FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Term 1 Week 1

Welcome Back and Welcome

As usual it was an honour to welcome the students on Wednesday morning. The first day of a new school year is such an exciting event for all concerned. I especially welcome all our new students and families to St Brigid’s.

I welcome to St Brigid’s, Mrs Julie Rey, our new Assistant Principal – Administration. I also welcome Mrs Kelly Klos who will be teaching with Mrs Chappell in Year 4A and Mr Vince Dundas who is taking up the Guidance Counsellor position and Mr Glenn Thomas who will be starting an instrumental music program in Year 3.

Parish Mass

The Feast Day of St Brigid, our Patroness, is February 1st so Father Rafal has invited our school community to join with the parish community this Sunday to start the school year with a joint celebration in honour of St Brigid. Mass will commence at 8:30 am and be followed by a shared morning tea. Please bring a plate.

Saint Brigit of Kildare or Brigid of Ireland (Irish: NaomhBrid; c. 451–525) is one of Ireland's patron saints, along with Patrick and Columba. Irish hagiography makes her an early Irish Christian nun, abbess, and founder of several monasteries of nuns, including that of Kildare in Ireland, which was famous and was revered. Her feast day is 1 February, which was formerly celebrated as a pagan festival (Imbolc) marking the beginning of spring and the lambing season.

We learn much from the life of St Brigid and try to follow her example here at St Brigid’s School. St Brigid is remembered as; a carer of the earth, a healing woman, a woman of compassion, a model of equality, a woman of peace, a woman of contemplation and a woman of inspiration. This year if we each focus on one of these attributes and try to emulate it, your family, our school and each of our lives will be enriched.

St. Brigid’s Blessing

May Brigid bless the house wherein you dwell
Bless every fireside every wall and door
Bless every heart that beats beneath its roof
Bless every hand that toils to bring it joy
Bless every foot that walks its portals through
May Brigid bless the house that shelters you.

**Australia Day Prayer**

Happy Australia Day for all in our community. I hope all had the opportunity to catch up with family members and friends to celebrate this day before the busyness of the new school year kicks in.

‘Dear God,
Thousands of years ago you created this land Australia.
Thank you for such a gift.
Keep this land Australia safe and peaceful; help us all to care for this land Australia,
to be kind to all who live in this land Australia, and to welcome those who come from other countries to make their home in this land Australia.
Please God, keep this land Australia a good and beautiful land for all to love and to enjoy. Amen
- *The Catholic Weekly 23/01/2005*

**SAINTS FUN FACTS**

Brigid was raised by Druids in Ireland and at a child heard St. Patrick preach.
She never forgot that and it was St. Patrick who heard her final vows upon entering into the convent.
She founded a double monastery in Kildare, an art school and many convents all over Ireland.
Her extraordinary spiritual, charity and compassion for those distressed were legendary.

St. Brigid of Ireland

**Parent Teacher evenings**

Early each year we offer Parent/Teacher sessions in the interests of establishing open and constructive relationships between home and school.
Please note the following times and dates for our start-of-school-year Parent/Teacher evenings:

- **Monday February 8th** Prep and Year 6
- **Tuesday February 9th** Years 2, 3 and 4
- **Wednesday February 10th** Years 1 and 5

The evenings will commence at 7 pm with an address by the Principal in the MPA followed by two 30 minute sessions presented by the class teachers in the various classrooms. In the classroom sessions the same material will be presented twice allowing individual parents to attend two different year levels if necessary on the same evening. The classroom session is planned to achieve multiple outcomes; including an opportunity to meet your child’s teacher, an opportunity for the class teacher to outline some of the work, activities, expectations and procedures to be encountered during the year, an opportunity for you to clarify any issues that you may have. Parents are welcome to gather again in the hall for a ‘cuppa’ once their classroom sessions have ended.

Assembly prayer next week will be led by 6B whilst 6A will lead the prayer at the assembly on 8 February.

Assembly will revert to a 2:30 pm start each Monday afternoon. Community members are invited and
encouraged to attend.

Positive Behaviour For Learning (PB4L)

Each week we have a focus on an aspect of our whole school behaviour support plan - Positive Behaviour For Learning (PB4L). This week we revise the concept of Respect – the cornerstone of our entire plan. The children need to understand what respect is, see and experience it in action, and understand the damage or harm that can be caused by the absence of respect in everyday relationships. Please support our school by modelling respect and pointing out to children when respect is being shown by the various individuals involved in the children’s lives.

News from the Gold Coast Road Policing Unit

‘The Gold Coast Road policing Unit are seeking your help in again highlighting the following issues and complaints that we get each year. We like to see everyone safe in and around our schools and if parents could take note of the following and adhere to the road rules we can create a safe environment for all. We understand that this time of year sees new school children arriving at most schools and this is often an exciting and stressful time for both parents and students. Remember that by not adhering to the road rules you are placing both your own children and the children of others at risk of injury or worse.

1. **Speed Limits.** By now hopefully all parents are aware of the 40km/h speed limits during school times. Fines for exceeding the speed limit are as follows.

   Exceed speed limit in school zone by:
   - less than 13km/h $157 1 Point
   - at least 13km/h but not more than 20km/h $235 3 Points
   - more than 20km/h but not more than 30km/h $392 4 Points
   - more than 30km/h but not more than 40km/h $549 6 Points
   - more than 40km/h $1,099 8 Points

2. **Illegal parking.** The most common parking complaints and offences:
   - Stop on children’s crossing $47
   - Stop within 20m before or 10m after children’s crossing $47
   - Stop contrary to ‘NOSTOPPING’ sign $47
   - Stop contrary to ‘NOPARKING’ sign $47
   - Stop contrary to continuous yellow edge line $47
   - Stop unauthorised vehicle in bus zone $47
   - Double park $47
   - Stop across footpath $47
   - Stop across driveway $47

3. **Crossing**
   - Fail to stop at children’s crossing when ‘STOP’ sign displayed $353 3 Points

4. **General Road Rules**
   - Driver fail to wear seatbelt $353 3
   - Driver drive with unrestrained passenger 16 years old or older $353 3 Points
   - Drive motor vehicle while passenger < 6 mths old unrestrained $353 3 Points
   - Drive motor vehicle while passenger at least 6 mths old but < 4 yrs old unrestrained $353 3 Points
   - Drive motor vehicle while passenger at least 4 yrs old but < 7 yrs old unrestrained $353 3 Points
   - Drive motor vehicle with more than one row of seats while passenger < 4 yrs in front Row $353 3 Points
   - Drive motor vehicle with more than one row of seats while passenger aged 4 years to < 7 yrs in front row and other seats not occupied by children aged < 7 yrs $353 3 Points
5. **For those that have students driving to school.**

- Drive motor vehicle while passenger at least 7 yrs but < 16 yrs unrestrained $353 3 Points
- Drive vehicle with passenger at least 7 yrs but < 16 yrs in same seat position as another passenger $353 3 Points
- Driver use hand-held mobile phone $353 3

P1 type holder fail to display legible red plate at rear of motorbike $188 2
P1 type holder fail to display legible red plates at front and rear of car $188 2

Thanks again for your assistance in creating a safe road environment in and around schools and the Gold Coast in general.

Kevin Bianchi
Principal

**APRE NEWS**

**Prayer on Assembly**

**Welcome to the new school year**

A very warm welcome to everyone in our St Brigid’s school community and a very special welcome to all of our new families. It was great to see all the enthusiastic and smiling faces this morning as the children arrived on their first day. I am sure this will continue as they begin their learning for this term and with all the exciting lessons their teachers have planned, it is sure to be a very productive and happy year. Looking forward to catching up with you all at some point throughout this year!

**Feast of St Brigid – Beginning of Year Whole School Mass**

We welcome you to join us at our first whole school Mass for this year, on Monday 1 February at 9.15am. The feast day of our patron saint, St Brigid also falls on this day so it is very fitting that we will be celebrating this together with our St Brigid’s school community.

**A little bit about our Saint Brigid….**

Saint Brigid was born Brigit, and shares a name with a Celtic goddess from whom many legends and folk customs are associated.

There is much debate over her birthparents, but it is widely believed her mother was Brocca, a Christian baptized by Saint Patrick, and her father was Dubthach, a Leinster chieftain. Brocca was a slave, therefore Brigid was born into slavery.

When Dubthach's wife discovered Brocca was pregnant, she was sold to a Druid landowner. It is not clear if Brocca was unable to produce milk or was not present to care for Brigid, but legend states Brigid vomited any food the druid attempted to feed her, as he was impure, so a white cow with red ears sustained her instead.
Many stories of Brigid’s purity followed her childhood. She was unable to keep from feeding the poor and healing them.

One story says Brigid once gave her mother’s entire store of butter, that was later replenished after Brigid prayed.

When she was about ten-years-old, Brigid was returned to her father’s home, as he was her legal master. Her charity did not end when she left her mother, and she donated his possessions to anyone who asked.

Eventually, Dubthach became tired of her charitably nature and took her to the king of Leinster, with the intention of selling her. As he spoke to the king, Brigid gave his jeweled sword to a beggar so he could barter it for food for his family. When the king, who was a Christian, saw this, he recognized her heart and convinced Dubthach to grant her freedom by saying, "Her merit before God is greater than ours."

After being freed, Brigid returned to the Druid and her mother, who was in charge of the Druid’s dairy. Brigid took over and often gave away milk, but the dairy prospered despite the charitable practice, and the Druid eventually freed Brocca.

Brigid then returned to Dubthach, who had arranged for her to marry a bard. She refused and made a vow to always be chaste.

Legend has it Brigid prayed that her beauty be taken so no one would want to marry her, and the prayer was granted. It was not until after she made her final vows that her beauty was restored.

Another tale says that when Saint Patrick heard her final vows, he accidentally used the form for ordaining priests. When the error was brought to his attention, he simply replied, "So be it, my son, she is destined for great things."

Little is known about Saint Brigid’s life after she entered the Church, but she founded a monastery in Kildare, called the Church of the Oak. It was built above a pagan shrine to the Celtic goddess Brigid, which was beneath a large oak tree.

Brigid and seven friends organized communal consecrated religious life for women in Ireland and she founded two monastic institutions, one for men and one for women.

Brigid invited a hermit called Conleth to help her in Kildare as a spiritual pastor. Her biographer reported that Brigid chose Saint Conleth “to govern the church along with herself.”

She later founded a school of art that included metalwork and illumination, which Conleth led as well. It was at this school that the Book of Kildare, which the Gerald of Wales praised as "the work of angelic, and not human skill," was beautifully illuminated, but was lost three centuries ago.

There is evidence that Brigid was a good friend of Saint Patrick’s and that the TriasThaumaturga claimed, "Between St. Patrick and Brigid, the pillars of the Irish people, there was so great a friendship of charity that they had but one heart and one mind. Through him and through her Christ performed many great works."

Saint Brigid helped many people in her lifetime, but on February 1 525, she passed away of natural causes. Her body was initially kept to the right of the high altar of Kildare Cathedral, with a tomb "adorned with gems and precious stones and crowns of gold and silver," but in 878, during the Scandinavian raids, her relics were moved to the tomb of Patrick and Columba.

In 1185, John de Courcy had her remains relocated in Down Cathedral. Today, Saint Brigid’s skull can be found in the Church of St. John the Baptist in Lumiar, Portugal. The tomb in which it is kept bears the inscription, "Here in these three tombs lie the three Irish knights who brought the head of St. Brigid,
Virgin, a native of Ireland, whose relic is preserved in this chapel. In memory of which, the officials of the Altar of the same Saint caused this to be done in January AD 1283."

A portion of the skull was relocated to St. Bridget's Church and another was sent to the Bishop of Lisbon in St. Brigid's church in Killester.

Saint Brigid's likeness is often depicted holding a reed cross, a crozier, or a lamp.

http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php? saint_id=453

St Brigid’s Prayer
Loving God,
You helped St Brigid to become a strong and gentle person.
Help us to see you in the people that we meet each day.
And to serve you as St Brigid did – with joy, courage when things get hard and love for those in need.
AMEN

Prayer Assemblies – Monday 2.30pm

Each Monday afternoon at 2.30pm, we invite you to join us at our whole school assembly which is held in the hall. These assemblies always begin with a prayer led by the class listed on the Prayer Roster. This roster can be found on the Religious Education link on the St Brigid’s School website.

Belinda Kingston
Assistant Principal Religious Education

DATE CLAIMERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 27 January 2016</td>
<td>First day of Term 1 2016</td>
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<td>Friday 29 January 2016</td>
<td>Tim Tams &amp; Tissues Morning tea for Prep parents 9:00am</td>
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<td>Sunday 31 January 2016</td>
<td>St Brigid's Feast Day Mass 8:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 1 February 2016</td>
<td>Opening School Mass 9:15am</td>
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<td>CBA Visit to Assembly re school banking</td>
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<td>Tuesday 9 February 2016</td>
<td>Year 4 Parent Info Evening &amp; Computer Session 6:00pm</td>
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<td>CBA Net Account Opening Session for parents 8:00am</td>
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<td>Wednesday 10 February 2016</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday Mass Yr 2 -6 9:15am</td>
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<td>Ash Wednesday Liturgy Prep - Yr 1 1:20pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 12 February 2016</td>
<td>Yr 3-6 St Brigid's Swimming Carnival, Somerset Pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 22 February 2016</td>
<td>District Schools Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 4 March 2016</td>
<td>Catholic Schools Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>Thursday 24 March 2016</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1</td>
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PASTORAL CARE

Welcome back to a new school year!
May it be a fruitful and fulfilling time for us all.
I pass on a message given to me for 2016:
"Laugh often,  
Live well,  
Love much"

I look forward to working with and getting to know the children during the year. Enjoy the first "short" week.

SrBrigidFrawley

BIRTHDAYS


SPORTS REPORT - MR GUDGEON

2016 Colour Dress-up Swimming Carnival Grades 3 - 6

The 2016 St Brigid's Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday 12th February at Somerset Pool, Mudgeeraba. This year's theme is 'COLOURS'. Therefore, students are encouraged to dress-up as anything that is the same colour as their house colour (for example; superheros, book characters, animals, cartoon characters, sporting hero's, objects, etc.). We encourage all students to dress up as it creates a fantastic atmosphere and builds upon team spirit and individual enjoyment.

Students are encouraged to nominate at least 2 x 50m events and all students are welcomed to participate in the 'noveltyevents'. Nominations will take place in the first week back, therefore, it is a good idea to discuss specifics such as distances & strokes with you child. This will allow them to make informed choices as to their swimming nominations. Nominations will be completed during class time.

Following this students will bring home a permission note with information about the carnival and a timetable that show the nominations that they have made.

The timetable is as follows:
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Permission notes need to be returned to classroom teachers by Friday 5th February.

We invite all parents and friends to join us on this great day…
Look forward to seeing you all there.

**District Swimming**

This year's District Swimming Carnival will be held on Monday 22nd February at The Southport School (TSS), Southport.

The carnival is for students aged 10-19 years. Students that swim a district qualifying time will be given a permission note following our school carnival. Parents of those strong swimmers please be prepared in the case of your child qualifying. This will mean providing transport and supervision for your child at the district carnival.

Regards

Simon Gudgeon
PE Teacher

**ACTIVE SCHOOL TRAVEL**

Welcome to 2016! We would like to express a particular special welcome to our new families for 2016. At St Brigid’s we try to promote active travel to school for various reasons such as helping the environment, fewer cars in the carpark and for the benefits that comes with exercise. This means walking all the way or part of the way, riding a bike, riding a scooter, travelling by bus train or carpooling.

We promote Wednesday as our Active School Travel Day. If you can only travel actively on one day of the week Wednesday would be the best day.

We have our coffee van at school every Wednesday morning. The coffee van will be back Wednesday 17th February week 4. Pencil this into your diary.

Happy active travelling!!

**WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS**

Visitor\'/s Register
The Visitor’s Register is located at Reception and all parents and visitors are required to sign in and out.

This is an essential document that keeps the school informed of all visitors and contractors who may be on site at any particular point in time.

**be SAFE be WELL**

**P & F COMMITTEE**

**P & F AGM**

The Annual General Meeting of the Parents & Friends Committee will be held at 7pm on Wednesday, 17 February 2016.

Please find attached Nomination forms. We are looking for a new Treasurer this year.

Thank you.

*Helene Fahey*  
*P&F President*

**TUCKSHOP**

Tuckshop will reopen on Thursday 28 January 2016.

**UNIFORM SHOP**

**School Uniform Shop**

**Hours**

Opening hours - Tuesday and Friday 8:30am - 9:30am

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

We currently have an abundance of second hand uniforms and cannot take any more this term until stocks go down. Thank you.

*Debbie Laurie*

**OFFICE NEWS**

**Term 1 Fees**
If you are paying by cash at the Office please have the correct amount available as we are unable to give change.

Parent Portal

This year parents will be able to set up Parent Portal access and also reset passwords themselves (use link below). Your username will be the email address that you provided to the school.

Please contact the Office if you have any queries in relation to this.

Users need to select the 'Forgotten Password/First-Time Login' icon from the Login screen identified in the screen shot below:

Prep Parents Morning Tea
Welcome Prep families of 2016

St Brigid’s P & F Committee would like to invite you to a morning tea on Friday 30th Jan 2016 at 9am, outside the Uniform shop.

It is a great opportunity to meet new families and make new friends,

while enjoying a cuppa.

Tea, coffee, Tim Tam and tissues will be provided.

We hope to see you there !!!!!

School Banking 2016

School Banking at St Brigid's will commence on Wednesday, 3 February 2016. 2016’s theme for School Banking is Outback Savers.

The rewards for 2016 with their release dates are:

Flying Snake Tail and Wildlife Writer Set       Term 1
Mud Splat Handball and Outback Pat Bag Tag     Term 2
Backtrack Eraser Pen and Jump and Skip Rope    Term 3
Bush Fly Fan and Wriggly Glow Worm            Term 4

We still have a supply of selected items from previous years which can be ordered from the portal too. These are:

2014 Money Box
ET DVD
Lost Property

Lost property not claimed after a period of time will be given to charity or disposed of.

Please remember to label all items.

Student Absences

When leaving a message on the School Absences Line - please clearly state the following:

- Student's name
- Class
- Reason for absence - VERY IMPORTANT

Please call the Absences Line prior to 9am on the day of the absence.

Administration of Medication

Student Medication Request forms must be completed by a parent/caregiver and handed to the school office in order to authorise the administration of medication to a student.

Please click on the link below to download and print a form.

Have you changed your Contact Details?

As we may need to contact you urgently at any time due to your child being unwell or in an accident, it is imperative that we have your current contact details. If you have moved house, changed your workplace, email address or phone number/s recently, please call into the office to complete a Change of Address/Contacts form.

COMMUNITY NEWS
Exciting New Hot Shots Tennis Program

Tennis Australia Endorsed Program for primary students which uses specially designed court sizes & equipment to help develop skills for life, making it A LOT OF FUN.

WHEN: Lessons run 6 days a week Monday through to Saturday

WHERE: Hinterland Tennis Club, Price Street, Nerang

COST: $12 per lesson

Look forward to seeing you on the court
Details & Bookings
Contact Jonathon 0488 696 939

Australian Air League
Gold Coast Squadron

"The Primary School of Aviation since 1934"

What the Australian Air League can offer you:

- Learn about aircraft
- Develop leadership skills
- Learn to march or join a band
- Have fun and make new friends
- Attend camp and aviation related outings
- Enjoy building and flying model aircraft

Meetings every Friday 6.45pm - 9.00pm (State School terms) at
Pacific Pines Primary School Hall, Santa Isabel Boulevard, Pacific Pines

Bring tomorrow's plans... today

Need more information visit our website:
http://goldcoast.airleague.com.au

Nerang Junior Rugby League

Nerang Junior Rugby League
Registration Day – 30 January 2016
9.00am to 1.00pm
Glennon Park
Recreation Drive
NERANG