FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Hello to all in the St Brigid’s community,

Term 1, Week 6

This Sunday is the First Sunday of LENT

The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes on Thursday of Holy Week. It includes six Sundays, the five Sundays of Lent and Palm Sunday of the Passion of our Lord.

During Lent the Readings raise some of the really big questions of the human condition; life, death, sin and salvation. The First Reading is from Genesis and recounts the Hebrew version of the start of human existence and the flaw in our human nature.

In the Second Reading Paul teaches the Romans that Jesus Christ redeemed humanity with his death and resurrection.

The Gospel story of the Temptation of Jesus then takes this theme of good and evil and overlays the Christ figure who reveals that the way to triumph over evil is by listening to the Word of God.

Really heavy content this week, but that is why we have Lent; to ponder, to pray, to explore and to arrive at Easter as a different and better person.

What’s on over the next week

The monthly School Board meeting will be held on Wednesday evening commencing with dinner at 6:00pm.

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent, and there will be a Mass commencing at 9:15 am in St Brigid’s Church for the School Community.

Staff from Aquinas College will visit St Brigid’s on Wednesday March 12th to talk to our Years 5-7 students about Aquinas College.

The Annual Catholic Schools’ Swimming Carnival will be held at Pizzey Park, Miami on Friday March 7th.

Assembly prayer this week was lead by 4B whilst 4C will lead next week’s

Mass and Picnic

Thanks to the families who were able to attend the welcoming Mass and picnic on Friday evening. Thanks to Fr Rafal for presiding at the Mass, Ms Petherick for organising the
liturgy, Mrs Sandstrom and the singing club for the singing during mass and to Scott and the percussion students for providing some live music entertainment for the picnickers.

SWPBS

This week we will be expanding on Rule #1: Respect for self and others by concentrating on good manners in the classroom e.g. taking turns, respecting others’ opinions, using words like please and thank you and remembering to Make Christ Present by our own behaviour.

Parish News

Lent is near so just a few reminders:

- March 5th is Ash Wednesday. Masses at St Brigid’s will be at 7am, 9.15am (School) and 6pm. It is a day of fast and abstinence.

- On Fridays during Lent there will be Stations of the Cross at 6pm.

- On Saturdays at 10am the parish will have Lenten Program – Lectio Divina.

- St Brigid’s Parish will support Project Compassion organised by Caritas Australia. Boxes and envelopes are available.

Please click here for this week's parish newsletter.

Prep Enrolments 2015

Later this month we will commence our enrolment interviews for next year’s Prep cohort. If you have a younger child eligible to start Prep next year or have friends or relatives with children eligible to start Prep in 2015 please submit an enrolment application and/or advise your friends or relatives to do so over the next fortnight.

Child Care Benefit for Registered Care

Changes for St Brigid’s School

Our school has been registered as a care provider with the Department of Human Services. This has allowed families with children attending the Preparatory year to claim a Child Care Benefit for registered care as this year was not previously considered to be the first formal year of schooling.

From 1 January 2014, this will change as the Preparatory year will be considered to be the first formal year of schooling in Queensland. As a result, our school will not be able to provide a
registered care service for Child Care Benefit Rebate purposes for the Preparatory year of schooling on or after 1 January 2014.

Should you have any questions or concerns please phone the Department of Human Services on 13 6150.

The Brisbane Archdiocesan P&F Council AGM

The Brisbane Archdiocesan P&F Council wishes to invite members of the St Brigid’s P&F Community to their Annual General Meeting being held on Monday 17 March at St Anthony’s Hall, St Anthony’s School, Kedron.

Special Guest for the evening will be Mrs Carmel Nash, Executive Director, The Federation of P&F Associations of Catholic Schools in Queensland.

Doors open at 5.15pm for 5.30pm dinner, followed by the AGM and guest speaker. There is no charge for this event

RSVP – Wednesday 12 March to info@pandf.org.au or phone 3336 9242

GLOBAL MEGATRENDS (Part 2)

The beginning of a new year is a time to look ahead to trends that are likely to affect government policy and social change into 2030. Schools cannot flourish in a vacuum. By studying global megatrends we can narrow down to the decisions we make in our schools that will take our students into their future.

1 Public debt: Public debt will continue to be a significant constraint on public spending and for decades to come, leading to new, and cost-effective ways of delivering public services like education. Our ability to reduce debt while stimulating growth will affect our capacity to respond to social, economic and environmental challenges.

   · The aging population will drive up health and pension spending while limiting potential to meet growing demand for new services.

   · Public spending will be tightly controlled, affecting education.

   · Countries will be increasingly exposed to global market risks and will be less able to withstand financial shocks.

2 Economic power shift: Emerging economies are lifting millions out of poverty, introducing a new influence on the global economy and rebalancing global power which will demand greater responsiveness, inclusiveness, transparency and ownership.

   · The United Nations Millennium Goal of reducing extreme poverty rates by half was met five years ahead of the 2015 deadline.
By 2030, developing countries will account for 57% of global GDP.

Developing countries will be home to 440 of the world’s fastest growing cities.

India and China will account for 35% of the world’s population and 25% of global GDP.

Chinese firms will acquire increasing numbers of foreign companies.

3 **Climate change**: Rising greenhouse gas emissions will drive a complex mix of unpredictable changes to the environment while placing new demands on our natural and built systems. Governments will have the difficult task of finding the right combination of adaptation and mitigation policies.

- By 2050 the costs of extreme weather could reach up to 1% of global GDP.
- Adapting to a 2°C warmer world will require investments of US$100 billion per year.
- 200 million people could be permanently displaced because of climate change. Cities account for 60-80% of energy costs and the same amount of CO2 emissions.
- Global co-operation will be essential.

4 **Resource stress**: Population growth, economic growth and climate change will increase the stress on natural resources like water, food, arable land, minerals and fuels. Sustainable resource management will be at the centre of all government agendas so that our population can be guaranteed sufficient food, water and energy.

- A bigger, more affluent global population will require a 50% increase in food production.
- There will be a 40% increase in global energy demand.
- The gap between water supply and demand could be 40% by 2030.
- There will be greater competition for metals and minerals and increased risk of resource nationalism, threatening world peace and security.

5 **Urbanisation**: Almost two thirds of the world’s population will live in cities by 2030 creating new opportunities for sustainable living but also placing pressure on infrastructure like transport and education.

- 80% of all urban growth in the next 20 years will take place in Africa and Asia.
- Megacities with a population of 10 million plus will grow from 20 today to 37 in 2025.
- 1 billion people presently live in urban slums and this number could double by 2030.
- Urban populations need access to services like housing, transport, energy and education.
Thank you to the families who joined us for Mass on Friday night. The children led us beautifully and the singing club is sounding really good, thanks to their hard work and Mrs Sandstrom’s efforts.

This week brings us to the start of Lent. This Tuesday we celebrate Shrove Tuesday, a day when pancakes are traditionally eaten. This goes back to the days when people used up their supplies of butter, milk, eggs and sugar before they began fasting on Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is the first day of lent. We receive ashes on our foreheads as a reminder to turn back to God. The forty days of Lent and the tradition of fasting are linked to the bible story of Jesus’ 40 days in the wilderness. In modern times we use the season of lent to donate to the poor and learn more about Jesus through reading and prayer. Some people choose to give up a treat of some sort until Easter. Others decide to do something for the needy during this time. One thing we can all do is support Project Compassion. Boxes went home last week to be filled with spare change throughout lent. This is a good way for children to put what they learn in school into practical action.

Karen Petherick
APRE

APA NEWS

ICT ACCEPTABLE USE CONTRACT – PLEASE RETURN

Parents of students in years 3-7 have received a document outlining what is involved in the acceptable use of ICT resources for St Brigid’s students. This document has been created to ensure students are using learning technologies in a safe and responsible manner. At this stage of the term all contracts should have been signed and returned to class teachers. Thank you to those families who have completed this task already.

ICAS COMPETITIONS FOR 2014 CLOSED

ICAS entries for St Brigid’s have now closed. We had a very positive response with 37 students expressing interest in sitting tests. These tests cover the areas of Science, English or Maths and are scheduled for the following dates: Science – Wed June 4th, English – Tues July 19th & Maths – Tuesday Aug 12th.
NAPLAN PREPARATION FOR 2014

Students from years 3, 5 & 7 will undertake their annual NAPLAN tests from May 13-15. Class teachers may make contact with some parents prior to the testing to ensure students requiring adjustments are suitably catered for during the testing period. Parents wishing to find out more about the NAPLAN testing can click on the following link:

CYBER SAFETY

As portable devices such as internet capable phones and tablets increase in prevalence so do the complexities of managing their safe use in the home. Some simple tips can help avoid possible future issues, these include:

- Stay involved in your child’s use of new technology. Set up your own account and learn about privacy settings so you can understand how you can best protect your children. It can be fun for you too!
- Take an interest in what your children are doing on their portable device and online; discuss this with them.
- Set clear rules about where these devices are to be used in the house. Family or shared areas are best for interaction and supervision of portable devices rather than bedrooms.
- Ensure the activities and areas accessed are age appropriate. Students under the age of 13 years should not be allowed to sign up for Facebook.
- Talk about technology safety in the same way you might talk about safety in other areas of their life.

Chris Clurey
APA

DATE CLAIMERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 7th March</td>
<td>Catholic Schools Swimming Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 4th April</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 22nd April</td>
<td>Term 2 begins</td>
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Please refer also to the calendar on the Parent Portal for dates relevant to St Brigid's.

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

PASTORAL CARE
The good you do is important.

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

Bishop Desmond Tutu

This week let us all do our "little bit of good".

Sr Brigid Frawley

GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR NEWS

This Week's Parent Topic

12 friendship skills every child needs.

Friendship skills are generally developmental. That is, kids grow into these skills given exposure to different situations and with adult help. Parenting educator Michael Grose has identified twelve essential skills that children have identified as being important for making and keeping friends, as well as some ideas if you think your child experiences developmental delay in any of these essential skills or just needs some help to acquire them. Please click here to download the tip sheet.

Weekly Quote: Encourage & support your kids because "Children are apt to live up to what you believe of them." – Lady Bird Johnson

Insights_Friendship_skills.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.

Kind Regards,
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 6 Awards to be presented at Assembly Wk 7 - Monday 10 March

OA  Kobie, Poppy
OB  Kobi, Keira
OC  Beth, Hunter
1A  Baxter, Khloe
1B  Reilly, Monnie
1C  Charlotte, Lachlan B
2A  Annabelle, Jasper
2B  Layla, Valentino
3A  Catherine, Sandon
3B  Brioney, Harrison
3C  Aliyah, Cadell
4A  Lily, Josh
4C  Jacinta, Chelsea
5B  Mia, Arielle
6A  Jasmine, Tamara
6B  Rachael, Megan
7A  Andrew, Kaylah
7B  Eliza K, Cyndi
S.W.P.B.S

Robo's Rule of the Week

Respect for self and others.

Robo Awards

Amelia F, Rachael 3B, Shayla M 5B, Ava W 2A, Megan T 6B, Sam D 4B, Beth OC, Summer OC, Hayden 1B, William J 2A.

MUSIC NOTES

Singing Club
Thank you to the students who were able to come along and sing at the welcome Mass last Friday evening. We will continue rehearsals each Thursday at 8am in the music room. Students from grades 2-7 are welcome.

Try this exercise we are practising, for clear articulation:

*Whether the weather be cold, whether the weather be hot, we’ll be together, whatever the weather, whether we like it or not!!*

St Brigid’s Band Program

Musicorp Trials

Teachers from Musicorp have been testing students from yrs 3 -5 for suitability for an instrument this week. Your child may bring home a note stating that they would be well suited to playing a particular instrument. If you are interested in pursuing this further, please return the expression of interest note and you will be contacted by Musicorp with further information.

A parent information evening is being planned to explain how the band program operates here at St Brigid’s. More information to follow.

Mrs Sandstrom

MR GUDGEON’S SPORTS REPORT

The Catholic Schools’ Swimming Carnival will be held this Friday 7th March at Pizzey Park Swimming pool, Miami. This is for competitors that achieved the 3 fastest times from our School Carnival. All students attending have been given notes and we wish them the best of luck with their competition on Friday.

Please [click here](#) for the swimming carnival timetable.
Regional Swimming

Congratulations to Will Mulcaster and Tayah Cooper for their recent achievements at the Regional Swimming carnival. Both of you have done yourselves, your school, and your families proud.

Interschool Sport

All students (grades 5-7) have recently made selections for interschool sport choices for our competition beginning Friday 14th March. Choices have been posted outside Mr Gudgeon office. Please refer to the parent portal for times and venues of sport each week.

Simon Gudgeon
PE Teacher & Sports Coordinator

WORKPLACE HEALTH & SAFETY NEWS

be SAFE be WELL

TUCKSHOP

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
Socks and Bags have arrived!!!!
Help needed! If you have a spare hour on Tuesday or Friday mornings from 8.30 - 9.30 your help serving would be greatly appreciated. If available to help out, please give me a call or drop in to Uniform Shop.

Many thanks
Deb Laurie - 0431 151 903

**5-7 Inclusion**

Chill Out Room

The Chill Out Room is once again in full swing. Our 2014 year 5s are sincerely welcomed, as too are our year 6 and 7 regulars.
The Easter Collage Competition is again underway. Please access link for further information.

Unfortunately our 'Playstation 2', used with our eye toy, was damaged last year. If anyone has the ability to repair it, or is able to lend / donate another one, we would be very much appreciative.

Marie Kennedy :)

CLASS NEWS

Prep News

This week the children will be learning about the letter “Ii” and our number for the week is the number 5. Please discuss these with your child and perhaps help them to practise writing them the correct way.

This week marks the beginning of the Lenten season. On Wednesday the children will be participating in an Ash Wednesday liturgy led by Sister Brigid. This season is an exciting one, as we learn about the true meaning of Easter and what it means to us. We would like each child to bring in one pair of plain coloured socks, which will used by the children for a craft activity.

The children have been enjoying their tuckshop lunches. We have noticed that a number of orders are too large for the children to eat. They then find that by the time they have finished eating, they have missed out on playing with their new friends.
We would like to remind you that the clear plastic pockets are for communication between school and home. It is important that these are brought to school each day so that you receive any information that may be given. We also need each child to remember to bring their hats EVERYDAY, as our policy is NO HAT, NO PLAY! (We are encouraging the children to keep their hats in the front pocket of their school bags).

Year 2 News

Over the past week we surveyed how the children travelled to school. Whether by walking/park and walk, ride/park and ride, scooter/park and scooter, skateboard/park and skateboard, carpool, bus and drive all the way to school. This is to encourage travelling to school in a way that benefits both the health of people and the planet. It also helps congestion in the car park. The children will be surveyed again next term and hopefully we’ll see an increase in the number of children that travel to school in a travel smart way. There’s a prize for the class who has the most students travelling on Active Travel.

Year two are learning about the 3 R’s (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) this term. As part of this focus for the term we held our “Clean Up Australia Day” last Friday. It was great to see the mums, dads, grandmothers and grandfathers who came along to help us with the supervision during this activity. Your time and effort is greatly appreciated. We collected quite a bit of rubbish but the school and surrounding area was fairly litter free which was good to see.

Last week the children brought home a Project Compassion money box to collect money for those less fortunate. Please encourage your child to do some extra chores around the home to earn some money to put into the money box. When it is full it can be brought to school and it will be sent to Caritas. The class who raises the most money will win a prize.

Have a great week!
Year Three have been busy reflecting on their days, then writing in their 'Count your Blessings' journals. Here are some quotes written by your little cherubs. They remind us of just how the littlest things that can be said and done, can count for more than we even realise!

"Today, at break time, I felt happy when Isabelle asked me if she could come to the library with me." Cliodhna 3A

"Today I felt happy when I saw my mum smiling happily!"
Tom, 3A

"Today I felt happy when I found my hat." Luke 3A

"Today I am grateful for my pets and my award." Mackenzie 3C

"Today I am thankful for the wonderful school and friends." Brendan 3C

"Dear God,
I am thankful for Mrs Roberts."
Kirsten 3C
"I am grateful for having such a loving, caring, beautiful, lovely, exquisite, gorgeous, pretty and stunning teacher." Poppy 3B

"I am grateful for having so many friends and this beautiful environment." Wilken 3B

"I am grateful for Clinton (cultural officer) who came to talk to us." Zach K 3B

We thank those parents who are able to offer up their time to help in their child’s classroom. Please don’t forget to read and sign the appropriate material on the Parent Portal and to then notify the ladies in the office. Sign in and out at your child's classroom.

Have a great week!

Year 6 News

This week we have been busy at work on a number of projects. Here are some quotes from some of our students;

“I think that the mould experiment in science was very fascinating but a little disturbing! I liked seeing the effects of the mould growth on the different foods. I thought it was an exceptional lesson.”

(Cooper)

“This week we have been sorting out our migrant interviews for history. I am doing my Poppa who comes from Switzerland. It will be fun to find out about other people’s culture.”

(Jasmine)

“During this week I did my first silhouette art. It is awesome! My head is the frame of the picture and I am filling it with pictures of all of my favourite things. I love doing this- it is great fun.”

(Sophie)

“I am in the ‘Blue Mickey’ team for the Readers Cup. I really enjoy the reading and doing the pop quizzes. Our team did well but we still need to do some more reading.”

(Natasha)
OFFICE NEWS

Parent Portal Access

We are currently working with BCE to rectify any issues with logging onto the Parent Portal. Please contact the office if you have recently changed your email address or if you have any problems. Thank you for your patience.

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 extremely 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 or accessed through the Parent Portal.

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 available 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.

Please note that school banking deposits should contain cash only, no cheques please.

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.
Music in the Park / Youth Week

Council is holding a free Music in the Park / Youth Week Family Event at Bischof Pioneer Park, Nerang St, Nerang on Sunday 6th April from 12 noon to 4pm (following on from the Nerang markets).

There will be music and fun activities to suit all ages.

Some activities already proposed are for example:

- Rock climbing wall
- Inflatable obstacle course
- Have a go circus

The Nerang PCYC will also be involved and there will be a BBQ and drinks available for purchase.

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 March 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!

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend

Worldwide Marriage Encounter: A weekend away for married couples in peaceful, picturesque surroundings – away from the distractions of everyday living. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset . . . your Marriage! This is a unique opportunity to recharge your relationship batteries, refocus on each other and fall in love all over again!

Weekend date: 13th – 15th June 2014
Venue: Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Ormiston QLD (on Brisbane’s bayside)

For bookings/details contact: Tamara and Scott Menteith, ph (07) 4634 3559, stjmen@aapt.net.au  Information website: www.wwme.org.au

Be A Parent Not A Pal

I would like to invite all parents to the free "Be a Parent Not a Pal" parent skilling evenings at St Michael's College. Following is the flyer for your consideration.

Hinterland Tennis Nerang

Coaching daily only $10 - rackets provided.

Professional Coach - great programs.

Call John on 55 960 308

Girls Soccer Academy