



MacKillop

St Mary MacKillop College Canberra



**COLLEGE
NEWSLETTER** NO. 01
9 FEBRUARY 2018

IN THIS EDITION

MACKILLOP TURNS 20

Twenty years ago, the College opened its doors under the banner of MacKillop following the amalgamation of St Peter's and Padua.

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WELCOME TO 2018

Students had a smooth start to the 2018 school year this week.

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FRANCE EXCHANGE

We welcome exchange students from Institution St Joseph's at the end of the month as the College prepares for its visit to France in December.

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COMING

UP

MON **1 2** FEB

• Year 11 Parent Information Session

TUE **1 3** FEB

• Year 7 Parent Information Session

MON **1 9** FEB

• Year 8, 9, 10 Parent Information Session

THU **2 2** FEB

• Year 12 Interviews

MON **2 6** FEB

• College Photos (Isabella)

TUE **2 7** FEB

• College Photos (Wanniassa)
• Honours Assembly (Isabella)

THU **0 1** MAR

• Swimming Carnival

CONTACT DETAILS &

SOCIAL MEDIA



02 6209 0100



info@mackillop.act.edu.au



www.mackillop.act.edu.au



**PO Box 1211
Tuggeranong ACT 2901**



Mackinnon Street, **Wanniassa** (Years 7-9)
Ellerston Avenue, **Isabella Plains** (Years 10-12)



**www.facebook.com/
mackillop.act**



**www.twitter.com/
mackillop_act**



**www.instagram.com/
mackillop_act**



**www.youtube.com/
stmarymackillop**

PRINCIPAL'S

LETTER



Dear families, students and friends,

WELCOME TO 2018 – MACKILLOP'S FIRST 20 YEARS DONE!

Welcome to 2018 and the several hundred new students who are joining the College throughout each year group, particularly Year 7 and Year 11. Year 7, 2018 is to be congratulated on their swift integration into the school, quickly making new friends and gaining confidence as they make their way from class to class, teacher to teacher, embracing technologies and learning platforms, and making MacKillop their own.

Too many people underestimate Year 7. Over the previous year, they have been running their primary school. The little fish in the big pond concept limits Year 7's expectations of themselves and their place in high school. At MacKillop, we want each student to know they count and that their talents, ideas, and skills bring an energy and drive to the MacKillop community.

20-YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Catholic secondary education in the Tuggeranong Valley has been around as Padua and St Peter's long before the MacKillop enterprise was born 20 years ago.

To celebrate 20 years of MacKillop, the College is planning some events to mark the occasion:

- **The Opening School Mass:** Tuesday 20 March, 9:30am, Tuggeranong Basketball Stadium
- **Opening and Blessing of the Fr Julian Tenison-Woods Laboratories and the Providence Building:** Tuesday 20 March, 12 noon, Isabella Campus.
- **A brunch for current and former staff** will be held at Isabella on Sunday 18 March at 10:30am.
- **A parent and daughter and parent and son brunch** will be held in May and August. Dates and times are to be confirmed.

Another feature of the celebrations will be the launch of the revised College Vision Statement and the naming of the campuses after the schools by which they were previously known: The Wanniasa Campus will honour the name Padua and the Isabella Campus the name St Peter's.

NEW BUILDINGS AT THE ISABELLA (ST PETER'S) CAMPUS

The Laboratories and the classroom block represent a further \$10million investment in teaching and learning resources at MacKillop. This will take the College investment in building and refurbishment over the past 10 years to \$30million across the two campuses, some \$25million of which is school-generated funds.

Significantly, the College will owe zero dollars on any loan upon the completion of these two buildings. This has been a triumph of prudent financial management, successful applications for government funding for capital works, and the ability of the College to reallocate our own funds with Commonwealth funding towards technologies and the Trade Training Centre during the Rudd/Gillard governments.

On the back of a 3% fee hike last year, the College is in a strong position to continue to invest in further refurbishment and building as well as in professional learning for staff and more leadership positions for staff in target areas. The quality of the learning experience of students will continue to be the priority at this school into the future.

I would like to acknowledge the expert skill of the Business Manager, Mrs Louise Davidson, and her team as well as the College Board, whose wisdom and guidance has been key to our progress.

Welcome back to what is shaping up to be a significant year of achievement, advancement, and celebration for each of us at MacKillop.

Yours in St Mary MacKillop,

MICHAEL LEE
COLLEGE PRINCIPAL

"Welcome back to what is shaping up to be a significant year of celebration for each of us at MacKillop."

PRINCIPAL'S PRAYER

Lord,

Thank you for a chance to begin anew. To stand at the gate of the year with new vigour, plans, and resolve to build upon our strengths and to contribute to the Common Good, in Your name.

Amen.





giving thanks for 20 YEARS

20 YEAR CELEBRATIONS

As mentioned by Mr Lee, the College has now completed 20 years under the banner of MacKillop. In 1998, the College opened its doors for the first time, following the amalgamation of St Peter's Catholic College (Isabella) and Padua High School (Wanniassa). Originally known as MacKillop Catholic College, the school changed its name to its current version in 2010, when Mary MacKillop was canonised as Australia's first saint.

A number of events will take place for the College to celebrate our first 20 years, including the Opening Thanksgiving Mass and the opening of the new facilities at Isabella on Tuesday 20 March, as well as a number of morning teas for members of the community.

OUR FIRST 20 YEARS



▲ Students at the College's first Opening Mass in 1998.



▲ A social justice mission to the Philippines in 2001.



▲ The College's first Graduating Class - noticeably smaller than the cohorts of today.



An Easter Liturgy in 1999. ▶



▲ The College's five-year celebrations at the end of 2002.



▲ Maria Philpot celebrates 30 years as a staff member at Padua and MacKillop (2008).



▲ Students celebrating the canonisation of Mary MacKillop in 2010.



▲ The name of the College changes in 2010 to honour Mary MacKillop's canonisation.



▲ Students celebrate the end of the College's 20th year in 2017.



WELCOME TO 2018!

The College welcomed students to the 2018 school year this week, with Years 7, 10, 11, and 12 commencing on Monday and Years 8 and 9 starting on Tuesday.

The energy, positivity, and enthusiasm that the students displayed ensured a smooth start to the year.

Mackillop would like to particularly welcome the 400+ students who are new to the College in 2018 and we wish all students and families the very best for what should be an exciting year!





ST JOSEPH'S VISIT

The College is looking forward to hosting 23 students from our sister school, Institution St Joseph's, who will visit us from 21 Feb - 2 March. Exchange Students will be based at both the Isabella and Wanniasa Campuses during their time with us. They are here to experience Australian culture, improve their language skills and make new friends. Keep an eye out for them during their stay and please make them feel welcome. A huge thank you to the 20 MacKillop families who will be hosting a French exchange student.

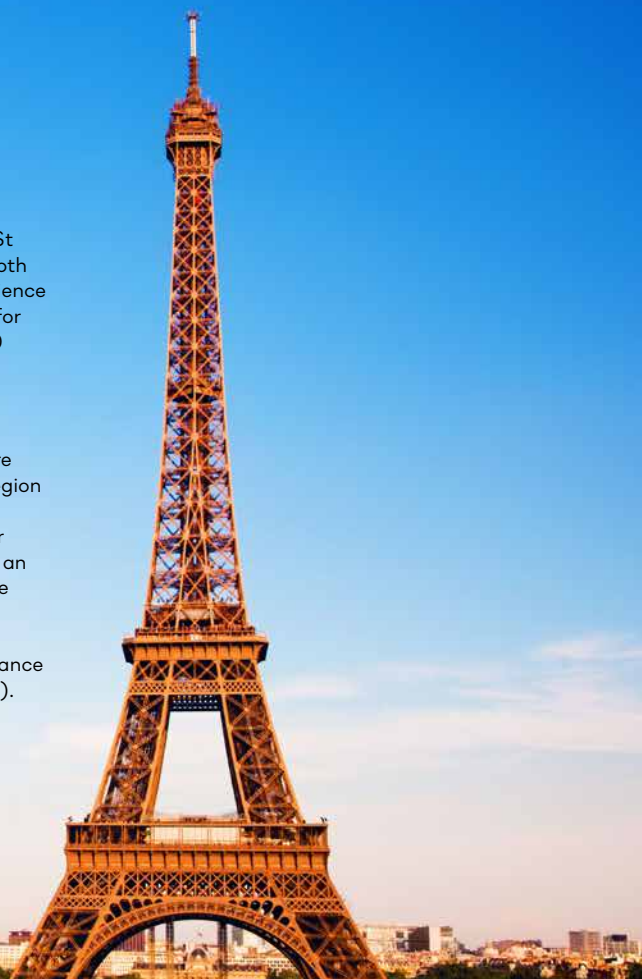
STUDY TOUR TO FRANCE

MacKillop is also embarking on our own trip to France later this year. The trip will feature the best of French culture, cuisine and history. Students will visit Paris, the Normandy region as well taking in the battlefields of the Western Front. Students will be immersed in the French way of life, spending a week living with a French family and making friends at our sister school Institution St Joseph's. Parents of interested students are invited to attend an Information Evening, held on Wednesday 28 February 2018 from 6pm. The venue is the IRC at the Isabella Campus.

For more information about hosting an exchange student, or about the Study Tour to France in December 2018, please contact Peter Johnson (peter.johnson@mackillop.act.edu.au).

Peter Johnson

International Programs Officer



PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS

Parents are invited to attend information evenings being held over the coming two weeks. Information relevant to each Year group will be presented at the Year 7 and 11 sessions. The Year 8, 9 and 10 evenings will be held in a new format this year with parents invited to the Isabella Campus to access information about different aspects of the College that they wish to learn more about. There will also be an opportunity for parents to meet with their son or daughter's PC Teacher along with the Pastoral Care Coordinators on each of the nights.

- Year 7: Tuesday 13 February, 7pm in the Theatre (Wanniasa Campus)
- Year 8, 9, 10: Monday 19 February, between 5pm and 7pm in the Library (Isabella Campus)
- Year 11: Monday 12 February, 5.30pm in the Library (Isabella Campus)

Sandra Dasley, Paul O' Callaghan

+ Lachlan McNicol

Campus Heads and AP Pastoral Care



PERFORMANCE+INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAMS

St Mary MacKillop has a rich culture of performance. Our elective classes of Drama, Dance and Music are a cacophony of vibrant sound and movement and the fountain of talent spills over into our Extra Curricular programs including Dance Fest, Acting Up, Concert band, College Musical and Variety Night Concert just to name a few. This year we are encouraging all budding performers to take one of the many opportunities to experience the exhilaration of being on stage with a live audience. Information regarding these programs will be delivered via Campus and Year group Assemblies and through student messages on CANVAS. Students and families are advised to keep an ear and eye out for notices throughout the semester.

Petrina Mansfield

Director of Performance





WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to the 2018 new school year. Students have settled positively into the routines of attending classes with a number of students commenting that they are pleased to be back at school after a long break over the summer. Welcome to the new families who have joined the MacKillop community this week. 340 Year 7 students commenced on Monday while there were an additional 65 enrolments across Years 8 to 11. We look forward to the energy and contribution that each of these new students will bring to MacKillop during their time at the College.

The Student Representative Council have already been engaged in planning for what will be a particularly busy Term 1. Worthy of particular commendation are the 14 student leaders in Years 8 and 9. These students gave up the last day of their holidays on Monday to engage in a productive day of planning and team building led by the SRC Facilitator, Mr Jeremy Margosis. They also provided assistance to the Year 7 students on their first day.

PASTORAL CARE TEAMS

Pastoral Care Teachers play an important role in supporting the wellbeing and academic achievement of the students in their PC Class. In the majority of cases, PC teachers have continued with the same classes from 2017 into 2018. The PC Teacher is usually the first point of contact for parents for issues of a general nature.

The Pastoral Care Coordinators who provide leadership and direction to each year group have written a letter of introduction to families this week. The Pastoral Care Coordinators this year are:

Year 7 – Mrs Colleen Kain and Mr Simon Kelly
Year 8 – Mr Steve Lowe and Mr Nathan Wood
Year 9 – Mrs Colleen Kain and Mr Phil Belcher
Year 10 – Mrs Kathleen Galvin and Mr Braden Longo
Year 11 – Ms Lyndall De Ambrosis and Mr Peter Johnson
Year 12 – Mrs Anna Keppel

The Directors of Student Wellbeing who work closely with the coordinators on each campus are:
Wanniassa Campus – Mr Paul Durham
Isabella Campus – Mrs Monica Bailey

ABSENCES AND LATE ARRIVALS

If students are absent from school for any reason, or arrive late, a signed note or parent email is required explaining the late arrival or absence. A proforma is also available for this purpose and can be downloaded from the College website:

<http://www.mackillop.act.edu.au/index.php/our-school/publications-policies/policies-forms/item/absence-proforma>

DROP OFF AND PICK UP

All parents, or others, who drop-off or pick-up students before and after school are asked to do so on the Basketball Courts at each campus. This is in the interests of maximising the safety of all students and road users at these busy times of the day.

Parents are requested not to utilise the streets around the campuses or the bus bays. Cars parked on surrounding streets combined with students crossing roads increases the risks of accidents that could potentially be avoided.

STATUS AWARDS

On the Wanniassa Campus, a Status System recognises, affirms and rewards students for positive behaviours. Students may advance to the levels of Bronze, Silver or Gold Status.

Students are issued with a Merit Point Card and encouraged to seek recognition for their positive contributions to the life of MacKillop through aiming for the progressions of Bronze, Silver and Gold Status. When students have met the criteria for each level an application form can be sought from their Pastoral Care Coordinator.

Congratulations to the following students who have this week been presented Status Awards at the Wanniassa Campus Assembly:

Bronze Status – Chloe Ball (8A1) and Ruby Glynn (8W1).

PARENTING IDEAS

A “parentingideas” article will be published in each edition of the College Newsletter this year. The articles provide a wide range of practical parenting advice on topical issues. These resources are provided to support parents with the challenges of raising their children, particularly through the complexities of adolescence.

The article in this newsletter addresses “Helping children who struggle with learning” discusses how the approach of a parent makes a difference in a variety of ways.

Lachlan McNicol

Assistant Principal Pastoral Care

ADMINISTRATION NOTICES

SCHOOL FEES

Term 1 fee statements will be sent next week. Fees are to be paid by 2 March 2018 unless paying by Direct Debit or other approved instalment payment method. 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 about how to download and register the App are available on our website and in this newsletter.

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

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 Predovan

Fees Manager

QKR! PAYMENT SYSTEM

The College offers a convenient way for parents and guardians to make various payments to the school. Qkr! (pronounced 'quicker') is a mobile payments app that enables parents to pay for school fees, excursions, ticketed events etc directly from their smart device. Qkr! accepts all major credit and debit cards accepted by the school (Visa and MasterCard), you can also register more than one card within the app. The Qkr! app is available from the Apple App Store and Google Play. It is also available online at <http://mackillop.act.edu.au/qkr/>.

See the flyer at the back of this newsletter for Qkr setup and troubleshooting.

Jayne Limbrick

Fees & Accounts



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. You can register online now at <http://southtuggeranongknights.leaguenet.com.au/>.

The club will also be holding a registration day at Lanyon Shops on 18 February 2018 between 10am and 2pm. For more information, please contact the club registrar via email at stkrego@gmail.com.

SMITH FAMILY SAVER PLUS PROGRAM

Can Saver Plus assist you with high school costs? Join Saver Plus and match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to \$500 for education costs including school uniforms and text books; computers, laptops and tablets; excursions and camps; sports equipment, uniforms and lessons; and music tuition and instrument hire. For information and eligibility requirements, visit www.saverplus.org.au or contact Kathleen Watson at kathleen.watson@thesmithfamily.com.au.

GIRLS' BRIGADE

GB Australia is part of a worldwide Christian movement that is committed to seeing girls' lives transformed and God's world enriched. To learn more, visit www.girlsbrigadeaustralia.org.au.

CANBERRA SCHOOL OF TENNIS CARNIVALE

The Ronald McDonald House Tennis Carnivale takes place on Saturday 24 February from 1.30-4.30 at the Pines Tennis Club, Chisholm. For information about the event, visit www.csot.com.au.

TENNIS CANBERRA OPEN DAY

Tennis Canberra invites interested students to the Old Parliament House Tennis Club Open Day and Summer Tennis Party on 17 February from 11.45am -2pm. Visit www.tenniscanberra.com.au for information.



For quicker, hassle-free school payments, try Qkr! today

Introducing Qkr! (pronounced 'quicker') by MasterCard, the secure and easy way to order and pay for school items from your phone at a time and place that suits you.

With Qkr! you can:

- Pay for school fees, uniforms, excursions and more;
- See your receipts on the app and get them sent by email if required.



Getting started is easy - try it yourself today

Step 1 Download Qkr!

on your Android phone or iPhone. iPad users can download iPhone app



Step 2 Register

Select your Country of Residence as 'Australia' and follow the steps to register

Step 3 Find our school

Our school will appear in 'Nearby Locations' if you're within 10km's of the school, or search for our school by name.

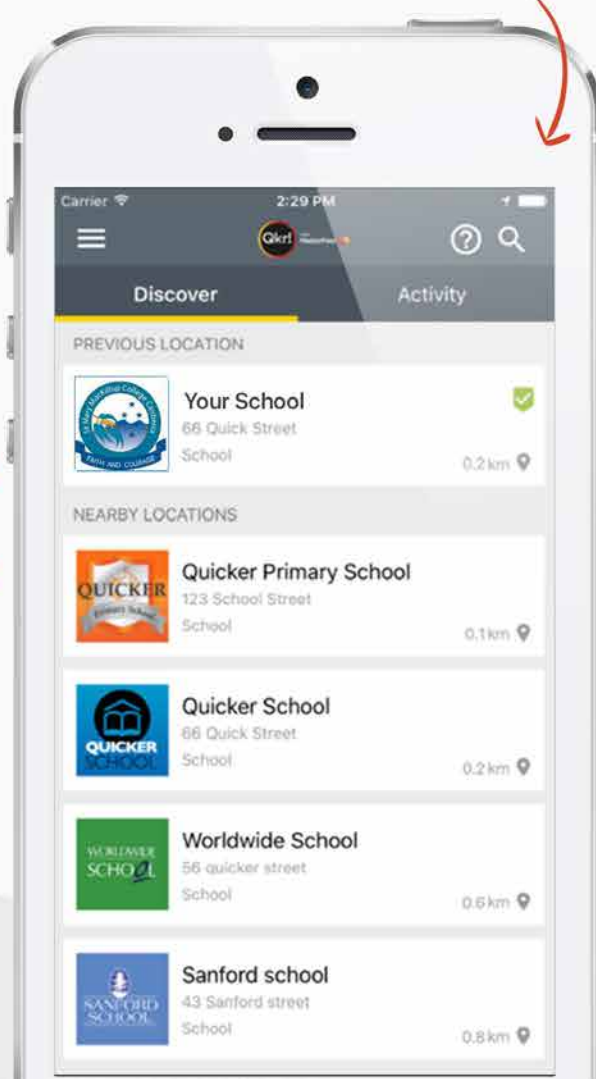
Step 4 Register your children

When first accessing our school you will be prompted to add a student profile for your child. This allows you to make orders and payments for them.

Search for our school name

If you have made a purchase you can select our school from 'Previous Location'

If you're within 10 kms of the school, you can select our school from 'Nearby Locations'



Add your children's details in Student Profiles

Select
'Add student profile'



Add each
child's details

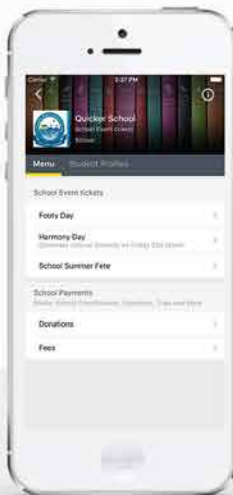


Manage each
child's details in
Student Profiles



Purchase school items

Select a menu
from our school

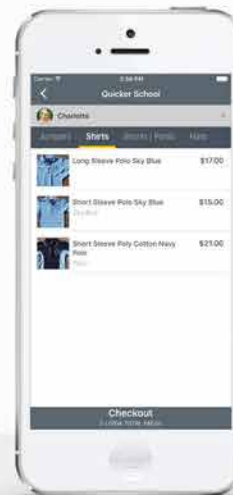


Select child
you are
ordering for



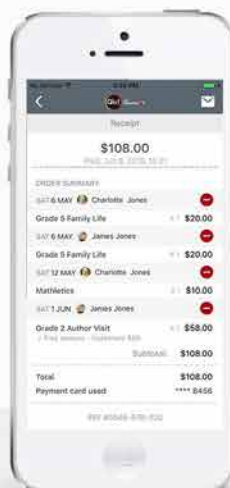
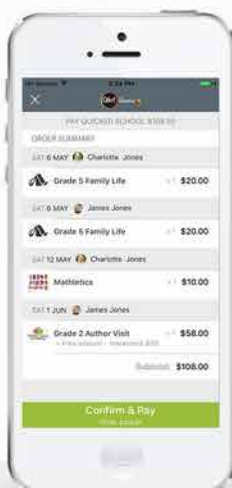
Select your items

Tap 'Checkout'
then confirm and pay



Making payments

Add up to 5 cards to your wallet



At checkout select which card to
pay with.

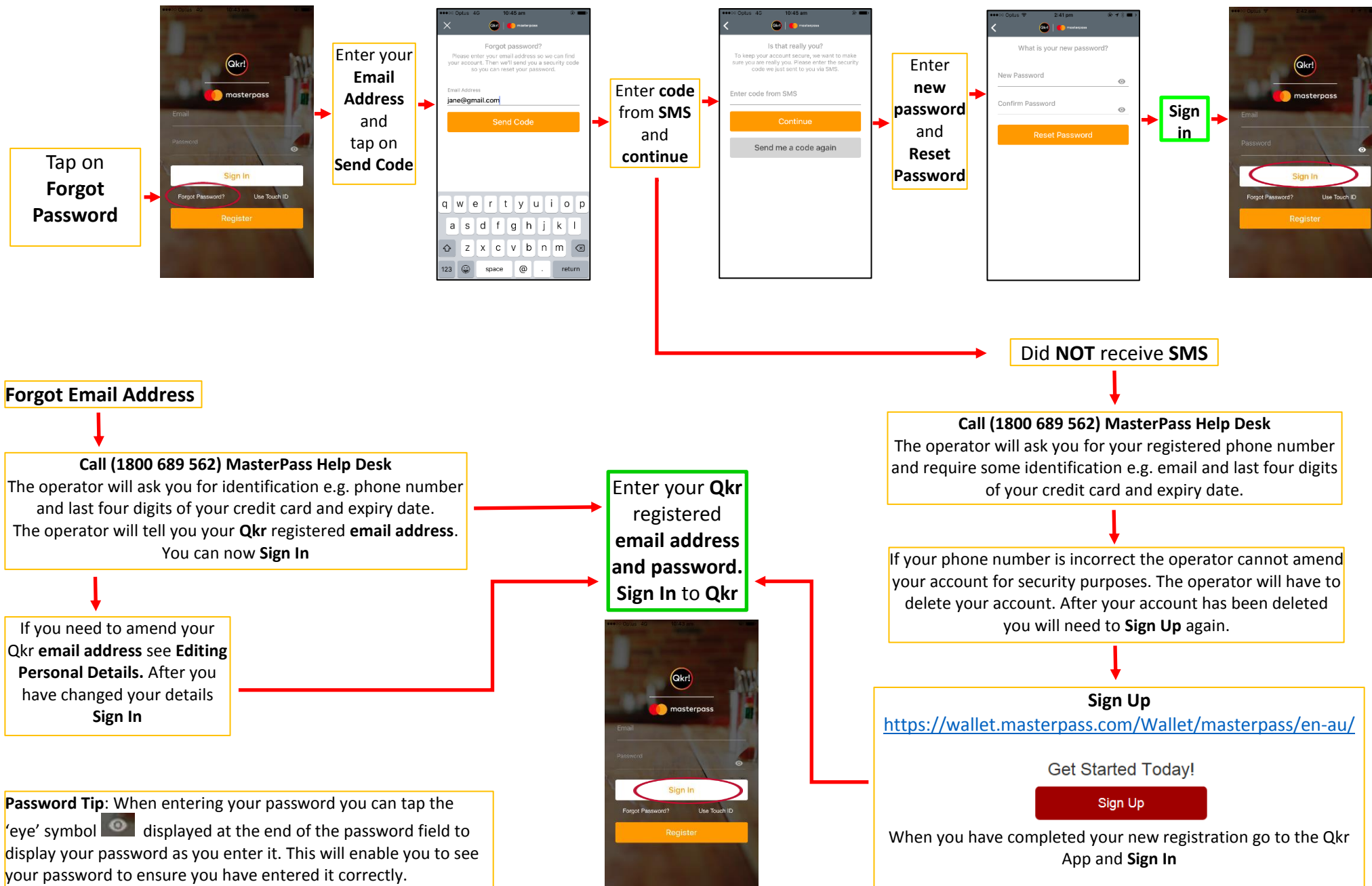
Pay with any cards accepted
by the school.

Once your payment is approved you
can continue to the home page, or
view your receipt.



Your Qkr Help Notes

Forgot Password or Email Address





Editing Personal Details

Use the following link if you need to edit your email, password, phone number & or security question.

<https://wallet.masterpass.com/Wallet/masterpass/en-au/>

Step 1. Sign In

Australia - English

Get Started Today!

Sign Up

Already have a MasterPass wallet?

Sign In

Step 2. Enter email and password

Sign in to your MasterPass

Simply enter your email address or mobile number and password to sign in.

☒ Email ☐ Mobile

Email address

Password

[Forgot your password?](#)

☒ Remember me?

Cancel Sign in

Step 3. Answer your security question (case sensitive)

MasterPass by MasterCard

Sign in to your MasterPass

Please answer your security question.

In what town or city was your mother born?

Security answer

A security answer is required.

☒ Remember this device

"Remember this device" is ticked as a secure method to identify your device, and will be used to speed up sign-ins. Deselect this box if you are signing in on a public device such as a library computer.

Step 4. Click on here.

MasterPass by MasterCard

Welcome back to your wallet, Jude!

Manage your payment methods, address list and much more.

Payment methods 1

Addresses 1

Loyalty programmes 0

Step 5. Click on MY ACCOUNT

MasterPass by MasterCard

Home

MY ACCOUNT +
Profile, settings, connections...

MY WALLET +
Payment methods, addresses...

Step 6. Click on Settings

MasterPass by MasterCard

Home

MY ACCOUNT -

Profile

Settings

Connections

Step 7. Edit email, phone number, password and security question

MasterPass by MasterCard

Settings

Language: English(AU)

Email address: susanr@gmail.com

Mobile phone number: AU +61 0428354752

Password: [masked]

Security question and answer: In what town or city was your mother born?

Offers and updates: Send special offers and promotions for wallet users and keep me informed of the latest wallet features. On/Off

Account alerts: We will email you account alerts and other important messages about your wallet.

Text message details: Message and Data rates may apply. Please note that choosing to reset a password via text message may also incur these charges. You may cancel messages at any time by texting "STOP" in response to any message, or texting "STOP" directly to "74520." To get help, you can text "HELP" in response to any message you receive or text "HELP" to "74520."

insights

Helping children who struggle with learning

by Michael Grose



Parenting is easy when you have a child who is talented and finds learning relatively easy. You can marvel at their performance and feel some measure of parental pride.

On the other hand it's frustrating and, at times, heartbreaking to watch your child struggle to attain even mediocre levels of success at school, in sport or in leisure activities. It's even more difficult if your child repeats a year of learning.

When your child has difficulty at school, your approach as a parent makes huge difference to their self-esteem, the relationship with their teachers and their attitude to learning.

Here are some ideas to keep in mind if you are parenting a child for whom success at school, or in other high-status areas such as sport, just doesn't come naturally.

1. Avoid using other children as benchmarks

Benchmarking your child's progress against that of other children is not a wise parenting strategy. Inevitably it will lead to frustration as there will always be a child who performs better than your own on any scale you use.

Each child has his or her own developmental clock which is nearly impossible to alter. There are slow bloomers, early developers, bright sparks and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom. It's the first group that can cause the most concern for parents who habitually compare the slow bloomer to siblings, friends' kids and even themselves when they were in school.

The trick is to focus on your child's improvement and effort and use their results as a benchmark of progress and development. *"Your spelling is better today than it was a little while ago"* is a better measure of progress than *"Your spelling is the best in the class!"*

2. Focus on your child's talents

Be mindful that many successful people including Bill Gates, Richard Branson and Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg struggled at school. Traditional learning wasn't for them. However they each had supportive adults in their lives who helped them find their interests and fostered their talents. Help your child see beyond any limits they put on themselves (*"I'm hopeless at school"*) to see the many other talents and strengths they have.

3. Develop a growth mindset

Recent research shows that people who believe they can increase their intelligence through effort and challenge actually do get smarter and do better in school, work and life over time. It's exciting to know that your child's talent and smarts aren't fixed. Their brain can always learn more, continue to grow and be stretched. Communicate a growth mindset to your kids by focusing your praise more on their level of effort rather than on their natural abilities of talents. Praise the strategies they use and look for opportunities to stretch their capabilities.



4. Be your child's cheerleader

Kids who have to work really hard to achieve need someone in their lives who is able to boost their self-confidence, particularly when they are struggling. Make a fuss over small successes so your child can puff up their chest every now and then. Many adults find it easy to encourage the kids who do well but balk at encouraging kids who struggle or find learning difficult. But it's these children who really need encouragement. As much as humanly possible, comment favourably about your child's effort, contribution and improvement in all areas of life. You can do it!

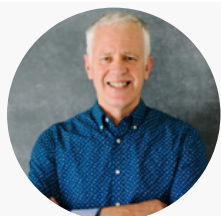
5. Increase their time in activities where they experience success

As a young teacher I remember when a father banned his son from playing football as his school results were poor. I was incensed. This boy found school learning very difficult and football was one area where he was able to shine. I suggested to the father that his son should spend more time, not less, playing football, as this was the activity where he experienced the most success. Children who struggle at school benefit from spending more time in environments where they feel confident and capable, as those feelings can eventually transfer over to other areas – including the classroom.

6. Be mindful that persistence pays off

Children who have to work hard and persist learn an important life lesson: that success in most endeavours takes effort. Those kids who sail through their childhoods without raising a sweat can struggle when eventually they do have to work long and hard to succeed.

Raising kids who find life a breeze is easy. However, parenting kids who take longer to mature, or kids that must put in a 110% effort to achieve, is challenging for any parent. Parenting a child who struggles, or has to repeat a year level, requires you to develop a growth mindset, focus on kids' strengths, be liberal with encouragement and have realistic but positive expectations for success.



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.