In a year where our community continues to welcome many new members, especially those on the margins, Brigidine College Indooroopilly not only provides opportunities for learning but also allows for the spirit of God, born of faith and expressed through and within each of us.

With presence and wisdom, our College has been provided an opportunity and a challenge to be:

- present to our spiritual lives through Jesus and St Brigid
- present to the gifts we have and, through encounters with other, share
- ready and willing to learn, share wisdom and encounter the world as we find it.

As we began 2016, the Year 7 and Year 12 students were able to walk through our own Door of Mercy and join with the Church to contemplate the face of Christ.

The doorway is an invitation to explore contemplative ways, to pray and reflect upon faith life journeys. God is not only in us but is also working with and through us. This spirit continues to inform and strengthen our community.

While acknowledging the Brigidine Sisters, the spirit of St Brigid of Kildare as well as our forebears from Sydney and Ireland, the future is where we focus. For many of us sharing in a Catholic context, the spirit of the divine is found through experiences and opportunities for us to grow and learn in the contemporary world. Women have been and will always be integral to our understandings of our Catholic tradition. Right from Mary Magdella’s announcement to the apostles of the resurrection of Jesus, women have provided much wisdom and insight into a transformational life. With humility and purpose, St Teresa of Avila says “accustom yourself continually to make many acts of love, for they enkindle and melt the soul.”

When we think about and discuss teaching in the 21st century, I am reminded of a 4th century quote by Buddha Siddhartha Gautama Shakyamuni, “When the student is ready, the teacher will appear”.
What are our teachers like and who are our best teachers? Our best teachers are the ones that lie within each of us, the one where meaning and understanding is constructed and lived through our lives. There are many other members of staff within the Brigidine community who might assist and provide support, but the teaching and learning for students and staff can be seen through service, outreach and inclusion, knowledge and pursuit of excellence and sharing gifts and talents.

One of the joys of being Principal is when I visit each teacher’s classroom each semester. My primary purpose is to witness the wonderful engagement our students have with their learning and the positive relationships our teachers have with the girls.

Through shared learning pursuits, the students and teachers courageously engage together to expand their understanding of learning; an understanding that is interactive, integrated, collaborative and creative. It is much more than the device or devices that are available. Teachers continue to model learning experiences and critical interpretive skills so that students shape their own learning into the future.

Through the Brigidine Learning Paradigm, the key focus for 2016 has been that of ‘reflective praxis’ where all learners take time to reflect, discern and consider future learning options. There is a great responsibility and empowerment that comes from this opportunity and the teachers and staff have been fully engaged in this activity through online feedback from each assessment item as well as student goal setting and reflective comments being made each term on the SEQTA portal.

The 21st century learner needs to be challenged to:
• pose questions
• provide opportunities to develop skills
• solve problems
• connect with each other
• display resilience with dignity and respect

We are blessed with teachers and support staff who continually go beyond the call of duty and provide unending support to the girls. Our teachers continue to inspire our young women through their professionalism, leadership, dynamism and willingness to share with the broader community.

We are also blessed by a tremendously generous and supportive parent body, who entrust us to care for their daughters so that we build on the foundations they have provided. It is a privilege to witness the impact of education on a young person, as we share the opportunity to ‘walk with the girls’ through their time at the College.

Brigidine College has, for 87 years, provided opportunities for generations of young women to embrace their faith and learning. Through enlightened planning and careful management, we will continue to provide what young women need to successfully live and achieve in today’s world.

Brendan Cahill
Principal
Mission and Justice

Pilgrimage was the theme for the first Sunday of Advent 2016.

Pilgrimage invited all peoples and all nations to gather over the weeks of advent to come together as one community of believers. The destination was not to a place, but an inner journey to find God deep within. Matthew’s Gospel urged us to be alert, attentive and have a disposition towards a change of heart and reconcile ourselves towards each other. During our busy schedule leading to Christmas, we took time to discover God within each of us as we readied ourselves to welcome the baby Jesus.

In Semester 2, the College celebrated Brigidine Day and the ceremony included a guest appearance by Mr Chris Bracken (left) as Daniel Delany, sharing the story of Brigidine education with a lovely Irish brogue. The readings, focussing on Mercy, were juxtaposed by a beautiful animation by Caitlin Ng based on Irish poet Liam Lawton’s *Acorn and the Oak*. The College also celebrated Brigidine Environment Day in Term 3, engaging with Year 6 and Year 3 students from Holy Family Primary School and focussing on sustainable ways of caring for our environmental community. They participated in scientific solar experiments with Ms Michelle Kath’s students, solar balloons with Ms Shelley Alonso, enjoyed cakes and muffins baked by the Justice and Democracy Group students and enjoyed performances from the Junior Drama Group along with giant stilt walkers.

In Term 4, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander girls entered a team in Villanova’s *Fair Go* event celebrating indigenous sporting culture. This was followed by the Cherbourg Immersion to Barambah Environmental Centre, Murgon and Cherbourg with indigenous and non-indigenous students from Brigidine and Stuartholme Colleges. This immersion cemented relationships with Uncle Eric Law and family as our students began to understand the aggressive government policy-driven removal and forced march of aboriginal families to the Cherbourg Mission over decades. Parents, friends and students celebrated the annual Kupmurri dinner at Ngatana-Lui Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Studies Centre at Inala. The girls enjoyed a beautiful, sumptuous meal, cultural performances as we farewelled our graduating Year 12 students, Brooke Frazer, Giaan and Tia Shadford and Nakoya McLennan.

A Leadership Mass was held in Holy Family Parish church celebrated by Fr Pan for around sixty Year 11 students in preparation for leadership duties as Year 12s in 2017. The Brigid’s Women (graduate student group) worked with the Ipswich Women’s Shelter to provide opportunities for clients to ex-
Mission and Justice (contd.)

Cathedral students experience hair and nail care while having conversations together. Liturgy Captain, Ashleigh Patten, worked with the Liturgy team and Year 12 cohort to develop a beautiful farewell mass for the graduation ceremony as the Year 12’s walked through the Door of Mercy for the final time.

Claudia Clarke and the Justice and Democracy team completed the social justice calendar focusing on domestic violence awareness, creating a theme around Halloween and the monsters that can lurk in the rooms of our own homes. Girls danced, participated in the photo booth and signed the canvasses promising their support. Ministry Captain, Rhiannon Wilson, performed a song by Suzanne Vega to highlight the hidden nature of domestic violence.

The St Vincent de Paul Society student group ably led by Georgia Boundy with the assistance of Helen Paviotti (in the absence of Ms Rochelle McWhirter), invited the College community to collect around 36 baskets of food, decorations, and toys for disadvantaged families to assist in some small way towards making their Christmas a little brighter. These were accepted by local representative, Mr Phillip Hoy, at our closing Christmas liturgy.

A Celebration of Hope and Rebirth

We also remember the words of Pope John Paul II when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people along with all Australians celebrate the 30th Anniversary of St John Paul II’s address:

“You are part of Australia and Australia is a part of you. And the church herself in Australia will not be fully the church that Jesus wants her to be until you have made your contribution to her life. And until that contribution has been joyfully received by others.”

Andrew Beiers
Deputy Principal Mission
I had the opportunity to go back to my old school this week to give the Awards night speech. Thirty something years later is a long time between classes and, to be frank, I was a highly disruptive, distract-ed, underachieving (#fail) student.

So being invited back as an Alumni ‘success story’ was not without a touch of irony. What to say? Turns out it was pretty easy – apart from blurting out an unscripted line at the beginning of my speech about how I had been kicked out of my first high school before arriving at Brigidine College – a girls’ Catholic school – as a ‘punishment’. Here’s what I shared on the night....

“I have authored a couple of books and interviewed hundreds of successful people of all ages over the past 25 years. Every one of those people I interviewed spoke about one teacher who had changed their lives. Not three, not five, not ten teachers. Just one. One single teacher who encouraged, supported, pointed out something about them or saw something in them – often leading their student to find or pursue a new path or great passion.

It is a great privilege to be invited to give the Awards night speech here tonight but it is an absolute thrill and joy that the teacher who most influenced my life is sitting here in the audience. Her name is Sister Maree Marsh and today she is the Co-chair of the Kildare Ministries which runs Brigidine Schools around Australia. Apart from being a brilliant educator and leader she is also a human rights advocate and the 2015 recipient of the Anti-Slavery Freedom Award.

I feel from the ages of 15–17 I spent more time with Sister Maree than anyone else during my school years and I want to share with you the three things that stayed with me from my time at Brigidine. Things which, incidentally, had nothing to do with formal education but set me up for life...

Firstly, being pioneering and enterprising – I was inspired by the Brigidine Sisters. They are a teaching order and even back when I was at school they possessed Masters of Education and many were undertaking PhD’s. They pioneered a professional commitment to the highest quality education at a time when most teachers went to college and never attended University.

For my part, I ‘pioneered’ the establishment of the first motor mechanics course in a girls’ school in Australia – not because I wanted to learn mechanics, but because my friends and I wanted to go to schoolies and needed wheels to get there. So we bought a broken down car, commandeered the only male teacher in the school (also part of the plan) and asked him to teach us to fix the car in time for schoolies. He agreed. Turns out, of course, he had no idea about cars, but by then it was too late. As was my entrepreneurial way, I had already rung the newspapers to tell them about our ‘pioneering’ program at Brigidine and within the week the papers were on their way to do a story and photo shoot. In a slight panic, we enrolled our Dads to fix the car, borrowed their overalls, slapped some grease on our faces and posed cheerfully with our tools over the engine for a front page photo that went national in the Sunday papers. Sister Joan Smith, who was Principal at the time, was not exactly thrilled with us, but loved the publicity for the school. By the way, we used the car to get to schoolies and then sold the car for a profit. I think the motor mechanics course even continued for a while with someone who actually knew what they were doing!

I also pursued writing at Brigidine, creating and editing the largest or, more accurately, longest, ever school newsletter instead of actually attending English classes; was part of a winning debating team; started the drama group; set up a community outreach program, and became a school sports captain, without ever playing sport. Doing all of this meant I hardly attended class. Too much information teachers and parents?

For you, the young women of Brigidine, being “enterprising’ and having an entrepreneurial mindset is going to be crucial to your future. The world is changing rapidly. We are in what is being described as the 4th industrial revolution where automation, glo-balisation and flexibility are driving the future of work. Our research at the Foundation for Young Australians shows that rather than one job for life, you can expect to have up to 17 jobs, in five different industries with three out of four jobs requiring high level digital skills. You will likely have a ‘portfolio’ career and need to manage a non-linear career trajectory.

Secondly, a keen sense of social justice to drive change in the world. My parents helped set up Lifeline in Queensland. In those days the Lifeline counsellors took the crisis call, got into their car and drove to where the crisis was. As a child, I watched my father talk men down from jumping off the Brisbane Story Bridge. On any given morning, I would wake to find a mother and her children escaping domestic violence in our spare bedroom or sleeping on our lounge room floor. I learnt early in life that things that hap-
pen to you don’t necessarily have to become your destiny and define you. The support you receive to get back on your feet, the chance to start again and try a new path, is what makes the difference. Brigidine’s values and early outreach focus reinforced this and helped shaped my worldview.

Your generation globally is being called ‘Generation Compassion’. You are more connected, know more about the world and global issues than any previous generation. That is why millions of young people like you across the world are joining movements, supporting causes and care about equality, fairness and the future of the planet.

Thirdly, generosity and humanity – for too many reasons to go into, I was a pretty troubled teenager. Sister Maree gave me the single greatest gift you can give to anyone – now more than ever. She gave me her time and presence. She had my back through thick and thin. There were so many times she could, and should, have walked away, declared me a lost cause, but she never did. At some point I suggested to Sister Maree that I might want to become a nun. She told me pretty quickly – in the nicest possible way – that was probably never going to work for me, and more specifically, it definitely wasn’t going to work for the Catholic Church!

So straight out of school I went to work with Aboriginal children, young people and their families in the inner city of Brisbane in a drug and alcohol education program. I learnt way more than I contributed and was adopted by the wonderful and relentless advocate Molly Roma and her family.

My life journey has led me into the centre of government; working with industry and business; and as a leader in the social sector. From the youngest age I wanted to be part of making the world a better place for everyone. At my core, as at school, I have always been an innovator and entrepreneur. Today I get to work with extraordinary young people all over the world. Changemakers and entrepreneurs like young Queenslanders Marita Cheng who founded Robogals to expose girls to STEM through robotics; Chris Raine, who had a school education a little like mine but received a social impact scholarship to Oxford and just recently won the Google Impact Challenge for his venture Hello Sunday Morning which encourages us to rethink our relationship with alcohol; Yassmin Abdel-Magied, who caused a bit of a stir here in Brisbane a few weeks ago. Yas is an engineer who works for Shell and writes on sustainability and diversity; and Ali Phillips who went to university to study performing arts and through one chance encounter with a friend with a disability now runs a world renowned, award winning dance troupe of people with disabilities. All these young people have combined their passions with a wide range of disciplines to innovate and create change in the world.

I could go on....at FYA we find, back and unleash thousands of young people from all walks of life across the length and breadth of Australia. Our mission is to prepare, equip and inspire generations of young Australians to contribute and shape our future. You can probably tell I love my job but more importantly I am relentlessly optimistic about you, your generation and specifically young women. There has never been a more exciting time to be alive. A time to follow your passions and create the world you want to live in.

There are 2.8 billion young people under 26 years of age on the planet and collectively, beyond borders, you are going to need to deal with some significant global issues. At the same time we are in the Age of Imagination, as I like to call it, and you will get to lead and experience some of the most exciting breakthroughs on the planet in the way we work, live and learn. And for young women around the world who are now educated and ambitious for opportunity, your time has come. You will take an equal role in leading the world with your unique perspectives, ideas, heads and hearts.

It’s a heresy on an Awards night to say this of course, but I strongly encourage you to look beyond your scores and marks (let’s face it, Awards are for your parents when it all comes down to it). It is critical that you understand and articulate the sets of capabilities and skills you are accumulating in your many achievements, roles and activities in and out of school. It is this ‘portfolio’ that will provide your best options in the next stages of your life of learning and work.

Tonight is the Women of Influence Awards at Sydney Town Hall, of which I was the inaugural winner in 2012. It feels incredibly appropriate that I am here with the next generation of ‘Women of Brigidine’ and have the opportunity to honour and thank a Brigidine Woman of Influence.

Thank you Sister Maree for your leadership, inspiration and backing all those years ago. You made all the difference to me. I am a forward thinking, future focused person. I don’t have regrets and I don’t look back; however, meeting Sister Maree, my one teacher, honouring her and the Brigidine Order of Teaching Sisters’ long term commitment to high quality, lifelong education of both themselves, and their students, laughing about the old days, watching (there were definitely no ‘Brigettes’ dancing to Beyonce on Awards night when I was at school) and meeting a new generation of the ‘Women of Brigidine’ was a cathartic and joyful experience. I found I finally had something to contribute from the School of Life to my old school.

That’s a great feeling and I am looking forward to giving back by establishing the first Brigidine Award for Entrepreneurship & Innovation in 2017 to encourage and back the dreamers, disruptors and doers at my old school. Bring it on!
Awards and Acknowledgement Evening

1979 graduate, Jan Owen OAM, delivered an entertaining and inspiring keynote speech about learning being a life long journey as she continues to educate young people across Australia in her role as CEO of the Foundation for Young Australians. Here she is pictured (left) with her ‘favourite teacher’, Sr Maree Marsh, csb.

MacKillop House Flame of Brigid recipients

Cultural Excellence Award recipients

ADM Long Tan Awardee (left) Meeka Sher and (right) Sophie Austin

Flame of Brigid recipients - Damien

Athletes of the Year (left) Saibh Rennie and (right) Taylor Hauff

Sabrina Zaman receives the inaugural Julian Simmonds Middle School Leadership Award

Foley House Flame of Brigid awardees

De Porres Flame of Brigid recipients

Flame of Brigid - Delany

Flame of Brigid - Chanel
Thursday 27 October 2016

Traditional Acknowledgement given by the College’s graduating Indigenous students.

Laura O’Halloran receives the award for Fortiter from Jan Owen.

Suaviter Award recipient Madeline Read.

Kildare Ministries Trustee Vicki Ward (left) and 2012 College Captain Brigida Corte-Real (right).

Zara Conway, Mimi Nguyen, Worklinks Structured Workplace Students of the Year.

The College Choir and Cantare were in fine voice as always.

The Bridgettes entertained us with a toe-tapping rendition of Step in Time.

The Scott Emerson Community Spirit Award recipient Zoe Davidson.

Year 10 Academic Excellence awardees.

Year 12 Academic awardees.

Sporting Excellence Awards were given to students who have demonstrated excellence in participation and commitment in the College sporting arena as members of five or more sporting teams this year. Congratulations to all!
Celebrate all that is good with joy and gratitude
Strong in Spirit, Gentle in Justice

Jeans for Genes Day in August raised $970 for the Children's Medical Research Institute.

The Spirit Squad held their 24-hour Step by Step walkathon in October, raising over $13,455 for research into Leukaemia, Ovarian and Breast cancers. Another outstanding fundraising effort girls!
Cultural Cocurricular

At QCMF, the College Choir and String Ensemble won Gold whilst Cantare, Percussion Ensemble and Concert Band all received Silver.

The Bridgettes have had a very busy year with many performances including the Glee National Championships in August. The girls performed two energy-packed routines which earned them a 2nd place.

July saw over 100 Brigidine students together with boys from Marist Ashgrove and Ambrose Treacy College wow audiences with their performance of *Bring It On The Musical*. After months of rehearsals, the shows were a huge success and the audiences, over three performances, were blown away by the talents of all on stage.

Sapphires Dance Troupe at Awards and Acknowledgement Evening.
August saw our Year 12 netballers playing a tough but friendly game against Marist Ashgrove

The 2016 CaSSSA Cross Country team

The Open A Netball (pictured) and Soccer teams enjoyed success this year at the sporting exchange with Brigidine St Ives, retaining the Soccer trophy and winning back the Netball trophy. Well played girls!

St Brigid was one of the rowing boats blessed by Fr Pan in a boat blessing ceremony in September

The 2016 Open A Soccer Premiers for the second year running

The 2016 Rowing team have had an amazing year with many successes at regattas. Well done, girls, for living out your motto, Strength in our Stroke and Gentleness in our Wake, each and every time you row.

All Schools' Cup Rugby 7's 18 years Plate Champions

2016 Open A Soccer Premiers for the second year running

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This year Brigidine girls visited Nouméa in New Caledonia, staying with host families of Collège Mariotti students. They visited many Nouméan attractions including Phare Amédée, an island off the coast of the mainland where they snorkelled with turtles and tucked into a delicious Melanesian lunch. Meanwhile, Year 12 students had a wonderful ski trip to Mt Hutt, New Zealand, where they perfected their skiing and snowboarding skills whilst also enjoying a high-powered jetboat ride and trips to Christchurch. A group of indigenous students experienced a weekend immersion trip to Cherbourg and Year 10 students Tara Jory, Gabrielle Woolcock and Erin Robinson-Pennay spent their September holidays on an exchange trip to Japan, attending lessons at our sister school, Ootsumatama in Tokyo.
At the Final Assembly, the Pastoral Leaders presented their graduates ... from Chanel

Delany

Sr Patricia Whitby Award recipient Courtney Fisher

Damien

2016 College Dux Madeline Read

De Porres

Foley

The 2016 College Captains and House Prefects

MacKillop

Cocurricular Captains and Academic Ambassadors

Exchange of Leadership
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