



## The Principal's Letter

Lord, in times of sadness and trial, help us to find Your love. Amen.

Dear families, students and friends,

### INFORMATION NIGHTS AT MACKILLOP AND IN COOMA

Congratulations to the staff and students of the Wanniasa Campus who showcased our school at the Year 7, 2018 Information Night and Try MacKillop Day last week. It was a pleasure to show off MacKillop to over 1400 people at the Info Night and 450 Year 6 students at Try MacKillop Day and I thank the staff and students for providing such a warm welcome to those who are considering MacKillop for 2018.

Obviously the night in Cooma was a more boutique affair, but the widespread interest in Years 11 and 12 shared by the community in that part of the Monaro parallels that of the Tuggeranong community.

Well over 600 people moved through the Isabella Campus during our Careers Expo and Year 11, 2018 Information Night, with over 400 for my presentation (which went for 19 minutes only). Congratulations to Ms Karen Hundy and Mrs Sandra Darley who led the organisation of the events and to all of the MacKillop staff and students who ensured this was a highly successful and informative event.

**Enrolment applications for Year 7 2018 are due by 5pm, Friday 19 May 2017.**  
**Enrolment applications for new students for Year 11 2018 are also due by 5pm, Friday 19 May.**  
**Year 11 2018 Student Intention Forms, for MacKillop's Year 10 students, are due by Friday 2 June.**

### TURNBULL GOVERNMENT'S FUNDING CUTS TO ACT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS INCLUDING TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

I have tried to communicate with you in a calm and informed manner and have passed on information from CE Director Ross Fox and the NCEC. Some things to remember:

1. The base funding of all students at MacKillop has been frozen for 10 years and then will be cut. This includes students with disabilities. This was confirmed to me over the phone by Minister Birmingham's office. This is a disgrace and is not fair!
2. After 10 years, MacKillop's funding will be cut by \$777 per student, a net loss of \$4.6m.
3. Over the same period, Canberra Girls' Grammar will receive additional funding of \$8.8m. I do not begrudge CGGS getting this money but it does not put any fairness test in my mind and does make one question the Prime Minister's claim that the Gonski 2.0 model is "fair for all."
4. MacKillop is a large, prudently managed school, better able than most to manage funding arrangements over time.
5. **Everything will be done to avoid sudden and sharp fee hikes to current and future families.**
6. **The quality of the educational experience of MacKillop will not be compromised.**
7. **Investment in the professional learning of staff will continue to be a priority.**
8. The College will run class sizes in keeping with guidelines of the Enterprise Agreement. Class sizes alter during term time as the College enrolment does change but the EA size is usually closely adhered to.
9. Clearly the Gonski 2.0 funding model is unraveling as the government's figures change and are challenged. Let's work with what we've got in a calm, mature manner and work towards better and fairer times for Catholic education in Canberra.

Yours in St Mary MacKillop,

MICHAEL LEE, COLLEGE PRINCIPAL



# Upcoming Events



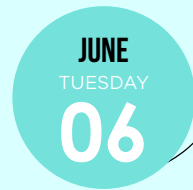
• Last day of  
Enrolment  
Period



• Year 7 Camp  
Parent Info  
Session



• ASBA Info  
Evening



• Year 10  
Exams  
commence

## College + Administration News

### Year 7 BYOD orientation on Canvas

Thank you parents/carers for your feedback about the implementation of Bring Your Own Device for Year 7 students.

To further assist Year 7 students with BYOD, a Canvas Page has been established. Students in Year 7 have the opportunity to gain their certificate in Level One SMMC Information and Technology skills and they will be able to refer to the Canvas page if they require assistance at school or at home.

Our student led group 'Mactechies' are also available during recess (Monday – Friday) to assist students with further developing their ICT skills and using their device effectively.

*Jessica Stokman, Learning Commons Coordinator*



### Year 7 Defence students at Birrigai

On Monday 8 May, I accompanied a number of energetic and entertaining Year 7 Defence students on an excursion to Birrigai at Tidbinbilla Outdoor School. The students were joined by Defence students from other schools around Canberra which provided great opportunities to share stories and build teamwork skills in a community setting. Students participated in the Giant Swing, Flying Fox and a Team Rescue obstacle course. During the day, there were opportunities for students to demonstrate their leadership skills and experience different communication styles. The Year 7 MacKillop students confidently asserted their opinions, carefully listened to others and acknowledged where they could have improved their teamwork skills during debriefs. Congratulations to the students who set personal goals for the day and to their friends who helped them on the journey!

*Desiree Disanayake, Defence Transition Mentor*



### New boilers at Wanniasa

New boilers (heaters) for the school were turned on at the start of this term. The new boilers have replaced the original ones that had been here since the school opened in 1978. Even though the old boilers were still working well, technology has obviously come ahead in leaps and bounds since then, allowing us to upgrade to the most efficient heating for a school our size. These efficiencies will allow us to keep everyone warm during the winter months and will give us a return on our investment in a matter of just a few years.

*Andrew Reay, Maintenance*



### Cross Country

Students at both campuses took part in the Cross Country today - congratulations to all students for their high levels of enthusiasm and participation!

## Hosting opportunity

In September 2017, St Mary MacKillop College will welcome our Italian sister school, Liceo Fermi, to Canberra from Padua. We are seeking MacKillop families who are interested in hosting an exchange student from 4 - 14 September 2017. Host families are asked to provide the students with somewhere to sleep (their own room is not necessary), 3 meals a day, transportation to school and the opportunity to participate in Australian family life. Hosting an exchange student is a truly rewarding experience. It allows a family to experience a foreign culture first hand, be exposed to a new language and pass on a bit of our own culture. You might even make a friend for life! If you are interested in hosting a student, or would like more information about the program, please contact Mr Peter Johnson (email: peter.johnson@mackillop.act.edu.au).

*Peter Johnson, International Programs Officer*

## School Fees

Term 2 Fees are due to be paid by today, Friday 12 May 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 email michelle.predovan@mackillop.act.edu.au from the email address you would like to receive your statement.

*Michelle Predovan, Fees Manager*



## Curriculum News

### 2018 PE Pathways Course

In preparation for 2018, the Physical Education and Health faculty is holding an information evening for Year 9 students and parents interested in the 2018 Year 10 PE Pathways course. This session will be held at the Wanniasa Campus on Wednesday 7 June, 6.30pm - 7.30pm in the IRC. Information including the aims, goals and application process will be discussed and questions answered.

PE Pathways was introduced in 2016 as a means of supporting the many student athletes and dancers at St Mary MacKillop College in achieving their academic and performance goals. Students completing the Year 10 course complete an alternative curriculum tailored to improving physical capacities and increasing academic support. Further information regarding this course can be found in the College Bridging School Handbook located on the College website.

Please feel free to contact a member of the PE faculty with any questions and we look forward to seeing you there.

*Dale Argall, Health and Physical Education Coordinator (Isabella)*

### Mathematics Tutorials

Ms Sargeant will be holding Mathematics tutorials in the Wanniasa library after school between 3:20 - 4:15pm on Thursdays until the end of term.

*Frances Sargeant, Maths Coordinator (Wanniasa)*



### Bellchambers Music Tuition

Bellchambers Music School currently has some vacancies for lessons in piano, brass, woodwind, electric bass, and drums at St Mary MacKillop College for 2017.

Enjoy the convenience of having your instrumental lesson during school time with Camilo or Joy. Lessons are available on Thursdays and Fridays. The timetable is rotated to ensure you miss minimal school lessons.

Do you prefer lessons out of school hours? Bellchambers also offers individual lessons on weekday afternoons and Saturdays at the Philip Campus for piano, woodwind, singing, guitar, and drums. Also available are the early childhood classes on weekday mornings (ages 1-3) and the emerging musician courses (ages 4-7) in the afternoons and Saturdays.

For information, visit [www.bellchambersmusicschool.com.au](http://www.bellchambersmusicschool.com.au)

## Pastoral Care

Mrs Monica Bailey,  
AP Pastoral Care

### Mental Health

In recent weeks there has been much public discussion regarding the Netflix series 13 Reasons Why. The series outlines the reasons for the death of a teenager by suicide. A range of students of the College have had contact with the series. Included below is a link to a resource produced by Headspace on how to talk to young people about the content of this show to assist parent/carers in being well informed to discuss the issues that arise in the series: <https://headspace.org.au/assets/School-Support/Talking-to-Young-People-about-13-Reasons-Why.pdf>

### Year 7 Camp Parent Information

The Year 7 Camp Parent Information Evening will be held for interested parents at 6.00pm on Tuesday 23 May in the Wanniasa Campus Library (IRC). For some students the Year 7 Camp stirs excitement and eager anticipation for a new challenge; however, other Year 7 students may have anxieties surrounding particular aspects of the camp or the whole camp in general. The information evening will provide an opportunity for parents to receive an overview of the camp and address any general questions in order to ensure that the camp is accessible to all Year 7 students in a safe and enjoyable environment. All Year 7 parents are invited – please note that the evening is not for the information of students.



### Status Awards

Congratulations to the following students who were presented with Bronze Status Awards at last week's Try MacKillop Day Assembly:

Bronze Status - Zoe Barling (7A3), Caitlin Cawley (7F3), James Ginman (8E3), Jake Keen (7W1), Charlie Lang (7W1), Marcus Murphy (7A1), Jordyn Owen (7W1), Jack Peraic-Cullen (7E1), Tahlia Robinson (7F3), Thomas Straub (7AF), Holly Thompson (7F3)

### Parenting ideas

This article for parents, "Maintain a strong relationship with your teen," addresses the challenges parents of teenagers face in maintaining a good relationship with a young person while managing also their sometimes tricky and anti-social behaviour.





## Sports News

### Student Achievement

Georgia Bryant, Jenna Fisk (both Year 7), and Arabelle Eve (Year 9) have been selected to represent the ACT at the Australian Gymnastics Championships in Victoria at the end of May. Maia Ergarac (Year 8) has been selected as a reserve. Georgia qualified as the winner of the Level 7 section in the recent ACT Women's Artistic Gymnastics finals.

Lachlan French (Year 11) and Dale Haskew (Class of 2015) have been named in the Australian Junior Outback Gridiron team to tackle the IFAF Oceania world championship qualifiers in August on the Gold Coast.

Sebastian Kris (Class of 2016) has been selected in the NSW u18 State of Origin rugby league squad.

### ACT Swimming

Twenty one students represented the College at the School Sport ACT Championships on 1 and 3 May. All students achieved at least one personal best with many achieving in the top three in their individual events. Special mention to Rebecca Cross, Year 12, who represented the College for the last time at these championships, placing 1st or 2nd in all her eight events. As usual, the swimmers were a credit to the College. Thank you to all the parents and Tiana who volunteered to timekeep throughout the day.

*Cathryn Thomas, Teacher Librarian*



### Touch Football

On Thursday 4 May, MacKillop entered five teams into the Southside Touch Football Gala Day - 7/8 Girls, 7/8 Boys, 2x 9/10 Girls and 9/10 Boys. Out of the five teams, four made it to the Grand Final and have qualified for the ACT Touch Football Finals day to be held on Tuesday 6 June. We wish all of our teams luck on the day.

*Braden Longo, Sports Facilitator*

## Careers Opportunities

### La Trobe University

Experience La Trobe Days offer a taste of what it is like to be a university student for a day. These days are designed especially for Year 10, 11 and 12 students and their parents. Students can take their pick from interactive workshops, lectures and seminars run by leading academic staff. For details, and to register, go online to [www.latrobe.edu.au/experience-ltu](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/experience-ltu).

### Uni of Wollongong Info Night

An Information Night takes place in Canberra on 24 May. Learn about different study areas at UOW; hear about the academic, social, sporting, leadership and international exchange opportunities available on campus; and speak one-on-one with UOW Faculty staff and students. To register, visit [www.uow.edu.au/future/events](http://www.uow.edu.au/future/events) or call 1300 367 869.

### Technology cadetships

Are you interested in launching your career in technology and business? Applications for the PCA Technology Cadetships Program opened on 26 April and close on 16 June 2017. This program enables students to complete a cadetship that includes studying and working with businesses such as Westpac or the Macquarie Group. Studies would be in the areas of computer science, information technology or information systems. Alternatively, you may choose to study commerce or arts and intend to take a major in information systems. For more information about this program visit the website [www.etcad.com.au](http://www.etcad.com.au). Apply online and complete the Application Form and School Assessment which are both due by the closing date.

### Educating Adventures internships

EA Ski and Snowboard instructor internship positions for 2017 and 2018 are now open. For information, visit <http://easkiandsnowboard.com>.

## Performing Arts: The Musical



### Student Profile: The new girl in town - India Cornwell

*Hairspray Jr.*, a musical primarily about acceptance and cooperation among young adults, especially in the media, is being produced at St Mary MacKillop College.

A rather important role within the show is playing the main character, Tracy Turnblad, a very extravagant and accepting teenage girl that the plot depends heavily on.

India Cornwell, Year 12, is very excited to be portraying this character. As well as this musical, she is currently maintaining a job, continuing Year 12 studies and has taken part in an out of school production of *Les Misérables*.

When asked why she auditioned, she explained, "Mainly because it's my [final chance to perform in a musical at MacKillop] and I love the music in Hairspray... We had a really good variety of people auditioning so I knew it would be a great cast."

She wasn't expecting to get the role - so she is quite excited about it. "The show has a really good message ... and it's just a fun show to watch."

Although it may be most relatable for teenagers, it really is a show for everyone!

*Emma Martinello, Year 12 Journalism*



# Parenting *ideas* INSIGHTS

## *Building parent-school partnerships*

WORDS Michael Grose

## Maintain a strong relationship with your teen

How do you maintain a good relationship with a teenager? Here are two simple strategies to help parents hit the right parenting mark through this sometimes-challenging stage.

One of the biggest challenges parents of teenagers face is how to maintain a good relationship with a young person while managing also their sometimes tricky and anti-social behaviour. The balance between good guy and bad guy is precarious indeed.

There are two simple strategies, when used in tandem, can really help parents straddle this great divide. They are - following through and following up.

When used wisely and consistently they can help parents manage teenagers even during their more difficult stages while maintaining a respectful relationship.

### **Following through to teach responsibility**

'Following through' means doing what you say you'll do. If you say "You're grounded" yet then let a young person off the hook when they came home from an outing later than agreed, you are merely issuing a meaningless threat. Most young people know a meaningless threat when they hear one.

'Following through' is about taking parent action and the most appropriate action is the use of behavioural consequences. When young people behave poorly, irresponsibly, transgress family rules or someone's

individual rights, then the experience of a negative consequence teaches them that there is a link between their behaviour and outcomes. If this sounds high-handed then relax. It's how a civil society operates. Drive too fast and you'll receive a fine. Harm someone and hopefully you'll be issued with a suitable punishment that matches the offence. 'Cross a line and something happens' is the accepted wisdom in our community, in school and in family-life.

It's important that the consequence issued matches the misdemeanour. When we go too far - "you're grounded for the term" - then we generally get resentment. Not strong enough - "you should apologise" and they become ineffective. It also helps when consequences are related to the misdemeanour. Taking away a teenager's regular pocket money to remind him to come home on time defies teenage logic and will generally lead to resentment. Be mindful that a rational, logical approach is a parent's best defence against teen emotion.

The key to the successful use of consequences rests with how you implement them. If you issue them in anger (even though that's how you feel) then you are inviting a young person to challenge you. Implement consequences dispassionately

and calmly and you'll increase the likelihood of them being mad at themselves rather than mad at you. Nonchalance is a parent's best friend when it comes to managing the behaviour of highly-charged teens.

### **Following up to reconnect**

It's easy to lock a young person out emotionally following a behaviour meltdown or disagreement, particularly when they've said or done hurtful things. Once the dust has settled after discipline or a dispute then it's time to follow-up with a kind word, an enjoyable activity or even just a sincere smile. It generally takes the adult in the relationship - parents or teachers - to make the first move to put the relationship back on an even keel. It's smart to choose a time when you are both more relaxed to reconnect rather than rush to make up before either person is ready, which can make matters worse.

Following through and following up are a dynamic discipline duo when they are used together as they help parents straddle the good guy, bad guy line that seems to appear on almost a daily basis. Use one without the other and you'll come across as either too soft or too harsh. Use them in tandem and you're more than likely hit the right parenting mark.

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](http://parentingideas.com.au). You'll be so glad you did.



[parentingideas.com.au](http://parentingideas.com.au)

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