged from Damper making to gathering food.

For the girls to make their damper they had to crush up grass seeds for the flour. The girls did not use this for their dampers but it gave them an insight into how the Nyoongar women used to get the flour for their damper. The girls used self-raising flour and water to make their own damper. After mixing the ingredients they then made little buns and placed onto a hot plate to cook. While they were cooking, the girls painted their faces with some traditional Nyoongar symbols. Once the damper was cooked the girls placed some quandong jam on their damper and sat around the fire listening to Vince tell them how the Nyoongar men use to make a knife like axe.

Trevor, with his wild stories led the food-gathering group. The girls all had to collect a walking stick that they used to dig on their journey. While walking around and through the bush the girls learnt how the Nyoongar people used different bushes for different things.

One example is how they used a bush for soap and the women used it for their hair to keep in nice and shiny. The Nyoongar men and women used the Marri tree sap if they had a sore. It worked like a band aid with antiseptic cream on it. The girls then had to search for some bush potatoes with their digging sticks as well as looking for any wild animals that they could catch like snakes and lizards.

The day was enjoyed by all and concluded with compliments from the staff at the Centre saying that this was one of the best groups they have had for a long time with all of the girls listening and paying attention.

Mrs Fiona Hepi
Year 7 Team Leader

Junior School Dance Moves

The children from Pre-Primary to Year 5 spent part of Term 1 participating in a Dance Programme facilitated by Humphrey’s Dance Studio. The children have learnt a variety of different types of dances and had the opportunity to present what they had learnt to their parents on the afternoon and evening of Tuesday, 15 March in the College Gymnasium. A huge number of children and their parents attended and the children enjoyed sharing their newly acquired skills.

Mr Paul Hansen
Head of Junior School
Middle School Highlights

Middle School is an exciting experience for new students and is usually a thriving hive of activity throughout most of the year. Our girls come from a diverse number of primary schools and some begin their life in Boarding School for the very first time. We take special care to ensure that all girls feel secure and safe in their new environments.

Apple MacBooks

The one to one laptop programme in Middle School using Apple MacBooks has certainly ‘taken off’ and is now an important educational tool used in our classes. As the girls have become more proficient with their use, they are incorporating exciting technology into their learning. The girls have used Podcasts, Wiki’s and Blogs and can create professional style movies and slideshows. Much of their work can be accessed online, as can some textbooks within learning areas. Communication between home and school has also been made very accessible due to the use of email. Teachers, students and parents alike are able to communicate very readily through the use of laptops.

It has been an exciting project in Middle School and has steadily grown with laptops in 2012 extending to years 7 – 10.

Year 8 Ancient Worlds Festival

A highlight of Year 8 is the Ancient Worlds Festival at the end of Term 2. The timetable is collapsed for a week and the students choose a ‘civilisation’ in which they want to work. The main focus of the week is collaboration and creativity as the groups work closely and swiftly to come up with great creations and ideas in order to transform the Heritage building into another time in history, and to educate the wide audience that visits the expo at the end of the week.

Much planning and creating takes place and soon hundreds of boxes begin looking like the Great Wall of China, Terracotta warriors, Aztec temples and Roman Gods. The girls entertain the crowds with drama and dance items as well as re-enacting the daily life from each civilisation. It is a wonderful opportunity for the students to integrate all learning areas into their planning to enhance their understanding of the life and times of people in history. The students are an inspiration as they are completely engaged, motivated and enthusiastic.

Mrs Nicola Lee
Acting Head of Middle School
U2 inspires Year 6 Dance Win

Scream, cheer and sing your heart out as you come on tour with one of the greatest bands in the world. They have reinvented themselves time and time again as rock stars, pop sensations and campaigners for human rights, travelling a full 360 degrees around the world of music. So now, get ready to jump up out of your seats as you see these superstars live on stage!

On Thursday 18th August, the Year 6 classes took to the stage at the Perth Convention Centre as part of the Catholic Schools’ Performing Arts Festival. The U2 inspired performance titled ‘360°’, saw 64 children celebrate the musical achievements of these Irish rock stars throughout the eras, from the 1980’s until today, and highlighted their work in raising awareness of world poverty. The performance earned the students ‘Excellent’ results in all seven judging criteria, with equally impressive comments from the adjudicators.

The children mastered very complex movements and patterning to deliver our story in an energetic and confident manner which gained a special mention in the feedback from the judges. The audience was dazzled by their excitement and the flags, lights and props certainly got a lot of applause and cheers.

For the third year in a row the Year 6s won the Presentation Sisters’ Award for Primary Dance. This is a brilliant result that reflects the enormous amount of hard work, enthusiasm and dedication the children have shown to this unique learning experience.

Our Year 6 students were up against strong entries from our regional area, including schools offering very specialised Art programmes. We are delighted to congratulate the following students:

Nicole Mason (First Prize Printmaking)
Jasmine Boase (Highly Commended Sculpture)
Chloe Gray (Highly Commended Photography/Digital Media)

Mrs Kath Neeling

Outside The Frame

Once again a number of Year 11 Art students were successful exhibitors in the annual Armadale Outside the Frame Awards.

Our Year 11 students were up against strong entries from our regional area, including schools offering very specialised Art programmes. We are delighted to congratulate the following students:

Nicole Mason (First Prize Printmaking)
Jasmine Boase (Highly Commended Sculpture)
Chloe Gray (Highly Commended Photography/Digital Media)

Mrs Kath Neeling
Our Very Own Young Writer

Earlier this year I entered a the Young Travel Writer’s Competition held by the West Australian. This competition was advertised by my English teacher.

A month later I was told I was among eight finalists and would receive a Canon camera as my prize. A meeting with the eight finalists was held at the Perth Zoo after which I was told by the Travel Editor that I had been selected as one of the two winners.

My prize was a trip to Broome all expenses covered by Australia’s North West Tourism. I had an amazing time and had some fantastic experiences. I got the opportunity to travel out to a remote Aboriginal Community and spend time learning about food, medicine and the Dreamtime. The people were very friendly and welcoming. I also went on two camel rides and took a hovercraft across the land and waters of Broome. It was such an incredible trip that I will never forget.

Sean Fitzpatrick
Year 9 Boarder

Japanese Exchange Students Head Home

This term a group of 6 Exchange Students from Wayo Konodai Girls High School visited our College, they were here just in time to help us celebrate Languages Week. At the Japanese style Taikusai House Day they helped to demonstrate how to do Radio Taiso stretches to warm up before a big sporting event. We all wore our house coloured hachimaki headbands and chanted ganbare to show our House spirit. It was a fun day!

A big thank you to the generous families who hosted the students and Kubo Sensei. They had a wonderful time, there were lots of tears at the farewell party and lots of strong friendships made.

Suzie Olman and Merilyn Major

Above: Suzie Olman, Yoshimi Kubo and Merilyn Major.
Right: Classroom visits.
Two St Brigid’s teams entered the Tournament of Minds Competition this year and well and truly proved they could think outside the box. Faced with a challenge in the Language and Literature area, Team 1 acted and filmed a trailer for the movie, Cool Runnings. The trailer highlighted the spirit of the movie and the purpose of the director, and it fitted neatly into a script, devised by the girls, in which the trailer was presented to an Academy Award Nomination Committee.

Team 2 tackled a Mathematics/Engineering Challenge in which they had to construct, from paper and Clag glue, a crane capable of supporting a 1kg weight. Again, the challenge was embedded in a creative script through which the girls demonstrated their awareness of environmental issues facing rainforests.

Both teams worked hard and the Tournament Day was very exciting. In addition to the prepared scripts, the girls had a spontaneous challenge where, faced with an unseen problem, the teams had 4 minutes to come up with an ingenious solution for the judges.

Both teams acquitted themselves very well indeed, tackling the difficult problems in an intelligent and innovative manner, and demonstrating cool headedness and clear thinking in the face of pressure.
Enterprising Students Take To The Task

As part of the Year 11 and 12 Business Management and Enterprise class, the students were required to set up and run a small business. They formed groups, decided on a business, wrote a business plan, and prepared materials. The product of choice for most of the businesses was food.

They have done a marvellous job with their businesses so far this year! A great deal of creativity was shown in their approaches, advertising and sales pitches. We have had Jazzy Cupcakes, Miss Flossy, Cheep Chips, SORA Cupcakes and Fruit Kebabs businesses so far. A large amount of learning goes on in the preparation and running of the businesses as well as a bit of fun. The most common comments heard were, “I didn’t realise how much work running a business was…” and “I hate forms!”.

We would like to thank the school community for their support in purchasing our products! The amount raised (after expenses, tax and fines) will all go to charities of the students’ choice. Often the charity has some special connection to the student(s).

We had one outstanding business this year, Miss Flossy, which raised just over $600 from their business!

Miss Flossy at work.

The fortunate recipients are: MS Society, Care Australia, and World Vision.

Mr Don Weber

Mercy Outreach Shines

The Mercy Outreach programme continues to grow with our immersion experience to Cambodia taking place during the October holidays. The group followed a similar trip we made two years ago. It is impressive that one of the Year 10 students who attended the immersion in 2009, returned in 2011 to see the orphanage she has sponsored.

The group was also involved with Jesuit Services again and made contact with an outstanding young Cambodian lady who writes books to increase village children’s literacy. It is wonderful that we can maintain and continue these special Mercy links around the world.

Staff and students have been shoe shining, catering for Dance Night and patchwork quilt making as part of their Mercy Outreach fundraising. Face painting stalls and a Show Off Your Shoes Day have also been very popular means of fundraising this term.

Twenty Year 11 students and two brave teachers participated in the recent St Vinnies Annual Sleep Out in July. Designed so that they experienced the hardships that the homeless experience regularly for just one night, the group including staff members Shelley Forbes and Amanda Amey were certainly moved by the experience.

Some Year 12 girls have elected to spend their Leavers in an alternative experience focusing upon Mercy Outreach in Perth inner city and Fremantle. It is inspiring to hear their reasons for choosing to make a difference in our local area and become more educated about the poverty in our own city. Others are going to East Timor as part of the local area outreach to assist some of the poorest people in this region.

Mrs Linda Murray
Director – Mercy in Action
Friends of St Brigid’s

Who are the Friends of St Brigid’s?

The Friends of St Brigid’s encompasses the wider community of the College. This includes past students (alumni), parents and grandparents, former staff, the Sisters of Mercy, our Scholarship Donors and interested local residents. Sister Beverley Stott, Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Mercy West Perth is the Patron of the Friends.

The Friends was set up in 2003, initially as a working group to raise funds for the design and refurbishment of the Heritage Chapel. The wider St Brigid’s community was approached to join the Friends and there was keen interest from many past students and community members. The working group subsequently developed into the ‘Friends Committee’. The Committee held regular meetings from 2004 – 2008 to co-ordinate activities such as membership, recruitment, Friends projects, Friends functions and written contributions to the St Brigid’s in the Hills publication. The Committee was chaired by former student and ex-Board member Jenny Lewis.

Since 2005 the Friends of St Brigid’s have donated a Presentation Night award. The prize is presented to a Year 11 student who demonstrates a strong commitment to promoting the College. She is someone who comes forward to assist and represent the College, both inside and outside the school.

In 2008, with the 80th Anniversary year approaching, it was timely for a review of the Friends.

Since its inception, one of the main aims of the Friends has been to create a strong and vibrant Past Students’ Association. In 2009 as part of the 80th Anniversary celebrations it was decided that all current Alumni would automatically become Friends of St Brigid’s for life without any subscription. The Class of 2009 was gifted life membership as graduates during the 80th Anniversary year. As of 2011, Year 12 fees include a charge which provides each graduating student a life membership of the Friends of St Brigid’s. Past parents, staff or members of the wider community who wish to become Friends of St Brigid’s are asked to pay a small yearly subscription.

All graduating Year 12 students are presented with an Alumni Pin to represent their membership of the Friends of St Brigid’s. This pin has been designed to reflect a brooch that was presented to students in the 1940s. The Alumni pin is also available for purchase.

Friends of St Brigid’s also receive a copy of the Friends of St Brigid’s Magazine, published on an annual basis, use of College Facilities such as the Swimming Pool, invitations to special events at the College and, of course, invitations to year group reunions organised by the College with a small gift presented to each past student on these occasions.

The Friends Committee now only convenes on an ‘as needs’ basis and the current focus is on two Friends projects, firstly the Grotto Refurbishment, and secondly researching and recording names for the Book of Remembrance which will reside in the College Chapel. If you are interested in joining our Committee please contact the Community Relations Office.

The Grotto Refurbishment

The Grotto refurbishment has created a cool green heart for the College – a place for retreat and contemplation amongst the buildings and business of school life. Grottoes were a huge architectural fashion in Italy and France during the Renaissance and so our new plantings will reflect this period. Water is an important element of the traditional grotto and the new design includes a water feature reminiscent of the early days of our Grotto.

The St Brigid’s Grotto was opened in 1956 as a memorial to the Foundress and first Superior of St Brigid’s College, Mother Teresa Rielly. The Grotto was made possible by the generosity of students and friends of St Brigid’s at that time. We are following in those footsteps some 55 years later, with our refurbishment made possible by generous donations from the Friends of St Brigid’s.

Amelia Toffoli turns the soil – Grotto Refurbishment begins.
The Friends Mission

The words from Distant Voices, which were recited at the rededication of the Heritage Chapel, capture the essence of the Friends mission.

Distant voices
Quiet murmuring
And fragments of prayer
Beckoning us back,
Easing us forward.
Mercy unfolds behind us
And before us.
Mercy reaches through the ages.
Stepping out of history
Shaping who we might be,
Prompting what we could be,
Defining who we are.

The Book of Remembrance

We now have two wonderful bound books which together create our Book of Remembrance. This Book is to remember students and staff members of St Brigid’s College Lesmurdie who have gone to their eternal rest. We have collected some information to date, and we invite family members and past students to contact the College to let us know about your loved ones and friends who have passed away and who attended or worked at St Brigid’s for inclusion in the Book of Remembrance. Once we have a suitable stand for the books, they will be placed in the College Chapel.

Ms Rachel Lewis
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Front Cover Photo – Ava Shortis – Pre Kindergarten student.