



ST MARY MACKILLOP COLLEGE
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The Principal's Letter

Lord, We keep in our prayers the work of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and pray that those who have suffered find peace, justice, and reconciliation. Amen.

Dear families, students and friends,

THE OPENING MASS 2017

Congratulations to Mr Jonathan Moyle, Assistant Principal Faith and Mission, and Mr Benjamin Bowman, Liturgical Support, for leading the College through an extraordinarily beautiful Opening School Mass. The choir and music, led by Mrs Kim Maloney, Mrs Bronwyn McKenzie, Mrs Kerrie Jiear, and Mr Tony Lazzarato beautifully complimented the dignity that was present in every aspect of the Eucharist. The preparation and celebration of a Mass of this magnitude fundamentally relies on the dedicated support of many, many students, teachers, and support staff, and I would like to acknowledge and thank everyone involved.

A particular thanks to Fr Warrick Tonkin, our new Chaplain (and Parish Priest of Corpus Christi Gowrie), to Fr Lachlan Coll (Parish Priest of St Anthony's), and to Reverend Deacon Vince Barclay for celebrating and concelebrating the Mass. Special thanks to altar servers James and Lauren Crispin of Year 11 who most ably and sincerely assisted the clergy. It was very good to have special guests including Gonski Reviewer Mrs Kathryn Greiner, Liberal Senator and Turnbull Government Minister Mr Zed Seselja, Member for Kurrajong Mr Steve Dospot (but more affectionally known as the Member for MacKillop!), along with staff and students representing other Catholic secondary and primary schools. The number of parents, friends and past students present was also a source of celebration.

In his closing remarks, Fr Warrick very generously thanked me for my passion for the College. It is an easy thing to draw energy, inspiration, and passion from our community to better enable my leadership of this school into the future. I am most grateful for the many sincere remarks that have come via email and in person complimenting our staff and students for their engagement with the Liturgy.

YEAR 12 MENTORING DAY

As many of you would be aware, following the Mass on Tuesday, Year 12 came to the junior campus for morning tea with the staff, to listen to remarks by Kathryn Greiner, and to visit Year 7-9 classes to mentor the younger students and take an interest in their progress. Year 12 did this with generosity and style, quite unaware of how special they are in the eyes of younger students. A number of Year 12 students have now adopted particular classes and will visit them from time to time throughout the year.

COLLEGE SWIMMING CARNIVAL 2017

Congratulations must go to Mindygari House for winning their first Swimming Championship since 1998 – the year MacKillop formed. Ngadyung continued its recent success by picking up the Spirit Cup. The carnival itself was alive with enthusiasm through novelty events, tug of war, music and costumes, and was even present in the water! The teacher absentee rate for the day was zero, and student attendance stood at 98%. To have a community of 2,000 staff and students so successfully and generously bring talent, skill, and goodwill to such an event is a considerable compliment to MacKillop. This should not be overlooked when endeavouring to measure the health and wellbeing of our community.

Congratulations must also go to Mr Braden Longo, for his leadership and organisation of the day. In his first coordination of a carnival, Mr Longo's eye for detail ensured a tremendous day. Thank you to all of the staff and students for what was a memorable event in the College calendar.

Yours sincerely in St Mary MacKillop,

MICHAEL LEE
COLLEGE PRINCIPAL



College News



Sister school visit

In February, MacKillop was visited by 20 students from our French sister school, Institution St Joseph's in Le Havre. Our French guests experienced many aspects of College life, including participating in classes and competing at the Swimming Carnival. In addition, the French students enjoyed visits to Parliament House, Questacon, the National Gallery and Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. The highlight of the visit was the life-long friendships that were made between students of MacKillop and St Joseph's. The College greatly appreciates all the families who hosted students in their home. The Exchange Program owes its success to the generosity and hospitality of so many of our families.

Our students are already looking forward to 2018 when we will travel to France as part of the College's Exchange Program. The College also has sister school arrangements with schools in Japan and Italy. If you are interested in joining a study tour or hosting an exchange student please contact Peter Johnson on 6209 0155 or peter.johnson@mackillop.act.edu.au.

Peter Johnson, International Programs Project Officer

AFL Umpiring for females

AFL Canberra is running a female umpiring program in conjunction with MacKillop! The program will run on Saturday 18 March from 10am-3pm at the AFL Office at Woden Tradies. Information is available through Mr Nathan Wood: nathan.wood@mackillop.act.edu.au.

Student Achievement

Maddie Prescott (Year 11) represented Australia in the Under 18 Women's Ice Hockey World Championship Qualifications in Spain. Australia went through the tournament undefeated and has progressed to the World Championships in January 2018.

Canvas News

Canvas is now accessible for all students and their families. You will find it a great resource for you and your son/daughters. It will have unit outlines, assessment task and even a calendar for each class they are in. Don't forget to check your notification settings and see if they are meeting your family needs. (Hint: Due dates and announcements are a great one to turn on).

If you are yet to login to Canvas and are wondering what your username and password is you can recover your username or reset your password.

To reset your password or recover your username:

- Go to password.mackillop.act.edu.au/sspr-family and click on "forgotten username" or "forgotten password", the username or password for your account will be emailed to your designated email address.
- If you do not receive the email within an hour, please check your spam folder or contact our Enrolment Officer at enrolments@mackillop.act.edu.au or by calling 6209 5217 to verify or make the necessary changes to your family email address.

Jessica Stokman, Learning Commons Coordinator

Upcoming Events



School Fees

Fees are now due

Term 1 Fees are due to be paid by this Friday 3 March 2017 unless paying by Direct Debit or other approved method. If you would like more information regarding Direct Debit payments or have any queries regarding your fees, please contact the Fees Office.

We are now able to email Term Statements. If you would like to switch off your paper statements and receive Fee Statements via email, please send an email to me at michelle.predovan@mackillop.act.edu.au from the email address you would like to receive your statement.

Please note the College does not accept cheques. The following methods of payment are available:

PAYMENTS BY QKR!

All payments to the College can now be made through the Qkr! app. Payments for school fees, excursions and tours etc can all be made using Qkr! Details on how to download and register the App are available on our website.

CASH & EFTPOS

Cash and Eftpos payments may be made in person at both Isabella and Wanniasa Front Reception.

BPAY

Bpay is available at the College for payment of School Fees only. Payments can be made through internet and telephone banking by quoting the Biller Code and Reference Number located on your school fee statement.

DIRECT DEBIT

Payment of School Fees by Direct Debit will require completion of the relevant paperwork. Please contact Jayne Limbrick via email, jayne.limbrick@mackillop.act.edu.au to set up your Direct Debit. Direct Debits usually commence in January and run over 52 weeks or 26 fortnights. All Direct Debits are to be altered in December for the following year's School Fees.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS – MASTERCARD OR VISA

Credit Card payments may be made in person, over the telephone, or details can be provided at the bottom of your school fee statement.

Michelle Predovan, Fees Manager

ACT Secondary Bursary Scheme

The ACT Government's Secondary Bursary Scheme provides assistance to low income earners in the ACT with dependent full-time students.

Eligibility requirements and application forms are available online at <http://www.det.act.gov.au> and by following the links located at the top of the home page - School education/starting school/financial assistance for families. For further information please ring the Bursary Administrator on 6205 8262.

Michelle Predovan, Fees Manager



Academic News

The Library

Wanniassa Homework Club

The Homework club is up and running on Monday to Thursday from 3:15 to 4:30pm. This is a great time for students to utilise the Library resources and get assistance from a staff member. Students are enjoying the opportunity to read quietly in the Library Monday, Wednesday and Friday recess.

Isabella IRC + Homework Club

The Isabella Library is having a make-over. Students will soon have access to a dynamic, flexible and collaborative space with the latest print and digital resources available to them.

Students in Year 10-12 are currently involved in an EBSCO database orientation session that will assist with their academic studies. Other lesson sessions are available to students and teachers.

Homework club is also available every afternoon at the Isabella campus for students. The Library staff (Ms Veech & Mrs Mansfield) are available to assist students with information literacy, assessment tasks and resources.

Religious Education

There are some sweeping changes to RE curriculum in the junior years across the Archdiocese of Canberra/Goulburn. The core document used in our schools has been *Treasures New and Old*. There was general consensus that this document was tired and, despite the best efforts of many staff from many schools to breathe new life into it, was struggling to remain contemporary.

We will now be adopting the RE curriculum framework created by the Archdiocese of Brisbane and will design our curriculum around it to suit the needs of the College. We will look to complete this by the end of 2017 for implementation in 2018. A new pedagogical approach to Religious Education will go a long way to reinvigorating our courses in Years 7-10.

In Years 11 and 12, Religious Studies continues to attract strong retention and students who excel in the Humanities. The design and implementation of more specialised courses has provided a richer depth of choice for students and has also utilised the passions and expertise of teachers who have strong academic backgrounds in other fields, such as History, Media and Psychology. The success of this is evidenced by our student results as we continue to see those seeking an ATAR use Religious Studies to generate their ranking; for example, in 2016, over 70% of students who achieved an ATAR above 80 used Religious Studies, as did over 80% who achieved over 90!

In saying this, we do not overlook our accredited students, who seek skills and knowledge for life. A number of years ago I merged tertiary and accredited classes together with great success. Evaluations from students continue to come back saying how much better it is to be able to engage in class activities that respect the academic engagement of everyone.

Our Principal, Michael Lee, often speaks of the best part of MacKillop being the teachers. This is most certainly the case in regard to the teachers who work within Religious Education/Studies. The dedication they display to a subject that is both academic but also deeply personal in a secular world is awe inspiring, especially when they continue to live the College vision of being dynamic and welcoming as they invite our students to the study of religion, no matter where their individual beliefs may lie.

Jonathan Moyle, Assistant Principal Faith Leadership

English

There are a number of writing competitions available to students throughout the year. The first of these is the **WHAT MATTERS?** Students are to submit a 400-600 opinion piece accompanied by an entry form available from the English Coordinators. Winners and Runners up receive cash prizes, have their work published and participate in Young Writer's Forum at Sydney University. Last year, we had several entries and two finalists, which made us very proud! **Write 4 Fun** is a competition for creative writing with categories in short story writing and poetry. Again there are many cash prizes and 'i' products on offer as prizes. Last year four students had their work published in the Write 4 Fun publication for 2016.

Please don't forget we offer a weekly after school tutoring service and students are invited to attend tutorials for assistance with assessment items and classroom content. At Wanniassa, the schedule is posted in the IRC and in the teacher's classroom. The schedule for the Isabella tutorials is posted in the IRC, in each of the teaching blocks, on the student entry door to student reception and on the B Block (English) notice board. If parents and students want an individual copy of the schedule, this can be emailed out on request.

The use of Canvas is integral to English on the senior campus in 2017. Class activities, quizzes, discussions and learning modules are all online and require student input and engagement on a regular basis.

Isabella: Another competition that can be entered is for comedy and students can prepare a 'stand -up' routine, skit or written composition for this comedy competition. Please see English teachers if interested. Information is available on the B Block English noticeboard and entry details are available from me in the B Block English staffroom.

Also coming up is the ACT Legislative Assembly Debating rounds. Ms Logue has already asked for interested students to participate in the Year 10 round for later this term. Seniors will be in Term 2, but this team is already full.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding English curriculum, classes and/or content please contact either Nicola McLennan or Lyndall Baker and we will return your email or phone call.

Isabella English Coordinator: Mrs Nicola McLennan

Nicola.mclennan@mackillop.act.edu.au or phone 62090142

Wanniassa English Coordinator: Mrs Lyndall Baker

Lyndall.Baker@mackillop.act.edu.au or phone 6209 0213

Lyndall Baker and Nicola McLennan, English Coordinators



Pastoral Care

Mrs Monica Bailey,
AP Pastoral Care

Year 7 Immunisations

All Year 7 students will begin the Year 7 immunisation schedule on Thursday and Friday 9 and 10 March. This will be followed by two other sessions throughout the year to complete their immunisation plan. Students are encouraged to eat breakfast on the morning, if asthmatic to carry their inhaler and to remain well hydrated throughout the day.

After-school Sport

Wednesday after school sport will run again on the Wanniasa Campus from 3.30-4.30pm. Students of Years 7-9 are encouraged to participate in the sporting activities facilitated by Year 12 College Sports Captain Jack Adamson, fellow Year 12 students and supervised by a member of staff.

Jack spoke at this week's Wanniasa Campus Assembly of the opportunity for students in Years 7 – 9 to participate in an afternoon of sport activity. In Term 1, the sport will be court sports and the program will run on Wednesday afternoons from Week 6 until Week 10.

The afternoons are open to all students and skills in the court sports are not a requirement. Students can attend and participate with friends in an atmosphere of fun while developing and maintaining fitness and learning new skills. Students who have attained Bronze or Silver Status will be able to count the hours that they attend towards their application for the next level of Status, as community involvement time. Consent forms for students interested are available from Pastoral Care Coordinators, the PE Staffroom or they can also be downloaded from Canvas.



Project Compassion

With the start of Lent, comes the launch of MacKillop's Project Compassion fundraising for Caritas. Over the coming weeks, staff and students will be invited to hear the stories from people in Philippines, Timor Leste, Indigenous Australia, Vietnam, and Fiji. These stories aim to inspire our community in our fundraising efforts and show how our contributions to Project Compassion help people build better lives for themselves, their families and their communities.

Each Pastoral Care class is encouraged to contribute to the College target of \$20,000 by the end of Term 1. Students are encouraged to contribute what they can to help meet the weekly targets.

Parenting ideas

This article for parents, "Earning the right" reflects on the importance of working with our boys and girls to understand that in life there are no entitlements. It invites us to reflect on the point that, if we want to raise a generation to appreciate what they have, then we shouldn't give young people everything.

Performing Arts News



Hairspray Jr Cast Announced

Thank you to all students who auditioned for the 2017 College musical. The standard was very high across the board and everyone is to be congratulated on their approach to, and preparation for, the auditions. All students who auditioned are encouraged to continue developing their skills in singing, dancing and acting in preparation for future productions.

Congratulations to the students who were successful in gaining a place in this year's musical. A very strong cast has been chosen and rehearsals commence this week.

Kerrie Jiear, Performing Arts Coordinator

Vocal and Instrumental Tuition

Singing lessons on Waniassa and Isabella campuses and tuition in brass and woodwind at Wanniasa are beginning soon. Please email Mrs Jiear to register your interest: kerrie.jiear@mackillop.act.edu.au.

Kerrie Jiear, Performing Arts Coordinator

Year 7 Concert Band

Do you play a band instrument? Were you in a primary school band? Come along in 2017 and join the Year 7 Concert Band.

Never played a band instrument before? This is your chance to learn! Hire an instrument from the college, start lessons on your instrument and join the band! Play flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, saxophone, or violin.

Wednesday Mornings: 8.30am – 9.30am

If you are interested, please contact Mrs Jiear via email to: kerrie.jiear@mackillop.act.edu.au.

Kerrie Jiear, Performing Arts Coordinator

Community News

Tuggeranong Hawks AFL

The Tuggeranong Hawks Juniors are recruiting players for the 2017 season. If you're a boy (U13s to U18s) or girl (U15s and U18s) looking to enjoy the action on the footy field, a Registration Day will be held on Saturday 18 March at both the Lanyon Marketplace and Erindale Shopping Centre between 10am and 2pm. For more information about the Hawks go to www.tuggeranongfc.com.au.

Tuggeranong Vikings Hockey

The Tuggeranong Vikings Hockey Club is about to hit off for season 2017! The club caters for players of all ages, abilities and hockey backgrounds from newbies to beginners! If you, your son or daughter, your friend or family member is keen to get in and give hockey a go, email Cam, Club President on president@vikings.org.au and we will invite you down to give it a go! Info is available at vikings.org.au.

Queanbeyan Whites Rugby

Come and join the Whites in 2017! Whites are recruiting for Boys U13s-U18s and Girls (10-a-side) U13s-U17s. For information, email info@whitesjuniorrugby.org.au or visit www.whitesjuniorrugby.org.au.

Canberra Youth Theatre Audience

CYT Audience is a group of senior students from high schools and colleges in Canberra who meet to attend live theatre together for free. Applicants are required to be 15-18 years old and from high school/college. Applications are now open: cytc.net.

Defence Force Recruiting

The ADFA 2018 Information Night takes place on Tuesday 7 March 2017, 6:00pm to 7:30pm at Defence Force Recruiting Canberra, Level 2, 64 Northbourne Avenue Canberra, ACT 2601.

The Australian Defence Force Gap Year Program 2018 Information Night takes place on Tuesday 14 March 2017, 6:00pm to 7:30pm - also at Defence Force Recruiting Canberra.



Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

Earning the right

Earning the right and not assuming a sense of entitlement is a life lesson parents, teachers and coaches must instil in children.

On talk-back radio recently I heard a caller tell a timely story about how as a child she was lucky enough to receive riding lessons from a renowned horse expert.

He had one condition. She had to earn the right to be taught to ride a horse. That meant she had to muck out the stables; brush and feed the horse; look after the gear and do everything else required to look after a horse. Only when she'd proved herself could she earn the right to ride a horse under his tutelage.

This caller said this powerful lesson shaped her entire life. It taught her that there were no entitlements in life; to work hard and value her achievements. She never took anything for granted.

Contrast this with the extraordinary sense of entitlement of Australian tennis players Nick Kyrgios and Bernard Tomic who routinely treat the public, players and the game that serves them well, with utter disdain. Their attitude of entitlement is mind-boggling, not to say embarrassing to reasonable-minded, hard-working people.

Our kids should earn the right

The talk-back caller's earning the right story is

a fabulous lesson for all parents and teachers. If we want to raise a generation to appreciate what they have, then we shouldn't give children or young people everything on a platter. In an era of small families, child pester power and relative affluence it's tempting to simply give kids what they want.

"Dad, can I have a...?"

"Sure!"

The Rolling Stones were right four decades ago when they sang, "You can't always get what you want!" Those words form a great child-rearing lesson. That is, just because you can provide something for your kids, doesn't mean that you do.

They need to earn the right to have something by saving, working for or simply waiting until they are old enough to appreciate it.

Similarly, kids don't automatically have a right to greater freedoms such as going out at night; those rights need to be earned by proving they are trustworthy.

Also, kids who think they are entitled to use a part of the house such as a living room without cleaning up mess are acting with a false sense of entitlement.

In fact, there are no entitlements, only rights. And rights are earned by being responsible.

A child has a right to use the living room but they also have a responsibility to clean up a rather than leave it a pigsty. A night banished to their room is a reminder that spending time in the living room is not an entitlement. It's a right that comes with conditions.

Earning the right! A simple phrase with so much complexity.

I suspect it's a phrase that neither Nick Kyrgios or Bernard Tomic heard much when they were growing up. Maybe their parents thought their prodigious talents excused them from having conditions placed upon them. If so, they did them no favours as good manners, gratitude and graciousness appear to be lacking in their social repertoires.

It usually takes a parent, teacher or coach to remind kids that they have to earn the right to have things, to do things and ultimately to be respected. That's a lesson that stays for life.

Michael Grose



Want more ideas to help you raise confident kids and resilient young people? Subscribe to Happy Kids newsletter, my **FREE** weekly email parenting guide at parentingideas.com.au. You'll be so glad you did.

