FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Hello to all in the St Brigid’s community.

Term 4, Week 9

Second Sunday in Advent

This Sunday again the readings focus on the vision of a different future and how it will come about. In the First Reading Isaiah describes a future world free of violence, hate and evil. The Second Reading and the Gospel both hint at the way the vision will be turned into reality; through the promise of the Messiah and his imminent arrival trumpeted by John the Baptist. These reading are classic Advent material, like John the Baptist preparing the Israelites for the coming of the Christ, they are preparing us for the coming season of Christmas when the means of changing the world is born in a stable in a tiny village in rural Judea.

These reading are preparing us for the coming of the Saviour at Christmas. How will you prepare this year to welcome the God, born as an infant, guided by the Spirit, introduced by John the Baptist, and who eventually changes humanity as predicted by Isaiah?

One way to prepare is to keep in mind the mantra “Jesus is the reason for the Season”

Thanks for 2013

As this is the last newsletter for 2013 I wish to express my thanks to the various members of our school community who have contributed to St Brigid’s in any way over the past year. I wish to thank Fr Rafal for his guidance and support of the school and students. To the students of St Brigid’s, you are the reason we all gather each day. Thank you for the joy, and enthusiasm you bring to school each day. As I said at the Awards night the highlight of my day is the chorus of greetings I receive daily from the students from Prep to Year 7. To the staff of St Brigid’s thank you for all you have done during 2013 and for the way you have carried out your various roles in such a conscientious and professional way. To the parents and carers of our community, thank you for the many ways you support the work of the school, whether it be the way you present the children daily, support school activities, or lend a hand whenever you see the need in a variety of ways. I also pass on my thanks to those parents and carers who volunteer in myriad ways as classroom helpers. I wish to also acknowledge the Parents and Friend’s committee who again have had a very successful year and have worked tirelessly to support the school and to ultimately improve the quality of the education that can be offered to the students at St Brigid’s.

Christmas
I also wish all a happy and holy Christmas. I hope that all in our community are able to celebrate with family and friends and have the opportunity to gather with their local worshipping community to participate in the beautiful liturgical celebrations of Christmas Season. I also wish all, an early, but safe and prosperous new year and urge all to take care on the roads and return rested and renewed for 2014 which will be the 21st year of Catholic Education at St Brigid’s.

I also bid a fond farewell to our Year 7 students and other students not returning for 2014. May they remember the important things they have learned whilst at St Brigid’s and continue to be fine ambassadors for their families and soon to be former school.

What’s on this week

This final week of the school year is dominated, not-unexpectedly, by end of year activities including-Years 6/7 student leadership handover ceremony on Tuesday commencing at 11:30am, the Year 7 farewell ceremony from 7:00 pm on Wednesday evening and End of Year Mass commencing at 9:15am in St Brigid’s Church on Thursday.

Various year level activities will also take place. Please consult the Parent Portal for details.

Student reports will be issued on Wednesday.

The school year will come to a close when school finishes at 12:00 on Friday.

The final assembly prayer for the year was lead by the 1C class.

SWPBS.

This week we will be again departing from our usual format to deliver two very important pre-summer messages about water safety and sun safety. Please reinforce these important messages this week and over the summer vacation period.

Parish

St Brigid’s Parish is now inviting candidates for the Sacramental Program 2014. The program involves the preparation for and reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist. Envelopes with further information are available at the front desk in the School Office.

The Advent Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Mark Coleridge is available on the Archdiocese of Brisbane website www.bne.catholic.net.au Click on News and Events and search Archbishop’s Homilies for the relevant Pastoral Letter.

Please click here to view the current Parish Newsletter.
Staff changes 2014

There are several staff changes that I can announce for 2014.

After two years at St Brigid’s, Mrs Paula Doherty has accepted a teaching position at Assisi College, Coomera. Mrs Michelle Neville, who started the year job sharing with Mrs Coman and then assumed the full time role when Mrs Coman commenced maternity leave will not be returning in a full time role in 2014. Mrs Jenny Kell’s engagement as Finance Secretary will end at the end of this year when she will be then taking up a similar part time role at Jubilee Ecumenical School at Gaven commencing next year. As mentioned last week Mrs Gail Gill will be retiring at the end of 2013 and Mrs Tanya Stackman has resigned to relocate her family.

I thank all the staff who are ending their association with St Brigid’s but assure them that they will remain in our hearts and prayers as they each begin the next part of their life journeys and ask for the blessing of the Lord for them and their loved ones.

I welcome new staff members in 2014. Mr Jamie Weinert will join our teaching staff in a full-time role, Mrs Brooke Madden and Ms Dominique Hall will do likewise in part-time positions, Mrs Jo Duran will take up the Finance Secretary position and Mrs Sandy O’Doherty will take up a part time role as School Secretary.

End of Year gathering

Thanks to all those who assisted with the end of year gathering on Friday night. A big thank you to the members of the Parents and Friends’ Association who organised the food and drink for the night, to the staff who assisted with the evening, particularly Mr Collin and Mr Sonny who were amongst the last to leave and to the parents and carers who attended in such large numbers and of course the children for bringing such excitement and enthusiasm to the evening. A special thanks to Mrs Sandstrom for helping prepare the children to present their Christmas carols.

Online tuckshop ordering 2014

We are excited to announce that from next year parents will be able to place and pay for tuckshop orders online use the Flexischool website.

Each user is require to register and open an account using a Visa or Mastercard as per the instructions below

Go to www.flexischools.com.au

• Click REGISTER

• Enter your email

• You will be emailed a link to an online form -
follow the link

• Choose a username and password and complete the form

• Add each student and their class

• Top-up the account - VISA or Mastercard

The Federation of Parents and Friends’ Association QLD

The Parents and Friends Federation is the state-wide parent organisation officially recognised by the Catholic Church and Catholic Education authorities for the 292 Catholic schools in Queensland. It represents the parents and carers of over 135,000 children in parish, diocesan and religious institute schools in the state.

Their final newsletter for 2013 is now available for your reading pleasure. Just click on the link below to access the November edition.


The newsletter contains informative articles, 2013 activity reports and tips for local school Parents and Friends’ Association meetings.

Thank You from Mrs Gill

I would like to take this opportunity to say farewell to the St Brigid's Community. At Assembly yesterday the P & F Committee presented me with a lovely present, I would have loved to have shown my gratitude at the time, but, found myself a little emotional and lost for words, it was not my intention to be rude.

Over time I have seen many changes, not only staff, but to the structure of the school and Brisbane Catholic Education Schools. Can I say that St Brigid's is very lucky to have such a caring staff, that are all here for one reason only, to well educate your children. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all.

Kevin Bianchi
Principal

APRE NEWS

Christmas Giving at St Brigid's
Every year our school collects items for Christmas hampers to be organised by our St Vincent de Paul society to donate to families needing a hand to make Christmas special. This year Vinnies have put out a list of suggested items to help ensure that all families receive a really festive surprise this year. Please send in donations over the next few days. There will be a hamper in the office ready to receive your donations.

Please click [here](#) to see items to be donated.

Karen Petherick

**APA News**

**Christmas Holiday Message**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all St Brigid’s families for your efforts this year in support of your children. It is through positive partnerships between home and school that students are given the best opportunities for a successful education. For those families whose link with St Brigid’s concludes as Students graduate I wish you well in your future endeavours and thank you for your involvement with St Brigid’s over the years.

I wish all families the season’s blessings and look forward to working with you again in 2014.

The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other.

School resumes for students on Wednesday January 29th whilst staff are back a week earlier.

Chris clurey

**APA**

**PASTORAL CARE**

‘Christmas is a call for all to allow God to create life.’ [Rosies Newsletter]

May we take time and make room for family, friends and anyone in need this Christmas.
I wish all our Staff and Families a blessed Christmas Season and a safe and happy holiday.

Farewell to Year seven and best wishes for 2014.

Sr Brigid Frawley

LIBRARY NEWS

Dear Parents,

Anne and Jan in the Library would like to wish you and your family a Very Happy & Safe Christmas!!

A very BIG THANKYOU to Shayne Johnston for taking on the role of managing BOOK CLUB this year. I appreciate the time and effort required by Shayne to undertake this job.
Thankyou for assisting your child/children in returning books throughout the year. I ask that you assist them in RETURNING ANY ST BRIGID’S LIBRARY BOOKS OR TAKE HOME READERS TOMORROW!!

A reminder that the Gold Coast City Council Libraries are a great place for children to visit. Below is the Nerang GCC Library Holiday Program. Get your children involved!!

Nerang Branch Library School Holiday Program.

Summer Reading Club Launch Thursday 19 December 10am-11am.

The Summer Reading Club is open for children of all ages and runs until 23 January 2014. Come in, join the fun and get reading over the holidays. There are lots of rewards, prizes and giveaways.

The following events are suitable for children 6-12 years. Please book online through the Gold Coast Library website, by phone on 5581 1780 or see the friendly staff at Nerang Branch Library cnr Price & White Sts Nerang.

Christmas Crafts, Wednesday 18 December 10am-11am
Summer Garden Quilling Cards, Wednesday 8 January 10am-11am
Woolly Wind Chimes Thursday 9 January 10am-11am
Garden Lanterns Wednesday 15 January 10am-11am
Mosaic Paper Art Thursday 16 January 10am-11am
Pom-sects Wednesday 22 January 2.00pm - 3.00pm

Happy Holidays.....Jan Knowles

DATE CLAIMERS
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

BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday this week to the following children:

Rachael C, Holly R, Sam Mc, Sam L, Jamie Mc, Vince R, Maddison W, Laeni D, Laura D.

S.W.P.B.S
Robo awards:

Mia PC, Ayla PA, Sianna PA, Anastasia 3C, Lauren 6B, Eliza 6B, Caitlyn 6A, Kristen 6B

MR G's END OF YEAR SPORTING WRAP

2013 has been another great year for St Brigid's in aspects of Physical Education and Sport.

Students have thoroughly enjoyed the range of sports they have participated in via our Physical Education program. This year we were lucky to work alongside some great sporting groups (such as Queensland Hotshots Tennis & Jump Rope for Heart) to offer our students engaging lessons and opportunities for further participation.

St Brigid's has had a positive year with regards to our representative teams. Our District and Catholic Schools Swimming Carnivals saw a number of St Brigid's students earn ribbons for their hard work and determination. A special mention to Jacinta Desmond who managed to break two long standing records (a 25 year old freestyle record, and a 12 year old breaststroke record) at the Catholic Schools Swimming Carnival. An amazing achievement for her first year of competitive school swimming. Stay tuned to see her name in lights.

Our Athletics team proved that they are a force to be reckoned with after finishing 2nd (by 8 points) out of the 12 schools in our district. Following this we took a record number of students to the Championship Athletics Carnival who showed off their talent across vast areas of track and field events. A special mention to Tanisha Hefferman for being the first student in my 4 year at St Brigid's to represent our School and the Gold Coast at the State Athletics Championships for the 100 and 200m sprints.

Tyson Bonney is another who was highly competitive in the longer distance track events. Tyson just missed out on making the state championship after a gutsy effort competing whilst injured at the Regional carnival.
Rhys Buick was also earned a medal for the District under 13’s boys aged Champion for receiving the most number of places in all events at the district carnival. Awesome work!

Cross Country was another event that highlighted the number of young athletes that we have coming through our School. We were delighted by the number of students that represented our school and their district at higher levels of competition. Bridie Mulcaster and Tyson Bonney were two that lead from the front in representing the South Gold Coast at the Regional Cross Country Carnivals.

We have also had a large number of students represent themselves, their school, the Gold Coast, QLD, and even Australia this year. Congratulations to these students for your sporting achievements in 2013. I can only imagine the potential that you possess for further achievement in the coming years. Keep up the hard work.

The Rugby League Interschool training squad lead by Dave Kilby was also another huge success this year. Student love these opportunities and we would like to thank Dave for the enthusiasm and passion that he offers our students throughout this program. We are lucky to have such generous and giving parents.

Finally, thankyou to the P & F for the number of generous items that you have funded in 2013. Our new fans in the multi-purpose centre are a tremendous addition to a great facility, and our new shade shelters will be used in sports carnivals for years to come. Your support provides St Brigid's students with the best opportunities and equipment for sporting activities. I personally look forward to further developing our sporting prospects in 2014 and your support is greatly appreciated. Furthermore, a big thankyou to Brett O'Neil (from Frank Secure) who contributed to the cost of one of our shade shelters. You will see Brett's logo as a proud sponsor on one of our tents at next years carnivals. Thankyou.
Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in Australia and accounts for 80% of all cancers diagnosed each year. Queensland has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. More than 430,000 Australians are treated each year for skin cancers. Of
these, over 10,500 new cases of melanoma are diagnosed. Each year there are around 1600 deaths from melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer.

The major cause of skin cancer is too much exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun. Skin can burn in as little as 15 minutes in the summer sun so it is important to protect your skin from UV radiation. Skin cancer is largely preventable. Be SunSmart. Protect yourself against sun damage and skin cancer by using a combination of these five steps:

**Slip**  **Slop**  **Slap**  **Seek**  **Slide**

be SAFE be WELL

**OSHC**

St Brigid’s Out Of School Hours Care will be running a Vacation Care Program for the Christmas holidays. Please click here to access further information on the program. Please click here to access the booking form.

**TUCKSHOP**
Last Week of School - Opening Days

I would like to thank all the volunteers that have helped throughout the year, your time was much appreciated. I would like to especially thank Julie Rollinson, Amber Mitchell, Helene Fahey and Peta Crisp for their help each week.
I wish everyone a safe and happy festive Season.
Watch out for the online ordering next year.

Tuckshop will **only** be open on the following days:

**TUESDAY 3rd December**

**WEDNESDAY 4th December**

**THURSDAY 5th December**

**NO FRIDAY 6th December (CLOSED)**

Please note that pizzas are now **$3.00** and sausage rolls are **$2.20**

Please check out the new [tuckshop menu](#).

Online Tuckshop Ordering

Please click [here](#) to access information regarding registering for Online Ordering in 2014.

Miss Mel
Tuckshop Convenor

**UNIFORM SHOP**

Hours
January 2014 Opening Hours

The Uniform Shop will be open on Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd of January 2014 from **9.30-12.30** for those who need to collect orders and purchase items for the new school year.

We will not be open on Tuesday, 28th January but will reopen on Friday, 31st January from 8:30am - 9:30am.

**P & F COMMITTEE**

A huge thank you to David Fahey Painting for his kind donation of a new BBQ and BBQ equipment. A big thank you also to Mr & Mrs Ware, David Fahey, Sheridan Ranger, Amanda Adamson, Julie Rollinson, Julie Wicks, Mr Colin's, Sunny and Melanie Keegan for their help organising and cooking the BBQ.

We would like to wish all our families and friends a very Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year from the President and Committee of your P&F for 2013

**CLASS NEWS**

**Prep News**

Thank you to all of the families who came to celebrate our end of year Christmas carols night. It was a lovely night and the children did a wonderful performance.

Our Prep end-of-year Christmas party is on tomorrow, Wednesday, 4th Dec starting at 12.15. The children are able to wear their favourite Christmas clothes, but please remember to be sun smart, wear enclosed shoes and your school hat. Please also remember to bring your nominated plate of food to share.

We cannot believe that we are in our final week of the Preparatory year for 2013! We would like to thank you all for your continued support throughout the year. We wish you all a very happy and Holy Christmas and a safe holiday.

**Year 1 News**

We cannot believe it is the last week!
This week we have a Puppet Show on Tuesday.

Our Christmas Pizza Party on Wednesday at 12.20 and parents are welcome.
Please bring a plate for the adults. The children are provided for.

We are busy finishing our work for the year, remembering our manners in writing thank you notes, and enjoying Christmas art and craft activities as well as learning about Jesus birth.

We hope to have a wonderful last week together, rejoicing on our progress and reflecting on all the fantastic experiences we have had. Thank you from us for all your cooperation and help this year,
Marianne, Heidi and Wendy

**Year 2 News**

We can hardly believe that it is the last week of school for 2013. It’s just gone by so quickly. We would like to thank all of the parents and carers who have helped us throughout the school year.

Last week was our final swimming lesson and it was so much fun! We've also really enjoyed learning about the Bible this term and making our Nativity scene dioramas. Another interesting thing that we've enjoyed learning about is how the Jewish people live by their covenant with God in today's society.

Our end of Year Two party is this Wednesday and we are each bringing in a plate of healthy food to share with our mates in 2A, 2B and 2C. Due to allergies we ask for no nuts, eggs or fish products please. Thank you.

The most important word that we will remember from our time in Year Two is **RESPECT**! We will continue to show it for ourselves, others, our learning and property throughout the summer holidays, in Year 3 and for the rest of our lives! Thank you for helping us learn about it Robo.

Stay safe, healthy and happy over Christmas and the New Year everyone. We look forward to seeing everyone in 2014 for a new school year full of exciting learning. Peace be with your spirit!
Year 3 News

Thank you all for your attendance at the St. Brigid’s Christmas carols on Friday night. It was a great night and so lovely to see our Grade Threes sing. Thank you for your generosity with the Secret Santa gifts and also for your donations to the Typhoon appeal. We are looking forward to our excursion to the movies on Thursday! Don’t forget school finishes at 12pm on Friday. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas. Enjoy this special time with your loved ones. Have a safe and happy break and we look forward running into your year four students next year. Here is a photo of Fr. Rafal talking about his Christmas as a child in chilly Poland.

Year 4 News

Year 4 had a great day with Raw Art visiting last Thursday. We used photographic paper and a chemical called fixer to create artwork which we then decorated with different inks and created a background. We all had fun and really enjoyed using the photo developing techniques.

We will have some end of year celebrations on Thursday with a whole school Mass in the morning. All parents are welcome. Later in the day we will share some secret Santa presents and a shared lunch. Please bring a plate of food to share.

Thank you to everyone for your support during the year. We’ve all had a great year and can’t believe it’s almost over!
Year 5 News

What a wonderful year it has been, teaching and getting to know all of our grade five students and families! As you know we have had a fun filled year and it has (finally) come to an end. Portfolios will be coming home this week with report cards.

The grade five teachers want to wish all our families a safe and joyous festive season!
COMMUNITY NEWS

Student Banking

The Commonwealth Bank are changing over to a new token system over the holidays. Please click here for further information.