Dear Parents,

Thank you to the parents who attended yesterday’s parent meetings. Many parents took advantage of the chance to listen to what will be happening in classrooms this year and find out expectations. If you were unable to attend, please contact your child’s classroom teacher to arrange a copy of the handout and the teachers will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

God Bless
Mr Cronin

A Lenten Prayer

Leader: Lord, it is Lent. Lent is for quiet.
All: May your stillness settle into the deepest parts of who we are.

Leader: Lent is for wanderings.
All: May we remember that no matter where we go, we can never be lost by you, only more and more found.

Leader: Lent is for healing.
All: May we bring our hurting, broken parts to you and to each other. May we ask for help when we need it and offer it to others when we are able.

Leader: Lent is for introspection.
All: May we look honestly at our own lives and continuously look for new ways to let your light shine through us.

Leader: Lent heralds the coming of Easter.
All: May we make full use of our desert days and walk joyfully into the light of Resurrection when our days are done.

Leader: The blessing of God, the eternal goodwill of god, the peace of God, the wilderness and the warmth of God be among us and between us, now and always.

All: Amen.
Board and P&F AGM
The Board and P&F AGM was held last Thursday. Attendance from parents was disappointing. We did have the opportunity to acknowledge the wonderful job Sue-Maree Wilks has done over the past six years as Board Chairperson. She has been a great support for me in my role as Principal. Rochelle Piavanini nominated to be on the Board this year after having served the past twelve months on the Board in the role of P&F representative. Since the meeting, Ray Bertolini and Leonie Davey have offered to be involved on the Board. Ray is set for what could be his fourth stint on the Board.

Mr.C.

New Gardener
This week we welcomed Ms Deanne Lawrence onto the St Brigid’s staff. Deanne has an extensive background in horticulture and she has made a fantastic start to her new role.

Mr.C.

Bus Update
St Brigid’s will be buying another bus from local John Cherry. The bus is currently used for school bus runs and will be available in June when it comes out of its contract. The new bus is a Hino and has seat belts and 53 seats. In the meantime, John has kindly offered to loan us a 33 seater bus until June which means we can sell our old bus. Special thanks to Jarrod Shepherd and Shane Kenyon for helping with the purchase. The loan bus will be perfect for Year 6 camp in May.

Mr.C.

Car Parking
Many of the staff have kindly agreed to park their cars up where the bus is parked to ease congestion for parents in the Kindy/Pre-Primary carpark. There is also space for parents to park in the morning or the afternoon in the carpark on Prinsep Street. The Shire has taken down a couple of unhealthy trees on Mary St and will soon start on a footpath that will run along the side of the school. The footpath will add to the parking issue and the school Board is looking at extending the Kindy/Pre-Primary car park.

Mr.C.

Fencing the Oval
We have numerous acts of vandalism over time and the school Board is considering fencing the oval. We have a quote and will be looking at it our next meeting.

Mr.C.

3 Year Olds
Enrolments are up to four now for 3 Year Olds. Up until now we have only been offering full days but the suggestion has been made that some parents may welcome half days as a way of introducing their children to the program. From next week, parents can opt to book their children in for mornings from 8.45am to 12pm. Students bring fruit with them for morning tea and head home before lunch for a cost of $40 a session ($65 for a full day).

Mr.C.

Brother Pat Kelly
Br. Pat recently passed away after a long illness with Cancer. Br. Pat taught at St Edmund’s College and many of the past families may remember him during the early 70’s. He was a popular teacher who has been an important part of many people’s lives throughout his teaching and administrative time here in Collie. Our deepest sympathy to Brother Pats family.

Mr.C.

Swimming Lessons
Parents can you please make sure ALL items of clothing for swimming lessons are clearly labelled. Teachers are finding it difficult to find owners for towels etc. that are being left behind. Thank you.
Naming of Faction Captains
Ms Furler recently named the six faction captains for 2016 and they were presented with their badges. The six students will have ongoing roles assisting Ms Furler with sport throughout the year.


UNIFORM SHOP ROSTER
Friday 19 February Casey Jones
26 February Nicole Martin
4 March Help Required
11 March Cassandra Bertolini
18 March Trish Stocks
If you have any questions please contact Nicole on 0417 347 278

News from the Canteen....
Available from this week for lunch on Monday, Wednesday and Friday are Satay Chicken for $3.50 and Macaroni Cheese for $3.50. Both are ‘green light’ approved and the Satay Chicken is Peanut free!

CANTEEN ROSTER
Friday 19 February Camille Mumme
22 February Nicole Martin
24 February Karina Rankin
26 February Trish Stocks
29 February Cheryl Pullan
02 March Sarah Mounsey
04 March Nicole Tate

ST BRIGID’S CHURCH CLEANING ROSTER
19th February Karena Rankin & family
26th February Fiona, Lara, Sheree and Rochelle
4th March Kris Payne (Denise M, Lynne B, Dionne S, Denise S)
11th March Renae and Blair Mumme
18th March Sonya and Jason Mumme
NOTE: Anna Papalia’s contact number has changed. Please make note of Anna’s new number 0447 092 457.

Tiles Needed
Mrs Hamby is on the look out for any plain coloured 6 inch tiles that you may have laying around. Also shiny black or white tiles of any size would be greatly appreciated. Please drop them into the Art room or the front office.
Altar Servers
Yesterday 30 altar servers took part in a training lesson with Fr Jaybee and Mr Leo DeAngelis. It was wonderful to see the students' enthusiasm. We also have several of our Year 7 students who have gone to high school who are keen to be on the roster. Thank you to the parents for their support of the program.

Cyber Wise
Students will have the opportunity to hear a presentation titled Cyber Wise on Friday 26 February starting at 1.40pm in the hall. The presentation will give students tips on staying safe on the internet and was one of the suggestions made from Board members in creating our Strategic Plan. Mr.C.

Swimming Carnival
The St Brigid's Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday 11 March. While the improvements to the pool are greatly appreciated, the design of the smaller pool means that it cannot accommodate many students so the format of the day has been modified. The students from Pre-Primary to Year 3 will be taken to the pool for one hour at a time so they can participate in a range of fun, non-competitive water activities.

Times for P/P to Year 3 at the pool:
Yr 3 : 9.30 - 10.30am
Yr 1/2 : 11.00 - 12.00pm
P/P & Yr 1 : 1.00 - 2.00pm
Years 4-6 will compete in traditional events with ribbons and medals up for grabs.

P&F Easter Egg Raffle
The annual Easter Egg raffle will take place on Thursday, 24 March starting at 2.15pm in the hall. For those families new to St Brigid's, the Easter raffle is a huge event! All students are asked to donate an easter egg and bring it to the office by Friday 17 March. Each family is asked to sell a book of raffle tickets, which will be sent home within the next 2 weeks. Extra raffle books will be available at the office. Any unwanted baskets would also be greatly appreciated and can be left at the front office. The easter eggs are wrapped by volunteers leading up to the draw. If you are able to help with wrapping can you please call Andrea on 0416 134 013.

Data Sheets
Last week Student Data Sheets were sent home with your child. These sheets MUST be returned to the office if you have changed your details. It is important that we have your current details on our files in case of an emergency.
Dear Parents

**Introducing Your School Counsellor**

My name is Laurie Sutherland and I am pleased to be back at St Brigid's School again this year as the School Counsellor/Chaplain.

My role here at St Brigid's is to provide pastoral care and support to the whole school community. I am available for students, parents, family members, carers, teachers and school staff members who may wish to talk through any issues, concerns or worries.

I have a professional background as a social worker with many years experience working with troubled young people and their families.

This year, I will be working at St Brigid's on Tuesdays, so, if you or your child would like to come in and see me, please do not hesitate to call me at the school. The phone number here is 9734 1097.

If you feel you need a little extra support for yourself or your child, or would just like to speak with someone as you try to deal with a problem or worry, please feel free to ring me and arrange to come in and have a confidential chat. If you cannot come in to the school for any reason, you are still very welcome to ring me and I will chat with you over the phone. Unfortunately for privacy reasons, I cannot make home visits.

I look forward to being of assistance to you and offering any pastoral care and support I can. I would be delighted also to share your excitement and joy about something wonderful happening in your or your children's lives.

Best Wishes to you all

Laurie Sutherland
School Counsellor
Tennis Notes

The Free Family Fun day at the tennis club has been rescheduled. As the original day was rained out, it will now be held on Sat February 27th from 2-6pm. The day will include games for young and old, Bouncy Castle, ball machine, afternoon tea and sausage sizzle.

It is a day out for all the family, so come along bring a friend or two and join in.

Social tennis continues on Wednesday mornings from 9am, and again on Saturday from 2.30pm. Juniors continue with coaching and grass court play from 8.15am Saturday morning.

State Basketball League Teams Visit Collie

Perry Lakes Hawks vs South West Slammers Basketball Game

The Collie Basketball Association is thrilled to announce that the Perry Lakes Hawks SBL team will be conducting a fantastic weekend of Basketball in Collie. Coach of the Perry Lakes Hawks, Charles Nix is keen to return to his grassroots and promote the game.

SATURDAY 27th February

Junior Basketball Clinic

School age children
Year 2 - Year 6 2.00pm - 3.30pm
Year 7 - Year 12 3.30pm - 5.00pm

Coaching Clinic
All current and prospective coaches and parents
2.00pm - 4.00pm

Please register your interest by emailing dionsim@bigpond.net.au or 0417654426

SUNDAY 28th February

Lyn Hansen School of Dance

Enrol now for 2016!
Old and New Students from age 3.
Classes offered in all dance genres:
Tap, Jazz, Lyrical, Classical Ballet and Acro

Miss Lyn is a professional and certified dance teacher with over 40 years of dance teaching experience. Miss Lyn is trained for CSTD exams and offers the opportunity for interested students to work towards dance exams. The school also offers the opportunity and support for students wishing to participate in Eisteddfod competitions – individually or as a group. All students work towards an end of year presentation and also participate where possible in other community events. A casual adults dance class will also be offered on Thursday nights at 7pm - purely for fun and fitness (age 16 up).

Classes commence week 3 - so please contact Miss Lyn for an enrolment pack or if you have any other questions. Mobile: 0414 895 099 (after hours).
Welcome to Kindy!

We have had a fantastic first three weeks in Kindy! Sensory play is a big hit this year. The children love to get their hands dirty! Check out some of the 'learning through play' we have already experienced.
Stepping Stones Therapy Services is a trans-disciplinary private practice providing a range of services to the Paediatric population. Our goal is to assist clients and their families become active members within their communities (including school, home and social environments) through the provision of a range of therapy services (including Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy and Psychology), resource provision, and education. Staff at Stepping Stones are experienced in working with children of all ability levels, and strive to provide these services in a fun, interactive and engaging way.

Stepping Stones Therapy Services is about to open a new office in Collie, at 30A Harvey St (next to Collie River Valley Medical Centre). Here we will provide:

- Speech Pathology services on Wednesdays
- Occupational Therapy services on Thursdays

This practice is set to open in March 2016, however with home and school-based appointments available in the Collie region during February whilst the clinic is being set up.

Services at Stepping Stones Therapy Services can be accessed through a variety of measures:

- Privately, with no referral needed
- My Way funding plans (both Upper and Lower south west trial sites)
- Helping Children with Autism funding
- Better Start funding
- Medicare rebates (through Enhanced Primary Care plans)
- Private Health rebates

Please speak to our staff to discuss which options may suit your family.

Call (08) 9791 7898 to find out more!
Kids in Collie

Term 1 2016

5 Fun Family Activity Ideas

1. Pack a picnic and go on a nature trail or bushwalk together. Remember to take sunscreen and plenty of water with you!
2. Teach the children games you used to play when you were younger such as hopscotch.
3. Ask the kids to invent their own ball game. They will love making up the rules, and it's a great way to develop their creativity and communication skills.
4. Skipping is a great way to keep fit besides being lots of fun. Why not get the children 'big rope' skipping by using an extra long rope so more people are skipping at the same time.
5. Set up some activity stations in a circuit and put up cue signs at each. For example, in four corners of the room or yard have 1. Skipping; 2. Hopping 3. Star-jumps; 4. Twirling a hoop around the waist. Rotate between stations after two minutes. What a great excuse for the kids to be your very own personal trainers!

Collie Harmony Day
21st March 2.30pm-4.30pm

Central Park
Free Event
All Welcome

Multicultural food tastings, kite displays
children's activities, face painting and more!