As a Kildare Ministries school in the Brigidine tradition, we engage with the values of
• Hope
• Hospitality
• Compassion
• Courage
• Justice, and
• Wonder

The Church is celebrating the Holy Year of Mercy, a time of grace, peace, conversion and joy.

It is meant for everyone: people of every age, from far and near. There are no walls or distances which can prevent the Father’s mercy from reaching and embracing us. The Holy Door of St Peter’s Basilica in Rome is now open and in all the dioceses of the world.

February, we remembered and prayed for those Brigidine Sisters who have gone before us: Sister Finian Gaughan attended Brigidine College Indooroopilly from the age of four and spent many years teaching at a number of schools including 28 years in Coonamble, NSW. This was, of course, where the first Brigidine Sisters travelled to from Ireland in the early 1880s. Sr Finian was the last Sister in Coonamble and finished 133 years of service to that community. We remembered her and Sr Paula Foster and again celebrated the legacy left by the Brigidine Sisters across Australia. And, like those Sisters before us, in this year of listening, we find our voices through prayer.

For us this year, we celebrate “Presence and Wisdom” with our rich Catholic heritage of being “present to others, ourselves and our God”. So, just like Brigid of Kildare, woman of contemplation who was:
• deeper than the seas
• greater than words can express
• overflowing with wonder.

In January, we warmly welcomed our Year 7 students of 2016 as they entered the Brigidine Community. At the College’s Opening Mass in

The students at Brigidine College are self reflective, independent,
Our 2016 student leaders: Shamah Zaman (College Captain), Stephanie Elliot (Arts Captain), Taylor Hauff (Sports Captain), Chiara Keady (Mission Captain)

"You have to enable and empower people to make decisions independent of you. As I’ve learned, each person on your team is an extension of your leadership; if they feel empowered by you they will magnify your power to lead." (Tom Ridge)
Mission and Justice

The College heralded 2016 with our Opening Mass celebrated by our College Chaplain, Fr Pan Jordan and Holy Family Parish Administrator, Fr Nev Yun. The incoming Year 7 students were welcomed through our Door of Mercy heralding the Year of Mercy for 2015/2016. Our guests included Sisters Patricia Buckley, Margaret Daniels and Chanel Sugden plus Kildare Ministries representatives Vicki Ward and Erica Pegorer.

This year the College is supporting the faith life of students by celebrating Class Masses in Religious Education time with Fr Pan. Terms 1 and 2 have seen Years 7 and 8 preparing and celebrating Mass in the Chapel along with family members and staff.

To celebrate International Women’s Day, the Mercy Romero Centre ran their annual fashion parade and awareness event at the State Library of Queensland and some of our current and past students modelled cultural clothing designed by refugee and asylum seeker women. Our students enjoyed participating in the parade and listening to a panel of guest speakers at a forum. Additionally, the College held a lunchtime event to mark this important day which included song, dance and a guest speaker, Mary Jo Katter, 1966 College Captain, who shared her insights about the presence, wisdom and contributions of the Brigidine Sisters to our community.

The Lenten season welcomed the official launch of Caritas’ Project Compassion themed ‘Learning More, Creating Change’ and students, accompanied by Mrs Jenifer Byrne, Curriculum Leader Religious Education, attended St Stephen’s Cathedral to listen to Marie Mondu, a Caritas worker from Papua New Guinea. Our students were inspired by her commitment and involvement in assisting the local community to grow stronger bonds and become more resilient. The collaborative fund-raising efforts of the Brigidine houses netted $1900 for Caritas.

National Sorry Day was an opportunity to implement an initiative from our parent group where students were asked to
adopt an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language and write them on a cardboard hand during Home Room to bring to the Liturgy. After listening to moving words from Aunty Nicole Williams about reconciliation and moving forward together as indigenous and non-indigenous Australians, the College stood and recommitted to the National Apology made by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in 2008. The Ministry of Music students invited the College to sing the Sorry Day song and students were also asked to join in the final dance by Uncle Jeff Locke and the Murri School to close our Liturgy.

Our Brigid’s Women graduate group kicked off the new year with over 40 members. Every Tuesday night, these graduates along with staff representatives have participated in the Eddie’s Van, supporting the homeless people of Brisbane. The volunteers not only prepared and served nutritious meals, but also took time to listen to the stories of people who attend the van. Brigid’s Women held preliminary meetings to discuss an immersion project, working with local communities in Cambodia endeavouring to make change for children’s education through creating wells. The group have also initiated visitations to the Ipswich Women’s Shelter to support and care for women who are trapped in domestic violence situations.

Brigidine College also recently celebrated Environment Day with students from Holy Family Primary School around the Holy Lawn. Stalls included science solar panels, giant balloons, recycled clothing, ephemeral art, recycled garbage and the Well Project in Cambodia. Giant butterfly beings walked around the grounds, supported by musical performances from the Ministry of Music girls and dramatic performances from the Junior Drama Club. These girls performed four poems about climate change and the environment - *Is Anyone Listening, Town and Country Air, The Sound of Water* and *The Sound of Fire* - for our guests from Holy Family. Year 12 MC’s Ashlee Fitzgerald and Shamah Zaman shared insights into the importance of engaging in environmental sustainability and Brigidine College’s role and responsibility in focusing on renewable energies.

*Andrew Beiers*

*Deputy Principal Mission*
Wellbeing

Semester One has been another busy period for all at Brigidine College. With the wellbeing of our staff and students being an intrinsic part of our community, it is usually through the smaller actions of an individual that this is felt everyday. In building our community we look at strengthening our bonds through strong communication and knowledge. From Parent Evenings on cyber-safety and increasing resilience to the various student activities, it is these moments focusing on wellbeing that form, for many, their most important memories from school.

The Year 7s have been introduced to the whirlwind of life at high school, having already experienced Retreat, Year 7 Camp, NAPLAN and the Interhouse carnivals for Swimming and Cross Country. In addition to this, they have also been partaking in the Growth Mindset and Rock Air Water programs during Wellbeing. It’s been a busy start for the Year 7s but they have thrived from every challenge given to them.

Year 8 students in the meantime have been learning about relationships, self-esteem and body image as part of their Wellbeing program and are thoroughly enjoying not being the youngest any more at school.
Wellbeing (contd.)

These topics continue into Year 9 where Wellbeing lessons have also included the bigger picture of adolescence, identity and introduced leadership opportunities as part of the Middle School Leaders program.

In the Senior School our Year 10 students have studied alcohol and drug education as part of their curriculum and are now focusing on Careers. This leads into Work Experience opportunities which will take place over the June holidays and subject selection next term.

Year 11 students have been learning about personal values, received great study skills advice from their sessions with Elevate Education and have also been involved in the RACQ Docudrama where the students are taught what happens at the scene of a serious road accident. In addition to this they have shown how they are maturing into such lovely young ladies as was witnessed at the Social Evening in Term 2.

The Peer Mentors are students in Years 11 and 12 who have been professionally trained to support others who may need assistance. They have been heavily involved in working with our younger students in particular at the College and usually without drawing any attention to the important work that they do. Their quiet, unassuming manner helps many girls experiencing distress to reach out and seek support thus strengthening the community of the College.

Our Year 12 students are excited about entering their final year at high school and have been busy with their many commitments throughout this semester. They have enjoyed their retreat as part of the Year 12 Solas Bhride program as well as the highlight of their School Formal. At school the students have been studying about health and relationships and many of the girls have shown great leadership within the College community with their academic, sporting, cultural and service pursuits.

Merryl Wheaton
(Acting) Deputy Principal Pastoral
Solas Bhride Semester 1

Year 7 Report from Mrs Allison Power, Year 7 Wellbeing Program Leader
From 17-19 February, the Year 7s had the fantastic opportunity of attending Camp Maranatha in Yandina. The activities and experiences that underpin the Solas Bhride program are designed to enhance personal development, team skills, experiential learning and positive relationships. It plays an integral role in the transition of Year 7s into secondary schooling by providing them with a different environment to get to know a wider circle of girls and to forge new friendships beyond the class group.

The Year 7s wholeheartedly embraced the challenges of the physical activities and they provided wonderful support for each other as they climbed the ladder for the Abseiling or prepared to jump in the ‘Leap of Faith’. For many, one of the greatest challenges was being away from home and it was so heartening to witness the girls comfort and encourage each other to keep going. The groups competed in an exciting game of ‘Minute-To-Win-It’ on Wednesday night which was loads of fun and brought much laughter. On Thursday night, the Year 7s had a chance to acknowledge the positive impact they’d had on each other while on camp by writing affirmations for the girls in their group.

The girls were also extremely lucky to have seven fabulous Year 10 Camp Leaders helping them throughout the three days. These girls were enthusiastic and supportive and they worked tirelessly, day and night, to ensure the Year 7 girls were well looked after as well as having lots of fun. I would like to extend a special thanks to Mimi Nguyen, Deneika Scott, Orla Burgess, Chloe Thompson, Maddison Wood, Abigail Bolton and Milla Rowbotham for their excellent leadership.

A special mention and much gratitude must also go to the teachers for all their efforts in ensuring a successful camp experience: Ms Sligar, Mr Tobin, Ms Haydock, Ms Funnell, Mrs de Vos, Mrs Richalot, Ms Paviotti, Mrs Boots, Ms Grimes, Ms Firmin-Sarra, Mrs Strachan, Mrs Sprenger and Mrs Austin.

Year 9 Report from Mrs Dani Sprenger Year 9 Wellbeing Program Leader
At the end of February, the Year 9s had an opportunity to try out a range of activities over 3 days that explored the notion of “Stepping Up and Stepping Back.” These activities run by the fabulous team at Character Builders were designed to develop students’ resilience, team work and leadership skills whilst pushing them to discover their own unique skills. It plays an integral role in the development of the Year 9 students as leaders of the Middle School.

The Year 9s embraced all of the activities with enthusiasm and commitment, even when the heat and humidity made it diffi-
Solas Bhride Semester 1

Beach fun at Currumbin

cult to keep climbing the Kokoda track up Mt Coot-tha. Across the 3 days the girls worked with different groups of peers and supported each other. Both students and staff pushed themselves through the challenge of the Kokoda track on Day One, learning to walk in the footsteps of others before being rewarded with a fun day of beach activities and stand up paddle boarding on Day 2. On the final day the girls formed new teams to compete in an exciting photo treasure hunt around the CBD. The girls used their problem solving skills to complete challenges, find their way around Brisbane CBD and solve puzzles along the way.

Thank you to all of the Year 9 students for approaching this experience with such enthusiasm. A special mention and much gratitude must also go to the teachers for all their efforts in ensuring a successful and enjoyable Solas Bhride experience: Ms Jenna Burke, Mrs Karen Burton-Mackay, Ms Rebecca Harris, Ms Sophie Johnson, Ms Shannon Metzeling, Mr Ed Raben, Ms Danielle Bohan, Mrs Michelle Boots and Mrs Carla Wood.

Year 12 Report from Mrs Domenica Strachan, Year 12 Wellbeing Program Leader

Year 12 students took part in a three day retreat from 27-29 April to reflect on their school journey through contemplation and prayer as well as prepare for next year as resilient, young women in the Brigidine tradition. Held at Luther Heights Youth Camp, Coolum Beach and facilitated by Dave Jorna from Project Hatch, both staff and students explored the mission and faith life of the College and assessed how they could live the gospel values in their daily lives. The girls were given time for silent reflection; challenged to speak up and take ownership of the choices made over their time at Brigidine and simply enjoy each other’s presence. Reflecting on their experiences students commented on their own transformations:

“It was a fun couple of days filled with emotion, sincerity and love, which brought our grade closer together.” “As we stand on the cusp of exiting high school, the retreat was a fantastic way to reflect on our journeys and future aspirations.” “It was a great experience to be able to come together as a cohort and reflect on various life choices.” “This experience was amazing. The whole retreat made me realise other people’s opinions and perspectives on various topics.”
Brigidine Tech Girls

Year 10 students Caitlin Ng, Erin Robinson-Pennay, Khanh Vu and Vivianne Nguyen are Tech Superheroes. The girls have entered Technovation which is the world’s largest and longest-running technology competition for girls, in which teams of young women identify a problem, create an app to solve it, code the app, build a company to launch the app in the market, and pitch their plan to experts, all in 3 months. Technovation’s applied, project-based computer science and entrepreneurship curriculum reinforces digital representation of information, algorithmic thinking and programming, and emphasises the societal impact of information and information technology. It teaches girls life skills such as how to identify problems, design and test solutions, collaborate in a team and communicate to different audiences.

Erin Robinson-Pennay said, “We aim to investigate and solve issues surrounding mental health in young adults and teenage students. This is a problem prevalent in numerous young people in this day and age. Mental health issues such as depression, anxiety and low self-esteem are especially common. Studies have shown these disorders are often caused by environmental factors that contribute to stress and negative mental image. Additionally, many adolescents feel unable to discuss personal matters with real life support groups (family, teachers, peers, professionals etc.), therefore our end goal is to create a calm and welcoming technological atmosphere for teens.”

She added, “We would like to do this by creating a safe environment with an android iOS mobile app for young people to discuss problems with peers with similar interests and problems that they may not be comfortable sharing in their real life environment. Our app will also include information about mental health issues and have external links for further help/support. We will also include exercises to help calm nerves and de-stress, such as breathing exercises and meditation. App users will be able to take a daily quiz on how they are feeling, and be shown a graph over time of their ‘level of happiness’.”

Decided Idea: Mental Health Management App for students

Potential Features:

- Helpline numbers
- Student schedule and planner
- Stress management
- Care and safety plan
- Goals
- Good habit builder
- Forum for young people to discuss issues anonymously
- Forum with other people (group chats, email, calls)
- Information and helpline number and where to get help
- Tips and advice section
- Relaxation exercises (breathing, yoga, meditation)
- Motivational quotes and encouragement on a daily basis
- Assisting and preventing - General information and tips for mental health related problems (stress, nervousness, general mood, sleep etc.) tips for increasing productivity, physical health, self-esteem etc.
- Assisting and promoting - General information and information for external help for clinic mental health disorders. Raising awareness, encouraging conversations on mental health disorders.

Furthermore, we have considered the needs of our target market through a survey of randomly selected 100 school students at Brigidine College, Indooroopilly.

Paul Bennett
Assistant to the Principal Admin/IT
When Queensland’s Minister for Education, Kate Jones, officially announced the recipients of the prestigious 2016 Premier’s Anzac Prize, two of the eight recipients were from Brigidine College, Indooroopilly. Year 12 students Sophie Austin and Tia Shadford, travelled to Gallipoli and the Western Front in April for the Anzac celebrations.

“It was an honour to be able to represent not only Brigidine College but Queensland”, Sophie said “travelling to some of the locations which have contributed so greatly to how our nation has been shaped. On a personal note, I was honoured to be the first person in my family to visit the grave of my great, great uncle in Belgium and return with photographs for them. I will carry the experience with me for life. It has definitely strengthened my connection with WW1 and the Anzac tradition.”

College Principal, Mr Brendan Cahill, said “This was an excellent opportunity for our girls to travel to historically significant places of the world for all young Australians. The Premier’s Award also provides the perfect way for our high calibre students to take their studies to the next academic level.”

Prior to departure, the Brigidine College community showed their solidarity for the Anzac venture by raising almost $1500 in one lunchtime for “Mates4Mates”.

Congratulations also to Year 10 student Caitlin Ng who, in April, received the Can Film Competition 2016 Grand Champion Trophy including the Audience Choice Award for Technical Quality and an award for Excellence in Language Learning. Her short film, “The Mouse’s Wedding”, was selected to be screened at the Can Film Competition red carpet gala event in Brisbane in April.

The Can Film Competition selection panel announced, “The Award for Technical Excellence went to the extraordinary Caitlin Ng from Brigidine College who was the single creator of an animation in Japanese called “The Mouse’s Wedding”. Even though Caitlin did not have a whole cinema full of supporters to vote for her at the event, it was an unanimous decision that this film was the clear winner in this category. Caitlin told me that she had drawn over 1000 images for this film. Just amazing that through her language studies, Caitlin was also able to showcase her amazing artistic skills. One talented student!”
The Parents and Friends’ Association (P&F) held its Annual General Meeting on 2 March 2016. Our newly elected Executive Committee are (pictured left to right) Louise Dewar (Secretary), Katrina Kupke (President), Michael Mahabeer (Treasurer) and Louise Johnston (Vice-President). We would like to thank the outgoing Executive, Michelle Moore and Therese Conway, for their time and commitment.

Our P&F meetings are held monthly and we encourage all parents to attend. They are an important forum for parents to discuss issues affecting their daughters and their education. It is also an opportunity to be involved in the decision making on where the P&F levies are directed.

The P&F supports the College and the parent body by hosting a number of events throughout the school year with a special focus on welcoming families into the Brigidine community. A Parents’ Welcome Evening was held in February with drinks and canapés provided by the P&F and live music by Year 12 student Genevieve La Rosa and her father David. This is always a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet new parents. A special thank you to the Home Economics Department who continued the welcoming by hosting the inaugural Welcome Breakfast for Year 8 parents in March at the Curragh Café.

In May for the fourth year running we hosted our very popular Mothers and Daughters’ High Tea at Hillstone St Lucia. With almost 400 in attendance, our guest speaker was local businesswoman Olivia Brusasco, one of 2010’s top ten women rowers and passionate advocate for girls’ growth and future. The girls and their mums enjoyed the opportunity to take high tea together in beautiful surroundings and listen to Olivia’s inspiring speech about her experiences and achievements. Also in May, the P&F had a strong presence at the Brookfield Show. Along with staff, parents and daughters shared information about life at the College with visitors.

In Semester 2, the P&F will host the annual Dads and Daughters’ Evening. Last year this was a fantastic night, with heaps of fun had by both the girls and their dads. We look forward to welcoming you to one of our meetings or social events.

Mr Cahill, staff and students represented the College at the ANZAC Day service at Sherwood/Indooroopilly RSL to honour the memory of those Australians who have fallen in battle.
Year 12 Formal: 20 February

Hillstone St Lucia once again hosted our Year 12 students and their partners for what was a glittering evening.

Year 11 Social Evening: 13 May
The Cultural Program at Brigidine College continues to play a vital role in the life of the College. As all of the ensembles require a year long commitment, it is testament to our students that the number of girls involved in the program continues to grow and the standard improves.

Firstly our Drama program has both a Junior and Senior Drama Club where students meet weekly to rehearse and learn new skills. Our Junior Drama Club has performed as part of our College’s Environment Day celebrations whilst our Senior Drama Club have competed in the Brisbane Interschool Theatresports competition. Well done ladies.

The Music program has been an extremely busy one this semester with our major ensembles all performing and receiving awards at the Queensland Youth Music Awards. A special mention must go to the String Ensemble who received a Gold Award and First place for their section. Additionally, the Concert Band, College Choir and Cantare have continued to excel including the performance of Cantare as part of the local ANZAC Day celebrations at both the Sherwood and Indooroopilly Morning Services.

The number of students involved in Dance has grown with a fourth Dance Troupe being introduced this year. An exceptionally busy year has been had as the three auditioned groups have performed several routines at each of the Ipswich and Brisbane Eisteddfods. Congratulations to all of these girls and particularly for their wonderful results at the fiercely contested Ipswich Eisteddfod where the Emeralds (Years 9 and 10) and Diamonds (Years 7 and 8) both placed 3rd for their Jazz routines and the Sapphires (Years 11 and 12) receiving a Highly Commended for their contemporary routine.

Combining both disciplines, the Bridgettes is an auditioned (Year 11 and 12) group who can both sing and dance. Given that the students involved are obviously in other Cultural groups, it is fantastic to announce that this semester they have been awarded two gold medals at the Queensland State Glee finals and will now represent Brigidine College at the National Championships next term. Good luck girls.

Finally a major part of the Cultural program for 2016 has been the combination of all of these elements together as the staff and students busily prepare for the biannual College Musical “Bring It On” to be performed early in Term 3. With over one hundred students in Years 9 to 12 involved, the many rehearsals that have been a part of this semester will come to fruition in a spectacle that can’t wait to be seen.

Bring on Semester Two!

Merryl Wheaton
(Acting) Deputy Principal Pastoral
As always sport at Brigidine in Semester 1 starts and continues as it ends, full steam ahead. It is a vibrant and busy aspect of College life and the girls, as always, this year have embraced every aspect to the highest potential. We started the year with the Interhouse Swimming Carnival, full of colour and great spirit. There were some outstanding results achieved with Chanel taking the cup. Our CaSSSA Swimming team displayed wonderful commitment to their own goals and that of the entire Brigidine team and should be congratulated on their efforts. We are inching closer and closer to great results in the pool overall.

The Interhouse Cross Country Carnival was a fun filled event, with the majority of students participating in the race for house points and age championships. Congratulations again to Chanel, our 2016 Cross Country champions. The CaSSSA team experienced a great season, with head coach Mr Bracken. Guest trainer Benita Willis was impressed with the improvement of our girls from previous seasons. With great tenacity our 15 years age group finished 3rd overall at the CaSSSA Cup, our 12s and 13s finished 4th and overall we finished 6th and 4th in the Percentage Cup. The girls are setting their sights on reaching great heights next year and the future of Brigidine Cross Country looks to be in great hands.

We celebrated with our 18C Water Polo team who again reached the grand final playing against Stuartholme. It was a fiercely contested game (as it always is) with Stuartholme taking victory. Our Junior Touch Football teams, Open AFL team, Open Indoor Cricket team and our Senior and Intermediate Volleyball teams all had a fun and rewarding season. The level of commitment shown by our students has increased and it is great to see the enjoyment the girls experience while representing Brigidine in these CaSSSA sports on Wednesday afternoons. Our Junior Touch Football team took out their premiership after a very successful season and we congratulate them.

Successes in Tennis continued this year in the CaSSSA competition. With two teams reaching the Grand Finals and our Intermediate team winning the premiership, Tennis is looking good into the future.

Trimester 2 saw our Soccer, Hockey, Open and Intermediate Netball and Junior Volleyball team’s seasons commence. So far we are recording some remarkable results so keep up the great work girls. We had three teams compete in the Queensland Catholic Netball Cup; our Futsal 13 years and 19 years teams both progressed through to the Champion of Champions round, with our 19 years team taking out the SE Queensland Schools premiership. Our Open A and Junior A Soccer teams have participated in the ISSA Cup and Uhlsports Cup competitions and are continuing to impress.

Individually our students have performed well at District and Regional level with multiple girls gaining Metropolitan West Regional team selections across a range of sports. Outside of school sports our student’s achievements in various sports have been something to celebrate also. It is great to see so many girls competing at high levels and also just for fun. Thanks to all staff for their continued support and assistance with sport at Brigidine.

This year the QCIS (Qld Combined Independent Schools) Association was formed and Brigidine has gained involvement in this association teaming with Ambrose Treacy College. Our first two competitive events under QCIS were the Swimming Carnival held at Downlands College in Toowoomba and the Cross Country Carnival at Scots PGC in Warwick. Both outings were particularly successful for the ATC/BRI team, taking out the Aggregate Champions on both occasions. Brigidine girls were also awarded first place for each age group in both events, with a second in the 15 years girls for Swimming. An outstanding achievement at two very enjoyable carnivals under the new QCIS Association.

Kay Roy
Sports Coordinator

Amelia Parnell (Yr 9) at the Junior Athletics Championships in Perth (March)
Mr Brendan Cahill, College Principal with 2016 Captains (l-r):
Stephanie Elliot (Arts Captain), Taylor Hauff (Sports Captain),
Shamah Zaman (College Captain) and Chiara Keady (Mission Captain)