St Brigid’s Blessing:

“May Brigid bless the house where in you dwell.

Bless every fireside every wall and door.

Bless every heart that beats beneath its roof.

Bless every hand that toils to bring it joy.

Bless every foot that walks its portals through.

May Brigid bless the house that shelters you.”

SOLVING YOUR OWN PROBLEMS

How do we find a middle ground between intruding too much on our children’s lives and denying them the chance to solve their own problems - and holding back for fear of being seen as interfering or bothering already busy teachers. Some ideas from parents who have been there, done that, and survived the school years!

- Encourage your children to take the lead in sorting out difficulties with teachers. This helps children develop confidence and their own voice. Show them how you deal with your problems. Let them hear how you make a complaint or raise a question. Discuss how to be assertive without becoming unpleasant.

- Discuss with them how to use email and text messages only to convey simple information like appointments or scheduled absences or factual questions. For anything more significant, especially if they are annoyed or angry, it’s better to take a deep breath and speak in person. Conflicts can escalate in social messaging exchanges in ways that would never happen speaking face to face.

- Remind your children not to cc the principal or even their parents when emailing about routine issues. It’s disrespectful to everyone as it sends the message you don’t think there’s even a chance you can work this out on your own and that you do not trust the other person to take you seriously.

- Discuss with children the kind of commitments teachers have when they are not in the classroom. Some teachers tell their classes the times when they schedule answering emails and texts. No teacher can be expected to be on call 24 hours and children are more likely to get a prompt response if they respect other people’s time.

- Teach your children to immediately apologise if they are in the wrong. Many people don’t learn this simple lesson even into their adult life yet it is disarming and prevents further conflict.

- When there are real conflicts, discuss desired outcomes and how your child can achieve them. Sometimes too, they have to learn that even the best-presented case may not get the outcome they are seeking.

- Step in if your child is struggling to be heard or becoming frustrated. Teachers want their students to be happy learners.

- Sometimes parents - and teachers - need to take with a grain of salt occasional bellyaching, especially by adolescents working through issues with authority. The teenager, being a teenager, may not rank parenting skills much higher than teaching skills!

Acknowledgement: “The Parent-Teacher Trap” by Sara Mosle
WELCOME BACK
This week we welcomed back Mr Brendan Gill and Ms Georgie Fleming from their overseas leave.

PARENT/TEACHER CONSULTATIONS
Thank you to the many parents/guardians who attended the Parent/Teacher Consultations this week. These times when teachers are able to sit with parents/guardians to discuss children’s progress and development are very valuable.

COLLEGE/PARISH MASS
Our next College/Parish Mass will be celebrated on SUNDAY 11TH AUGUST at 10.00am in Christ the Priest Church. Families are especially invited to attend.

P&F BOOT SCOOTIN’ BONANZA – SATURDAY 17TH AUGUST
This function is really starting to gain momentum as the P&F prepares for its social highlight of the year! Have you bought tickets yet?

CONGRATULATIONS
To Alex Placogiannakis, Grade 9CH and Tamsyn Ayres, Grade 9CH on their selection in the State Cross Country Team. Alexander also won a Bronze Medal at the State Cross Country Championships.

CONDOLENCES
We offer our condolences to the O’Brien and Mangione families on the death of Giovanni Mangione, the father of Rocco Mangione and Stella O’Brien, father-in-law of Diane Mangione and David O’Brien, and grandfather of Maxwell (Grade 8K) and Jordan (Grade 5N) O’Brien. Please keep the families in your prayers.

This week we focus on courage as a quality for children to develop. As parents, we all want our children to feel, think and act with respect for themselves and for other people.

Courage is taking on a position and doing what is right. On occasion, it will include physical courage, courage to make difficult decisions and courage to stand up for values and principles. Courage does not mean never being afraid.

“God, accept our thanks for the people you have put into our lives and who have helped to shape what we have become and what we are becoming. Amen.”

PARENT/TEACHER CONSULTATIONS
Thank you to all the parents who came along to the Parent/Teacher Consultations last night. We hope you found them valuable and informative. A reminder that the second session is on tomorrow afternoon.

GRADE 9/10 SUBJECT SELECTION PROCESS FOR 2014 - UPDATE
Thank you to the families who have booked in for our Course Counselling Evening between 3.30pm and 6.00pm next Wednesday, 7th August. I am sure you and your child will find it helpful to speak with relevant teachers about future subject options before they make their first selection choices next week.

GRADE 10 VISIT TO GYC EXPO
On Monday the 29th July, the Grade 10 group travelled to the Guilford Young Glenorchy Campus. We had a brief tour of the campus, and were able to walk around a number of stalls and speak to teachers individually in order to get a better idea of what each subject involves. Through the tour and the subject expo, we were able to gain an insight into College life and our future pathway. Please contact Mrs Samantha Wilson at Samantha.wilton@catholic.tas.edu.au to book an appointment.

Dylan Geeves and Denbeigh Bogert

COLLEGE CAPTAINS

Leanne Prichard, for Joe Sandric
WELCOME BACK
I would like to welcome students and parents back for Semester Two, 2013. I hope the holidays were a positive experience for all families. I had a wonderful time driving around Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland. It was an excellent opportunity to recharge the batteries. A special welcome back to Ms Georgie Fleming and Mrs Elaine Doran who spent their leave galavanting around the world. I am so glad that both of these wonderful people are back at the College, working their magic!

Please allow me the indulgence of one story:
My wife Anita and I were wandering through a quiet street in Waterford, Ireland. We were taking in the scenes and the sights of the oldest and fifth most populous city in the Republic. I looked ahead of us and saw a face I thought I recognised. I dismissed this thought quickly as I told myself I was 18 000 kilometres from home. As we moved further up the street I looked again and couldn’t believe my eyes, Jack Sandric, son of Joseph was looking at me. The man next to him turned around and it was Joe - I seriously couldn’t believe it! Joe didn’t even tell me he was going to Ireland. Joe and his family were doing a quickfire tour of Southern Ireland. It was very amusing actually, as the leader of the tour, a fiery Irish lady had a funny conversation with Joe. Not known for his punctuality, Joe was told in no uncertain terms to lift his game!

Fiery Irish lady: Joe, do you know the difference between a tourist and a hitchhiker?
Joe: I have no idea!
Fiery Irish lady: Five minutes Joe, just five minutes.

I am seriously hoping Joe makes it back to Hobart....

MUSIC ASSEMBLY
Parents, families and friends of the College are invited to the long awaited Music Extravaganza tomorrow at 1.45pm in the Sisters of Charity Centre. Originally scheduled at the end of Term Two, the event was moved due to a Parish funeral. A separate note will be distributed to parents this week regarding the assembly timetable for Term Three.

REPORTS AND PARENT/TEACHER CONSULTATIONS
I would like to thank both parents and teachers for the positive consultations that took place on Tuesday, 30th July. The feedback from both parents and teachers has been excellent. Education is a team game and strong, positive collaboration between parents and the school is vital for student success.

The new reporting process was a learning experience for both teachers and parents. I would like to acknowledge the incredible amount of work from classroom teachers, specialist staff and the administrative staff during the reporting process. Teachers have recently had an opportunity to provide feedback about the process and a form will soon be distributed to parents to do the same.

COLLEGE/PARISH MASS
All families should have now received an invitation to our next College/Parish Mass will be held on Sunday 11th August at 10.00am in the Church of Christ the Priest. If your child would like to be involved in this Mass in some way, please return the slip on the bottom of the invitation to either College office by next Monday.

VINNIES/MINI-VINNIES FOOD DRIVE
Thank you to the many generous families on both campuses who have brought in items for our Vinnies Food Drive. These items will be greatly appreciated by the Hobart Head Office of Vinnies who will distribute these goods to needy families in the greater Hobart area. Thanks again for your support.
A NEW CROSS FOR THE KINGSTON CAMPUS
Thanks to Mr Gill, we now have two crosses to put up in the Kingston Campus Office. Mr Gill has kindly brought back a special St. Brigid’s Cross from County Kildare in Ireland. The popular tradition of the woven St. Brigid's cross is believed to have begun during a visit by St. Brigid to a dying pagan chieftan. To illustrate the significance of the Christian faith, she quickly wove a simple cross from rushes strewn on the floor. Commonly hung over the doorway in many Irish homes, it is believed to bless and bring luck to every person who crosses the threshold. Let's hope it does the same for all who pass through our Kingston Office!

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2013
Thanks to all the families who attended our Parent/Child session last week. All candidates will be presented with a copy of the Lord’s Prayer at our College/Parish Mass on Sunday 11th August at 10am. First Eucharist celebrations will occur on the weekend of the 24th and 25th August.

CONFIRMATION PHOTOS
Thank you to all the families who have ordered Confirmation photos. These should be ready by the end of this week.

LOUI’S VAN BISCUIT DRIVE
Thanks to parents and families from Kinder R who baked treats on the last week of term for Loui’s Van. This week families from Kinder M are invited to contribute.

HUNTINGFIELD MASSES
Thanks to our Faith and Mission leaders who prepared a lovely Mass last week on the theme for World Youth Day. This week 7BM have prepared our Mass. Parents are most welcome to join us tomorrow at 10.25am in the Chapel.

Weekend Parish Masses:  
Saturdays  6.00pm - Kingston  
Sundays   8.30am - Snug  
  10.00am - Kingston (Children's Liturgy is offered at this Mass)

Weekday Parish Masses:  
Mondays          9.00am - Kingston  
Wednesdays      9.00am - Kingston  
Thursdays       10.20am - Huntingfield  
Fridays         5.30pm - St Aloysius Church