LEADERSHIP TEAM REFLECTIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE DIMENSION

Student Safety: Those parents who normally collect children from classrooms will have noted a new directive based on our commitment to child protection. For security reasons, we ask that parents and carers do not enter the school grounds proper until **2.50pm**. If for any reason you need to collect your child earlier please let office staff know and they will ensure your child is sent to the office. Please remember to sign children in or out inside school hours. It is our aim that this will ensure we are aware of who is on our school grounds at any one time. We continue to seek your support of reporting any suspicious behaviour to a member of staff in relation to matters affecting the safety of our students.

Car Parking: A few quick reminders;

When collecting children from the Para Road pick up zone please do not leave your vehicle.

Do not hold up traffic on the school crossing side to wait for the slip way traffic to move along. This creates a potentially dangerous situation by holding up traffic all the way back to the roundabout area. It also holds up buses that are on a tight schedule to collect students from other schools. If traffic is banked up, move up to the turnaround lane on the shopping centre side and return around the roundabout until you can enter the pickup zone.

We appreciate some of the frustration felt at this time of the day but the safety of all is our primary concern.

Volunteers: Recently we have trialled parents signing in as volunteers in our Junior Primary Classrooms. Attendance at a recent training day has indicated that we MUST ask volunteers to sign in at our Front Office. We apologise for the inconvenience, however, it is a system wide approach which we must abide by to remain compliant. Thanks for your anticipated understanding.

Contact/Medical details: Please ensure that all relevant contact details are currently held on our data base. It is essential that we are able to contact parents regarding any issue involving children, especially in an emergency situation. We also ask that all medical forms and health plans are up to date. If you have not returned your blue coloured medical / family detail form sent out earlier this term please do so as soon as possible. We are alarmed at how many of these are still outstanding. Your diligence will eliminate the possibility of not being able to contact you in the event of a serious incident.

**PARENT / TEACHER INTERVIEWS** Monday 18th March — Wednesday 20th March

Just a reminder that all interviews need to be made by this Friday 15th March. Bookings can be made online http://sobs.com.au/pt/loginpage.php or through the Front Office.
Leadership Team Reflections cont.

LEARNING DIMENSION

On our school closure day last Friday 125 teaching staff and ESO's from schools around the district gathered to hear Neil MacKay’s presentation *Getting it right for Dyslexia: Getting it right for all*. This highly relevant conference gave us current insights about dyslexia and implications for teaching and learning. Neil’s beliefs about dyslexia comes from many years of teaching experience in the classroom as well as his own personal challenges with dyslexia in his children. One of the significant things Neil MacKay challenged us with, was to not look at dyslexia as a disability but as a different and preferred way of seeing and thinking. If we can make this shift in our thinking then our teaching will cater more suitably for those students while at the same time supporting all students in our care. It is a question of ‘seeing ability not the disability’ and understanding the ‘sea of strength’ that surrounds dyslexic learners. He talked about better differentiation of the curriculum, adapting our teaching and above all intervening as early as possible when there is a suspicion that a child may have dyslexia – as he put it, call it as it is!

While we believe that here at St. Brigid’s we are successful at identifying and catering for the diversity of learning needs, the strategies that Neil was able to provide will build upon the array of tools we can use to support all learners in our care. For further information about dyslexia and details about the conference and the local Dyslexia Action Group please contact Colleen Stevens our Inclusive Education Coordinator.

RELIGIOUS DIMENSION

Lenten Reflection: Lent is a good time for us to reflect upon our choices and the ways we use our God - given gift of freedom. We can make the wrong decisions; there are things we do or fail to do - in the ways we relate, in the grudges or prejudices we nurture. These stop us from being our best selves, agents for good in the world around us. God is patient with us. May we always strive to respect the gift of freedom and make life - giving choices.

St Patrick and St Joseph Day liturgy: You are all invited to join the students and staff in celebrating St Patrick and St Joseph's Day liturgy on Friday March 15 at 9.20 in the S A M M AT. Prior to this at 9am, our Senior students will be presented to the community and will receive their Year 7 jumpers in our courtyard. Please feel welcome to join us for this significant event. Please note: Based on feedback from last year the traditional Green and Brown Celebration Day will be held closer to September 1st to celebrate the start of Spring which is the feast day of St Brigid. Normal school uniform should be worn.

Easter Services at Sts Peter and Paul's Catholic Church

Holy Thursday 7.30pm
Good Friday 10am Stations of the Cross 3pm Good Friday Mass
Easter Saturday Vigil 7.30pm
Easter Sunday 8.00am 10am

Parent Workshops: Last Wednesday Terri Judd from the Federation of Parents and Friends facilitated a workshop Supporting Your Child's Learning. Thank you to the 13 parents who attended the afternoon session and the 4 parents who attended the evening session. Although numbers were low the workshop was very informative and the parents participated enthusiastically in the discussion. This week we had Mark LeMisseur facilitate the first of three workshops he will be offering this year: Which window do you parent your kids from? Thank you to the 28 parents who attended. They were entertained by Mark and left with a wealth of knowledge and strategies to use with their own children.

Please mark in your diaries the following dates of our next Parent Workshops:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workshop</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workshop 2 with Terri Judd</td>
<td>Wednesday May 15</td>
<td>7.30pm-9pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop 2 with Mark LeMessurier</td>
<td>Wednesday August 14</td>
<td>9.30am-11am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop 3 with Terri Judd</td>
<td>Wednesday August 28</td>
<td>1.30pm-3pm</td>
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Topic: Real Ideas to build Better Behaviours in kids
Topic: Practical Ideas to Build Children’s Emotional Resilience
Topic: From Primary to Secondary, supporting parents in this transition

Please remember to email (if you haven't done so already) info@stbrigids.catholic.edu.au to book your place for any of the workshops.

SPECIAL RECESS - Wednesday 27th March

Hot Cross Bun/ Flavoured Milk

Order forms will be distributed next week.

DO WHAT YOU CAN TO SUPPORT PARENTS WHO WANT TO SUPPORT YOU!

The Federation launched its Facebook page late last year as part of our communication strategy.

I invite you to go to our website www.parentfederation.catholic.edu.au and follow the link on our promo box to ‘Like’ the page and share it within your Facebook friendship group. A big thank you to those of you who have already ‘liked’ us. Whilst connecting to the page will keep you in the loop with the work of the Federation, there is also a strategic intention. The number of likes on our page and subsequent likes on status updates and links in relation to the current funding debate will build on our power as the voice of parents with children in Catholic schools in SA as we advocate for a fair funding model for Catholic education into the future. This is something that we all have an investment in as it’s for the benefit of our children, our families, our educators and staff, our schools and our communities.

Thanks for your support in building up our Facebook ‘likes’.

Kindest regards,
Ann Bliss
Executive Officer
Last Friday St Brigid's Catholic School welcomed other schools, professionals and parents to a workshop facilitated by Neil MacKay. Neil is an educational consultant and trainer who created the concept of Dyslexia Friendly Schools in the UK. He is an experienced teacher who has taught for 26 years, working with children of all ages with a wide range of needs and abilities.

Feedback from the workshop was extremely positive. Neil has a fantastic ability to bring the classroom into his presentation. He demonstrated numerous strategies that will benefit all students. As a school we celebrate and value the varied learning styles that students have. Students with dyslexia have many positive characteristics and was reflected in our prayer at the beginning of the day, there are many successful people who have had a huge positive impact on society who happen to have dyslexia.

As a school St Brigid's strives to ensure that we are a "Dyslexia Aware School". We want our learners to feel understood irrespective of their learning style. Our aim is to adjust the learning where necessary, consistently use effective strategies, communicate that all learning styles are ok, set students up for success and most importantly make them feel good about themselves. We recognise the important role that parents also play in this and I'm sure you will see evidence of this when you meet with the teachers next week in parent/teachers interviews.

If you would like to know more about dyslexia and learning difficulties the "Speld(SA)" website has a wealth of information (www.speld-sa.org.au/).

Colleen Stevens
Inclusive Education Coordinator
BOOK CLUB  The Scholastic Book Club has been given out and will need to be returned by 15th March 2013 – that’s this Friday.  All orders need to be returned to Mrs White &/or Mrs Kennedy in the library no later than lunch-time of the due date.  Thank you.

OVERDUE NOTICES  Due to my absence, all borrowers have had a reprieve from those dreaded overdues – I hoped you enjoyed the mini amnesty.  Helass, I am back and therefore overdues will be going out again (Week 8).  To assist in the process and to ensure it is not too painful, would you please check everywhere for our library books.  Before, overdues go out, a thorough check of the library is done, so let’s hope between us all we can find those missing ‘scoundrels’.  If you have any queries regarding the return of items please do not hesitate to call Mrs Kennedy, who is only too happy to assist you.

PARENT LIBRARY CARDS:  Sign up for a library card, so you can borrow books as well.  Come and see Mrs Kennedy about your card as soon as practical.

HOMEWORK CLUB  Join in the fun after school and help your child(ren) with homework in the quiet and conducive environment of the Resource Centre/Library.  Open after school during our normal open hours.  {Monday - Friday 8.30am-4.00pm}

PARENT/STUDENT READING CHALLENGE  Once again this year we will be running the Parent/Student Challenge, in which students read to their parent(s) in the library (before &/or after school) for approximately 15-20 minutes – this needs to be completed at least 20 times throughout the year (before the end of November).  This is a great opportunity to combine with the Premier’s Reading Challenge, which can start whenever you are ready.  Some students and their parents have already started – What About You??

HELP HELP HELP  VOLUNTEERS are really, really, really needed.  Any day {except Tuesday}, from 9.00am-3.00pm {or anytime in between}, to assist with the influx of resources, shelving, covering and repairing of books.  So PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE come along and positively utilise your talents to help out in the Library.  EVERYONE WELCOME

Quiz Question – Name a book in our library about an animal in the library.  {First one to tell Mrs White the answer goes into the Quiz Question book – could win a prize…}

Anna CTM White – Teacher/Librarian

SPORTS NEWS

Congratulations to the following students who have been voted by their peers as the 2013 Sports Leaders.

Paul
Captains: Claudia Devlin, Dale Nixon
Vice Captains: Aiden Malone, Jazmin Hryhorec

MacKillop
Captains: Renae Mackereth, Matt Hemmerling
Vice Captains: Tara Molo, Michael Geracitano

Peter
Captains: Zoe May, Liam Redden
Vice Captains: Maree Papalia, Rade Daniele

Brigid
Captains: Leith Cappelluti, Kaitlin Viceban
Vice Captains: Ryan Pilgrim, Katie Pasin

SAPSASA NEWS

Netball trials are being held this Thursday the 14th of March at the Gawler Central Netball Courts at 3:45pm.

Football trials are also being held this Friday the 15th of March at 4:00pm these will be held on the Main Oval at Trinity College.

Students need to ensure they have completed a permission form which has also been signed by either myself or leadership at St Brigids.

Regards,
Jo Jenkins