Hello to all in the St Brigid’s community,

Term 1, Week 4

This Sunday

This Sunday is the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

The readings continue the theme established last week; Jesus sets a challenge for those who want to follow him. In the First Reading from the Book of Leviticus Moses reminds the Israelites of God’s laws including ‘Love your neighbour as yourself’. In the Gospel Jesus raises the bar when he extends the rule to ‘Love your enemies’. The immediate reaction is how can one love one’s enemy? Surely that doesn’t make any sense. The answer is provided by Paul in his Letter to the Corinthians in the Second Reading. Paul advises his confused followers ‘The wisdom of the world is foolishness to God’. That is the answer, don’t adopt the ways of the world as they may not be God’s ways.

Being a Christian is pretty tough. Are you tough enough to love your enemy?

What’s on over the coming week

The P and F AGM will be held in the Library on this Wednesday (Feb 19) evening commencing at 7 pm.

Congratulations to all students who competed in Monday’s St Brigid’s Swimming Carnival. Thanks to Mr Gudgeon who organised the carnival and staff members and parents who assisted with the running of the carnival. Thanks also to Somerset College for the use of their facilities.

Good luck to all swimmers competing in the District Schools’ Carnival, again at Somerset College on Tuesday.

I hope many in our community are able to attend our Start of Year Mass starting at 6pm and picnic which follows the Mass on Friday February 28th.

Parent Teacher Nights

Thanks to all those who were able to attend the Parent/Teacher evenings last week. I believe we had good numbers turn up on all three evenings. Thanks also to the teaching staff who contributed to the evening by presenting their classroom sessions.

STAND UP DON’T STAND BY

One of the most powerful deterrents to bullies is the role played by bystanders. If bystanders allow bullies to intimidate others they will continue to do so. If bullies know that the majority of students at St Brigid’s won’t stand by and let them get away with it then the number of bullying incidents will significantly drop.

1. Help others who are being bullied. Be a friend, even to students who are not yet your friends. Let them know how you think they are feeling. Help them talk to an adult about what has happened.
2. Stop untrue or harmful messages from spreading. If someone tells you a rumour that you know is untrue or sends you a message that is hurtful to someone else, stand up and let the person know this is wrong. Don’t laugh, send the message on to friends, or add to the story. Make it clear that you do not think that kind of behaviour is cool or funny.

3. Get friends involved. Encourage them to stand up too.

4. Make friends outside your usual circle. Eat lunch with someone who is alone. Show support for others.

5. Find out about the bullying policy here at your school and keep it in mind when you witness bullying.

6. Welcome new people at your school. Introduce them and help them feel comfortable.

7. Refuse to stand by. If you see friends or classmates laughing along with the bully, tell them that they are contributing to the problem. Let them know that by laughing they are also bullying the victim.

8. Respect others’ differences and help others to respect differences. It’s cool for people to be different – that’s what makes all of us unique.

9. Educate yourself about bullying. Why do kids bully? Where does bullying take place most often? Who can you tell? What are the effects of bullying? Why are people afraid to get involved? Understanding this information will help you if you are bullied and will help you to stand up to bullies.

Acknowledgement: From BullyBust: Creating a Community of Upstanders from the National School Climate Centre (NSCC).

**SWPBS**

This week we will be expanding on Rule #1: Respect for Self and Others by focussing on the concept of ‘speak to please’. Language is a very powerful tool and can be used to promote positive relationships or to harm relationships. By focussing on ‘speak to please’ we are developing in the students positive behaviours that help to build up relationships rather than damaging them and then having to deal with the fallout caused by the damage.

**Parish News**

On Sunday February 9, St Brigid’s Parish started their 2014 sacramental program. Please support the children, their families and the sacramental program coordinator with your prayers. Many St Brigid’s students are involved in the program.

**SAMOAN MASS** The Samoan Community of the Gold Coast have organised Mass to be said in the Samoan language with Samoan music to be celebrated by Father Epati Tamati at St Brigid’s Catholic Church Nerang on Sunday 2nd March 2014 at 1.30pm. Everyone is most welcome. For further information please phone Maina on 0438 256 297.

Please [click here](#) for this week’s parish newsletter.
Active School Travel

Dear Parents,

This year St Brigid’s is participating in the Active School Travel program aimed at reducing school traffic by promoting walking, riding a bike or scooter, sharing a car with other families and using public transport to and from school. It’s also about increasing physical activity levels of children. If you wish to see a safer school community with active and healthy children arriving at school bright, alert and ready to learn, I encourage you to participate in this program.

We need to evaluate the success of the program and we invite you to assist by filling in this short 10 minute survey.

The survey will ask you a series of questions about how you currently travel to and from school and your child/children’s current health and fitness levels. This includes if you or your children currently travel to school by car. **We need your responses! Please access the parents’ Active Travel survey at the following link.**

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CNSMG86](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CNSMG86)

Please respond by the end of February. All of your answers and input will be confidential.

Many thanks

St Brigid’s School Active School Travel Committee

Have a good week.

Kevin Bianchi
Principal

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**APA NEWS**

**Emergency Procedures at St Brigid's**

St Brigid’s will be conducting whole school evacuation and lockdown drills in coming days in compliance with Brisbane Catholic Education guidelines. Safety is everyone’s responsibility and procedures which are in place should be clear to all members of our school community.

All classroom teachers would have discussed and rehearsed these procedures with students in their care in preparation for these drills. There are clearly marked evacuation maps on display in all areas of the school showing the building plan, exit points, evacuation route, fire extinguishers & assembly area.

I **would ask that any parents who are onsite during these drills participate fully by following the directions of the nearest staff member.** An abbreviated outline of the emergency procedures are below:

**Lockdown Drill**

In the event of an emergency situation or potential danger to students and staff, the song “Lost and Running” by Powderfinger will be played.
This indicates the need to move to the closest building/classroom. All staff and students should be seated on the floor, out of view of windows. Doors should be locked and lights turned off. Children should remain silent until the all-clear announcement is made.

**Evacuation Drill**

The Evacuation Alarm is a continuous siren heard throughout the school. If the alarm cannot be activated then a hand siren or announcement will replace the alarm. The main responsibility for Staff is the safe evacuation and supervision of all students and classroom visitors to the assembly area which is located next to the Adventure Playground. On arrival at the assembly area a nominated teacher from each year level will collect class lists.

Teachers will then record those students who are: absent, present or were late to school. Teachers will then hand their completed class lists back to the Chief Fire Warden.

When all students, staff and visitors have been accounted for the Chief Fire Warden/Principal will signal a return to the classrooms.

**ICAS Competitions for 2014**

ICAS stands for the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools, developed by Educational Assessment Australia (EAA) of the University of New South Wales (UNSW). The competitions are conducted during school hours and require no special preparation over and above the class work students cover with their teachers each day.

Entry into any of the ICAS competitions is open to all students from Year 3 to Year 7.

St Brigid’s will once again offer the chance for your child to participate in one, two or all three of the competitions offered by the University of NSW this year.

The assessments being offered include Science, English and Mathematics. Each test takes the form of a series of multiple choice questions on the competition topic. All children get a statement of results and a certificate of participation or achievement. The cost is $8.00 per competition.

**Students who are interested can collect a note from the front office.**

Entries and payment will be accepted at the front office until Friday February 28th

Should you require more information please access the following link: [http://www.qagtc.org.au/](http://www.qagtc.org.au/)

**Students with Medical Alerts at St Brigid’s**

I will be contacting parents / care givers of students with significant medical needs in coming days. These students include those affected by anaphylaxis, diabetes, epilepsy and other conditions requiring a written action plan. **I encourage parents of students affected by these conditions to contact the office to make an appointment if you have not heard from me in coming days.** It is through formulating an agreed action management plan that the staff at St Brigid’s can provide the best possible care for your child.
Asthma Management Plans

If you have indicated on your child’s medical records that they suffer from asthma we strongly encourage parents to formulate an asthma management plan with the support of a medical professional. This plan can then be provided to your child’s classroom teacher and specialist teachers to ensure everyone is informed and the correct processes are followed if they suffer an asthma attack. Further information can be accessed at the following link: http://www.asthmaaustralia.org.au/Tools-and-asthma-action-plans.aspx

School Volunteers

At St Brigid’s we value and encourage parents who have the time and energy to assist in classrooms under the direction of the classroom teacher. Prior to parents assisting in classrooms and in compliance with BCE policy and school procedure, parents are asked to read the following documents:

- Brisbane Catholic Education’s Statement of Principles
- The Volunteer Code of Conduct
- Volunteer Registration form (to be signed & submitted to the office)
- The Student Protection Handbook for Volunteers

These documents can be accessed on the St Brigid’s school website at the following address: http://www.sb.qld.edu.au/page.asp?id=87

This volunteer training process and documentation should occur in every new calendar year. A folder of parents who have lodged this documentation with the office is kept in administration. Should there be any questions in relation to this material or the process, please speak to Kevin, Karen or Chris in the front office.

Please see me if you have any questions regarding parent helpers for 2014.

Regards,

Chris Clurey
APA

PASTORAL CARE

"Let's tell our family and friends how much we love them.

Do not delay anything that adds laughter and joy to you life.

Every day, every hour
and every minute

is special!"

This week spread Joy.

Sr Brigid Frawley

GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR NEWS

This Week's Parent Topic

Positive Parent Involvement - You Make a Difference

Positive parent participation demonstrates to children that you value learning as well as their school. Parenting educator Michael Grose has suggested some ideas to help you participate in your child’s education in positive ways. Please click here to download the tip sheet.

Insights_positive_parent_involvement.pdf

Please do not hesitate to contact me, the class teacher or other school personnel if you are concerned about the social or emotional well-being of your child.

Weekly Quote: "Taking time and sharing is the essence of teaching. The future of those we cherish, will be a reflection of what we model today." -unknown

Cilla Stent
Primary Guidance

LIBRARY NEWS
Library Days

Tuesday – Years 3 and 1

Wednesday – Years 4 and 5

Thursday – Years 6 and 7

Friday – Years Prep and 2

We still have overdue library books from last year, please ask your child to return these.

Jan Knowles

BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday this week to the following children:


STUDENT AWARDS

Week 4 Awards to be presented at Assembly - Wk 5 - Monday 24 February

1A Anita, Owen

1B Paige, Lewis

1C Alyssa, Charlie

2A Ella, Ethan

2B Grace, Ryan

3B Rylee, Zach K

3C Olivia, Brock

4A Jade, Kyan

7B Sam, Eliza
Robo's Rule of the Week

Speak to Please.
MUSIC NOTES

Musical Instrument Demonstration: Happening Soon!!

Would your child like to learn a musical instrument and become part of the St Brigid's School instrumental band program?

St Brigid's School, together with Musicorp, are excited to offer a variety of instruments for students to learn.

Students will soon have the opportunity to attend a demonstration here at school to see, hear and try an instrument for themselves. Flute, Trumpet, Saxophone, Trombone, Clarinet, Violin, Percussion and Guitar lessons are available during school time.

Please call Musicorp on 1300 858 911 or email Amber on amber@musicorp.com.au

Please see attached expression of interest flyer for further information or speak with Mrs Sandstrom.

Please click below for Musicorp Exp of Interest Flyer:

Musicorp Exp of Interest Flyer 1 2.pdf

The Green Spot Environmental News

In 1989, an ‘average Australian bloke’ had a simple idea to make a difference in his own backyard - Sydney Harbour. This simple idea has now become the nation's largest community-based environmental event, Clean Up Australia Day.

St Brigid's has been actively involved in the campaign for several years and will again take part on Schools Clean Up Day – February 28th.

The Year 2 students and teachers will be cleaning our school grounds and surrounding parklands as part of their Reduce Reuse and Recycle focus in term 1.
Information will be sent home with your child. Parents are welcome to join in.

The Environmental Team

Thank you.

Mrs Sandstrom
Classroom Music Specialist

MR GUDGEON'S SPORTS REPORT

"BATTER UP" School Softball Program

WHEN:

Beginning Tuesday 18th February at 3:05pm on St Brigid's School Oval. Program runs for 6 weeks, concluding on the 25th March.

WHERE:

St Brigid's School Oval

HOW MUCH:

$65 includes back pack, softball glove, and ball.

All Ages Welcome. Registration on the day or contact John on 33912447
Net-Set-Go After School Netball Program for kids 5 - 10 yrs of age

WHEN:
Net-Set-Go After School Netball Program kicks off Wednesday 19th February – for 7 weeks. This great initiative will run from 3pm - 4pm every Wednesday afternoon for term 1.

WHERE:
St Brigid's School Oval / Hall. 3pm Start

COST:
$70

Simon Gudgeon
PE Teacher & Sports Coordinator

WORKPLACE HEALTH & SAFETY NEWS

be SAFE be WELL
TUCKSHOP

Welcome to all the new families and welcome back to the old families.

HELPERS are required please. If you are able to help out with even an hour of your time, it would be much appreciated. Please pop down and see me if you are able to help out, as many hands make light work.

Please [click here](#) to access the 2014 Tuckshop Menu.

Online Ordering

This year we are offering online ordering, you will need to follow the link attached to set up your account.


Children will be able purchase items over the counter during 1st & 2nd break, but snacks and ice-blocks only.

Miss Mel

Tuckshop Convenor

UNIFORM SHOP

Hours

Tuesday and Friday 8:30am - 9:30am
Welcoming Mass & Picnic with Live Entertainment Friday 28 February

Mass starts at 6pm followed by a BYO Picnic on the Oval.

There will be a performance from the school Drum Group and a live band.

Come and join families from the school community over a relaxing evening.

Please [click here](#) to access the flyer.

Parents & Friends AGM - Wednesday 19th February in the Library

All positions will become vacant.

We would like to see some new fresh faces with fresh ideas.

St Brigid’s P&F’s motto is “Many hands make light work"

Helene Fahey
P&F President

CLASS NEWS

Prep News

We hope everyone had a happy Valentine’s Day. The children celebrated by making something special in their classrooms. The students were introduced to “Connie Confidence”, the first of our characters in the “You Can Do It” program. Please revise her qualities that were listed on the parent handout given on Friday.
This week the children will be learning about the letter “Aa” and our number for the week is the number 3. Please discuss these with your child and perhaps help them to practice writing them the correct way. You could also ask them to find objects around the house and group them into sets of three.
Last week we had our first library lesson. The children have been learning about the correct way to handle a book when reading it. Ask your child if they can remember Mrs Knowles’ joke of the week.

**Year 1 News**

With great excitement Grade One homework and readers went home for this week. Literacy Block also commenced so ask your child if they went on Reading Eggs, worked on word building and rhyme, did a ‘Big Book’ or worked in a small group with their teacher.

**Year 2 News**

Thanks to all the parents who were able to make it to the Year Two Parent Information night. It was great to see so many parents and carers there. We look forward to a great year educating your children with you.

Homework began last week and is due on Tuesdays. The new homework is given out each Wednesday. The children are asked to read every night and return their reader daily.

The children have been enjoying and benefiting from the fresh fruit and vegetables eaten at Munch and Crunch time each day. It's also great to see so many wonderful healthy lunches. This healthy eating really helps with the children's ability to concentrate and learn.

Thank you to those who have prepared and presented their Oral Language Homework item. Please encourage the children to prepare their Oral Language Homework item to bring to school. As each child presents their item it is recorded. This is very important in developing the children's confidence, articulation and the ability to present in front of an audience.

This week we have been learning our Rainbow Numbers. Please ask your child to explain these to you. There will be a Robo ticket for every child who lets us know that they have explained the Rainbow Numbers to their parents/carers.

Have a great week.

Year Two Teachers

**Year 3 News**

Year Three experienced their first school swimming carnival on Monday! Well done to each and every child who participated and swam their best on the day! Much fun was had and the teachers noted great team spirit amongst each house colour.

Most children have been showing responsibility and organisation by returning their class readers each day or every second day. In Year Three, children should be reading for ten minutes every night, but if they are not able to finish their reader then students can keep it for another night.

Each student has been given a 'Count Your Blessings' journal that they can write in on a daily basis. Children will record something which has happened on that day for which they feel grateful. You might like to ask your child each night what it is that they were grateful for on that day. Perhaps you and even other family members could share something from your day that made you smile or feel blessed.

Have a great week!
Year 4 News

Year 4 students have been working hard using our new tablets. We have also been learning about how to care for them carefully. In the morning before school Year 4 students will keep their bags with them until 8:20. When they come to the classrooms, one of the year 4 rooms will have the door open ready for you to take your tablet in and put in your class tub. Ms Margo at Outside school hours care has organised a spot inside for Year 4 students to store their bags inside. Also, please find a parent letter from Mathletics on the parent portal.

Year 6 News

After a great start to the year, the students have settled into a productive work mode and are showing genuine interest in our discussions of migrants and refugees. This week they are presenting their speeches on six of the most valuable items that they would pack in a suitcase if they were to be leaving their home country for a year. They soon realised that the items that they would take were not necessarily the most expensive but the ones that had the most sentimental value.

During library, the students have been competing in mini "Reader's Cup" tournaments in preparation for the finals that will determine which team represents St Brigid's at the Catholics Schools Competition. We are very impressed to witness so many avid reader's and the team work they are displaying.

Finally, we would like to thank all of the parents who were able to attend the information evening. It helps to have both parent and teacher on 'the same page' when working together with your child. Information booklets were sent home if you were unable to attend.

Year 7 News

Year 7 are certainly entrenched into the year. The students have made gains towards designing our sustainable garden which is generating understanding around Area and Volume of regular and irregular shapes. They are additionally working on a diorama of an ecosystem for science as well as creating a mural on Egypt as a part of history. Students will commence their multiple intelligence presentations next week. They will be preparing a multi-modal presentation so they may need some practice in front of a live audience.

The importance of establishing routines regarding homework cannot be stressed highly enough. It is important to reinforce understanding of learnt tasks as well as develop time management and positive study habits. Please be vigilant in supporting your child in this process. Apart from anything else, reading is the most important type of homework that can be done at anytime, anywhere. Please encourage this.

Year 7 Teachers

OFFICE NEWS

Parent Portal Access

We are currently in the process of arranging access to the Parent Portal for new families and also those who have had problems gaining access in the past. We are sending temporary passwords out to parents as soon as we can. Please contact the office if you have recently changed your email address or if you have any problems. Thank you for your patience.
Term Dates

Please refer to the Brisbane Catholic Education website for term dates for 2014 and 2015.

http://www.bne.catholic.edu.au/students-parents/Pages/TermDates.aspx

Please refer also to the calendar on the Parent Portal for dates relevant to St Brigid's.

Change of Details

If you have recently changed your phone number, email address, residential or postal address, please contact the office by telephone or email at pnerang@bne.catholic.edu.au to advise us of these changes. Up to date information for each student is important in case we need to contact you for any reason.

Direct Debit Request Forms

If you would like to arrange to pay your school fees via direct debit from either a bank account or credit card, a direct debit form can be obtained from the office.

Student Banking - Every Wednesday

A new rewards system has been introduced for Student Banking in 2014. Please come into the office if your child did not receive an information package.

A representative from the Commonwealth Bank Student Banking Program will be attending our School Assembly on Monday 17 March to provide further information. She will also be set up outside the Administration Building from 8am on Tuesday 18 March to set up new accounts.

In the meantime, new accounts can be set up at your local Commonwealth Bank branch.
Administration of Medication

At times medication needs to be administered to a child at school ie, antibiotics, ear drops etc. If you need us to administer medication to your child during school hours, you must complete the attached Student Medication Request form.

- Medication is to be provided in the original pharmacy labelled container/box to the school.
- Please ensure medication is not out of date and has an original pharmacy label stating the student's name, dosage and time to be taken.
- The student needs to have previously received a dose at home without any ill effects.
- The medication must be collected when it is no longer required at school.
- A new form must be completed if the student is prescribed a change.

NB: Where possible, medication should be administered to your child at home at times other than during school hours.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Nerang Library - Get Set for Prep

Thursday 27 February 3:30pm - 4:30pm

Nerang Branch Library - Cnr Price & White Sts, Nerang

Bookings Essential

Book via the online calendar at www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/library

Select event & activities or ask staff for assistance.
Nerang Early Childhood ‘World’s greatest shave’ open day

Our centre is getting behind one of our long term families who are experiencing a personal battle with a form of cancer. Amanda V, mum of a toddler in our service will be shaving her head in preparation for another series of treatments scheduled soon. Amanda will be shaving her head on Thursday 13th with the help of Laura from local hairdressing business, ‘Davissa’. Our service wants to raise much needed funds and community acknowledgement of all the families in our community battling with cancer in its many forms. Our service will be holding information stalls like ‘Nerang Early Years Centre’ who promote ‘steps to prep’ family support project, Little big Sports (soccer program for under 5s’) up, up and away (iphone app. and web information about local businesses and services), Dream Centre (local food bank) and PMP for kids (physical motor program, and healthy nutrition designed by the services educator’s and families). Local businesses are donating good and services that will be put into the days raffles to be drawn on the day. Guest appearances may include but not be limited to local sporting teams, community groups, local family support networks, and local library services. We will also have guided tours, face painting, Japanese language class, storytelling, smart board interactive class demonstrations, balloons, cake stall, raffle prizes and information packs available. All money raised on the day will go towards our chosen charity ‘The World Greatest Shave’. ‘The Shaving’ event will be scheduled the following week 13 March 2014. We want to try to get the whole community involved for such a great cause so lock us into your weekend plans on the 8 March 2014 at 10-1pm. We’d love to see you!

Hinterland Tennis Nerang

Coaching daily only $10 - rackets provided.

Professional Coach - great programs.

Call John on 55 960 308