St Brigid's Catholic School acknowledges the Kaurna people as the traditional custodians of the land upon which...
LEARNING DIMENSION

Holistic Commitment to Learning: Over recent times you may have heard educational conversations making reference to STEM learning. Current media advertising refers to the importance of this from preschool to Year 12 for Australia’s economic future. The acronym refers to Science, Technology, English and Mathematics. Some of us who are old enough to remember, would recognise this as the contemporary adaptation of ‘The three R’s’. We at St. Brigid’s agree that STEM education is vital to the future success of our children. As a school that views technology and science learning as an important part of a child’s education, we value the conversations around how we can engage both girls and boys in studying these subjects including Maths, into the future. However, it is also important to view STEM learning in the holistic approach to the education of the whole child. As a Catholic school we have the added focus of the Arts as a focus and the importance of providing growth in creative self-expression (STEMA). Underpinning all of this of course is our religious dimension that helps form and develop the spiritual elements of the human person. Add sport and physical education, STEMASS then completes the acronym that embodies all that we are trying to achieve in our children’s academic learning. So when talking to your children about learning, teach them that all learning is valuable and important, even if at times it can be hard work and that learning is not only important for them but for all people in the future.

Reggio Emilia Research Schools Project 2016: Once again our school has been invited to continue in the CESA sponsored Re-Imagining Childhood 0-18 project. Each school is required to undertake a research project that will be presented in Term 3 this year. Following on from our ‘Connected’ project in 2015, this year the project will look at consolidating this work by focussing on a topic that we hope will develop in our children a greater consideration of the ‘other’ where we can create more peaceful and sustainable communities into the future. As ‘creative, collaborative, connected Learners - inspired by love’ we are a faith community committed to nurturing our children to consider new and peaceful ways of solving problems and resolving conflict. Being connected is one way of making this happen. For our research we have decided on helping our children articulate how they can help create a more peaceful world. We have provided the provocation for our children “What is peace? Where can I find it? How can I make it? How will I know it? Why don’t we have peace?” Professor Carla Rinaldi (Reggio Emilia Institute) suggests that we have a responsibility to “Save the planet through the epistemology of our ecological thinking; where interdependence and recipricosity is the progettazione of the future. We need to understand that the child comes with an emphatic relationship a child has with the whole world – whether they are talking about the wind or the ‘Mystery of God’.” So perhaps through this research we can engage our children, our families, our community to help build the social capital of communal understanding for the common good by helping our children focus on interdependence and recipricosity and their responsibility in making both our school and our world a better place.

NAPLAN 2016: NAPLAN testing will be occurring 10th – 13th May. Please contact your child’s class Teacher if you wish to discuss your child’s involvement in the 2016 test

COMMUNITY DIMENSION

Parent Teams: We extend a big thank you to all the volunteers who have supported the Parent Team committee in the organisation of catering for Sports Day. While the Parent Team is primarily responsible for running the BBQ stall, their support of Kathy O’Reilly in arranging volunteers for the running of the other stalls is acknowledged and appreciated.
Welcome to another year of the Performing Arts! This will continue to be provided as NIT subject for 2016. Lessons will be provided to students from R-7 and will run for 40 minute. Reception – Year 3 classes will have one lesson a week for the year. In a change this year the 6/7s will have Performing Arts lessons twice weekly in Semester One and Asian Studies twice weekly in Semester Two. The year 4/5s will do the opposite with Asian Studies in Semester One and Performing Arts in Semester Two. This will allow for more in depth. All NIT lessons will be on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The Music Room (Room 21) is located behind the Instrumental Music Suite.

Ensembles: If your child is in Year 5-7 and enjoys singing or playing, they may be interested in joining the Catholic Schools Music Festival Choir or Liturgical Band. Both ensembles rehearse in the Music room: Choir – Tuesday 2.25-3.10pm, Band – Thursday 8.30 -9am and ODD Weeks 2.25-3.10pm. Please feel free to email me for further information.

Performing Arts Leaders: Congratulations go to Harrison Polito, Imogen Tarbard, Keeley Menadue, Mitchell Prentice, Talia Laubsch, Tamara Russell-Coates on being elected as the 2016 Performing Arts Leaders. Meetings will begin this coming week.

Is your child interested in learning a musical instrument? At St Brigid’s they can choose from: Trumpet, Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Piano, Voice, Guitar, Violin and Drums. Forms are available from the front office. Please feel free to contact me via email with any queries.

Student Performances: According to our biannual performance schedule this year we will be holding the Advent Carols on Friday 2nd December. The whole school takes part and the community come together to celebrate Christmas, a significant event in the Church's Calendar. We will also be holding two Ceilis. This is an Irish term for a gathering of people with music and dancing, and was chosen by our 2015 Performing Arts Leaders. This is an opportunity for our instrumental students and ensembles to gain performance experience by performing for family and friends. The dates for the Ceili concerts in 2016 are Sunday 22nd May and Sunday 6th November. The year 5-7 will take part in Catholic Schools Music Festival for the 13th year running this is an amazing event taking place at the Festival Theatre and showcasing an array of talent from Catholic schools all around the state. A must see for all of the community. Information about excursions, incursions and workshops will follow shortly.

Weekly Performing Arts Sessions: In line with the Australian Curriculum the children will be asked to Explore, Develop Skills, Practice and Perform and Reflect on the three subject areas Music, Dance and Drama. They will create, play, sing, act, move, identify, analyse and respond. We are currently looking at the following knowledge and skills:

| Reception | Building Repertoire, Matching pitch, Mime, Arts Music |
| 1/2: | High and Low Pitch, Beat, Building Repertoire, Art Music |
| 3: | Beat, Unison dance moves, Pitch and the Xylophone |
| 6/7: | Rhythm Skills and Notation, The Rhythm Section: Drums, Guitar and Piano |

I am looking forward to another productive year and am sincerely hope to see all St. Brigid’s children engaging with the Arts.

Kind Regards and God Bless,
Megan Isaacson
Performing Arts Coordinator
misaacson@stbrigids.catholic.edu.au

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2016 Trinity College Gymkhana

Congratulations to our Equestrian Team on their efforts. Thank you to all the parent helpers for the generosity of their time.
Week Four: Evangeline’s story

This week’s story is about Evangeline who lives in the Wugularr community in the Northern Territory. Evangeline participates in a Caritas funded project that has supported her to develop skills to work as an Artworker at the Djilpin Arts Ghumnarn Culture Centre where she works to ‘strengthen the community by strengthening culture’.

The project wouldn’t be possible without money raised by Caritas’ Project Compassion.

View the video of Evangeline’s story here.

Find out more about the Northern Territory where Evangeline lives and works.

Reflections:

Consider your family’s cultural background. How important is this to you? How important is it to you that your child knows about their cultural background and is able to live it out in their lives?

Consider this:

How does your family ‘live out’ your cultural heritage? What traditions to you celebrate together?

Family conversations:

Talk with your child about how your family’s cultural background/s shape what you do as a family e.g. the language you speak, the food you eat, the events you celebrate?

What does it mean to each of you to be a part of your family’s cultural heritage?

What would it mean to you if you couldn’t express or celebrate your cultural heritage in your community?

Pray together:

God of All, help all the people of Australia to listen to First Australians, like Evangeline, and respect their cultures. Make the knowledge of you grow strong in all people, so that you can find a home in us, and we can make a home for everyone in our land. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Plan together:

Hold a ‘family conversation’ to consider some ideas to raise funds for Caritas Australia’s Project Compassion 2016.
Friday 18th March is the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence.

The National Day of Action provides a focus for schools and the wider school community to strengthen their everyday messages against bullying and violence.

There is a very informative website for parents and carers which provides information about bullying, harassment, discrimination and violence in schools. This can be found at: http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au/parents/index.html

For parents with older children, the Office of the Children’s esafety Commissioner is also a valuable resource. There is a very simple eSafety health check which is a great starting point for conversations with our young people. https://www.esafety.gov.au/about-the-office/events/national-day-of-action-against-bullying-and-violence

It’s well worth the look!
FREE school app
Receive school information, instantly and directly to your smartphone

How to get the School Stream app on your mobile device

1. From your mobile device go to the App Store (iPhone/iPad) or Play Store (Android), search for School Stream and download the app to your phone.
2. Make sure you agree to push notifications
3. Once School Stream has finished installing, open the app, type your school name into the search then select your school. For more detailed instructions go to schoolstream.com.au/download
4. Are your children attending different schools? Tap the school selector, select add a school, type the school name* into the search then add. Jump between your children’s schools by touching the school name/logo in the top blue bar, or switch schools from the slide-in menu.

*Any additional schools will need to be licensed users of School Stream to appear in the app.

Choose what notifications you receive

1. Open the School Stream app on your mobile device
2. From the slide-in menu, go to Settings
3. Under Edit/Alerts select My Schools and select your School to open the Notifications page
4. Toggle notifications on or off individually (e.g. Alerts, Events, Newsletters, etc.)
5. When you have finished, use the Back button to return to the Settings page, then select Done to return to your School

Return at any time to change the notifications you receive.

Don’t have a smartphone?

If you don’t have access to a smartphone and require information to be delivered via traditional methods (printed notices & email), please fill out the form below and submit it to the school office.

Family name: _____________________________________________

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Please indicate the reason:

☐ I don’t have access to a smartphone (e.g. iPhone, Android, etc.)
☐ I prefer not to receive information from the school on my smartphone
☐ Other (please specify) ____________________________________________