LEADERSHIP NEWS

DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

**Week 6**
- Sunday 1st June: 10:00am Family Mass
- Monday 2nd June: 3:30pm Sacramental Program
- Wednesday 4th June: Year 4 -7 Athletics Carnival, 11:40am Year 1/2SP Liturgy
- Thursday 5th June: 9:15am Parent Team Meeting, 7:00pm Sacramental Program
- Friday 6th June: **STUDENT FREE DAY**

**Week 7**
- Monday 9th June: **PUBLIC HOLIDAY**
- Wednesday 11th - Friday 13th: Year 7 Camp
- Wednesday 11th June: 11:40am Year 3/4P Mass
- Friday 13th June: 9:15am Year 3/4F Assembly, Year 4/5 Soccer Carnival
- Saturday 14th June: 10:00am Sacrament of Confirmation
- Sunday 15th June: 11:30am Sacrament of Eucharist

RELIGIOUS DIMENSION

**National Reconciliation Week: This week our nation highlights the ongoing commitment for all Australians to embrace the responsibility to restore relationships with our Indigenous brothers and sisters. We have a shameful history of treating our Indigenous peoples in a manner which ignored their cultural and spiritual heritage. Some of these structures continue today! Our school continues to seek opportunities to inform our community of these tragedies and to find small ways to remove our ignorance and find ways to connect with the rich traditions of the Indigenous people of Australia.**

We are grateful for the work that Mr David Taylor undertakes as our Key Indigenous Education teacher in working with staff to strengthen our communities understanding and appreciation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. I would encourage you to view the film ‘Utopia’ which will be aired this Saturday on SBS1 at 8.35pm. It is a confronting and powerful view of the dark history of our country which prides itself of ‘A fair go for all’. There is much we need to do to ‘Walk the Talk’ in relation to National Reconciliation with the Indigenous people of this continent. I would love to hear your response after viewing this film.

St Vincent De Paul Gawler Winter Appeal: We are entering the chilly time of the year and as we settle into the warmth of our homes it is a good time to reflect and think of those who may not have the essentials of life. Our 5 basic needs of life are love & belonging, power within, fun, freedom and the most important of all survival. Without food, clothes and shelter we would not survive. Unfortunately there are many people in the community of Gawler that are in need and Vinnies is there to help them.

Vinnies is by far the largest charity in Australia, but does not advertise this fact. Gawler Vinnies is the largest in our state and so far they have been able to provide for many within the Gawler district. St Brigid’s and Xavier College have continually supported Gawler Vinnies and for this they are very appreciative.

As a school community we would like to invite you to once again support the Vinnies Winter Appeal. This can be by the way of cash donations or donations of can food. During the weeks of June 2 till June 13 you are welcome to bring in cans of food which will be donated to Gawler Vinnies. If you would prefer to make a cash donation please enclose cash in an envelope and clearly label “Donation for Vinnies Winter Appeal” with your name and contact details. Any cash donations of $2 or more are tax deductible.

We are aware that there is a continued demand on your charity dollars but we ask you to consider helping such a wonderful charity organisation such as St Vinnies Gawler. Thankyou for your anticipated generosity.

**Family Mass:** You are all invited to join the Parish Community of Sts Peter and Paul for Family Mass this Sunday. Mass begins at 10am and is a wonderful way of being involved in the life of our church.

COMMUNITY DIMENSION

**Food Tree:** Thank you to those families who have put their name forward to be included on the Food Tree. If you would like to be involved and occasionally be contacted to prepare a meal or two for members of our school community please contact Andrea White andreawhite@stbrigids.catholic.edu.au indicating your details and interest.
COMMUNITY DIMENSION cont.

Second Hand Uniforms

OFFICIAL OPENING: Week 9 - BRIDGID'S BARGAINS!
We are grateful for the work of our Parent Team in establishing our BRIDGID'S BARGAINS. Our second hand uniform shop will operate from a spare room in the Music Studio (Building on the left as you walk up to the SAMMAT and pass through the narrow breezeway).

Opening Times: Tuesday afternoon 2:30pm - 3:30pm and Friday morning 8:30am - 9:30am

Please consider how you can assist your Parent Team as a volunteer and contact Sam Prentice for further details. The next few weeks will be utilised to establish a process which will ensure the smooth operation of this venture and your anticipated support will guarantee its success. Thank you for your patience as we provide a service which will assist families in keeping their children in quality uniform items. If you are in desperate need for a second hand item for your child please approach a member of the Leadership team for guidance. We are always most happy to help in any way we can.

LEARNING DIMENSION

Personal Responsibility

School Uniform: Thank you to all the children and their families who are coming to school ready for learning. We have witnessed children wearing the correct uniform with pride and enthusiasm. We understand that sometimes parents and caregivers are short of time and uniform items are often misplaced or still in the wash. A note in the diary or communication book is strongly encouraged so good communication between home and school is maintained. We remind the girls, in particular in Year 5, 6 and 7 that there is to be NO make up to be worn or nail polish. If girls are seen wearing make up or nail polish they will be asked to remove it and parents will be notified by a note or phone call.

Friendly Words: Parents and caregivers are the best role models for children when developing listening and problem solving skills. At our school we care for others by using friendly words. If your child uses unfriendly words at school and they have received a reflection room slip or spoken to by a teacher please take the time to have a conversation with your child about correct language.

Child's Play: 'Most problems in life cannot be solved with formulae or memorised answers of the type learnt in school. They require the judgement wisdom, and creative ability that come from life experiences. For children those experiences are embedded in play' Peter Gray.

Children are at the very early stages of learning how to build, maintain and nurture friendships. They are still learning the art of conversation, turn taking and negotiating to come to an agreement. Many children experience ‘bumps’ along the way when they are experimenting with social rules and often find themselves in tricky situations. As parents and caregivers it is a natural instinct to protect our children, and we often want to solve the problems for them. We encourage you that if your child is experiencing social problems at school, to first make a time to meet with their teacher to discuss it further. We strongly discourage parents from talking to the direct parents of the child involved or the individual child themselves.

Safe School Policy: All children have the right to learn and play in a safe school environment. At our school we have a zero tolerance to bullying and harassment. Bullying is a deliberate, hurtful gestures, words or actions against another person which are continually repeated. Further information about our schools procedures and responses to bullying can be found on our website www.stbrigids.catholic.edu.au. We would also encourage you to visit www.bullyingnoway.gov.au website for more helpful and guiding strategies.

Would you like ‘The Brigitiser’ emailed to you?
Please see Jasmine in the Front Office or send your details to jzawitkowski@stbrigids.catholic.edu.au.

Is your son or daughter interested in playing Basketball?
St Brigid’s is looking to create teams to enter in the Starplex competition. Ages 5 and up. Beginners are welcome!

The first season will commence in term four. Under 8’s and under 10’s play on a Tuesday afternoon, and under 12’s play on Monday afternoons.

Teams will be (Coached/Managed) by parent volunteers. For further information please call Stephanie Eland on 0415234304 or pass on your details to Jasmine in the front office.
Joshua recently participated in the 2014 National Boccia Championships held in Sydney. Joshua was part of the combined SA/NSW junior team that won a silver medal. Joshua also played in the individual juniors competition but unfortunately didn’t place there. Joshua was the youngest player at the championships and did a great job, especially as he hadn’t played at that level before. We are all glad you had a great time playing boccia and making lots of new friends. Congratulations on your fantastic achievement!
Uniform – The transfer of our Uniform Shop has been made to JS Sports. Joe has been very supportive in seeking a seamless transition and is eager to ensure JS Sports & St Brigid’s continue to share a positive and productive relationship.

Traffic Monitoring – We are still waiting on Gawler Council to establish the ‘Collect & Go’ zone adjacent the SAMMAT. This is a project which we are eager to work with council to minimise risks to our children and their families in the afternoon. So far the trees have been removed to enable children to enter vehicles in the transfer zone.

Gawler Water Re-Use: We recently met with a company who are working with the Gawler Council in establishing a water re-use program incorporating run off water. There are significant savings for watering gardens/ovals etc and as such we have expressed an interest to pursue possible involvement over the coming years.

1 To 1 Digital Devices Program: A review is underway of our 1 to 1 Digital Devices program and to direct our attention to the implementation across our Yr 2 classes and future parent training sessions.

Early Learning Centre/Playgroup: A small group of School Board Reps, Staff and former DECD Early Years Coordinator met prior to the school holidays to gauge the effectiveness of St Brigid’s purchasing the old Evanston Kindergarten site. Whilst here was initial excitement about the possibility of creating a St Brigid’s ‘Kindergarten’ the reality was that a significant amount of capital would be required to bring the centre up to standard. The dream of establishing a St Brigid’s Early Learning Centre is still a priority and our interest has moved to other options on our school site. We will survey our community to gauge interest in this and other services such as before/after school care etc.

Due to very positive numbers at our Tuesday morning Playgroup session questions are being asked about the possibility of providing an alternative/additional session. A survey will be sent to all our families and future enrolments/playgroup community about the community dimension of our school. This would include identifying possible interest in an additional Playgroup Morning/Afternoon, Early Learning Centre, Before/After School Care/ Vacation Care.

Enrolment Data & Feedback: Feedback from families who attended our recent Open Day at the end of Term 1 has been very positive. As a result of this day we have received enrolment applications from 17 families. We also received positive feedback from a family who commenced their schooling at St Brigid’s at the start of this term. They were very complimentary of the current process to keep them informed of school processes etc. Likewise, many of the phone calls made by School Board members to new families were highly affirming of the efforts of our staff. We are currently in the process of conducting 2016 Enrolment interviews.

Pancakes: This was very successful this year with great help from Playgroup parents. All went smoothly. Students enjoyed the opportunity to be supplied with a pancake during the morning. Great feedback from the Gawler Park shop owners as they were also given free pancakes.

Sports Day: Again another smooth event with the help of many parent helpers. Thank you for support from Nick Hallion (reception parent) and Foodland for support. Great positive feedback received with regard to the smooth and great atmosphere of this year’s Sports day.

Mother’s Day Stall: This was a huge success this year and hopefully lots of happy Mothers on Mother’s Day. The kids had a lot of fun shopping for their mother. We sold out of all stock and will start next year with a fresh new range.

Second Hand Uniform Market: Parent Teams have been approached to run a second hand uniform market now that JS have taken over the uniform shop. It is thought that the first market will take place later this term once all items have been sorted and marked. Large number of second hand items in stock. Stay tuned for coming details.

Quiz night: Our Community event for the year will be a Quiz night this will take place on 2nd of August. More details to be advised shortly.

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Scholastic Book Fair

To the students, family and friends of St Brigid’s,
Thank you for supporting the Scholastic Book Fair!

It was rewarding to share the growing excitement as we counted down the sleeps to the Book Fair. Scholastic presented us with a variety of renowned titles and as requested, a majority of the books were recognised by the Premier’s Reading Challenge!

The student’s filled their wish lists with enthusiasm. It was explained to the students that most of the books displayed can be ordered from the Scholastic Book Club catalogue. That there was no pressure to purchase now! We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of a number of titles, re-ordered. Thank you for your support, patience and for the time away from your busy schedules.

We offer heartfelt thanks to the family, friends and staff who volunteered to help make the Book Fair! ... for generously giving their time, their smiles and support, for a love of reading and books.

Every purchase benefits our school with great new books and resources. Through your generosity, the lives of our students have been so very positively impacted!

Once again, thank you so much for your on-going support.

*Family involvement in reading activities can have a strong, positive impact on a child’s educational achievement. Help strengthen the most important skill children can develop: Reading!*

Amanda Kennedy
Librarian
Latest Federation e-News!

Go to www.parentfederation.catholic.edu.au and click on the ‘News’ link for the Term 2 2014 edition of ‘Federation e-News’. This is the quarterly e-newsletter for parents and families from the Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities.

In this jam-packed edition, find out more about:

- Raising mathematically confident and competent children – it’s as easy as 1, 2, 3!
- Parents’ guide to depression and anxiety in young people
- Parent Conference - have you registered yet?
- SA Catholic Schools - Committed to Quality
- Safe Schools Hub
- Putting NAPLAN in Perspective
- Review of Teacher Education – have your say
- Mark Le Messurier workshop – ASD, Parenting Tips, Education
- Guess who just turned 60?
- State Election outcome
- Cybersmart’s Parents Chatterbox series

If you have an article you’d like to contribute or have an idea about what you’d like to read please contact us at the Federation on 8301 6685 or email us at fedadmin@cesa.catholic.edu.au