



MacKillop

St Mary MacKillop College Canberra



COLLEGE
NEWSLETTER

NO. **20**

14 DECEMBER 2017

In this edition.

Year 12 Results

There were lots of pleasant surprises as students picked up their results. Mr Lee has the details.

PAGE 2

Graduation

Year 12 have officially graduated from St Mary MacKillop College after celebrating the Graduation Mass and Formal.

PAGE 3

2017 Awards

Students have been recognised for their achievements and contributions at a number of end of year events.

PAGE 4



*Lord, may the Graduating Class know the comfort of Your love,
as You carry them through a life of Grace. Amen*

The Principal's Letter: Year 12 Results

Dear families, students and friends,

YEAR 12 RESULTS FOR THE CLASS OF 2017

Congratulations to the Class of 2017 who, in almost all cases, achieved well beyond their and our expectations in the pursuit of an Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) through their studies in a tertiary package. Congratulations also to every member of the year group who has received a Year 12 Senior Secondary Certificate and to the many students who achieved VET qualifications.

The students of our Graduating Class know that St Mary MacKillop College values the achievement of all students. From the most gifted and high achieving, those who participated in our vocational program, and the struggling student who has achieved their optimum through structure, quality teaching, and strong pastoral support, the Class of 2017 can be justly proud of their achievements.

Herein lies the much richer story behind the cold set of statistics such as medians, averages, and cohort size. As Year 12 students collected their results at the College yesterday morning, they were thrilled to discover that they had outperformed their own expectations by as many as three, seven, 15 or 16 percentage points. Many of the Class of 2017 are now reconsidering university choices and courses that before yesterday were not thought to be within their reach.

The senior studies program at MacKillop has therefore achieved exactly what it is supposed to – to meet the needs of every student and to do its best to ensure that every student outperforms their own expectations.

The Class of 2017 have demonstrated once again that all different kinds of strengths and abilities were to be found in their company. Our top ATAR of 99+, our lowest ATAR of 49, the 152 students in between, as well as the 146 VET certificates that were awarded point to a diversity and inclusion that this school sees as its strength.

Throughout their senior years of schooling, this cohort has presented itself as being numbered with young women and men of talent, substance, and character. I'm delighted they have achieved their best!

I make the following points:

- The top ATAR of the College again exceeded 99. This speaks of that student's ability, hard work, drive, and of the relationship this student had with their teachers. All of us are very proud of this student. This statistic also speaks to the fact that the highest achieving students can and will be found everywhere across the city.
- As a school that prides itself on being a Catholic school for everyone, I am delighted that, again, 146 VET certificates were awarded to members of our 255-student cohort. Only four colleges outperformed MacKillop in this area, each of them with much larger cohorts.
- 153 of 154 students achieved their predicted ATAR or more, with 87% achieving above their five-mark predicted range.
- 60% of the Class of 2017 pursued a tertiary package. This resulted in a full range of ATARs on our merit list.
- The College median, or middle mark, is up on last year, as is the number of those who received an ATAR of 65 or more.

In conclusion, congratulations to the Class of 2017 and to their parents, carers, friends and teachers who have supported them through the last two years of their schooling. I am gratified that the Class of 2017 has given us cause to be very proud.

Yours in St Mary MacKillop,

MICHAEL LEE
COLLEGE PRINCIPAL

STUDENT REACTIONS TO THEIR ATARS

Most of our students were thrilled with their results. Here are a few of their reactions to the scores they received:

"I'm going to miss coming to MacKillop because it's probably the best place I've ever been. I got way more than I was expecting. I want to go to UC to study Sport and Recreation and Exercise Science, and all of that is definitely possible now."

- Kyle, Year 12

"When I got my score I was like, 'Oh my goodness, is this real? I don't think it's real.' This is just so much better than I was hoping."

- Ingrid, Year 12

"I got ten points higher than I was expecting, so I'm pretty happy with that. I think it was due to my AST – my writing task was fairly high so that brought me up a bit. You can't ask for much more, the last two years of hard work have paid off, so I'm pretty stoked."

- Riley, Year 12

"I expected a score around 70 and ended up getting over 85. Before today, I was very nervous, but now I don't need to stress about it."

-Molly, Year 12



College News.



Graduation

The Class of 2017 has officially completed its time at St Mary MacKillop College after the Graduation Mass and Graduation Formal on Friday 1 December.

The day began with Mass at Holy Family, Gowrie, after which several students were presented with the College's Perpetual Awards. These awards recognise the outstanding contribution the recipients have made to the College during their time with us.

In the evening, students made their way to the Australian Institute of Sport for the Graduation Formal. Each student was presented with their portfolio and certificate of graduation from the College. They also enjoyed a three-course dinner and finished the night on the dance floor.

Congratulations to the Class of 2017!



College News.

Awards 2017

Students have been recognised for their achievements and contributions at a number of events at the end of 2017: The Year 12 Graduation Mass, Year 10 Awards Assembly, and the Wanniasa Campus Awards Assembly. Year 11 students will receive awards in Term 1 next year.

Congratulations to the following recipients:

Year 7

Mackillop Medal for Witness to the College Vision
Penola Award for Academic Excellence
Mackillop Sportsman of the Year
Mackillop Sportswoman of the Year

Chloe Arnold
Aaron Nguyen
James Smith
Chloe Arnold

Year 8

Mackillop Medal for Witness to the College Vision
Penola Award for Academic Excellence
Mackillop Sportsman of the Year
Mackillop Sportswoman of the Year

Samantha Urbaniak
Lilly Vassallo & Samantha Urbaniak
Riley Loughlin
Mara Brophy

Year 9

Paul Butz 'Omine Optime' Award
Mackillop Medal for Witness to the College Vision
Penola Award for Academic Excellence
Mackillop Sportsman of the Year
Mackillop Sportswoman of the Year

Darcy Kinsella
Julia Del Bianco
Darcy Kinsella
Benjamin Anderson
Abigail Taunton

Year 10

Mackillop Medal for Witness to the College Vision
Penola Award for Academic Excellence
St Mary MacKillop Award for Christian Leadership
All Rounder Award
Mackillop Sportsman of the Year
Mackillop Sportswoman of the Year

Ashley Scensor & Ethan Hamill
Amber Thornton
Madeline Barbic
Gabrielle Petersen
Christopher Caruana
Gabrielle Petersen

Year 12

Principal's Award
Sr Noelene Quinane Award for Academic Excellence
St Mary MacKillop Award for Christian Leadership
Jodie Higgins Caltex All Rounder Award
Tenison Woods Student Choice Award
Rohan Schultz 'Per Adua Ad Astra' Award
Creative Arts Award
Tegan Blunt Southern Cross Sport Award
Elite Athlete Award

Jack Adamson
Ryan Walls
Molly Philpot
Jack Adamson
Jack Adamson
Rebecca Stoddart
Natasha Brittain & Elsa Huber
Molly Philpot
Maddison Banks & Rebecca Cross





College News.



CAT Award Nominations

Mackillop has picked up an incredible seven Canberra Area Theatre Award Nominations for performances in the 2017 College Musical, *Hairspray Jr.* Congratulations to the following CAT Award nominees:

Best Costume Designer for a School Youth Production: Mrs Amelia Black
Best Youth Actor in a Featured Role in a Musical: Liam Jackson (Year 12) as Corny Collins
Best Youth Actress in a Featured Role in a Musical: Laura Evans (Year 12) as Penny Pingleton
Best Youth Actress in a Featured Role in a Musical: Sophie Highmore (Year 11) as Amber Von Tussle
Best Youth Actor in a Leading Role in a Musical: Noah Cairnduff (Year 10) as Edna Turnblad
Best Youth Actress in a Leading Role in a Musical: India Cornwell (Year 12) as Tracy Turnblad
Best Production of a School/Youth Musical: St Mary MacKillop College, *Hairspray Jr.*

More award nominations are to be announced next week, with the winners announced at the CAT Awards Gala Evening, which takes place in 2018. Congratulations to the cast and crew of the musical!



ASSETS

Year 10 student Gabrielle Petersen has been selected to attend the Aboriginal Summer School for Excellence in Technology and Science (ASSETS) for her outstanding achievements in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Gabrielle is one of only 105 students from across Australia to be selected to attend. Gabrielle will attend the summer school in Adelaide in January 2018.



College Create

Congratulations to Kieran Mala in Year 12 whose photographic series 'Heck' will be exhibited as part of 'College Create' at the Tuggeranong Arts Centre from now until the end of January.



PSG

In a previous edition of the newsletter, we listed our Pacific School Games representatives. These students represented the ACT (and MacKillop) at the games, which were held in Adelaide last week. Congratulations to these students!

Congratulations also to Mrs Cathryn Thomas who received a School Sport Australia Service Award for her contributions to swimming.



Vinnies Appeal

Thank you to all families that have kindly donated to the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal.

As well as donating gifts, Year 8 students donated over \$200 for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. On Wednesday 6 December, the Year 8 SRC used the donated money to purchase gifts for the Christmas appeal and even managed to have a quick photo with Santa.

Pastoral Care.



CSYMA

On Monday and Tuesday Year 8 participated in a CSYMA retreat program called Catch the Wave. We participated in a series of activities, talks and drama performances.

Some of the activities we did included charades which taught us that everybody is different and keeper of the keys which also taught that sometimes people need to sacrifice themselves for others, as Jesus did for us. We talked about how we are like a grain of sand, one in billions of people in this world, and although this may be the case we are also different from everyone else. We watched some drama performances, one called "Rip Up Hearts" and this performance showed us that there are people in your life that care about you, that can help you but Jesus is always there to repair your heart and make you feel better.

Year 8 enjoyed the CYSMA program and learnt a lot about ourselves and the impact that Christianity has on us.

Stephanie Brettargh, Isabella Coates + Isabella Wood

Year 8 students



Transition Days

The Transition Days in Week 9 to the Isabella Campus gave the 2018 Year 10 cohort the opportunity to ease our way to the changeover of campuses.

The transition was set over two days which helped us to establish relationships with our teachers and comprehend the layout of the Isabella Campus. The days are a great initiative and emphasised the importance of Year 10 as part of our MacKillop journey and the beginning of our senior experience.

We were given a timetable which helped us in understanding the structure of classes, expectations and new style of learning at the senior campus. House activities concluded the transition process and helped us to draw back to the support network of our pastoral care classes.

Transition is a nerve racking time but also an exciting one. Our time at the Isabella Campus eased the anxiety and we are eager to continue our MacKillop journey, on the Isabella Campus.

We farewelled Wanniasa last Friday, and ended an era, but we look forward to the new chapter of memories and opportunities.

Sophie Wayne

Year 9 student

Market Day

Market Day 2017 was a huge success with many stalls selling out throughout the session. A few of the fastest selling stalls include Goodberry's, Pick a pop, Nachos, Snow Cones, Hot Dogs and Zooper Doopers. At the conclusion of the stalls the students were lucky enough to watch performances by an all teachers band "well above standard", which featured Mr Lenarduzzi, Mr Lazzarato, Mr Lehmensich, Ms Disanayake and Ms DeAmbrosio. There was also a great performance by the MacKillop boys dance crew. The proceeds of the day will go to each of the four House Charities.

2018 Start Dates

Year 7 2018: Monday 5 February

Year 8 2018: Tuesday 6 February

Year 9 2018: Tuesday 6 February

Year 10 2018: Monday 5 February

Year 11 2018: Monday 5 February

Year 12 2018: Monday 5 February

MacKillop School Shoes

In preparation for the 2018 school year, many students may be in a position of needing to purchase new school shoes. The policy regarding school shoes is outlined on the College Website and in the Student Diary. An information page in this newsletter is designed to assist parents and students in clarifying what is suitable in order to avoid any confusion.

Parentingideas

The article below "A cool tool to reduce teenage risk" recognises the importance of providing opportunities for young people to demonstrate their ability to make smart choices, as a means of allowing them more authority over their lives. Increasing independence involves greater freedom to choose, which demonstrates trust and faith in their ability to make good decisions. The article suggests strategies for teens to prompt them to make smart decisions, particularly when parents or carers are not around.

Monica Bailey

Assistant Principal Pastoral Care (Acting)

Important Notices.

Want to host an exchange student?

In Term 1 2018, 23 students from MacKillop's Sister School, Institution St Joseph's, will be traveling all the way from Le Havre in France to Canberra.

The French Exchange students will stay with us for nine nights, from 21 February - 2 March 2018.

The College is seeking families who are interested in hosting a French Exchange student during this period. The opportunity is open to all MacKillop students and their families. It is a fantastic opportunity to meet someone from another culture and learn about their way of life. You don't need to be studying French to host an exchange student.

If you would like more information, contact Mr Peter Johnson (peter.johnson@mackillop.act.edu.au).

A big thanks to all the families who have hosted a student in 2017. The exchange program wouldn't be possible without the generosity of the MacKillop community.

Peter Johnson

Project Officer - International Programs

School Fees

It is now time to review all existing Direct Debit payments for 2018. If you currently pay fees by Direct Debit please email the Accounts Office at jayne.limbrick@mackillop.act.edu.au for a new calculation of payments.

Bpay calculations are also available for parents wanting to pay by this method.

Please finalise any outstanding 2017 fees immediately.

Michelle Predjovan

Fees Manager

Bursary Scheme

The ACT Secondary Bursary Scheme can provide financial support for students in Years 7-10. To be eligible, you must hold a Pensioner Concession Card or a Health Care Card with means tested 'payment codes'. To apply, or for more information, visit www.det.act.gov.au. Enquiries can be made through ACTSecondaryBursary@act.gov.au or by calling 6205 8262.

Michelle Predjovan
Fees Manager

Community News.

SOUTH TUGGERANONG KNIGHTS

The South Tuggeranong Knights Minor Rugby League Club is the local Junior Rugby League Club in the Lanyon Valley area. The club has teams for boys and girls aged from 5 to 16 and also runs a junior jousting program which is intended to teach basic skills to young children (aged 4-5) who are not old enough to play.

South Tuggeranong Knights is run by a dedicated group of accredited volunteers from our community. The club provides coaching and a safe environment for your son or daughter to make friends, play rugby league and have a lot of fun. You can register online now at <http://southtuggeranongknights.leaguenet.com.au/>.

The club will also be holding registration days at Lanyon Shops on 4 and 18 February 2018 between 10am and 2pm. For more information, or if you have any queries, please contact the club registrar via email at stkreg@gmail.com.

CANBERRA SCHOOL OF TENNIS

There are a number of camps during the school holidays:

18-22 December 2017: Christmas Camp

22-25 January 2018: Four day Camp

29 January-2 February 2018: Five day Camp

The camps include coaching, food and drink, and equipment with lots of activities and lots of prizes. Camps take place at Weston Creek Tennis Club and The Pines Tennis Club, Chisholm. Contact Robert at robert@csot.com.au or on 0432 118 204.

TEEN START UP

Teen Start-Up offers educational school holiday programs that encourage students to be curious, solve problems and extend their thinking. Our January 2018 program includes:

- The Science of Everyday (11 & 12 January 2018)
- Digital Design (15 & 16 January 2018)
- People Power (22, 23, 24 January 2018) – scholarships available

Visit <https://www.teenstartupcamp.com.au/> or call (02) 6163-8300 to find out more.

QUESTACON MAKER PROJECT

These holiday workshops take place on 23, 24, and 25 January. The workshops are Game Craft, Simple Subs, Floating Cranes, Crash Test, Ingenuity, and Rockets.

For information, or to register, visit <https://www.questacon.edu.au/outreach/programmes/questacon-smart-skills-initiative/holiday-workshops>

Christmas.

A Christmas Reflection

This time of year can mean so many things to many different people. For some, it is a deeply religious time, for others not. Yet it is difficult, at least in Western cultures, to overlook the influence that Christmas and its message/s may have on us, albeit that it has morphed into various forms.

Should we then cast dispersions on the 'modernisation' of what Christmas means? Certainly, there is justification in the criticism of the materialism that seems to have followed this "holy day" which in the English translates to "holiday". It is easy to lose its origins as we spend the better part of anywhere between 15-25 minutes looking for a parking spot while a Christmas song blares out something about this being the most wonderful time of the year, all before we have even entered the hallowed halls of consumerist spaces. But we need to consider for a moment, not the trap of such a superficial view, but rather the motive behind it.

Perhaps we also need to be cautious not to so quickly rush to judgement about the 'modern world' placing its own values on Christmas. To be sure the theology, deep symbolism and most importantly, the heralding in of the saviour of the world is not here to be questioned. But is this 'morphing' of Christmas a purely modern phenomena?

Let us consider Christmas at its source: Scripture. Mark and John do not even concern themselves with the birth of Christ; rather, and rightly so, their writings commence at His baptism. Luke's Gospel focuses on Christ being born in Bethlehem amongst shepherds and sheep. This would have sounded very disconcerting to those to whom he was writing at the time. Why would this Messiah be born in the town and surrounded by the lambs that were bred for sacrifice at the temple in Jerusalem? For Christians, the symbolism is obvious. And Matthew, in portraying Jesus as the new Moses, has His family returning from Egypt after persecution as refugees (perhaps some valuable food for thought for many in the western world regarding contemporary politics).

In the first few centuries of Christianity, the birth of Christ was acknowledged, but not overemphasised. Again, in the 19th Century English speaking world, the concept of Christmas had been 'on the wane' until Albert, husband of Queen Victoria, reinvigorated it from continental Europe, with a mixture of Christian and pagan symbolism. By the 20th Century, the United States again morphed it into a blend of all those things mentioned and added (or increased) a distinctly 'commercial' flavour to it.

So how and where then, are we to make meaning of Christmas? A relativistic approach where everything is open to interpretation? We should caution against that as well. It is both healthy and unhealthy to take on a post-modern and too sceptical approach that all truths are open to scrutiny. There are deep truths that lie within the meaning and message of Christmas. They move beyond the critique of History and into the realm at most of faith, and at the very least who we are that make us human, if faith is something you do not connect with the latter.

Christmas ushers in the birth of Christ, who came into this world so that "you may have life and have it in abundance" (Jn 10:10) and then so loved us loved us He was prepared to lay down His life so that we may have this abundance. But then Christmas also speaks to us of family, of love despite hardships or challenge, like the story in Matthew and Luke. And combining just some of these essential themes, Christmas speaks to us of love, love of our family and loved ones, and hopefully to those who also need our love. Perhaps in our modern materialist confusion its expression may get lost, but its underlying motive is where the heart of Christmas lies; that we long to give of ourselves, that we recognise the humanity in each other as a divine gift, one so significant that God sent His son to be amongst us to give Himself to us completely. Christmas focuses our mind's eye on the deepest and most precious aspects of our humanity; our capacity to think of others, of our individual and shared and innate knowledge of love and our desire to express that to and for others.

May you all have a very merry, loving and peaceful Christmas and may you see the face of Christ in everyone you see.

Jonathan Moyle
AP Faith Leadership





SIBLING DISCOUNT FORM

Catholic Education offers a discount on Tuition fees to siblings who are attending St Mary MacKillop College and one or more of the following schools:

- ☐ Merici College
- ☐ St Clare's College
- ☐ St Francis Xavier College
- ☐ St John Paul College

If you have a student attending any of the above Colleges, as well as having a student at St Mary MacKillop College, please complete the section below and return it to the Accounts Office for the sibling discount to be applied to your account in 2018.

Please note that you do not need to fill in the form below if all siblings are attending St Mary MacKillop College as they automatically receive the sibling discount.

If you have any concerns regarding this matter, please contact the Fees Manager on 6209 0147.

NAME: _____

Address: _____

STUDENT'S FULL NAME	SCHOOL ATTENDING IN 2018	Year Group 2018

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE ACCOUNTS OFFICE **ASAP**



St Mary MacKillop College

School Shoes

In terms of footwear, the expectation is traditional, black, leather, lace up, polishable school shoes. Suede shoes and black joggers are not acceptable for safety reasons. Elevated shoes and platform heels are not a part of the College uniform. The sole should be no more than 2 cm high and the heel 3 cm. Buckle shoes, canvas shoes, ballet shoes, cloth shoes, and slip on shoes are NOT permitted.

Traditional school shoes are leather, have a heel, a sturdy upper and a sole of sufficient density to ensure safety in the differing learning areas where students work.

Shoes which do not meet the College criteria:

- do not cover all of the upper foot
- are not polishable
- do not have a heel
- have a thin sole
- are not robust enough to protect the top of the foot





A cool tool to reduce teenage risk

by Michael Grose

Healthy teens generally want more freedom, while parents want to make sure their young people are safe. As young people grow and demonstrate the ability to make smart choices, it's a good idea to allow them more authority over their lives. Increasing independence involves greater freedom to choose, which demonstrates trust and faith in their ability to make good decisions.

Brain research shows that teenagers in the 13- to 18-year-old age group need help and guidance around decision making. The pleasure-seeking part of their brain tends to dominate the reasoning part of the brain during this stage ... and later as well.

Safe, fair, smart

Here is a cool tool to prompt young people to make smart decisions, particularly when you are not around. Give your young person these three questions to ask themselves to help them assess the safety and suitability of any activity or behaviour that they are about to participate in:

- 1. Is it safe?** This question helps them to assess risk.
- 2. Is it fair?** This question helps them to be sociable and consider others.
- 3. Is it smart** (and in my long-term best interests)? This question encourages them to think ahead, which isn't a typical teenager's strong point.

The safe, fair, smart tool needs to be used often so that will sink in. My three adult children can now repeat these questions verbatim as they were directed at them often ... regardless of the withering looks, raised eyebrows and shrugged shoulders that came my way.

Promoting independence in our adolescents is hard work for parents as we are always treading a fine line between being too protective and allowing young people more freedom. However, if young people are to learn how to make smart choices, we adults need to equip them with the processes as well as the opportunities to do so.



Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's the author of 10 books for parents including Thriving! and the best-selling Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It, and his latest release Spoonfed Generation: How to raise independent children.