Dear Parents, Staff and Students

Keeping the Brigidine tradition alive
One of the many publications that crosses my desk each week is the Brigidine Bulletin that this year is celebrating 23 years of keeping the wider community informed of Brigidine happenings across Australia and the world. The first edition for 2012 features the beautiful St Brigid’s Blessing which the editor of the Brigidine Bulletin, Maureen Keady CSB, invites us to make ours:

“May Brigid bless the house wherein you dwell, Bless every fireside, every wall and floor, Bless every heart that beats beneath its roof, And every tongue and mind forever more. Bless every hand that toils to bring it joy, And every foot that walks its portals through. This is my wish today, my constant prayer, May Brigid bless the house that shelters you.”

Subscriptions to the bulletin are only $15 a year for 3 editions and are available through Sr Maureen Keady, 60 Stuart St, Dharruk, NSW 2770.

The MySchool tables
In the midst all the political activity this week the results of the 2011 NAPLAN tests were released for 2070 NSW schools. While we have risen significantly in the rankings, despite our funding per student being very much towards the lower end of the scale, the results need to be examined in the much broader context of our achievements in the full range of educational opportunities offered at the school. School camps and excursions, the music performance group, the environment group, sporting competitions, debating and Mock Trial, as a few examples, develop many other sides of students that enhance the essential skills for lifelong learning. This year we have a particular focus on spelling, coordinated by an enthusiastic Literacy Committee, comprised of Primary and Secondary teachers, that has developed a detailed scope and sequence of what should be attained within each year level. Targeted professional development of staff is also under way to maintain teacher skills in this important area.

Parent Teacher Interviews
Thank you to all the parents who have taken the opportunity this week to meet and speak with your child’s classroom teacher/s. Communication is so vital for the education process to be fully effective and these interviews provide the chance for immediate and interactive feedback. It is also very important that parents get another perspective on what is happening at school, whether that is in the classroom or in the playground. By talking to your child’s teachers we can often get an insight into behaviours that reflect wider issues in a student’s life, some of which we as teachers or you as parents have little control over, but together we can continue to try to do the very best for your child. Parent-teacher interviews are not restricted to only a couple of days a year; if you have concerns about your child in or out of class please don’t hesitate to contact their classroom teacher, subject teacher, Coordinator or myself.

Year 8 Camp
The Year 8 students arrived back damp and exhausted yesterday afternoon from their overnight camp at Tathra. Quite apart from the surf safety and awareness aspects of the camp, opportunities like this give students the chance to interact with their peers and develop relationship skills that can help them throughout their school life. Getting to know other students and understanding different personalities are key elements of all the camps and extended excursions that are offered to many year groups. A big thank you to Paul Mackay for his organisation of the camp and to the accompanying teachers, Pam Fletcher and Tim Lawley.

Don’t forget to get those recipes into “NOURISH” as soon as you can.

The Cooma Show is just over a week away so please get involved in the catering where you can and join in this great social occasion organised by the P&F.

Please continue to pray for those members of our school community who are unwell.

Phil Stubbs
Principal

* * *

Life Education proved to be a great success with the students again this year. “Healthy Harold” even managed to make some new friends as can be seen in our picture!

Students from Years 3 to 10 gathered in the Church last week to celebrate Ash Wednesday.

Our students showcased their wonderful musical talents at the Ash Wednesday service.
Over the last three weeks a number of students have been busy representing the school at Archdiocesan level in tennis, golf and swimming. The boys tennis team (Ben McConkey, Kevin Fraser, Josh Sixt and Luke Johnson) finished runner up in their pool, whilst the girls team (Meg Bracher, Emily Ewart, Emma Holgate and Jasmine Bujalski) was also competitive against some tough opposition. Alex Childs, Sam Patricks and James Russell competed at the Archdiocesan Golf Championships in Batemans Bay. All boys played in the spirit of the game, with James’ net score placing him runner up in his division.

A large number of students headed off to the Archdiocesan Swimming Championships where the school had one of its most successful years with six students making the Archdiocesan team to compete at the Combined Catholic Colleges Championships at the end of March in Sydney. Well done and good luck to Madeleine Rooney, Zac Saddler, Meg Bracher, Katelyn Patricks, Sophie Nicholl and Lachlan Marks.

Congratulations to all students on their participation and effort in these events. A very big thank you goes to all of the parents who have given up their time to transport and support the students and the school.

Tim Lawley

Year 9 and 10 Commerce students visited the National Australia Bank where Mrs Lida Walker, Branch Manager and Ms Irene Tozer, provided an excellent overview of savings and loans information for the students’ current unit on personal finance. The students were very happy to receive a sample bag of brochures, rates information, budget tips and gifts.

Year 7 History class went on a historical site study to the Cooma Correctional Centre and Gaol Museum. Mr Les Strezelecki and his assistant, Ray, spent over an hour showing the students around the jail and museum explaining the history of the site and answering the many questions the students posed.

Steven Joyce
K-6 Coordinator

Thank you
It’s great to see so many families attending the K-6 Parent Information Night this week. The teachers appreciate the support and interest from the parents. Our success as parents and teachers is greatly enhanced when school and family work closely together.

Steven Joyce
K-6 Coordinator

On Thursday 30 had what would be their last Healthy Harold visit for year 5 and 6. Carmen talked to us about decision making and how we should make the right choices in our lives. We have been taught about healthy and unhealthy drugs. Nearing the end, we said goodbye to Harold. We had an awesome time.

By Josh McConkey and Zara Childs

For Lent you could try to give up things like these:

* Chocolate
* Video games
* Ice cream
* Take away food
* Computer

Or you could follow the tradition with no meat on Fridays.

Or do something for someone else like – say hello, help sweep the bark up around the school, wash the dishes at home and help clean the house.

By Sean Dixon and Tim Bottom

ACROSTIC ‘SHEBA’ POEM FROM ‘ROWAN OF RIN’

Sheba, Sheba, She’s a witch,
Her remedies cure people quite a bit.
Everyone thinks she’s fairly scary,
But beware, she could turn you into a canary!
As you open the door, be aware of what you’re in for!

By Gabrielle Steiner and Lily Eljuga

We made pancakes for Shrove Tuesday last week. They were delicious!!
Congratulations girls!!

Infants

For listening

Cheers the P&F Team

Matilda Joyce

Shovelling Shallots veggie Market this Thursday 1 March Primary Campus 8.30am – 9.00am. All produce herbicide and pesticide free! Thanks to our Primary Environmental Group who harvest wash and pack the produce from the garden.

Shovelling Shallots Stall

The Shovelling Shallots will be selling some left over Living Fundraiser vegetables and herbs this Thursday 1 March. The following items will be available for $2.00. All of the money will go towards this year’s winter crop.

- Beans
- Coriander
- Rocket
- Basil $1.00 a bag
- Tomato 3 for $1.00
- Parsley $0.50 a bag

Cooma Show – The flyer has gone home with everyone and on the back is the Roster for helping. If you can spare some time please fill in the Roster showing where you can help and send it back to school so that we know what goodies we have to sell.

Super – The attitude of Responsibility

We need lots of donations, so if you can bake; buy, cook, etc, please pop it onto the form and drop it back to school so that we know what goodies we have to sell.

New P&F Members

Cooma Show

Music/French

Library Kennedy Purcell – for her positive attitude when borrowing library books!

SRC Awards 2012

This year our Primary SRC captains and vice captains have designed a new primary award. Each week (or thereabouts) your child’s teacher will choose one student who deserves to be awarded for the SRC theme of that week. This week the theme is Responsibility. The new awards are called SUPER awards which stands for Students Understanding Performance Excellence and Respect. Awards are printed in the newsletter and each child receives a laminated copy of their certificate. Thanks from the Primary SRC and have a good week!

The attitude of Responsibility is being able to give your best to any job. Being responsible means that others can depend on you. When you are responsible you get things done with excellence. You are practicing responsibility when you take your agreements seriously.

SRC SUPER Award Theme Week 5

Attitude of Responsibility.

- KG Kate Carton – for her positive attitude towards her learning and how she treats others!
- 1O Lilly Janota – for her determined attitude in all she does!
- 1P Molly Brabham – for her wonderful positive attitude in class!
- 2O Molly Nichols – for her positive attitude to all tasks she is asked to perform!
- 2P Julia Davies – for having a positive attitude towards learning!
- 3O Gabrielle Steiner – for her positive attitude and very helpful nature!
- 3P Brooke Fraser – for her brilliant attitude towards her work!
- 3G Bas de Ruijter – for his terrific attitude of responsibility, where he gives his best to any job and always attempts to complete tasks with excellence!
- Music/French 3G Kadee Laird – for displaying a positive attitude towards French!
- Library Kennedy Purcell – for her positive attitude when borrowing library books!

Well done everyone!

P&F News

Cooma Show – The flyer has gone home with everyone and on the back is the Roster for helping. If you can spare some time please fill in the Roster showing where you can help and send it back to school so that we know what goodies we have to sell.

Note: Details of our next P&F meeting will be in next week’s newsletter. In the interim, email me with any issues you may have or to let us know if you can help—hwalkerbroose@bigpond.com.

Cheers the P&F Team
Wednesday 29 February
K-6 Parent Teacher Interviews
Secondary Parent Teacher Interviews

Thursday 1 March
2P Parish Mass 10.00 am
Mock Trials V Bega High 9.30 am to 1.00 pm
K-6 Parent Teacher Interviews
Secondary Parent Teacher Interviews

Friday 2 March
K-6 Parent Teacher Interviews
7-10 Brumbies Gala Day

Monday 5 March
Year 10 Industrial Technology Excursion
Year 10 Crossroads Day Monaro High School
Kindergarten Information evening 5.30 to 7.00 pm

Wednesday 7 March
Netball Gala Day
Year 10 Assessment Meeting 6.00 pm Secondary Library

Thursday 8 March
Year 9 Pastoral Day 9.00 am to 1.30 pm
2O Parish Mass 10.00 am

Friday 9 March
Bruce Coleman visit (Years 7 to 10)

Saturday 10 March
Cooma Show (P&F Catering)

Wednesday 14 March
Year 7 Camp

Thursday 15 March
Year 7 Camp
3O Parish Mass 10.00 am

Friday 16 March
Archdiocesan Football trials and gala day
Auskick Gala Day Years 3-6

Sunday 18 March
K-6 Soccer Carnival Canberra

Monday 19 March
St Patrick’s Day

Tuesday 20 March
Antarctic Experience Stage 2 and 3

Thursday 22 March
3G Parish Mass 10.00 am
School Board Meeting 6.30 pm

Friday 23 March
K-6 P&F Disco

Monday 26 March
Year 7 & 8 Debating ACT

Wednesday 28 March
K-6 Brumbies Gala Day

Thursday 29 March
Year 7 and 10 Immunisations
3P Parish Mass 10.00 am

Friday 30 March
CCC Swimming Homebush

Saturday 31 March
20 Year Reunion

Canteen Volunteer Roster
Friday
Tanya Quodling and Melissa Caffarelli

The Mini canteen held last week was very successful. If any-one can spare some time on Wednesday morning setting up and selling, please let me know ASAP. Please also contact me if you can help any other day in the canteen. The meal deal for this FRIDAY is HOT DOG with sauce, Chocolate milk and lollies OR HAM & PINEAPPLE PIZZA, Chocolate milk and lollies. The meals are $5.00 EACH. Please have your choice clearly written on a lunch bag on FRIDAY. This will be the ONLY choice of food available to both Primary and Infants. Any questions or suggestions please call me on my mobile 0406 763 375 or contact me through the school. Thank you again

Carolyn Hely
Canteen Manager

DEAN’S TRANSIT GROUP: Hop Aboard the Cooma Connector!!!
The Cooma Connector will run for a 3 month trial period - to keep it running beyond that period, our town needs you to jump on board! The service will operate on weekdays excluding ACT Public Holidays, Good Friday and between 25 December and 6 January. Tickets can be purchased on board and, though at this stage there are no concessions, prices could reduce if the service is well supported. As this is a service for the community, we need your feedback on how it’s going so that it can keep going beyond the 3 month trial period – email capitalinfo@deanstransitgroup.com.au.

TIMETABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Morning</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Depart Cooma</td>
<td>6.50am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bredbo/Michelago (stop on request)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuggeranong Interchange (on request)</td>
<td>8.05am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woden Interchange Bay 18 (on request)</td>
<td>8.20am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civic Bay 6</td>
<td>8.40am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russell</td>
<td>8.50am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canberra Airport</td>
<td>9.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queanbeyan</td>
<td>9.15am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Afternoon</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Canberra</td>
<td>5.05pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canberra Airport</td>
<td>5.20pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Interchange Bay 6</td>
<td>5.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russell</td>
<td>5.55pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calwell Shops</td>
<td>5.55pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Canberra</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woden Interchange Bay 18</td>
<td>5.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuggeranong Interchange</td>
<td>5.45pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calwell Shops</td>
<td>5.55pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Passengers from South Canberra to transfer at Calwell for Cooma | |
| Stop Michelago/Bredbo (on request) | - |
| Arrive Cooma Centennial Park | 7.00pm |

| Zone 1 – Williamsdale, Royalla, Michelago $15 one-way/ $20 return | |
| Zone 2 – Cooma, Bunyan, Bredbo, Colinton $18 one-way/ $22 return | |

| COOMA NETBALL: Registrations Saturday 3 and 10 March from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm at the Cooma Netball Courts, Yarra Street. Competition starts 17 March. Netta 5-10 yrs, Age Divisions 12-17 yrs, Opens—boys welcome! Email coomanetball@hotmail.com. | |
The PARENT Q&As cover the general who, what, when, where, why questions, along with some specific technical issues.

These will be uploaded onto the NCEC website: http://www.fundinginfo.catholic.edu.au/

1. What is the Government’s Review of Funding for Schooling?

- The Funding Review was required to examine all funding for all schools — Catholic, government and independent — and to recommend a funding system for all schools from 2014.
- Catholic schools are on average the least resourced of all schools. Even after parent contributions are taken into account, our schools operate with 10% less recurrent funding than government schools.
- The final report of the Gonski review team was presented to the Government in late 2011 and released on 20 February 2012.

2. What does the Funding Review mean for Catholic schools? What will the impacts be?

- The final report of the Gonski Panel on The Review of Funding for Schooling provides a theoretical framework. It’s too soon to provide a comprehensive analysis of what its recommendations mean for Catholic schools. There are key questions that remain unanswered. Substantial analysis needs to be done to test the proposed funding model.
- The Government has announced a consultation phase, including analysis and testing of the model, to commence immediately.
- In its response to the report, the Government recognises that families face financial pressures and do not wish to see school fees rise beyond their reach.
- NCEC will be working hard during the consultation phase to ensure we do not end up with a model that has the potential to put pressure on school fees for parents in Catholic schools.
- NCEC strongly backs the Gonski Panel’s call for an additional $5 billion in funding for all schools. This represents less than one half of 1% of Australia’s gross domestic product (GDP).

3. Does the Catholic sector support the proposed new funding arrangements?

- The Gonski report provides a theoretical framework and it is too soon to know the full impact of the proposed funding arrangements.
- There are key questions that remain unanswered. Substantial analysis needs to be done to test the model and the report’s recommendations.

4. Why can’t school funding be indexed to CPI?

- Education is like health. Over time, school education costs rise twice as fast as CPI. Teacher salaries in both the government and Catholic school sectors are just one of the school education costs which must be taken into account in annual funding increases. Teacher salaries are agreed in advance. They rise by around 4% annually. CPI is around 3%.
- Government funding to Catholic schools must be maintained in real terms. NCEC cannot support a funding model which does not include annual indexation that reflects the actual costs of school education.
- Both the NSW and Victorian governments support the Catholic position. Funding for schooling must be increased each year to reflect actual school costs.
- Quality improvement in all Australian schools is an expectation of governments, parents and the community. Quality improvements include school staffing profiles and salaries, specialist and support staff, and information technology with its continual innovations, maintenance and upgrading.

5. Are Catholic schools “overfunded”?

- Under the current arrangements, Australian Government recurrent funding to about half of all Catholic schools is “maintained” at 2004 base levels, plus cost increases.
- NCEC is concerned that the Gonski model preserves and improves the current base line funding for Catholic systems.
- NCEC will be working with the Government in the next phase of the funding review and contributing to the analysis of the Gonski report's recommendations to understand fully its impact for Catholic schools.
- Australian Government funding for most Catholic schools (96%) is block funded. This means that the funds go to State/Territory Catholic Education Commissions and are then distributed to schools on the basis of need assessed at the local level.
• The Catholic school sector is committed to block funding arrangements.
• Catholic systems promote equity and accountability, and productive levels of school autonomy.

6. How much funding does the government currently give to non-government schools?
• Catholic schools operate on average with about $10,000 per student, of which $7,700 comes from government funding. Parents contribute $2,300 per student as well as an average of $900 per student each year to help pay off school building loans.
• Government schools operate on average with about $11,000 per student from government funding and about $540 from parent contributions.

7. Will school fees go up?
• Catholic schools are committed to accessibility and affordability. Catholic schools need government funding support to keep fees at a reasonable level.
• NCEC will work hard to make sure that the Gonski model does not put pressure on school fees.
• We need your help to persuade the government of the day to maintain its current funding commitment to Catholic schools in step with the actual costs of running government schools. This will help keep school fees at a reasonable level.

8. What role should government play in supporting Catholic schools?
• Catholic schooling is a partnership between schools, parents and the state/territory and Australian Governments. This partnership is crucial for effective and affordable Catholic schooling.
• Australian Government funding support for Catholic schools is bipartisan. It has long been recognised by successive Australian Governments that Catholic schools deliver value for the taxpayer's dollar and help build a better educated and fairer Australian community.

9. Does the new funding model recognise the need to support students in the equity groups (students from low SES backgrounds, students with disabilities, Indigenous and students in regional and remote areas)?
• Yes.

10. Is there more funding for students with disabilities?
• NCEC anticipates that the Gonski model would result in more funding for students with disabilities.
• NCEC will be contributing to the analysis of the Gonski report's recommendations to understand fully its impact for all students in Catholic schools.
• Students with disabilities require equal funding, wherever they are enrolled.

11. Does the NCEC support the proposed Schooling Resource Standard (SRS)?
• While the NCEC supports in principle the concept of a schooling resource standard, a lot depends on the modelling of the actual outcomes of the model.
• NCEC will be participating in consultations and undertaking further analysis of the impact of the Gonski SRS for Catholic schools.

12. Where to from here? What do the next steps involve?
• The Government has announced a consultation process with key representatives of the school education sectors to look more closely at the implications of the Gonski model.
• The model must be tested and actual outcomes analysed before any final decisions are made on future school funding.
• NCEC is looking forward to being a keen participant in this exercise.