May your journey to Christmas draw you in to a closer relationship with your God.

May your journey to Christmas draw you in to a closer relationship with your family.

May your journey to Christmas draw you in to a closer relationship with yourself.

Amen

The staff at St Brigid’s Catholic School wish every peace and blessing to our school community.

May 2016 be a year of love, peace and joy in your lives.

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**LEADERSHIP NEWS**

Friday 11th December 2015 / Issue 21

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**Christmas Blessing**: On behalf of our staff we extend a personal thanks to our school community for their ongoing support of our work together in developing energetic, faith filled, optimistic, caring and intelligent children. We thank God that you entrust your children into our care and that together we can enjoy the blessings which we experience at St Brigid’s Catholic School. May you enjoy wonderful family time over the Christmas season and we hope the peace you've given to others returns many times to you during 2016!

**RELIGIOUS DIMENSION**

**Children’s Christmas Eve Family Mass**: The Children's Christmas Eve Family Mass will be celebrated on Thursday December 24 at 7pm in the SAMMAT at St Brigid’s Catholic School. Children are invited to dress up as shepherds, angels, barn animals etc and join Fr Germano on stage during the first half of Christmas Eve Mass. Please email Andrea White (andreawhite@stbrigids.catholic.edu.au) if your child would like to partake in any of the readings or processions during Mass.

**Giving Tree**: Thank you for your generous donations to our Giving Tree. We are confident that they will raise the spirits of members of our local community this Christmas season. Once again your generosity has been greatly valued.

**End of Year Mass & Year 7 Graduation**: This week we experienced the important liturgical events in the life of our school, namely the End of Year Thanksgiving Mass and Yr 7 Graduation Liturgy. We are appreciative of the significant number of families in attendance who joined us in prayer. These moments remind us of how grateful we are to our generous God in enabling us to be thankful for many moments of grace during the course of the year. We commend the Yr 7 students for their respectful and dignified behavior during the liturgy and celebration. Our school community is proud of our Graduates of 2015 and we look forward to your lives unfolding before you. May Brigid walk gently beside you and keep you safe. Thank you to all those that played a part in the liturgies and/or evening celebration.

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**LEARNING DIMENSION**

**Reggio Conversations**: Congratulations go to our teachers for their efforts in putting together their Documentation displays of their class research projects. We hope that some of you have been able to take the opportunity to view the display in the Chapel over the last couple of weeks. Documentation is a combination of teacher planning and children’s work that reveals the children’s thinking, the process they undertook to arrive at a particular learning and the teacher's planning, questioning and reflection that helps make clear for the teacher, the children’s understanding.

Documentation is encompassed in the five principles of learning; learning is purposeful, learning is social, learning is emotional, learning is empowering and learning is representational. One of the core practices of making learning visible and learners visible is documentation. The practice of documentation involves teachers and learners observing, recording, interpreting, and sharing via a variety of media the processes and products of learning in order to deepen and extend learning. We look forward to continuing our learning journey together about the Reggio Emilia inspired approach in 2016.

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**Christmas Mass Times**

Christmas Eve
7:00pm Family Mass at St Brigid’s SAMMAT
11:30pm Christmas Carols at Ss Peter and Paul’s followed by Midnight Mass

Christmas Day
8:00am and 10:00am Mass at Ss Peter and Paul’s
**Meet The Teacher:** It was exciting witnessing the new connections being established last week when our children moved to their new Teachers for 2016. We understand the trepidation that is attached to this process, but were greatly affirmed by the resilience and trust displayed by our children in being open to establishing new friendships and getting to know their new teacher/s.

**Out of School Hours Care:** This week we hosted a member of the organization responsible for the establishment and monitoring of OSHC and Vacation Care services in South Australia. He was highly complimentary of the identified space and resources which will be committed to the OSHC/Vacation Care service at St Brigid’s. Likewise, he was impressed with the documentation of policies and programs and the experience of our Director, Ms Rachel Brooke. On our web page you will find the link under ‘Parents Toolkit’ to our new service and the necessary forms to download re enrolment, fees etc. We look forward to our OSHC service commencing on Monday 1st February and our Vacation Care program commencing Monday 18th April.

**School Stream:** We strongly encourage our families to download the School Stream App over the upcoming holiday break. From the start of next year we will be using the ‘Alert’ component to inform families of critical incidents etc. Likewise, each class will have the capacity to send home newsletters & notes etc. As the term progresses we will be identifying which families are accessing School Stream and thus reducing our dependency on hard copies. This is great for our environment and stationery budget, but most importantly it improves our communication with our families!

**Farewell:** As the end of another year arrives we have the sad task of saying goodbye and farewell to members of our school community.

- We congratulate and acknowledge the wonderful achievements of Pam Freimayer-Neilson as she moves into retirement. Pam has been a dedicated Education Support Officer at our school since 2006 and is recognized for her devotion to the children in her care and the high expectations she expects from them in relation to their learning. Her flexibility, sense of humour and commitment to St Brigid’s will be greatly missed. We pray that God will bless Pam with good health and much happiness over the coming years.
- We congratulate Annemarie Nicolai on her recent appointment to a permanent teaching position at St Augustine’s at Salisbury. We express our gratitude for the energy and commitment that she has devoted to our school family. Annemarie understands the importance of relationships in the learning process and is adept at connecting with young people and promoting their love of self. Annemarie’s dedication, genuine care and creativity as an educator are traits that we will miss.
- Kim Smith has undertaken a short contract to assist us in covering Ibu Eny who has successfully donated a kidney to her father in Indonesia. Kim’s passion and love of the Indonesian language and culture is visible in her classroom and interactions with students, staff and families. It has been pleasing to hear children using their Indonesian language and immersing themselves in the cultural activities. We have appreciated Kim’s high expectations of our children and her encouraging belief in their capacity as learners.

To Pam, Annemarie and Kim we express our deep appreciation for your work at our school and trust that God will bless your future endeavours. We also express our thanks to the children and their families who are saying goodbye to St Brigid’s for the last time. We are appreciative of your involvement in the life of St Brigid’s and trust that you take fond memories of your time at our school. May God bless you and keep you safe.

**Uniform:** We remind families about the need for children to wear the correct uniform as they begin the new school year. Unless a uniform issue is discussed with your child’s teacher (through a diary/communication book) or leadership, deviation from the designated uniform will result in a uniform note being issued. Children who consistently fail to wear the correct uniform will receive a Reflection Room slip. While this may sound a little harsh coming at the end of a school year, the intention is to remind families that the support we get from you in this matter, as in all areas of your child’s education, means that we are able to maintain a consistent level of attitude for our students. As the holiday season is a time to relax and get away from rules and school structures – this goes for us adults as well, below are some things to consider in time for when school returns in 2016.

- **HAIR:** Please, no coloured hair or extreme shaves or cuts. School is the place where we try to avoid children making competing fashion statements, so if you are colouring hair it needs to be grown out or washed out before school starts. The same goes for extreme style cuts.
- **SOCKS:** All sport socks must be white and logo free and the appropriate length.
- **JEWELLERY:** Only single studs on each ear. No Multiple studs allowed.
- **FACSIMILE 08 8523 1699 / EMAIL info@stbrigids.catholic.edu.au / WEB www.stbrigids.catholic.edu.au**

**The canteen is in urgent need of Volunteers for 2016. If you hold a current Catholic Police Clearance and have completed your Responding to Abuse and Neglect Training please contact Kathy in the Canteen on 8522801 or via email koreilly@stbrigids.catholic.edu.au**

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**School Holiday Uniform Shop Opening Times**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 27th January</td>
<td>8.30am - 12.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 29th January</td>
<td>2.30pm - 5.30pm</td>
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