

College

Newsletter



MacKillop
St Mary MacKillop College Canberra



Volume 4 2019

22 MARCH

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL PAGE 4 • YEAR 11 RETREAT PAGE 5 • LENT PAGE 7 •
STEAM PAGE 8 • PASTORAL CARE PAGE 9 • SPORT PAGE 10

Coming

Up

MON 2 5 M A R

- Year 7 Immunisations

TUE 2 6 M A R

- Year 7 Immunisations

WED 2 7 M A R

- Year 7 Community Day

MON 0 1 A P R

- ThinkUKnow Presentation

FRI 1 2 A P R

- Last day of Term 1
- Easter Liturgies

MON 2 9 A P R

- Term 2 begins
- Parent/Teacher Interviews (St Peter's)

TUE 3 0 A P R

- Parent/Teacher Interviews (Padua)

WED 0 1 M A Y

- Parent/Teacher Interviews (St Peter's)

Contact Us

Contact Details



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Ellerston Avenue, **Isabella Plains** (Years 10-12)



Absentee Phone Lines

Years 7-9: 02 6209 5240
Years 10-12: 02 6209 0110

Socials



www.facebook.com/
mackillop.act



www.twitter.com/
mackillop_act



www.instagram.com/
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www.youtube.com/
stmarymackillop

Principal's

Letter



Dear families, students and friends,

CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND – AN ATTACK ON US ALL

Too often, our lives are interrupted and our security threatened with attacks of terror often perpetrated around belief, culture, and difference. Our initial response, although righteous and understandable, is often not our best response.

An education, a critical lens, enhanced self-reflective practice, and a moral compass, should not be our default position but should always inform our front foot reaction to events such as these. Our outrage and distress should provide impetus. In a democracy, our trust has to be in our institutions and those who uphold the rule of law and we can be confident that justice, understanding, and community cohesion will flow from this.

Just the same, the heartbreaking images and awful truth from Christchurch last week reminds us of the fragility that we all share. The towering example of New Zealand's Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, and her words, "they are us", is a lesson for us all.

STRIKE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Thank you to the parents and students that have written to me about the Student Strike for Climate Change. Your communication was shared in confidence with the College Board on Wednesday evening.

Congratulations to Olivia Boddington (Year 11) and her team, to Dr Tristan Burg (Head of Science – St Peter's), and to Mr Jonathan Moyle (Assistant Principal Faith Leadership) for their contribution to the protest and sit-in in the quadrangle last Friday.

Approximately 100 students chose to leave class and participate in the sit-in, and the response of the students was very warm towards the support provided by the school. The College Board has advised the school leadership to engage the senior students about ways to support their engagement with climate change into the future.

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Congratulations to everybody involved in the 2019 Athletics Carnival, held at the Australian Institute of Sport yesterday. Ngadyung (Championship) and Mindygari (House Spirit) were worthy winners and their spirit of endeavour was emblematic of the day. The Athletics Carnival recorded the highest participation rate of any of the previous MacKillop carnivals, which offers a strong indication of the health of school spirit and fraternity at the College.

Yours in St Mary of the Cross MacKillop,

MICHAEL LEE
COLLEGE PRINCIPAL

"The towering example of New Zealand's Prime Minister and her words, 'They are us', is a lesson for us all."

PRINCIPAL'S PRAYER

Lord,

We stand in outrage and sadness for our brothers and sisters of Islam, and particularly with the community of Christchurch. Help us to remember that difference strengthens our democracy and makes each of our lives richer. Ignorance and hatred never does.

Amen.

The College Athletics Carnival

Meup Meup's recent dominance at the College Athletics Carnival came to an end on Thursday, with Mindygari claiming the Spirit Cup and Ngadyung winning the Championship Trophy.

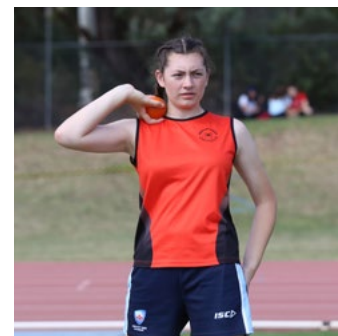
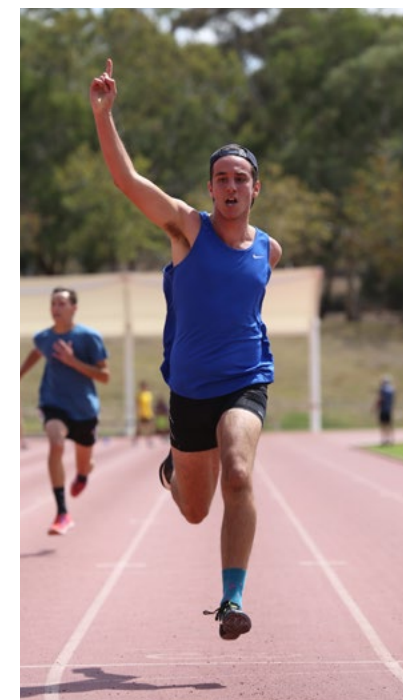
Held again at the Australian Institute of Sport, the carnival saw record levels of participation, unrelenting spirit in the stands, and displays of great athleticism on the track and in the field.

Mindygari led the Spirit Cup points tally from very early in the day, while Ngadyung had to come from behind to beat Meup Meup in order to claim its 11th Athletics Carnival Championship.

Despite the hot conditions, droves of students made their way to the competitive events or took part in tug o' war or Caritas Corner.

Students dressed in the House themes of outback Aussie (Gurabang), fire fighters (Meup Meup), thrift shop (Mindygari), and cops and robbers (Ngadyung). The high level of enthusiasm meant that any of the four Houses would have deserved the Spirit Cup, but Mindygari's determined spirit was too hard to match on the day.

Congratulations and thank you to Mr Matthew Crowe and the large team of staff and students who helped to put on such a memorable event. Congratulations to all students for the high level of participation, spirit, teamwork, and athletic prowess.



Year 11 Retreat

Earlier this week, Year 11 headed to the Jindabyne Sports and Recreation Centre for retreat. This consisted of two days and one night where we participated in many activities. When we arrived in Jindabyne, we were split into eight groups. We would then go in these separate groups to different activities. The activities included challenge ropes, mountain bike riding, initiatives, escape rooms, archery, rock climbing and disc golf. We also received free time during the retreat, which was good to be able to rest with friends.

After the activities were completed for day one, Mr Lee joined us for a Liturgy and addressed us as a year group. For our night there we ate a delicious pasta dinner. After dinner everyone gathered together for a difficult but fun trivia night.

The next morning was an early start of 6am. For breakfast we ate scrambled eggs on toast and cereal. After breakfast, we completed our final activities before heading back to Canberra. Overall, the retreat was a great experience bringing everyone closer as a year group.

Madison Lustri & Jordan Gilbert • Year 11



Unedjamacated a great success

Several students made their Canberra Comedy Festival debut alongside Mr Jeremy Margosis on Wednesday night, performing *Unedjamacated* in front of a full house. The show was a great success and the College has now formed a partnership with the festival that will provide Unedjamacated with a regular spot.

If you manage to read the newsletter in time, there are limited tickets available for the Friday night show at 5:30pm.



World Challenge Preparation

On Saturday morning the 2019 World Challenge Borneo Participants headed to Wee Jasper for their training expedition. With backpacks loaded the group set off on a 10km hike over steep terrain to their campsite. The team worked together to navigate their way to camp. On arrival the team set up camp and practised their bartering for dinner supplies. A lack of fuel could not dampen the spirits of a hungry crew. As night drew in a tasty green curry was had, cooked on the trusty barbeques, followed by some creative story making. Sunday saw the students rise and pack up as a united team. With new leaders the return hike commenced. It was an amazing two days in Namadgi National Park and the start of what is going to be an epic expedition.

The participants were Ben Thomson (WCE Leader), Andrew Brennan and Melanie Denmead (Supervising Teachers), and Year 11 students Isabella Allende, Ashley Bond, Timothy Breitkopf, Danita Brittain, Taylah Brussow, Alexander Daly, Kenan Dowden-Carlisle, Kiralee Eppelstun, Danielle Hewitt, Emily Martin, Evan Nelson, Madeline Nolan, Ellen Scott, Mia Tutty, and Troy Williams.

Thanks for a great weekend crew!

Melanie Denmead • Supervising Teacher

Defence Mentoring



On 12 March, nine Year 7 and Year 8 Defence students visited Birrigai Outdoor School as part of a whole of ACT Defence mentoring and resilience program. Students participated in rope courses, team problem solving and climbing (and falling) opportunities designed to challenge their mindset and encourage resilience. As part of this day, many of our students had the opportunity to reconnect with students from previous schools and previous postings, reconnecting friendships lost through the Defence posting and school change cycle. The weather and day was fantastic, and students enjoyed all the experiences and were very happy (and tired) at the end of the day. All of our Year 8 students have requested that we create a similar activity for the Year 9 and 10s next year! Mr Bowen would like to thank the students that attended, and congratulate them on their behaviour and their participation (and support!).

Are you a student with a parent or carer (including step parents) that are full time (or reserves on full time) members of the Navy, Army or RAAF? Or has a member of your family transitioned out in the last 12 months? If so, programs such as these are available to you. Come to one of our recess meetings for food and talks - watch for the announcements on Canvas.

Gareth Bowen • Defence Transition Mentor



Senior students donate their time to Vinnies

On the last Sunday in February, 52 students in Year 11 and 12 generously gave up their morning to participate in the St Vincent de Paul Doorknock Appeal. In two hours they collected nearly \$2000 from the local community immediately surrounding the St Peter's Campus. It was a fantastic fundraising effort and also demonstrated our solidarity with the Canberra community.

Well done to all those who gave of their time; something far more valuable than dipping hands into the pocket. Mary MacKillop would be very proud.

Jonathan Moyle •
Assistant Principal Faith Leadership

The Challenge of Lent

Around this time of year I think about a Lenten reflection for our newsletter. After all, the Lenten period leading to Easter is the most significant on the Christian calendar. As I sit and ponder this thing we call 'faith', it is difficult not to have a heavy heart given the terrible event that occurred last Friday in New Zealand. Innocent people were targeted at a moment when they were called to prayer in their tradition. It is nearly impossible to fathom how someone can justify this or other acts of extremism we have seen over the years, to further a cause they must believe in some capacity in order to perpetrate such heinous courses of action. In this climate, it is understandable our response comes with hate and anger and perhaps even the desire for vengeance.

Could I forgive what has happened? I'm not sure that I could, especially given the loss of innocent life, that those I know of the Islamic faith are beautiful people, not to mention that the country of which I'm proud to be a citizen is now inextricably linked to this terrible tragedy. It is a difficult challenge that the anguish seems to be more easily expressed through hate and anger rather than anything else which would endeavour to temper such flawed human characteristics.

So then perhaps this does not stray from a Lenten reflection after all. When Christ went into the desert he overcame human temptation. He taught us to "love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you" (Lk 6: 27-28), a concept with which even the apostles wrestled. His final act of unconditional love on Calvary was to "forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Lk 23:34). But this is the power of Christ, not just a man we might say. Yet consider as just one example that the first thing that Pope John Paul II did when he recovered from the assassination attempt on him was to visit his attacker in prison and offer forgiveness.

We are called to sacrifice our path of least resistance, of hate and anger, and instead face the greater challenge to fight these flaws with love, peace and forgiveness; how else can the cycle be broken? We are called to break through the white noise of social media, sensationalism and instant gratification and listen to the clarity of sound from the Creator of all. "Alone I am nothing, together we are everything" said the Imam Adama Konda to our Year 12 students recently. Amin brother. And Christ's act of unconditional love through his passion challenges us throughout Lent and at Easter to overcome what may at first seem an easy and gratifying path, but that which holds us back from truly understanding his resurrection and the offer of salvation for everyone. What a challenge this is in our world, and what better time than to work towards it during Lent.

As-Salaam-Alaikum.

The Lord be with us all.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, pray for us.

Jonathan Moyle • Assistant Principal Faith Leadership

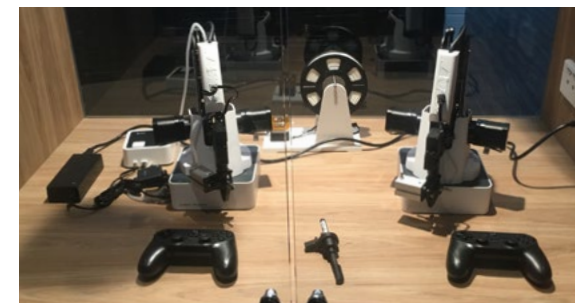
STEAM Report

Since the opening of Stage one of the STEAM renovations both teachers and students have enthusiastically engaged with a contemporary environment that is conducive to 21st century pedagogies. This can be particularly seen in the beginning of two new courses in Year 8. The first is focussed of software engineering and encourages students to use code with Arduino to create an innovative product. The second course deals with engineering around the manufacture of vehicles and aerodynamics as students design and create CO2 Dragsters. They also learn about engineering from western and indigenous perspectives.

This semester we have purchased UP 3D printers and have also acquired three new robotic arms. These Dobot robotic arms can be programmed or operated by students during their studies in Year 8 STEAM - DigiTech. They have sparked a lot of interest from our students and will provide them with an understanding of modern manufacturing and 21st Century skills for future employment and innovation.

Innovation is the central goal of the STEAM faculty. Staff and students alike regularly engage in discussions around current and future technologies. Leslie Loble, an authority in future technologies and Artificial Intelligence (AI), says that AI in education can be seen in software and platforms that provide situation-specific learning tasks. This can be seen in learning platforms like CANVAS and Education Perfect at SMMC. These allow the development of more personalised socratic pedagogies that engage students on an intellectual level. Currently in Year 8 STEAM - DigiTech we are supporting this philosophy with a change in the method and delivery of content and assessment through Education Perfect. Students use Education Perfect to review their learning and are quizzed on content that has been delivered in class. It can be viewed as a flipped classroom, in that students are engaging more with the content at home for homework and then engaging with the teacher and activities during class. Current research supports this process as it builds student self-efficacy and knowledge base. Therefore, providing them with the skills they need for an uncertain future with AI and access to limitless information and industrial opportunities.

Perry O'Connor • STEAM & PBL



MOST Telescope Excursion

On Friday 15 March, 14 intrepid students went on a field trip to the MOST Radio Telescope near Bungendore. They were awed as they stood next to the 1.6km long array as it rotated as part of its mission to map the sky in great detail. They participated in tracking the radio waves emitted by the sun as it passed overhead, and enjoyed seeing some of the science and astronomy career paths available in our local area.

David Henry • Science

Bullying, violence and videos of fights

Last Friday, 15 March, was the ninth National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. In response to the day, all students watched a short video featuring some of their peers. The video included a definition, stats, links to MacKillop's culture and encouraged students to take action by reporting bullying. The importance of reporting bullying, either as a victim or bystander, was discussed with students. The video is accessible to parents on the home page of the College website, www.mackillop.act.edu.au. Scroll down to the 'featured video'.

If you are concerned that your son/daughter may be the victim of bullying or offensive behaviour please contact the Pastoral Care Coordinators to discuss the potential support and strategies available to deal with the issue.

There has been a great deal of commentary in the Canberra media over the past week about videos of fights involving school students being published and circulated on social media. See the article from [ABC News](#) published this week.

At MacKillop, we give emphasis to the importance of respectful relationships and aid students in building skills in support of this. Therefore any incidents involving violence are taken seriously, parents are communicated with about the incident, consequences are put in place and restorative practices are utilised to assist in managing the relationships of the affected people into the future.

On page 10 of the Student Diary, Quality Conduct for Students it states "Seek the permission of a member of the executive to video or photograph at the College. Do not take photos or videos of people or send them electronically without their permission".

Our students are regularly reminded about the expectations of them in this regard. However, there have been instances where students have videoed or photographed other students without their permission and this has included footage of students involved in conflict. As reported and discussed in the media, when such footage is posted to social media, the impacts can be broad and long lasting. These matters are taken extremely seriously at the College and if students are involved in such behaviour, the conduct is considered to be as harmful as an act of bullying and violence.

MacKillop seeks to work constructively with parents to ensure the safety of all members of our school community. If necessary the College works with the eSafety Commissioner and the Police in managing the issues.

Parents can assist by speaking with your sons or daughters about the effects that recording and uploading footage of other people can have and by reporting any concerns to the College.

Cyber Safety & Security Presentation

A presentation specifically for parents/carers to learn more about young people and the online environment, and how you can help them to be safe and responsible users of technology will be held at MacKillop on Monday 1 April, at 6.00pm in the Theatre at the Padua Campus. More information is on page 12.

Chewing Gum

All students have been reminded this week that chewing gum is not permitted at school. If students are chewing gum at school they will be reminded about this rule. After school detentions will be issued to repeat offenders.

Status Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have been presented Status Awards at the Wanniasa Campus Assembly:

Bronze Status:

Shiina Fearn 7E3, Mason Gourlay 7F3, Stuart Luther 7E1, Luca Pettit 7W3, Leah Reilly 7E1, Oliver Renda 7F3, Anastasia Symlova 7E3, Mia Vecera 7A2, Sienna Wilde 7E3

Silver Status:

Jake Keen 9W1

Lachlan McNicol • Assistant Principal Pastoral Care



Rugby Sevens

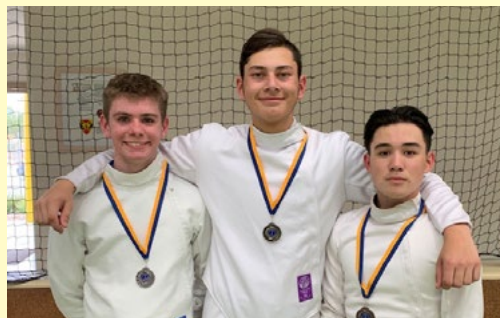
The College was well represented at the Brumbies Rugby 7's competition last Friday. We had over 50 students in attendance. While both the Year 7/8 and 9/10 boys' teams made it to the finals, it was the 7/8 and 9/10 MacKillop girls' teams that were able bring back the trophies.

It was a highly successful day, strongly coached and mentored by teachers: Edward Larkin, Joel Coates, Melanie Denmead and Timothy Spry.

Matthew Crowe • Sports Facilitator

Engarde News

Over the long weekend Oliver Bryson (Year 11), Liam Purss (Year 11) and Benjamin Crowley (Year 9) competed in the ACT Fencing U17 State Championships. Oliver won three gold medals across all weapons, winning gold in Epee, Foil and Sabre. Liam won a silver medal in Epee and Benjamin won bronze medals in Epee, Foil and Sabre.



Senior Girls' League Tag

On Thursday 14 March we had 16 senior girls represent the College at the NRL League Tag Competition. The team represented the College very well. They played with integrity, sportsmanship and a high level of competitiveness. The girls even played for opposing teams that were short on players.

We received a kind email after the competition from the coach of another school's team: *"Your girls were fantastic! I just wanted to let you know how grateful the Dickson College girls were and how well your girls represented MacKillop yesterday."* – Dickson College Coach

Matthew Crowe • Sports Facilitator

Student Achievement

Monique Hilborn, Katie Williams, Keira Polmanteer (Year 8), and Sophie Tindale (Year 9) will represent the ACT at the National Hockey Championships in Sydney next month.

New ACTION School Bus Network

The ACT Government is introducing a new public transport network for Canberra for the beginning of Term 2, 2019. Students who use public transport will need to be aware of the following changes:

- The change to services will include dedicated school services for the commencement of Term 2 on 29 April 2019.
- The new timetable information is now available online.
- The Transport Canberra Journey Planner is available at:
www.transport.act.gov.au
- You can view all the different services available for St Mary MacKillop College (listed under 'S') in the A-Z listing:
www.transport.act.gov.au/getting-around/new-network/schools/schools-a-z-listing

You can also find other information about the changes at www.transport.act.gov.au which provides information about how to use the new integrated public transport network, including information about student safety, fares and ticketing and maps.

Lachlan McNicol • Assistant Principal Pastoral Care

School Fees

Fees for Term 1 should now be finalised unless paying by Direct Debit or other approved arrangement. Any outstanding fees should be paid immediately.

It is most important that you notify the College regarding any changes to your email address as this is our primary form of communication.

If you require more information regarding Direct Debit arrangements or other approved payment methods or are experiencing difficulty paying the fees please contact the Fees Office.

Michelle Predovan • Fees Manager

Apology & Correction

The College is developing opportunities for acceleration of study, which is negotiated between the school, parents, and the students. Mykal Marsham and other students took part in this in 2018 and Mykal was awarded a Penola Faculty Award for Mathematics at our Honours Assembly late last month. At this assembly, the College failed to recognise that his award had been achieved at Year 11 level whilst he was a Year 10 student - although this was mentioned for other students who achieved this feat. I regret that Mykal's achievements were not more accurately acknowledged at the assembly. Congratulations to Mykal upon this splendid achievement.

Michael Lee • College Principal

Community News

SMITH FAMILY SAVER PLUS

The Smith Family Saver Plus matches savings, dollar for dollar, up to \$500 for school costs. To find out more, visit saverplus.org.au.

WOMEN IN FOOTBALL GALA DAY

Woden-Weston Football Club will be holding the Women in Football Gala Day on Sunday 24 March at Melrose Synthetic Enclosed. All welcome! The day runs from 1pm to 6:30pm and includes a number of activities, prizes, giveaways, workshops, food, and entertainment. For more information, please see the [flyer](#).

PARENTLINE: 6287 3833

Being a parent is the hardest job we'll ever have. All parents at some time experience difficulties and stress. Parentline ACT is a confidential and free telephone and face-to-face counselling and information service. Call Parentline ACT Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm.



**THINK
U
KNOW**
.org.au



MacKillop
St Mary MacKillop College Canberra

Comfortable talking to your kids about technology and the internet?

St Mary MacKillop College invites parents, carers, and teachers to the

ThinkUKnow Cyber Safety & Security Presentation

Date: **Monday 1 April 2019**

Time: **6:00PM**

Venue: **Padua Campus Theatrette (Mackinnon Street, Wanniasa)**

RSVP: Please confirm your attendance to **events@mackillop.act.edu.au**

Attendance is free of charge.

ThinkUKnow Australia is a cyber safety education program that educates parents, carers and teachers of how people are using technology, the challenges they may face online, and how to help them overcome these in a safe and ethical way. ThinkUKnow Australia is a partnership between the Australian Federal Police, Microsoft Australia, Datacom and the Commonwealth Bank.

The presentation will be delivered by a local law enforcement member and an industry volunteer. The presentation covers issues relating to children and young peoples' privacy and security online, their relationships with other users and their online reputation. It provides insight into the devices young people are using, as well as the popular websites, apps and social networking sites they're accessing.

This is a fantastic opportunity for you to learn more about young people and the online environment, and how you can help them to be safe and responsible users of technology.

For more information, you can visit the ThinkUKnow Australia website:

www.thinkuknow.org.au

insights

Responding constructively to the Christchurch shooting

by Michael Grose



Last Friday's shooting of innocent people in two Christchurch mosques is an event that has shaken people to the core worldwide.

While we'd like to protect our children from such events, in reality it's impossible, as the news coverage is so widespread and the event itself has impacted so many people. The personal nature of this particular tragedy makes it even harder to stomach than some recent natural disasters that have made the news, as awful as they have been.

So how do you approach this with your children? There is no easy answer, but be assured that your child will benefit from talking to you. These ideas may help:

Be available

Let your child or young person know that it is okay to talk about the events in Christchurch. Listen to what they think and feel. By listening, you can find out if they have misunderstandings, and you can learn more about the support that they need. You do not need to explain more than they are ready to hear, but be willing to answer their questions.

Filter the news

While we don't advocate censorship, we do suggest that you take particular care about your child's exposure to news events. The consistency of images can be frightening for young children who don't understand the notion of distance and have difficulty distinguishing between reality and fiction. Older children and teenagers will probably be interested in the news events, but they probably need an adult available to answer their questions and reassure them.

Engage in the news with older children

Many issues are now arising from this event that may be of significant interest to older primary-aged children and teenagers. Be prepared to engage in discussions about political leadership, gun laws, the coverage of the event itself by the media and other issues that will emerge. Increasingly, young people are demonstrating that they want to have a voice in shaping the world they live in. Give them a chance to air their concerns and formulate their ideas in the safe confines of home.

Manage emotions raised

The Christchurch tragedy may raise many emotions for children and young people including sadness over the loss

of life, confusion over how such an event could happen, and outrage over injustice. Take your cues from your children and follow the threads that emerge. Demonstrate that you understand how that they may be upset and clarify their emotions if possible: “It’s understandable to be angry when you hear news like this.”

Moderate your language

Currently, we live in very divisive times. The fact that this shooting was carried out on one particular group demonstrates just the extent of the divisiveness of our community. Encourage kids to be inclusive, steering clear of valued-laden, extreme language such as ‘terrorists’, ‘evil’ and ‘horrors’ when describing the events and the alleged perpetrators. Not only does this type of language encourage children and young people to take a position rather than focus on the problems, it risks desensitising them to the reality of the impact of this event. The use of more sedate, yet descriptive language such as ‘gunman’, ‘awful’ and ‘tragedy’ can take remove the emotional sting, while demonstrating the enormity of the event’s impact.

Keep to a normal routine

Your child may feel powerless. You may feel the same way as that’s what events like the Christchurch shooting does to us. Maintaining the same sleeping, eating and daily routines can help to restore a sense of control over our daily lives.

Show them how to change the world

Arguably, these are the worst of times in terms of social divisiveness. Our children in many ways are letting us know that they don’t want to continue living this way. So how can they have an impact? Recently a timely clue came my way in the form of a notification from Facebook. Over the weekend, a parent shared an existing message to her Muslim friends as a message of hope. The quote reads:

“Don’t become too pre-occupied with your child’s academic ability, but instead teach them to sit with those sitting alone. Teach them to be kind. Teach them to offer help. Teach them to be a friend to the lonely. Teach them to encourage others. Teach them to think about other people. Teach them to share. Teach them to look for the good. This is how they will change the world.”

We get that power back when we start to impact the people around us in small ways, making positive changes for the better.

‘Kindness’, ‘helping others’, ‘encouraging’, ‘sharing’ and similar concepts don’t make great political slogans but they form the basis of every strong community- which is precisely what kids need.



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*.