

College

Newsletter



MacKillop
St Mary MacKillop College Canberra



Volume 16 2020

17 DECEMBER

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Coming

Up

THU 1 7 D E C

• College closes for 2020

WED 2 7 J A N

• Front Office reopens

MON 0 1 F E B

• Years 7, 10, 11, 12 commence

TUE 0 2 F E B

• Years 8 and 9 commence

Contact Us

Contact Details



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)



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/
mackillop_act



www.youtube.com/
stmarymackillop

Principal's Letter



Dear Lord, We pray in thanksgiving for the end of the year, for strengthening us through Your love in all the challenges we have overcome. Amen.

Dear Parents, Teachers and Students,

YEAR 12 RESULTS

Congratulations to the Class of 2020 who have exceeded expectations (for many of them their own) with their Year 12 results.

Here are some of the statistics:

Top ATAR:	99.55 (Mykal Marsham), followed by 99.15 (Caitlyn Williams)
Students over 90:	20
Students over 80:	48
Students over 70:	81
Students seeking an ATAR:	137
VET Certificates issued:	55 Vocational Qualifications and 162 Statements of Attainment
Students who achieved above their estimate:	100% of ATAR seekers
Senior Secondary Certificates issued:	100% (230/230)

Some points to remember:

- MacKillop is a co-educational Catholic school with a fully comprehensive enrolment policy – all kinds of students come to our school, which is a strength.
- The Dux is again a boy but the Top 20 ATARs at MacKillop are shared between 11 male and nine female students – co-education works in so many ways!
- MacKillop's approach to supporting students in Years 11 and 12 during COVID-19 lockdown has been proven correct: supporting safety and prioritising learning; relying on relationships between teachers and students to challenge, support, motivate, and encourage students; sustaining our assessment programs; seeking and actioning feedback from students, parents, and teachers; and maintaining a sense of urgency and humour.
- MacKillop's program of targeting and accelerating Year 10 students into Year 11 and 12 courses, particularly in Religious Education, set a standard of expectation and gave students course and package options in Semester 1 and 2 of Year 12.
- MacKillop has a stable and talented group of teachers who undertake extensive professional learning for edge and renewal.
- Investment of fees and resources into mentoring, the Learning Commons, and student support provides students with critical academic advice and a more individualised approach to successful learning.
- The College's commitment to recognising all kinds of success, not just high ATARs, builds collective efficacy, confidence, and authentic diversity among the cohort.
- MacKillop's Trade/VET facilities are outstanding and we issued a large number of VET certificates despite the impact of COVID.
- This is now the third consecutive year that a MacKillop student has been accepted into NIDA.
- Two students topped their ANU H Course (Caitlyn Williams – Astrophysics, Mykal Marsham – Specialist Maths)

IMPACT OF UNIVERSITY EARLY ENTRY OFFERS

This year, ANU made a large number of early entry offers to students across the colleges in the ACT. For the first time, this was done prior to students sitting the AST – critical to ATAR calculation. Many Canberra principals were concerned about students' continued desire to work hard given they had received entry into the course of their choice. This seems to have had little impact on our cohort, given that each student has achieved an ATAR beyond expectations.

Congratulations to Year 12 on all their achievements over the past six years here at MacKillop.

I wish all families and safe and Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season.

MICHAEL LEE
COLLEGE PRINCIPAL

Student Reactions to Year 12 Results



MYKAL MARSHAM

"I'm quite happy. It's nice to have some validation for the hard work that I've put in and I want to thank the staff for their hard work, too. Next year, I'm going to go to university to do a research degree in Maths and Computer Science, which should be fun."



CAITLYN WILLIAMS

"I was kind of in shock – I wasn't expecting it. Next year I'm going to do Politics, Philosophy, and Economics, maybe with Law as well. I'm glad I chose to come to MacKillop. I really enjoyed it and I had so many opportunities. The teachers really made a difference, and I feel like I wouldn't have done so well without their help."



RHYS PARRITT

"I'm pretty psyched. I was really hoping for a score like this and I'm really looking forward to my opportunities in the future. I'm likely to get into the courses I want, like Computer Science and Commerce. We did well thanks to the mentoring we went through, extra classes, being told what we needed to work on, and focusing on our weaknesses in the workshops."



SABINA MORGAN

I checked my ATAR and I cried – but they were happy tears! For the past two years, I've had '90+ ATAR' written on my wall as a goal. I love learning and I knew that I wanted to do the best I could, and my teachers encouraged me all the way. It's been a really good two years and I'm so happy with how it ended. Next year, I will study a Bachelor of Science and Italian."



JAKE KALLESKE

"I'm feeling really good...I got 95.65! I really wanted to get 90, so it's a really good day. I got there with hard work and great teachers – they're the most important thing. With hard work and a great environment around you, you can do absolutely anything! My plan for next year is to study Psychology."



ANNA HOANG

"I was really shocked. When I opened my ATAR, I screamed! I'm around 10 points higher than I expected. It has 100% changed what I can do next year – I will look at doing something in Business or Finance at ANU. I'm very excited that I got more than I expected, I'm very proud, and I'm excited for life!"



LUKA FILIPOVIC

"I definitely did better than I expected – over 10 points compared to earlier estimates. I think it might have been a bit of a wakeup call for me with how much study I would need to do, so I spoke to my teachers about what I needed to do and I put in the work. I got an early offer from ANU for Science but now I'm considering studying Computer Science."



ASHLEY BOND

"I'm very happy – my score is six points above my estimate and I got the score that I wanted. I already had an unconditional offer at ANU to do Medical Science, but it was just more of a personal goal to get an ATAR in the 90s, I just really wanted that so I'm very happy. I definitely put the work in for it so I'm glad I got there in the end."



OLIVER BRYSON

"I am very excited to have been accepted into NIDA. I will be studying a Diploma of Live Production and Technical Services, to build on the knowledge I gained at MacKillop. I will be immersed in a range of live productions including theatre, dance, opera, concerts and festivals. I plan to travel the world, working on live productions with large touring companies."

Year 12 Perpetual Awards



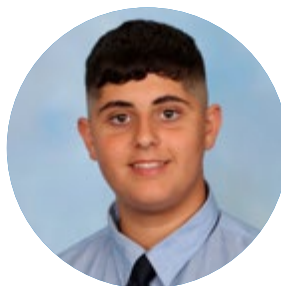
Mykal Marsham

SR NOELENE QUINANE AWARD
FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



Ben Walker

TENISON WOODS STUDENTS'
CHOICE AWARD



George Arrouk

ST MARY MACKILLOP AWARD
FOR CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP



Anna Hoang

JODIE HIGGINS CALTEX BEST
ALL-ROUNDER AWARD



Mahaba Alagrab

ROHAN SCHULTZ 'PER
ARDUA AD ASTRA' AWARD



Ellen Brown

TEGAN BLUNT SOUTHERN
CROSS SPORT AWARD



Stewart Barton

ST MARY MACKILLOP COLLEGE
CREATIVE ARTS AWARD

The Principal's Award was given to the entire Class of 2020

Annual Awards Years 7-10

YEAR 7

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

Emiliana Fisher & Hima Pynadath
Cooper Lovekin
John deMamiel
Meaghan Scott

YEAR 8

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

Zara Huber
Zara Huber
Sidney Street
Mia Vecera

YEAR 9

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

Freia Huber
Freia Huber
Kristelle McGowan
Joshua Urbaniak
Brenna Trussler

YEAR 10

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

Natalie Beere
Efthymios Londos
Neika Henson
Clare Levings
Toby Jordan
Chloe Arnold
Zoe Barling



Year 12 Graduation

Year 12 Graduation took place on 4 December. Restrictions forced the College to alter its usual graduation events for the Class of 2020. Rather than celebrating the Graduation Mass at Holy Family, it was held in the Padua Campus Gymnasium, which enabled parents and carers to join us in person or via live stream.

The Formal in the evening was also held at MacKillop - this time in the St Peter's Campus Gymnasium. Despite limiting the event to MacKillop Year 12 students and PC teachers only, it was still a great event!





End of year events

The end of the year is such a busy term here at MacKillop – not only is Term 4 the shortest term, but we've also got so much on!

Year 10 crammed a lot into their last few weeks of school, with a Community Day, Reflection Day, Sport and Leadership Day, Charity Day, and Awards Assembly.

At the Junior Campus, Years 7-9 paused to celebrate with Market Day on 3 December, before the Community Day, Mass, and Awards Assemblies on the final two days of the school year.



Sustainability Award

Congratulations to Science teacher Mrs Ummehani Rangwalla, who received the Actsmart Sustainability Leadership Award at the Actsmart Schools Awards on 1 December. Mrs Rangwalla has been a tireless advocate for sustainability and has guided, nurtured, and mentored students at MacKillop to take action. She's a very deserving recipient of the award!

Congratulations also to Sustainability Captain Sabina Morgan, who was nominated for the Secondary Student Leadership Award.



End of year performances

The Concert Band had a very busy final few weeks with performances at our feeder primary schools: St Clare of Assisi, St Francis of Assisi, Holy Family, St Anthony's and St Thomas the Apostle. In addition they performed for the Year 7 Induction Days.

The String Ensemble and Vocal Ensemble went to BUPA Aged Care in Calwell and performed for the residents.

Veronica Boulton • Director of Performance and Music

Questacon Invention Convention

Based on her application in a competitive field, Year 9 student Casey Thomas has been selected to participate in the Questacon Invention Convention. This event is a five-day, all-expenses-paid workshop and is only offered to only 25 students.

Participants have access to all the expertise, tools, technology and resources at Questacon while they work toward the goal of playing, making, and creating while designing a prototype that deals with a real world problem. While Casey is there, she will have the chance to forge friendships with similarly motivated students and build a network of contacts with local mentors and entrepreneurs.

We wish Casey all the best in this fantastic opportunity for turning her inspired ideas into reality.

Kate Goolagong and Tristan Burg • Science Coordinators

Charity Fundraising at MacKillop



Throughout 2020, students have generously raised the below amounts for our selected charities:

- over \$5,800 for Project Compassion
- over \$4,300 for the Tegan Blunt Fund from MacKillop Day activities at the St Peter's Campus
- over \$15,000 through the House charity fundraising and Market Day at the Padua Campus.

The money raised for the House charities will be divided evenly resulting \$3,761 being donated to Beyond Blue, Rise Above, the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal and the Indigo Foundation

In addition, students have donated a large number of children's gifts and food items towards the St Vincent DePaul Christmas appeal during Term 4.

The House who raises the most money for charities across the year is awarded the St Mary MacKillop College House Charity Shield. Mindygari were announced as the winners of the Shield for 2020 after the end of Year Mass for students in Years 7, 8 and 9 last week.

School Uniform

In preparation for the 2021 school year, many students may be in a position of needing to purchase new uniform items. The below information is taken from the College Uniform policy and is accessible in the Student Diary and on the College Website. It is provided to assist parents/carers in ensuring that students return to school for 2021 without any issues.



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.

Girls' skirts, dresses or shorts are to be knee length.

Hair should be clean and neat; fashionable extremes are not permitted ... Only natural, all-over hair colour or subtle highlights can be used to dye or highlight hair. Rats tails, dreadlocks and geometric shapes cut into the hair are not permitted.

Nose, tongue and facial studs/rings, body piercing ornaments or plastic plugs are not permitted. Clear piercings are also not permitted.

Any holiday 'variations' such as facial piercings or fashionable extremes to hair such as colours or styles should be rectified before returning to school for the new year.

Lachlan McNicol • Assistant Principal Pastoral Care



School fees & ACT Bursary Scheme

It is now time to review all existing Direct Debit payments for 2021. 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 choosing to pay by this method.

The 2020 Fee Schedule is now available on our website www.mackillop.act.edu.au

Please finalise any outstanding 2021 fees immediately.

ACT SECONDARY BURSARY SCHEME

The ACT Government's Secondary Bursary Scheme provides assistance to low income earners in the ACT with dependent full-time students. Eligibility requirements and application forms are available online at:

<http://www.education.act.gov.au/support-for-our-students/financial-and-resource-assistance-for-families>.

For further information please ring the Bursary Administrator on 6205 8262.

Michelle Predovan • Fees Manager

2021 Start Dates

The College closes for business today and will remain closed until the Office reopens on 27 January 2021. Throughout January, you will be able to contact the College through our info@mackillop.act.edu.au email address.

Students will return for Term 1, 2021 on the following dates:

- Monday 1 February: Years 7, 10, 11, and 12
- Tuesday 2 February: Years 8 and 9

Community Notices

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH MASS TIMES

Bookings are essential for all Masses and will be open from 30 Nov-23 December:

<https://corpus-christi-parish-gowrie-christmas-masses.eventbrite.com.au>

- Christmas Eve:
- 6pm outside Sacred Heart Church, Calwell
 - 6pm outside Holy Family Church, Gowrie
 - 9pm at Holy Family Church
 - Midnight at Holy Family Church
- Christmas Day:
- 8am at Holy Family Church
 - 10am outside Holy Family Church
 - 10 am outside Sacred Heart Church

Christmas Mass online will be available from 6pm Christmas Eve at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOAdf8aNPk5VczlOGPLHixw>

CANBERRA SCHOOL OF TENNIS

Two weeks of summer holiday camps will be held in January.

- Week 1: 18-22 Jan
- Week 2: 25-29 Jan (not including Australia Day Public Holiday)

These junior camps will be held at the Pines Tennis Club, Chisholm, and Weston Creek Tennis Club.

For more information or to book your place, visit

www.csot.com.au.



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 2021.

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.

FAMILY NAME: _____

Address: _____

STUDENT'S FULL NAME	SCHOOL ATTENDING IN 2021	Year Group 2021

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE ACCOUNTS OFFICE **BY 17 DECEMBER 2020**

INSIGHTS

Building deep emotional connections with kids



Imagine your child comes to you upset that a sibling or friend has cheated in a game. There are a number of ways to respond, including telling them not to worry (“Let it go!”), advising them how to handle it (“Next time you keep the score.”) or empathising emotionally (“You must feel disappointed.”)

Each is a legitimate response for a parent and teacher to make, but only the latter builds a deep emotional connection. Importantly, the empathetic response builds a child’s or young person’s emotional intelligence as it taps into their ability to recognise current feelings.

How emotional connection works

Kids crave to be understood by others, especially by the people they love or respect. When you accurately feed back how a child or young person is feeling you demonstrate that you really care. Strong relationships are formed on the bedrock of care, kindness and compassion.

How to give emotional feedback that connects

Giving accurate emotional feedback to an upset child or teenager takes practice. It requires that you pay attention, move into the present moment, listen to a child and identify the feeling behind their words. High or loud emotions such as anger, annoyance and panic are often easier to identify than low or muted emotions such as worry, discouragement or loneliness.

An effective way to connect on emotional level is to listen to what a child has to say, and then think back to a time you were in a similar situation. Imagine if a child says they feel horrible because their friends laughed at them when they made a mistake in class. Rather than respond immediately, think back to a time when you made a mistake in front of others and identify how you felt. Embarrassed, ashamed, or annoyed? “I bet that you felt embarrassed and annoyed when your friends laughed at you.” Your child may tell you that you’re off the mark, but they’ll more than likely appreciate the empathy you show.

Feed back the positive emotions too

You don’t have to wait until something challenging happens to connect with a child on an emotional level. Accurately mirror positive feelings such as relief (after a stressful situation has passed), enthusiasm (as they begin something they love doing) and chilled (as they put their feet up at the end of the day). We all experience many emotions throughout the day. The ability to accurately recognise and feed back the emotions of children and young people is a wonderful way to build connections of quality and depth.



Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's an award-winning speaker and the author of 12 books for parents including *Spoonfed Generation*, and the bestselling *Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It*. Michael is a former teacher with 15 years experience, and has 30 years experience in parenting education. He also holds a Master of Educational Studies from Monash University specialising in parenting education.