As always, our annual Dads’ Big Breakfast was a huge success with over 430 dads, granddads, uncles, special friends and children eating their way through 37 kilograms of bacon, nearly 450 eggs and just as many hash browns.

A big thank you to our wonderful group of mums who braved the cool morning air to start the cooking nice and early at 5.30am.
Amidst the tranquil beauty of our grotto, the College Community, including our Mercy Sisters, members of the Advisory Council and parents, gathered to celebrate the start of the school year with Mass led by Fr McMahon. Acknowledging also the start of the Lenten season, we reflected on what Ash Wednesday symbolises in our Catholic faith. At the conclusion of Mass, there were two special presentations: the first to members of the Class of 2015 who achieved 90+ ATAR scores; and secondly to our Year 7s who were presented with the bibles they will use during their time at the College. The Choir and our liturgical dancers were outstanding, and we thank the girls and boys and their teachers for making the Mass an even more special celebration.
Mercy Week Celebrations in late September brought to a close what was a sensational third term for both staff and students. It is a time when the whole school comes together to share its important heritage. The community dresses in blue and white to symbolise the Mercy colours and we are all blessed with the opportunity to be part of the Mercy story.

The annual Mercy Dinner saw the week’s celebrations begin as our boarding community gathered, along with special guests, to honour the contribution of the Mercy Sisters to the College and to boarding. Former boarder, Angel Hayward (Class of 2012) was a wonderfully inspiring guest speaker during the evening, sharing her journey since graduation.

The Mercy Mass celebrated by Bishop Donald Sproxton as well as our very own “Fathers Michael” and the blessing of the Mercy Heritage Cottage and beautifully enhanced surrounds, saw the college gather under the canopy of trees around Lesmurdie House where, despite the impending rain, an air of reverence and community was paramount.

As is traditional on this day, the 2017 College Leaders were also announced and presented to the college community. About 50 girls were involved in the election process along with 12 key staff and the current student leaders. The successful candidates were also involved in a three-day planning camp at the El Caballo Resort during the first weekend of the holidays.

To end the day, the ever popular Cultural Festival saw the six houses go head to head in this very entertaining arts event with aspiring performers hoping to gain valuable points towards the highly competitive house championship.
Congratulations to our Year 8 Opti-MINDS team who very successfully represented the state and the College at the recent National Finals of Opti-MINDS held in Brisbane.

The girls conducted themselves exceptionally throughout the trip. After spending some time sightseeing and participating in the 20/20 Vision Forum, on competition day, the girls received honours, finishing second overall.

This is an exceptional effort and testament to all of their hard work and that of Mrs Hafekost who made sure they were competition ready and Miss Rowe who accompanied them to the Brisbane.
WHAT’S HAPPENING ON THE SPORTING SCENE?

The School and the Parent Forum also need to be congratulated for their underlying support for the programme, which is clearly showing signs of promise!

Some of the key achievements St Brigid’s can be very proud of in 2016 include:

- Appointment of Jemma Sayers as senior hockey coach to oversee the hockey programme
- Outstanding on-field achievements particularly with the Year 9/10s (finished second on the ladder) and the Year 11/12s (Premiers)
- Formation of a Year 7/8 team
- Links to a 1st Division HWA Club (Old Guildfordian’s Mundaring Hockey Club)
- Attendance at Hockey clinics and elite level games
- Purchase of new hockey goals by the Parent Forum
- Home games at the College.

The School and the Parent Forum also need to be congratulated for their underlying support for the programme, which is clearly showing signs of promise!

The year so far has been an exciting one for the PE Department with many sports and events keeping us very busy.

BASKETBALL
Basketball for Senior and Middle school students has continued to be popular, especially with many of our 165 boarders. There are currently six teams playing at Ray Owen on Monday nights. The teams are coached by many of our past students, which has been an extremely positive initiative.

HOCKEY
Hockey has seen many new and exciting developments this year, with three teams entered in the competition.

Our St Brigid’s Year 11/12 team won the 2016 B Division Premiership. The team was brilliantly coached by Jemma Sayers and the girls played the perfect game – beating the minor premiers 6-0 on their home ground! This victory has placed St Brigid’s in an ideal position to be promoted into the A Reserve division in 2017.

This result has been the culmination of 12 months of hard work and planning by parents, coaches and staff members.

CROSS COUNTRY
The Interhouse Cross Country competition across the sub schools was extremely enjoyable. This day definitely
leading up to the event. The competition was challenging with many experienced teams. Our girls competed very well and were complemented on their enthusiasm and enjoyment for the game. The girls also completed their Volleyball unit successfully, with a practical exam.

YEAR 12
The Year 12 Certificate II class took part in a camp at Karridale in the South West and experienced some great outdoor adventures. This camp tied in with the Bushwalking unit that they are currently working on. The girls also had the opportunity to go abseiling, rock climbing, caving and enjoy the outdoors.

LIGHTNING CARNIVAL
The Lightning Carnival for the Year 6 students was very successful. The students gained an opportunity to play in non-competitive games and many enjoyed playing a variety of different sports. It was a great day enjoyed by both staff and students.

ATHLETICS
The Interhouse Carnivals were outstanding in terms of student participation and effort with Shine House victorious on the day.

A special mention to Isla Hannan who placed 3rd in her race, this is a fantastic achievement, especially when she competed against 350 other students in her division. The team placed 4th overall in the girls’ category – an outstanding performance.

FOOTBALL, NETBALL AND SOCCER
The Football, Netball and Soccer competitions have also been very successful to date. Three of the five Netball teams progressed through to the Interzone Crossovers whilst the Soccer and Football teams all trained and played well during the season.

YEAR 11
The Year 11 ATAR PE students competed in the SSWA Volleyball competition in Term Two. They all trained and worked hard to training and competed with determination and strength.

The College also achieved a brilliant result in the A Division of the ACC Athletics Carnival this year, with some outstanding individual performances. Well done to all the girls for their efforts. We are very proud of each and every one of them.

A big thank you to the staff for supporting the students – the hard work paid off, with a 5th place finish overall in the girls division.
SPORT & PE
The year kicked off with the Junior, Middle and Senior School Interhouse Swimming Carnivals with Shine House being the overall winner. This led to the selection of many students to represent the College in the Junior (CPSSA) competition and the Senior (ACC) competitions. The Junior School swimming team had an outstanding day, placing second overall. We were extremely proud of the team, they trained three times a week and demonstrated a commitment to excellence by all performing so well.

We are certainly looking forward to next year’s competition and seeing these fine swimmers in the pool again.
SCIENCE FUN IN YEAR 6 GREEN
The Year 6 class has been undertaking some “Science Fizzing Investigations”. The students used bicarbonate sodium, tartaric acid and water to see if they could create bubbles – gas with reactions to different combinations. It was great seeing the balloons grow!

FIRST FLEET FUN IN YEAR 4
Recently, our Year 4 students were lucky enough to be part of an exciting incursion about the journey of the First Fleet as part of their new Unit of Inquiry how ‘Journeys create change’.

The students came to school dressed up as a person who was travelling as part of the First Fleet. Visiting actors assisted to immerse them into real English life, and the students had to explain reasons why the First Fleet was necessary, and what happened when they arrived in New South Wales.

Students even took on special roles of guards, convicts and Lords as part of the incursion. It was a very realistic incursion and the students learnt a lot about the journeys taken by many different people during the First Fleet.

SCRUFFY DOES PRE-PRIMARY PROUD
The Pre-Primary children were delighted that their scarecrow Scruffy – their entry in the scarecrow competition at the Bickley Valley Harvest Festival – won equal First Place. They planned how to build Scruffy at school and designed how he would look. Then they set about building him by stuffing and dressing him. Their parents donated pre-loved clothing to make him look a bit more like a scarecrow, so it was a real community effort. Scruffy has now returned to the College to take care of our wonderful community garden.
SCRUFFY’S A BIG WINNER!

PK- YEAR 6
COMMUNITY GARDEN THRIVING

The Junior School has been busy planting vegetables and herbs in our beautiful new garden. The maintenance team has been working very hard to keep the garden clean, to repair fencing and teach the children a few important tips about looking after vegetables. We have decorative gnomes in the garden and a beautiful bird bath donated by the Tonon family, which attracts some of our local birds.

Fruit trees and companion plants have been added to the garden, to build on what had begun. The students are also busy learning about the seasons in the year and have found information about what vegetables can be grown at various times of the year. Gardening Australia has an amazing app that tells you what can grow in your area and when to plant.

http://www.abc.net.au/gardening/resources/vegie_app.htm

It is lovely to see Years 1 to 6 (and even visitors) using the garden in the morning, during and after school. Everyone is excited about caring for their plants and watching them grow.

“WE HAVE DECORATIVE Gnomes IN THE GARDEN AND A BEAUTIFUL BIRD BATH ... IT IS LOVELY TO SEE YEARS 1 TO 6 (AND EVEN VISITORS) USING THE GARDEN”

THE ARCHBISHOP’S LIFELINK DAY

The Junior School students have been excellent contributors once again to the Archbishop’s LifeLink Fund. This year many of our talented musicians applied for a busking license in order to play at lunchtimes around the Junior School to raise money towards LifeLink. The buskers thoroughly enjoyed themselves as did all the customers who donated very generously to the musicians.

We will also hold the very popular ‘Ripper Recess’. This year we will make links and join them together as a whole Junior School and we will be able to purchase goodies made by the Year 6s for our morning tea. Our school chain will travel to Lake Monger in the coming weeks to join up with many other schools to form one long chain, symbolic of all the Catholic Schools linking together to help others. We are really looking forward to being able to raise lots of money.
SERIOUS HORSEING AROUND

The annual equestrian EWA Horse of the Year event was held recently. This is a competition where both the winner and runner-up in each section are invited to compete at the national competition in Victoria each December. Mia Farrell of Year 4 and Erin Bertola of Year 3 both qualified themselves and their ponies to compete at the nationals with very strong performances.

Erin will make the trip to Victoria with her pony Springwater Kitty Jones in December while Mia has also qualified herself and pony Yartarla Park Wisteria for another national competition to be held in Sydney in late March of 2017 and will focus on that event.

Both girls are very close friends within their sport and it’s not often they both get the privilege to compete nationally. It is also quite an achievement for girls so young.

Erin qualified for Nationals in the Show Hunter Lead Rein Pony of the Year and Mia qualified in the Childs Small Show Pony of the Year.
The challenge provided the students with an opportunity to increase their confidence, team-building and scientific skills in a competition against other schools.

They successfully completed challenges in the areas of Engineering, Coding, Astronomy and Maths.

Congratulations to both our Junior and Senior School teams for their excellent performance in the inaugural STEM in the Valley Challenge held recently.

The students had the opportunity to showcase their Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths skills and participate in hands-on challenges with students from 17 other schools.

The first challenge involved creating a structure using pop-sticks which was then measured based on its height and ability to withstand the pressure of a fan. The second challenge - a spontaneous one, saw the Junior School team create a robotic hand using materials supplied, whilst the Senior School team created a model of a house that had to withstand a flood.

Overall, our results were outstanding with the Junior School team awarded the Ingenuity Trophy in their age group and the Senior team finishing second overall.

---

SCITECH BRAINSTORM CHALLENGE

OUR YEAR 6 GIRLS AND BOYS TOOK PART IN A SCITECH BRAINSTORM CHALLENGE DAY AT SCITECH DISCOVERY CENTRE.

STEM IN THE VALLEY CHALLENGE DAY

Congratulations to both our Junior and Senior School teams for their excellent performance in the inaugural STEM in the Valley Challenge held recently.

The students had the opportunity to showcase their Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths skills and participate in hands-on challenges with students from 17 other schools.

The first challenge involved creating a structure using pop-sticks which was then measured based on its height and ability to withstand the pressure of a fan. The second challenge - a spontaneous one, saw the Junior School team create a robotic hand using materials supplied, whilst the Senior School team created a model of a house that had to withstand a flood.

Overall, our results were outstanding with the Junior School team awarded the Ingenuity Trophy in their age group and the Senior team finishing second overall.
Name: John Lockley

Date of Conviction: 22 February 1788

Sentence: Death Commuted to 7 Years Transportation

Fleet ship: H.M.S. Alexander

John was convicted at the Old Bailey for assault and stealing 12 sets of silver watchcases, value £5, and one bag, value one penny, on 22 February 1788. John was originally sentenced to death, however, although in court transcripts John being granted the King’s mercy, even; death he was granted such by a last-minute reprieve. John’s occupation was listed as a watchmaker. The area of London in which he lived, Golden Lane, was notorious for watchmaking at the time. John was detained by William Tullery at his trial. On 4 March 1796, John was sent to Norfolk Island from Port Jackson. On 20 December 1807, John went to Van Diemen’s Land on the Mona. John arrived there on 18 April 1808.
Middle School students have been working hard this semester to achieve their goals.

They have attended camps to build team spirit, create new friendships and learn new skills. The Middle School has four student leaders and 72 additional girls who have been elected to represent the rest of the Middle School and meet with the College Leadership group. They cover Ministry, Learning, Arts and Sport.

At SBC, we provide our girls with the opportunity to develop and understand the college values and encourage them to use these values in their everyday life through their school work and their Mercy in Action Making a Difference programme (MIAMAD). They have also had the opportunity to attend two socials with the boys from Mazenod. At the socials, the young ladies and gentlemen use the values from both Colleges to ensure the success of each event.
YEAR 7 - YEAR 9
They were also given the opportunity to join in extra-curricular activities such as Netball, Hockey, Soccer, Aussie Rules, Drama, Debating, Opti-MINDS, Italian and French Club, and receive free tutoring at Mathematics Club and Homework Club.

Girls in the Middle School years make up a large part of the College Choir and the girls have performed at public venues and events including the ANZAC Day Dawn Service. Every year they also participate in the Catholic Performing Arts Festival and at the College’s Presentation Evening.

Year 7s continue to work on study skills – something which will assist them throughout their schooling. The skills started off with ‘what it looks like to study’, and progressed through to ‘how to study’ and also focussed on topics such as taking notes and making up helpful mnemonics to assist with remembering vital information.

Sessions run by the College Psychologist, the College Youth Worker, the College Nurse and the Approaches to Learning Coordinator have also been attended by the girls to assist them with advice on how to deal with stress, anxiety and learning techniques.

The Middle School years are certainly busy indeed.

Fiona Hepi
Head of Middle School
2016 LEADERSHIP
2016 to date has been successful for the Senior School, with an outstanding new Student Council led by Head Girls, Pauline Chivawa and Isabella Fiolo. Other key leaders are Phoebe Clark and Justine Jolliffe (Head Boarders), Georgia Wells (Learning), Ashleigh Baxter (Arts), Katrina Breen (Sport), Justine Jolliffe (Ministry), and Carolyn Wallace (Altiora). House Captains for 2016 were Lauren Adams (Docherty), Phoebe Clark (McAuley), Caitlin Wallace (O’Connor), Matildah Currie (Rielly), Ruby Beales (Shine) and Emma Mitchell (Watson). The SRC Executive Officer was Lucy Anderson. For the first time there were also four middle school leaders on the SRC Executive, Matilda Harrison (Ministry), Brinley Whittington (Learning), Georgina Conti (Arts) and Ellaby Hansen (Sport).
A highlight of the term saw many Senior School students enjoy a visit from the renowned Bell Shakespeare Theatre Company. The group, who specialise in the works of William Shakespeare and other classics, presented a splendid performance of *Hamlet* for our girls. At the end of the session, there was opportunity for discussion with the actors, who are currently on a tour of Australian capitals.
HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP

Shine won the House Championships in 2015, but are lying third so far in 2016 behind strong Docherty and O'Connor teams, despite Shine dominating in swimming and cross-country. McAuley won both the Public Speaking and the Learning Leaders' new Family Feud, Rielly was successful in Caritas and O'Connor in the Arts' Sculpt it challenge. We also had three new House Co-ordinators this year, Ms Taymar Rowe in Reilly House, Mr Josh Pauley (Watson) and Mr Liam Merigan in Shine.

SPORT

In the College Fun Run, Tanisha Caley smashed her own course record in the Secondary 4K event with a superb time of 14.24, and Isla Hannan broke the Year 9 record. Tanisha and Isla also contributed strongly to a superb performance by our ACC Cross Country team, which won the Year 9 team event and were impressive in all age groups.

Hockey has been a great success in 2016, with St Brigid’s fielding three teams. New senior coach, Jemma Sayers from the Guildford Club, has been a wonderful acquisition, whilst Mr Justin Mercy’s contribution to hockey at the College has been immense.

New Sports Coordinator, Jen Homes, has settled into the role well, and at the same time has become a star in the senior women’s WAFL Football Competition.

Jim Miller
Head of Senior School

ATAR

Results for the 2015 Year 12 cohort were quite impressive, with Ayla Irvine Thom, Lacey Thorn and Emma Wignell gaining the highest ATAR scores. It was very pleasing to see the vital University Entrance Statistics, showing 97.7% of our students gaining a University offer, with over 75% receiving their first preference.

Jess Dickerson excelled in gaining an Australian Super Award for excellence in VET Studies. Forty-five girls were offered places at Curtin University, 21 at Murdoch, 15 at ECU, 10 at Notre Dame, and 7 at UWA.

YEAR 11 AND 12 EVENTS

As always, the Year 11 and 12 retreats, led by Mrs Annamaria Cream, Ms Vanessa Daly and Ms Judy Coelho, have been outstanding events. This year they were held at Fairbridge Farm for Year 12s, as Club Capricorn has closed; and the Year 11s went to historic New Norcia, with its iconic Benedictine Monastery.

The 2016 College Ball too was superb, once again held at Fraser’s Restaurant in Kings Park. The girls and staff all enjoyed a special evening.

YEAR 12 RETREAT.

WITH MEMBERS OF THE BELL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE GROUP.
The central theme for the Year 10s each year is vocation. For the students, their consideration of vocation included a range of ideas and activities as they embarked on their Choices and Challenges journey.

The first step along this pathway began with the Career Voyage. This detailed online activity asked students a number of questions concerning their talents, hobbies and interests. Upon conclusion, students were rewarded with a list of up to 20 possible career choices, some of which were very surprising. This programme also included background information on what each career may entail, pathways to obtain the necessary qualifications and guidelines to support résumé writing. Once enrolled in the Career Voyage, the students could return to the programme to change their choices if required.

The next step in the Challenge was the Vocation Retreat. During the three days away, the idea of vocation was considered directly through visits to a variety of tertiary institutions. Students also addressed the spiritual aspect of vocation through a range of interesting activities, which required them to consider how they would approach the difficult choices and challenges that may arise in the future, and what help is available during difficult times. How to care practically for a friend in need was the topic of a presentation by our College Psychologist. The students also listened to a guest presentation on how to Boost their Career and challenged themselves to reach for heights – literally – in the big shed activities.

Once returned to the College, the students were presented with information by each curriculum area about subjects for Year 11 in 2017. For some, difficult decisions awaited but hopefully they are now well prepared to take this next step. A Career Expo with representatives from the major universities, TAFE, the Armed Forces and a range of private providers rounded off this vital week.

Finally, congratulations to Year 12 student Romina Bradshaw, who recently completed a Certificate II in Business at Citi Place Community Centre and was also recognised with an award for Outstanding Achievement – Year 12 Aboriginal School Based Trainee (Female).

Romina has been an outstanding student who consistently works to the best of her ability. Citi Place always had positive feedback about Romina and her confidence has grown significantly over the duration of her traineeship. Romina has been a boarder the College since 2014, adjusting extremely well to life away from her close family in Wyndham.

She was awarded her certificate recently by the Honourable Peter Collier MLC, Minister for Education; Aboriginal Affairs; Electoral Affairs; Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council Minister for Education, at a ceremony attended by many members of Perth’s Business and Education sectors.
The Class of 2016 began their recent valedictory celebrations with the now-traditional boater throw in the College Quadrangle, marking their final official school day. With many proud parents in attendance, the boater throw is a special event for the Year 12s in the lead up to final exams and Prize Giving and Graduation celebrations. This wonderful group of girls has been a pleasure to work with, and we wish them well as they begin the next exciting chapter in their lives.

The Final Assembly, held on the day following the boater throw, complete with music and costumes, culminated on the Senior Oval, where our Year 1 students formed a guard of honour, presenting each departing Year 12 with a flower.
The Altiora Gifted Student/Academic Enrichment programme continues to flourish in the Senior School.

**SYDNEY TOUR**
A new Altiora highlight in Term One was the Shakespeare at the Opera House Tour to Sydney, where, as well as seeing *Romeo and Juliet* at the Opera House, the girls visited the famous Sydney Harbour Bridge, celebrated Easter at the Sydney Cathedral, enjoyed many Sydney highlights via multiple train and ferry trips, had an exciting pirate drama experience on a tall ships sailing schooner, and finished with a wonderful day in the Blue Mountains.

**MORE EVENTS**
Other Altiora special events so far have included a Year 10 Altiora Camp at Annapana Ridge, several Academic Seminar Breakfasts and participation in three great gifted and talented programmes: Julie Arliss at St Hilda’s; Notre Dame’s Cultural Decoding programme, which seven of our girls attended at the university over the holidays; and Bell Shakespeare’s Masterclasses. A key feature of the Academic Breakfasts and camps has been the series of superb keynote addresses from current and former top students, mentoring Year 10 girls on topics such as the International Baccalaureate Personal Project, how to Succeed in Senior School, and examination techniques and advice.

A splendid Altiora Year 11/12 Enrichment Camp at Rottnest incorporated Religion and Life, great minds, Literature and Science components, and an exciting new Science challenge, created by Altiora Captain Carolyn Wallace and Ruby Beales.

Also associated with Altiora was the visit of the Bell Shakespeare Company to St Brigid’s, to perform Hamlet: *Out of Joint* which was attended by all Year 12 students plus the Year 11 Literature class.

**Jim Miller**
Head of Senior School
WOMEN IN RESOURCES

CAREERS IN MINING AND RESOURCES INDUSTRY A HOT TOPIC
Four of our Year 12s attended the annual WA Women in Mining and Resources Awards Ceremony at the Perth Convention Centre. Following the awards events (attended by over 1,000 people) the girls, along with 100 others from Perth and country WA schools, were part of an Inspiring Girls Initiative, which is designed to inspire greater numbers of female students to follow in the footsteps of Women in Resources awards winners.

The girls heard from industry representatives and past Women in Resources awards winners, and were able to ask questions and seek career advice. St Brigid’s girls were hosted by Senator Linda Reynolds, an Old Girl. The Hon Liz Behjat, MLC represented Senator Reynolds who was in Canberra on the morning. Another highlight was meeting the WA Deputy Premier, Liza Harvey, who chatted to the girls about their future plans and ambitions.

SCIENCE, SCIENCE AND MORE SCIENCE
Two Year 12 budding scientists attended the 2016 National Youth Science Forum, and returned with even more enthusiasm for the Sciences and the limitless career opportunities available.

With both keen on a career in the Sciences, the two-week programme provided a fabulous mix of guest speakers, tutorial seminars, laboratory sessions and visits and perhaps most importantly a network of friends, colleagues and support groups throughout Australia, which will be of value to participants for the whole of their lives. Their enthusiasm for the programme prior to their departure and upon their return has been contagious.

Here’s what they had to say about the experience.

Staying at Burgermann College at the Australian National University was a new learning curve. It gave all the students and I the opportunity to explore the University lifestyle and immerse ourselves into what our future could look like. The accommodation was fantastic and our rooms had everything we needed. It opened my eyes to many of the options available for studying at University.

Carolyn Wallace

Above all, the best thing about this entire experience was the people I met. I now have friends not only from all over Australia, but from New Zealand, South Africa, Zimbabwe and even Germany. Some of the speakers and top CEOs I met have allowed me to improve my networking skills and even collect some very important people’s business cards along the way! In addition, the “staffies” and rotary parents were simply wonderful people who looked after me through sickness and a dislocated knee. The wonderful thing about the NYSF is it has opened my mind, it has made me realise the possibilities and opportunities out there and that essentially the field of science is unlimited.

Justine Jolliffe
At St Brigid’s, we believe in the premise that each of us has some unique talent, that – if nurtured and given the right space – can emerge and grow. It is for this reason that the committed Arts staff at the College strive to provide opportunities for our students to develop and showcase their emerging talents.
“SNAGGED”
DANCE & DRAMA HIGHLIGHTS

‘SNAGGED’
Earlier in the year, our Senior Drama students’ staged a production of the comedy Snagged. The girls worked closely with Mrs Huxley and myself to push their artistic boundaries and discover just what they can achieve.

The show was an outstanding success, not just in terms of a highly polished and entertaining production but also in terms of the new skills and confidence each of the girls gained.

‘EMERGENCE’
Emergence, this year’s Dance Night, was (like its counterpart) another example of the artistic opportunities we are providing for students. Made up of performances from both our Dance course and extra-curricular programme, and lead by Mrs Venables, the evening highlighted the talents of our Ballet Troupe, Student Choreographic Project, Senior Performance Troupe and Liturgical Dance Troupe, as well as many gifted solo artists. We were also excited to have our newest and youngest troupe from Year 6 dance in their first performance.

Dance Night is the perfect opportunity to showcase work from our Senior and gifted students, and this year was no exception. The audience were treated to Original Solo Compositions that were thought-provoking and reflective.

Special thanks must, as always, go to our dedicated Arts aides and teaching staff, whose tireless dedication and own unique gifts allow us to provide these amazing opportunities.

Mark Sills
Curriculum Team Leader – Arts
In 2006, Kylie and her colleagues at Perth Zoo were part of a ground-breaking initiative to return a zoo-born orangutan to the wild – something many believed was doomed to failure. The chosen orangutan was Temara.

Kylie’s book, Reach for the Canopy, is the story of that journey, successful because of Kylie’s remarkable work, filled with passion, hard work and compassion and the belief that anything is possible – this was also her message to the girls – work hard, take every opportunity offered to you and go for it wholeheartedly!

In 2006, Kylie and her colleagues at Perth Zoo were part of a ground-breaking initiative to return a zoo-born orangutan to the wild – something many believed was doomed to failure. The chosen orangutan was Temara.

Kylie’s book, Reach for the Canopy, is the story of that journey, successful because of Kylie’s remarkable work, filled with passion, hard work and compassion and the belief that anything is possible – this was also her message to the girls – work hard, take every opportunity offered to you and go for it wholeheartedly!

Each year, International Women’s Day (IWD) celebrations across the world provide opportunities for reflecting on past struggles and accomplishments, and perhaps more importantly, look ahead to the potential and opportunities that are ahead for future generations of women.

SBC Old Girl Kylie Bullo (Class of 1994), presented a wonderfully refreshing talk at the College’s IWD Breakfast on her amazing achievements since graduating from St Brigid’s College and Curtin University. Kylie is an Orangutan Keeper at Perth Zoo and also the Conservation Project Manager for The Orangutan Project, the world’s foremost not-for-profit organisation supporting orangutan conservation, and the rehabilitation and reintroduction of orangutans back to the wild.

In 2006, Kylie and her colleagues at Perth Zoo were part of a ground-breaking initiative to return a zoo-born orangutan to the wild – something many believed was doomed to failure. The chosen orangutan was Temara.

Kylie’s book, Reach for the Canopy, is the story of that journey, successful because of Kylie’s remarkable work, filled with passion, hard work and compassion and the belief that anything is possible – this was also her message to the girls – work hard, take every opportunity offered to you and go for it wholeheartedly!
The boarding students’ Invite a Teacher to Dinner Night is always a popular event, allowing the staff an opportunity to visit with the girls and enjoy an informal dinner and get together.

At the recent dinner, it was wonderful to see the girls wait to greet their guests in the visitors’ lounge, and share a little part of their “home away from home” with them.

The relationship between the boarding house and school is greatly enhanced by events such as these, where our staff are able to experience a little of what our boarders live each day.

Annamaria Cream  
Head of Boarding
This year, for the first time, St Brigid’s College participated in the Sorry Day festivities held in the city.

A representative group of students, both Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal, manned our St Brigid’s display and participated in activities around the venue – including nail-painting with aboriginal symbols, distributing reconciliation prayer cards, participating in the Noongar dances held on the dance circle, and attending a smoking ceremony – to strongly promote our extraordinary support of Aboriginal education in practical ways.

The girls enjoyed the day, especially meeting AFL footballers, including West Coast Eagles players, Josh Hill and Jamie Bennell.
In May this year, six students and three staff flew to the Northwest to participate in a five-day cultural immersion throughout the Dampier Peninsula.

The immersion began in Broome with students assisting Pre-Primary and Year 1 classes at St Mary’s College in their literacy programme. Our girls experienced the enthusiasm, commitment and dedication of the teachers and saw the quality of work produced by the local children.

Our next stop in Broome was the Sisters of St John of God Old Convent at the Heritage Centre where Sister Pat and elder, Esther told us some fascinating stories about the establishment of the Missions in Beagle Bay, Lombadina and Balgo as well as the relationships between the Aboriginal people and the nuns nearly 100 years ago.

From Broome we travelled the red dirt, dusty road to Middle Lagoon where we spent two nights in shade cloth cabins overlooking the ocean. Students had a roster for cooking during the week and we shared simple but delicious meals as a group whilst reflecting on our own stories and experiences of the day.

Our annual day visit to the beautiful Kathleen Cox and her husband John at Goonbaragin was once again a highlight for many. The students worked very hard to make clapping sticks, and enjoyed a presentation from John about the local snakes, some had a chance to hold the resident Olive Python! A walk down the red cliffs to the pristine white beach was a welcome relief from the heat after which Kathleen and John treated us to a delicious lunch cooked over the wood fire.

Before dusk Father Hillary from Beagle Bay came to celebrate a beautiful early evening Mass in the open air in front of the fire which was definitely one of the highlights of the immersion.

At Lombadina we enjoyed a walk around the community followed by a visit to Christ the King Church. The Ardyaloon Hatchery on the Peninsula was where the girls were able to feed some large fish and learnt about the aquaculture in the region.

Some of the girls were challenged the following day by our early morning mud crabbing excursion. The mosquitoes were biting and the mud was deep and smelly, but we managed to catch enough mud crabs for a delicious lunch which was prepared by our intrepid guide, Robert.

Our final activity on the Peninsula was a visit to the working, Australian owned Cygnet Bay Pearl Farm. Here we learned about the life cycle of pearl oysters, had a chance to see one opened and how the pearl farm operates. At the end of the tour our students were given a chance to hold and examine the different types of pearls farmed in the clear waters of the Dampier Peninsula.

Fun, knowledge, friendships and new experiences were all enjoyed in a beautiful part of WA and I am sure the students will have many happy memories of this enriching cultural immersion.

Debbie O’Hara
Mercy Outreach Coordinator
In the final year of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (Year 10), each student completes a personal project, a significant piece of work that is the product of the student’s own initiative and creativity. It provides students with the opportunity to produce a truly personal and creative work of their choice and to demonstrate the skills they have developed across the course of the programme. The project includes planning, research and personal reflection.

The recent Personal Project Exhibition Opening was a resounding success and we certainly have much to be proud of. The Year 10s shone with pride as visitors admired their work and engaged in discussions about their chosen topics. We commend and acknowledge all the students and their dedication and attention to the Personal Project process.
As always, our annual My MasterChef Rules competition was anticipated with great excitement and we were delighted to have Jordan and Anna (Top 5 and WA semi Finalists) from the My Kitchen Rules 2016 season as our Guest Judges. The My MasterChef Rules event began eight years ago, through a student initiate idea to engage a broad range of students and focussing on a design element to the concept. The College’s Leadership, from the area of Learning have assisted the development of the activity over the years. It began with a humble toasted sandwich and approximately 50 students, to its final format which involved students in 2016 from the three College sub schools (approximately 150 students) running their own mini restaurants – including chefs, maître d’, entertainers, wait staff, ‘decorators’ etc. A measure of success of the event is community involvement and friendly competition between the year levels. It also provides for students an opportunity to think laterally, problem solve and most definitely to ‘think on their feet’. A feature of the event is also the judging panels, which not only included 36 staff but traditionally a past contestant from My Kitchen Rules.

THE 2016 ULTIMATE BREAKFAST DISH WINNERS

**Rielly House**
The ‘Jordan and Anna’ Ultimate Breakfast Dish, for which they would pay $40, was a Japanese-inspired menu by Rielly House, described as ‘inventive, delicious and beautiful’.

**‘Midnight in Paris’**
The ‘Jordan and Anna’ Ultimate Breakfast Dish winner for the Junior School and second place overall, was the ‘Midnight in Paris’ Team, who produced amazing bacon and egg muffins as part of their menu.

AND THE WINNER IS...!
‘THE BLOCK’ RETURNS

Term Three saw a return of ‘The Block’ where teams were to design and construct a boat. We saw teams from Years 1, 5 and 7–12 ‘go head to head’ in this challenge – our Year 1s were definitely amongst the most enthusiastic participants, going wild when their boats didn’t sink! Teams needed also to consider their use of recyclable materials, the dimensions, did it actually ‘looks like a boat’ and the originality of name. We were left speechless by the designs and most importantly, the buoyancy of the vessels, which were required to float holding up to 800g of weights (next year we will increase the weight). The final results were as follows.

**Rankings**
1. O’Connor, 5 Gold, 1 Gold
2. Rielly
3. Watson and McAuley
4. Shine and Docherty
5. 1 Green

Janine Walsh
Deputy Principal

“... OUR YEAR ONES WERE DEFINITELY AMONGST THE MOST ENTHUSIASTIC PARTICIPANTS”
Who would have thought that in 2016 we would be using the modern advances of social media, in particular Facebook, to organise our Class of 1986, 30 year school reunion? Not as old as we thought perhaps ... and still we managed to keep abreast of all that is new and trendy! So, after a lot of messaging and conversations, which in itself was very entertaining, we eventually arranged the meeting time and place to hold our gathering.

A lovely sunny morning dawned on Sunday, 3rd April when approximately 20 ladies gathered at The Como Hotel at lunchtime. And then the laughter began and didn’t cease until late afternoon.

TALK OF TEACHERS PAST CAUSED A FEW MEMORIES TO STIR, AND FORGOTTEN MOMENTS WERE BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE AS THOUGH THEY HAPPENED JUST YESTERDAY.

Everyone swapped stories back and forth of their schooldays and needless to say, there were some which we wished had stayed buried. As stories were shared, expressions of enlightenment could be seen as fond memories were evoked.

Everyone looked exactly as they did, if you can forgive the odd grey hair or wrinkle. Having said that, God has a way of helping by ensuring our eyesight starts to falter after the age of 40. It truly was fun reminiscing with old friends.

We have to thank those special classmates who travelled from the country areas for the day and to Vanessa Hannam (née French) who travelled all the way from England. This speaks volumes about how dear our memories of our school days at St Brigid’s are to us all.

CATCHING UP WITH OLD FRIENDS, 30 YEARS ON.

We all promised that we would love to have another reunion, sooner rather than later. Moments like these are truly precious in life and should be treasured. I feel very grateful indeed that I was blessed to be able to share these moments with the ‘old girls’. Keep a look out for information for our next gathering happening soon.

Sharna Hill (née Taggart)
Class of 1986
The beautiful weather and our stunning campus welcomed over 100 past boarders to the College for our inaugural “Past Boarders Reunion”.

The afternoon included tours of the school as well as boarding (including stops to check under desks for long forgotten messages) and afternoon tea in the dining room where stories of boarding in years gone by entertained some of our current students immensely. There was much reminiscing, laughter and catching up amongst the group of varied ages making for a very special afternoon.

Thank you ladies for joining us, we hope to see you all again in the future.
The old photo, taken in 1912, shows Lesmurdie House with the cottage in the foreground. It wasn’t built as a cottage however, but for fruit storage and packing for the Sanderson orchard. Built of local stone, it was ideal as a cool store for fruit. The current St Brigid’s sport fields on Lesmurdie Road were the site of the orchard. Archibald Sanderson modelled his orchard and orchard practice on English methods and brought George Champion over to achieve that aim.

As the years went by the structure was converted into a small guest house and for a time was the home of Hugh Sanderson, one of Sanderson’s sons. When the property was purchased by the school, the cottage was used by the school gardeners. Later, it was the centrepiece for functions held on the grounds of Lesmurdie House. The second photo shows the autumn delight of its location here on the school campus.

Happily, rebuilding and refurbishment of this historic building is now complete, following a devastating fire last year.

Jenny Lewis
Friends of St Brigid’s
We were delighted recently to receive a wonderfully generous gift of a uniquely handcrafted commemorative lectern designed and created by artist Kevin Draper (pictured left with his niece, current parent Megan Leeming and her sons Austin, Eamon and Bailey), to mark his family’s association with St Brigid’s – an association dating to 1929 and the first group of girls who made the journey by truck from West Perth to SBC in the Hills.

Kevin’s mother, Nell Draper (Kelly) was one of the first students at St Brigid’s in 1929 beginning her family’s enduring relationship with the College. Her sister, Mary (Sr Mary Kelly), was also a student as was her daughter Diane Spinks. Diane is a current grandparent with three grandsons, Austin, Eamon and Bailey Leeming in our Junior School. Both Diane and her daughter, Megan are regular helpers and visitors in the Junior School ensuring that the family association continues to flourish.

In the initial phase of creating the artwork, Kevin researched various stories and legends surrounding the life of St Brigid and her association with the growing and nurturing of food crops captured his interest. This, along with a line from the scriptures, “I am the vine and you are the branches”, formed the nucleus of his design idea. He forged a steel grape vine motif into the shape of a lectern which embodies the concept of generational growth and layers of history – something that in some ways reflects how the College has evolved since the days of Kevin’s mother and aunt.

We are indebted to Kevin for his amazing craftsmanship in creating this gift with so much love and dedication. The lectern will take pride of place in our Heritage Chapel along with our Book of Remembrance.
Sian attended St Brigid’s from 1993 completing her education at the College in 2003, when she was Head Girl.

Last year she was awarded the John Curtin Medal. The John Curtin Medal is the highest non-academic award given each year by Curtin University to people who have made a significant contribution in their chosen field in Australia or internationally and who have exhibited John Curtin’s qualities of vision, leadership and community service.

Sian was recognised for her tireless dedication to supporting others less fortunate in Australia and around the world, devoting much of her young life to human rights, social justice, reconciliation and the environment, including five years of community development work in remote Aboriginal communities in Australia.

 Whilst at university, Sian started a four-year project in India to re-build a girl’s school, build hostels for blind, deaf and dumb children and also a vocational training centre to house educational classes, workshops and retail outlets for disabled young people, providing them with meaningful employment opportunities.

Sian has been involved with numerous humanitarian causes, raising well over a quarter of a million dollars for many charities and emergency relief appeals. Sian also raised $41,000 for the Children’s Leukaemia and Cancer Research Foundation by shaving off her waist length hair, which took place at the College in 2003. Additionally, she has raised funding for over 300 wheelchairs for children in need around the world.

In 2009, as an Australian Youth Ambassador for Development, Sian worked on the National Tuberculosis Programme in Papua New Guinea and spent the following four years as Project Manager. Sian’s spare time was spent looking after HIV patients at a local hospital.

In 2014, Sian was awarded an OAM in the Australia Day Honours List for service to international relations, particularly through tuberculosis programmes in the Pacific.
Q&A WITH PAST STUDENTS

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Past Students visit the College often and we welcome a bit of Q and A time to find out about the innovative and exciting developments in their lives in the years after St Brigid’s College is always wonderful. In this edition, three past scholars share their time with us.

KYLIE BULLO

What years were you at St Brigid’s? 1986 to 1989 (primary school) and 1990 to 1994 (high school).

Explain your current role and your journey to get to this point.

My world has revolved around orangutans since I was 21. I began working with the Sumatran orangutan colony at Perth Zoo after completing a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Biology at Curtin University. I followed my passion for observing primate behaviour and received first class honours in this field. I still work part-time at Perth Zoo after being the Senior Orangutan keeper for 13 years. I have extensive knowledge and experience in the care and management of orangutans including husbandry techniques, captive and wild behaviour, ecology and diet, reintroduction and release.

I was the keeper in charge of the world’s first two zoo-born orangutans to be released into the wild. The first ever orangutan to be released, Temara, was the inspiration for my recently published book Reaching for the Canopy, which tells of the time we spent together in the Sumatran jungle as Temara adapted to her new life. I hope that my book will enlighten people to the fact that orangutans and so many other species are on the precipice of extinction and we need to act now to save them.

I am also the Conservation Project Manager for the Orangutan Project – a not-for-profit organisation that supports orangutan conservation through rescue and rehabilitation, rainforest protection and education programs to help save orangutans from extinction. I have spent considerable time in the field in Sumatra and Borneo, working with and assisting orangutan conservation and rehabilitation projects. You can help by donating, adopting an orangutan or buying my book at www.orangutan.org.au.

Did you imagine during your time here that this is where you’d end up?

I always knew I wanted to work with animals. Often people would suggest I study Veterinary science but that never appealed to me since more often than not, animals do not like vets! It wasn’t until I was at uni that my real passion for Great Apes and conservation unfolded and then I never looked back.

What subjects did you study?

Biology, Chemistry, Physics, History, English Literature and Applicable Maths.

Most memorable St Brigid’s moment?

Making amazing friends whom I still see today, frozen choc milks from the cafeteria and playing hockey in torrential rain.

So, where to from here? Hopes and plans for the future?

I will continue to do all I can to help prevent the extinction of the orangutan and other species. I’m passionate about reaching out to young people and encouraging them to take action and make a difference in this world. I long for a world where the human race shows empathy and kindness to animals on this planet since they have a right to live just as much as we do.

Any words of advice to girls at SBC?

Be the change you want to see in the world.

NATHAN MORTON

What years were you at St Brigid’s?

I attended St Brigid’s College Primary School during the mid to late 1980s, as did my brothers and many of my cousins. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at SBC. I recently visited the school to talk to a Year 6 class and I have to say the school has certainly changed with new buildings and facilities. Laptops and iPads on student desks were certainly not a part of the scene during the 1980s. My Year 1 teacher was Mrs Raymond and it is fantastic to hear that she is still teaching at SBC. The principal of the primary school at the time was Sister Claire.

Most memorable St Brigid’s moment?

I have a lot of fond memories from my time at the school, some of which were our sports carnivals. The oval had a bank with large pine trees which provided the shade (and pine nuts to play with). Early morning tennis lessons were also a lot of fun as were many visits to the theatre. One of the favourite games at play time and lunch time was marbles, though I’m not sure how popular they are these days.

CONTINUED ON 13 "

FRIENDS OF ST BRIGID’S 2016 • 47
Did you imagine during your time here that this is where you’d end up?
As a young student at St Brigid’s, I never once for a second thought that in time I would end up as a Member of Parliament. You never know what your future holds, but the important thing is that no one can set the parameters on your achievements except you.

Any words of advice to girls at SBC?
The important thing is to set the goals you need to achieve to make your dream a reality. Goal setting is extremely important and you will probably have heard about short-term, medium-term and long-term goals, but they are critical. Whether it be learning your times tables or achieving an ATAR for entry into university, set goals and work towards them.

CORRINA TOLOMEI

What years were you at St Brigid’s?
1987 to 1990 (Year 9 to Year 12).

What subjects did you study?
Accounting, Maths, Art, English and Human Biology.

Most memorable St Brigid’s moment?
Being chosen as one of the first students to join the St Brigid’s/Mazenod Jazz Band that then became the Kalamunda Youth Swing Band under Mr David Way.

So, where to from here? Hopes and plans for the future?
More travel around Australia and Europe – including on a newly acquired motorbike (bucket list accomplishment!). Take up painting again.

Any words of advice to girls at SBC?
If you think you can do it or want to try it, don’t let anything or anyone stop you. Own your destiny! My favourite saying is: “She believed she could, so she did.” (Anonymous)