



MERCY EDUCATION IN THE HILLS

St Brigid's College Campus Newsletter • Term Four • Week Three • 30 Oct 2009

Dear Students, Parents, Staff and Friends of St Brigid's

We ended Term 3, our Mercy Term, with some very special events including the inaugural Golden Girls Lunch, Mercy Dinner, and the Mercy Mass and Fair. Approximately 60 women, who had graduated from St Brigid's 50 or more years ago, participated in this inaugural lunch. As I write this, two more cards have arrived from Golden Girls expressing their appreciation for the opportunity "to catch up after many years". The Mercy fair was also very successful raising over \$7000 for Mercy Works. Thanks must go to Annamaria Cream for the lunch arrangements and to Linda Murray and Deb O'Hara as well as all the staff, students and parents who organised Mercy celebrations and ran stalls.



At the Mercy Mass, we announced our new Leaders for 2010 and I congratulate all the girls on their success. It is important to also thank and commend our outgoing Leaders, ably lead by Sarah Healy and Tayla Hubbard and the SRC Executive. When I reflect on their leadership the following quote by John Quincy Adams comes to mind "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.



Mercy Dinner

Their leadership this year has been exemplary and they have been wonderful role models for the younger students whilst at the same time encouraging the growth of School and House spirit. Well done girls.



Mercy Mass

Our Arts Department had a busy lead-up to the end of the term setting up for the student Art Exhibition, which once again showcased our many talented young people. It was fabulous to see so many parents at the official opening. On behalf of the Arts Faculty, I thank all of the parents and students who helped with the setup of the events and the catering and most importantly, the talented young people whose outstanding work certainly highlights what a wealth of talent we are fortunate enough to have at the College.

The staff spent the final two days of term reviewing our commitment to the works and tradition of Catherine McAuley. The staff colloquium gave us the opportunity to come together and as a team to plan how we can keep the Mercy light shining within the confines of our various faculties and areas of responsibility. We were fortunate enough to have as our facilitator, Sr Mary Duffy. We thank her for her participation in the colloquium and for inspiring us with not only the story of Catherine McAuley, but also the Mercy works of the many sisters working in impoverished and war torn regions.

During the recent holidays, together with 550 other delegates from around the world, I participated in the 2009 Heads of International Baccalaureate World Schools' Conference in Seville, Spain.

Sessions included presentations on: strategic planning for sustainable schools quality curriculum, assessment and standards in K-12 internationally minded schools; modelling the United Nations in schools to celebrate diversity and address social injustices around the world; online resources for teacher professional development and enhancing student multicultural understandings. Presentations were given largely in English, but also in other languages with interpreters and technology ensuring that everyone, irrespective of their differences, could understand the conference proceedings. St Brigid's now has personal contacts with individuals from like-minded schools around the world who aspire for quality education for all their students.

As we approach the end of our 80th birthday celebrations, I encourage you to join with us on the Weekend of November 13th -15th for our Art Exhibition and Sale, Monster Fair, and end of 80th Celebrations Leeuwinstyle concert in the grounds of Lesmurdie House. There is additional information about these events included with this letter so please support the College as you have done so to date. We are very blessed with such a wonderful parent body and I thank you all for the way in which you have helped us celebrate 80 years of Mercy Education in the Hills.

God Bless
Amelia Toffoli, Principal



1929-2009
80 YEARS OF MERCY EDUCATION
IN THE HILLS



Calendar

2-Nov-09

Start of TEE Exams
CPSSA Athletics Carnival

06-Nov-09

Year 8 Social.
Year 8 Zoo Excursion

31-Oct-09

Blackwood Marathon

11-Nov-09

Remembrance Day

13-Nov-09

Kindy 2010 Parent Information Day
Year 11 Coursework completed
Art Exhibition Official Opening

14-Nov-09

Art Exhibition Continues
10.00am -3.00pm

15-Nov-09

Art Exhibition continues
10.00am -3.00pm
80th Anniversary Monster FAIR and
End of 80th Celebrations Concert

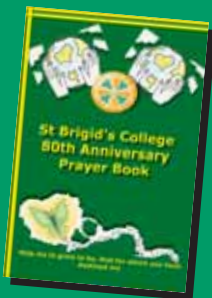
Mercy in Action

We celebrated the conclusion to Mercy term with many fantastic happenings. From a reunion lunch for students of more than fifty years ago, to Mercy Dinner for Boarders, Mercy Mass and Staff Colloquium we all gained new insights into our 80 year heritage of Mercy. The Mercy Fair was a great success in spite of mist and rain to start the day; the sun came out as required and all students and staff enjoyed the stalls and entertainment provided by all classes. It is wonderful to announce that we raised nearly \$7000 to assist our Mercy Sisters in their work with mothers and children in East Timor.

Ms Linda Murray, Director, Mercy in Action

Brigid's College 80th Anniversary Prayer Book

Our beautiful full colour St Brigid's College 80th Anniversary Prayer Book has arrived and is available for purchase for just \$ 10.00. Every student has a prayer or Artwork representing our outreach to the world I am sure every family would like one and many grandparents may like one as a great Christmas present. They are available in Student Services or the Junior school Office.



Junior School News



We have had a strong music flavour to life in the Junior School in recent times.

The Performing Arts Festival has developed a strong tradition in Catholic schools in Term 3 and our Junior School was actively involved in the festival again this year. Children in our Training Choir (Years 2 and 3), our Junior Choir, a selection of different Ensembles, Dances and Solo performances represented our school with distinction.

On Friday 16th October the children in many of these groups performed for the school community in our College gymnasium. It was a great opportunity to celebrate the talents and commitment of these children under the guidance more recently of Ms Jennifer Mackenzie. Special thanks to Jennifer for the way she has facilitated the music program in the Junior School while Mrs Catherine Wade has been on Maternity leave.

Speaking of music we also had an incursion from a well known composer of liturgical

music, Mr John Burland. The children all enjoyed their time spent with him and it was a great opportunity to meet the man who composes some of the songs that the children sing.

Late in Term 3, Thursday 17th September, the children from Pre-Primary to Year 6 participated in our school athletics carnival. It was the first time the children had all competed on the same day and it was also great to have the carnival on our Junior School oval. With the Parent Forum organising refreshments which were served from the canteen servery and such a large group of parent helpers and spectators on the day, it was a really good community building day. As we move into Term 4, our interschool athletics team is preparing to perform as well as they possibly can with extra training sessions before school and at lunch time. We wish the children well and commend them on their high level of commitment.

Paul Hansen, Head of Junior School

Junior School Special Music Assembly

The Junior School held a special Music Assembly recently, attended by nearly 200 parents, at which various Junior ensembles, including the Year 2/3 Training Choir and Year 4/5/6 Junior Choir and the Year 4 MiniStrings, all performed wonderfully well! The Junior School also performed a special song/dance *The Music Is Everything* with all Pre-Primary, Year 1,2,3,4,5,6 students energetically singing and dancing together as the Finale to our Music Assembly. This special item celebrated the power of music to uplift and inspire us all. The item was repeated in Erika Kujda's special assembly on Thursday October 22, when the entire school, from Year 3 upwards, accompanied by musicians from various year levels, joined together to make music!

Ms Jennifer MacKenzie
Junior Music Specialist

Middle School Drama Production

On November 11th the St Brigid's Middle School Drama Club is putting on their first production "Hating Alison Ashley." Students had to audition for roles and have been rehearsing twice a week during Term 3 and 4.

The show follows the highs and lows of Drama Queen, Erika Yurken and the love/hate relationship she forms with the new girl at school, the pretty and perfect Alison Ashley.

A great story for all ages the one and only public performance begins at 6.30pm Wednesday November 11th in the Performing Arts.

Tickets will be on sale at the accounts window at the start of November. Adults \$10 and Concession \$5.

Senior School News

Year 12 students have now completed their joyous, but sad final week of school and we celebrate their exceptional leadership of the College in 2009. Their quality was highlighted for me last week at the Sportswomen's Breakfast, where there were more than twice as many Year 12s as any other year group in attendance. They have excelled in performance and leadership in the four areas – Ministry, Learning, Arts and Sport - which make up our leadership structure, and I congratulate and thank Head and Deputy Head Girls, Sarah Healy and Tayla Hubbard, the Boarding, College and House Leaders and all the representatives, for the way they have enriched the life of the College through using the superb talents for the service of their community. We are deeply proud of the distinguished and much loved class of 2009. Special thanks to Year Team Leader, Annamaria Cream for her splendid efforts with the cohort, and to the key teachers who assisted with the exceptional student council teams. The final week's rites of passage events for Year 12s will be highlighted in the next Senior E-News.

The new 2010 leadership group led by Head Girl Megan Ansell and her Deputy Jessica Pryce, were outstanding at the Leadership Camp at El Caballo at the end of the holidays. It was pleasing to have all the

key teachers and the House Co-ordinators leading their teams in planning for 2010, and I would also like to particularly thank Ms Janine Walsh, Ms Linda Murray and Ms Judith Cumpsty for their extended contribution to the success of the camp. All 38 of our new leaders will be attending the National Young Leaders Day program at the Convention Centre on November 9.

The Academic Challenge program has concluded with two splendid seminars, a luncheon with CEO English Consultant Alex Solosy, and a Breakfast with former Duxes of the College Harmony Clayton (2005) and Stephanie Babic (2007) providing excellent advice to assist the girls with success in their TEE Examinations. Academic Challenge Certificates were presented at the final SRC Assembly, and congratulations to all 51 girls who received the Certificates ranging from Award to Elite levels. The Europe Tour Academic Challenge program will leave after Year 10 and 11 examinations conclude, and will stay in London, Cambridge, Stratford and York before concluding with 3 days in Paris. Shakespeare is the theme for this Tour. Also heading off to Japan at this time is a contingent of Year 10 students of Japanese who should not only have an exciting tour, but an experience that will undoubtedly enhance their language skills significantly.

Jim Miller, Head of Senior School

Science

RACI Australian National Chemistry Quiz

The Australian National Chemistry Quiz is held every year and addresses specific knowledge and skills required for Chemistry. This year all Year 11 and 12 Chemistry students participated and a number of students from Years 7 – 10 were selected by their teachers to be involved.

This year there were some excellent results including 6 credits, 4 Distinctions and 3 High Distinctions. Of particular note this year was Peter Taylor's result. Peter's result placed him in the top 800 students, from all year groups, nation wide – an Outstanding result! He has won a plaque to recognize this achievement, which will be presented at a later assembly. I would like to congratulate all award winners for their achievements.

High Distinction and Plaque: **Peter Taylor**

High Distinction: **Brenda-Lee Ross, Carly Sims**

Distinction: **Claudia Salas, Carly Sims, Maryanne Dent, Crista De Nardi,**

Credit: **Robbie Collins, Ashleigh Juffermans, Megan Gallagher, Joanne Nguyen, Hannah Downie, Claudia Meier.**

ICAS Science Competition

Back in June, numerous students sat the ICAS Science competition. This is an international competition based on skills and knowledge used in science. This year all Year 7 and 8 students sat the paper, plus selected students from Years 10 – 12.

It was very pleasing to see the number of students that achieved awards this year, and I would like to congratulate each of them sincerely.

Distinctions: **Peter Taylor, Brenda-Lee Ross and Janelle Quinlan**

Credits: **Robert Collins, Imogen O'Hara, Brianna Quaresimin, Claudia Salas, Rhiannon Thomas, Ryan Trutwein, Monique Haddleton, Ellissa Oliver, Amelia Plummer, Carly Sims, Reihana Wybrow, Hannah Bowen, Guiliana Drudi, Hannah Johnson, Georgia Middis, Rachel Taylor, Abigail Bailey, Johanna Borger, Eleanor Davidson, Maryanne Dent, Olivia DiLeo, Kyra Johnston, Zoe Street, Anna Trepp, Sara Andreatta, Laura Bendotti, Crista DeNardi and Emma Sims.**

The Science Experience (Jan 2010)

The Science Experience is a holiday programme for high school students about to enter Year 10. Spend 3 days at a university campus, doing real science with real scientists!

Year 11 and 12 Outdoor Education



The Year 11 and 12 Outdoor Education students attended an expedition along the Cape to Cape track through the Leeuwin - Naturaliste National Park at the end of Term 3. This expedition was a component of the Certificate II in Outdoor Education course. The experience enabled us to combine the skills we had learnt throughout the year in an outdoor environment. The expedition went for three nights and four days and we participated in many different activities, including camping, orienteering, bushwalking, abseiling, caving, canoeing, food preparation and teamwork. We stayed in three different locations over the nights - Contos, Point Road and Boranup Campgrounds. We abseiled at Brides cave and caved through Giants cave. Contos was voted the best Campground for the expedition. Canoeing on the fourth day was a challenge as it was pouring down with rain and blowing a gale the entire time. No one capsized until the end when Chloe and Brittani were the lucky two to fall in. The trip home was a quiet one with everyone super exhausted and the Maccas stop was definitely worth the wait. We were all physically and mentally challenged and it was a tough four days but we enjoyed the experience and it brought our group closer together. We would like to thank Ms Roche, Ms Trend and Ms Moody for coming on the camp with us as we could not go on camp without you. This is an experience we will never forget.

Perform hands-on experiments in the labs, attend lectures, learn about industry careers, explore the facilities and meet students from all over WA who share your interests. You don't have to be a top-notch student, all you need is a passion for science and technology.

TSE 2010 runs at Edith Cowan University Joondalup, ECU Bunbury and the University of Western Australia on January 19-21, and at Curtin University of Technology on January 20-22. Visit www.scienceexperience.com.au for more info.

The Kalamunda branch of Rotary is keen to sponsor a couple of St Brigid's Students to attend The Science Experience. If you are interested in this wonderful opportunity, please see Ms Whan.

Ms Rachel Whan, Team Leader - Science

Community Relations News

80th Anniversary Monster FAIR, Art Exhibition and End of 80th Celebrations Concert

With the 80th Anniversary celebrations drawing to a close, I would like to bring your attention to the final events to end what has been a wonderful year of celebration.

On the weekend of 13-15th November we have an awesome array of events lined up to farewell our birthday year. For the first time, the College will host an Art Exhibition and Sale featuring over 300 works of art by prominent WA and interstate artists. The Exhibition will officially open with a cocktail opening on Friday 13th November at 7pm in the School Gym. Tickets to this event are \$20.00 per person. The exhibition then continues on Saturday 14th and 15th from 10-3pm. No entry charge. Bookings can be made by calling 9290 4205 or completing the flier included with this newsletter

On Sunday 15th November, we are holding our Monster Fair from 10.00am till 4.00pm. Over 30 stalls and amusements will make for a great day out for the family. From 5pm, we will officially end the 80th celebration with a Leeuwin style concert under the stars in the garden around Lesmurdie House. Featured in the concert will be Jay Weston (see flier with this newsletter) and a number of other performers, including some of our very own students.

Let's really see the 80th year out in style.

**HELPERS AND VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED FOR ALL EVENTS – SEE
SEPARATE FUN FAIR NEWSLETTER
FOR DETAILS**

Annamaria Cream
Director of Community Relations

Boarding On



Boarders' Breakfast 2009

Boarders Yr 12 Farewell Breakfast

The Farewell Breakfast for Year 12 boarders is an annual event held to formally farewell the girls leaving the boarding house at the end of Year 12. This year, the Year 12 boarders, their Housemothers, Fr MacMahon, Sr Catherine, the Year 12 Team Leader – AnnaMaria Cream and I, partook of a sumptuous breakfast feast at Coco's in South Perth. It was a lovely warm Sunday morning and the view across the river to the city was simply lovely. The girls looked beautiful and soaked up the atmosphere – a special event held at a special venue. The food was amazing! Each girl received a gift from boarding – a signature bear and a car visor clip in the shape of an angel, which read, "Never drive faster than your angel can fly." The morning ended with a group photo on the foreshore and best wishes from housemothers to the girls and a big thank you from the girls to their housemothers. The College value of 'thankfulness' was very much to the fore. We celebrated each other, our unique surroundings and acknowledged all our blessings. This is what it means to be part of the St Brigid's community.

Wanda Warlik, Head of Boarding

Quiz Night



Thanks to the 242 Parents and Friends of the College who helped make the recent 80th Anniversary Quiz Night a fabulous success. We raised in excess of \$3000 for the School and certainly went along way to building some great community spirit. The winning team of Kate's Friends wowed us with their prowess throughout the evening. Thank you in particular, to Chris and Paula Galvin for their organisation of the questions and for Chris's very professional role as Quiz Master.

80th Anniversary Monster Fair Cake Stall

To make the cake stall at this year's 80th Anniversary fair a huge success, we need the entire College Community to contribute cakes to the stall.

Please fill out the form included with this newsletter and return to me no later than October 30th. Details regarding cake drop off will follow soon after this date. Please note that no fresh cream can be used and all cakes must be accompanied by a clear listing of ingredients.

Annamaria Cream
Director of Community Relations

Canteen Roster

Monday 2/11
Divina Bavich
Relita Jackson

Thursday 5/11
Kas Smolenski
Christine Willock

Tuesday 10/11
Carolyn Ryan

Wednesday 11/11
Wendy Taylor
Kelly Della Pollina

Friday 13/11
Denise McKeon
Julie Taylor

Monday 16/11
Julie Shaw

Wednesday 18/11
Kelly Kunkler

Thursday 19/11
Terry Stocker
Juanita Mohren

Tuesday 3/11
Kaye Downie

Wednesday 4/11
Tina Gelmi
Marette Vinci

Friday 6/11
Jane Reilly
Sharon Kerr

Monday 9/11
Roisin Bombardieri
Susie Reeves

Thursday 12/11
Tina Hardy
Janet Darbyshire

Tuesday 17/11
Megan Wrensted

Friday 20/11
Deborah Venturini

Monday 23/11
Tracy Gordon
Fiona Scrimgoeur

Tuesday 24/11
Julie Oorschot

Wednesday 25/11
Allison Tucker
Gail Crawford

Thursday 26/11
Sally West
Nong Pepper

Friday 27/11
Volunteers
needed