

# Newsletter





# Volume Three 2021

### **19 MARCH**

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# **Contact Us**





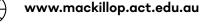
02 6209 0100



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info@mackillop.act.edu.au



PO Box 1211 **Tuggeranong ACT 2901** 

Mackinnon Street, Wanniassa (Years 7-9)

Ellerston Avenue, Isabella Plains (Years 10-12)



Absentee SMS Line 0429 131 463





www.facebook.com/ mackillop.act

www.twitter.com/ mackillop\_act



 $\triangleright$ 

www.instagram.com/ mackillop\_act

www.youtube.com/ stmarymackillop

## **Principal's**







#### LACHLAN SEARY · CLASS OF 2019 17 MARCH 2001 - 8 MARCH 2021

It is with great sadness that we share the news that former MacKillop student Lachlan Seary entered into eternal life on Monday 8 March. As a member of MacKillop's Class of 2019, Lachlan will be widely missed and lovingly remembered by so many in our community.

The College extends its love and support to the Seary family, particularly to parents Garry and Janice and siblings Adam and Olivia. The College is also mindful of the wide circle of friends who loved Lachlan and we hold them in our thoughts and prayers.

Rest In Peace.

#### Dear Parents, Teachers and Students,

#### **ISSUES OF RESPECT, CONSENT, AND UNJUST BEHAVIOUR**

I have drafted a letter with the Chair of the Board outlining the College's response to the disturbing issues of consent, respect, and unjust behaviour in schools around the country and in the adult workplace. I plan on sending this to parents on Monday. An opportunity for constructive feedback will be provided. Should these issues raise concern or anxiety for readers, support can be found through the following organisations:

- 1800RESPECT 1800 737 732
- Lifeline 13 11 14
- Kids Help Line 1800 55 1800

#### **OPENING MASS**

Last Thursday and Friday, the College formally commenced the year with an Opening Mass on each campus. In spite of restricted guest lists, reduced singing, and other COVID protocols, the liturgical celebrations were marked by great dignity, reverence and spirit. Assistant Principal Faith Leadership Mr Jonathan Moyle, Mr Ben Bowman, Mrs Kim Maloney and the choir, the student leaders who participated in readings and prayer, and Mr George Nulley as acolyte, should be warmly thanked and congratulated for the key roles each of them played.

Father James Anthony, College Chaplain (and Parish Priest, Corpus Christi, Gowrie), celebrated Eucharist and enlivened the gospel with his homily. MacKillop is fortunate to have a chaplain so sincerely committed with a spiritual life our school community and to be such a good friend to us.

#### **VISIT TO PARLIAMENT HOUSE**

Federal MP for Bean, David Smith, and his Chief of Staff, Bryce Wilson, organised a visit for some senior students to Parliament House on Thursday last week. The visit included an outstanding tour of the media section, hosted by Louise Yaxley of the ABC, a panel of political staffers, with experience in the areas of media, local politics, and global issues, and a visit to David Smith's office. The visit went for over two hours and was of huge interest to the students and to the teachers who accompanied them. The devotion of time, organisation, and expertise arranged by David, Bryce, and their staff, was extraordinarily generous and deeply appreciated by MacKillop. Some excellent contacts were formed between students and the staffers for the future.

Yours in St Mary of the Cross MacKillop,

Michael Lee • College Principal



Dear Lord,

We pray for the life of Lachlan Seary and for his family; Garry, Janice, Olivia and Adam. May they know their grief is shared by the MacKillop Community.

Amen.



### **College News**





### The **Opening Mass**

MacKillop celebrated the start of the 2021 school year with not one but two Opening Masses on Thursday 11 and Friday 12 March.

Students and staff were joined in Eucharist by College Chaplain Fr James Antony, who began proceedings with a tribute to the late Lachlan Seary. Amidst this tragedy, the College community has been able to find comfort in the 2021 College Theme, which was introduced at the Opening Mass. The theme for the year is from Mary MacKillop: "Great is the strength we possess in our unity." (Mary MacKillop, 1874)

Congratulations to the large team who created two deeply moving community celebrations of the Eucharist and congratulations to the students for the solemnity and willing participation they brought to the occasion.





### Archbishop's Visit

Our Archbishop, Christopher Prowse, visited the College to speak with staff and student leaders last week. His Grace said that he was impressed with what we were doing here at MacKillop, and urged students to continue doing God's work by being there for others, both here at school and in the wider community.



Congratulations to Year 12, who have raised a staggering \$45,000 for the Cancer Council's Relay for Life. Not only did they smash their original goal of \$13,000, they also surpassed the previous College record of \$28,000. They don't want to stop there! If you would like to donate, visit: http://fundraising.cancer.org.au/goto/stmarymackillop

Year 12 will complete the relay on Saturday 20 March. Thanks to all who have contributed!



# **College News**





We're enrolling now for 2022! If you know of someone who is looking to enrol in Year 7 2022, please tell them about our upcoming enrolment events! Applications can be completed through the College website.



### MacKillop Open Day

Five bookable sessions, which include a presentation and tours. Please book online at www.mackillop.act.edu.au



#### Try MacKillop Day For current Year 6 students.

Please register students online at www.mackillop.act.edu.au



The past few weeks have been busy here at MacKillop! Unfortunately, our Swimming Carnival was cancelled due to the weather. We're hoping that the forecast improves in time for the Athletics Carnival next week!

In the **Project Compassion** fundraiser the College has raised an incredible \$7650 so far! We encourage all students, teachers and guardians to get behind this amazing cause - we've got two weeks left! This week's story is about Arshad, an indonesian farmer, and how Caritas assisted in the training of Arshad on hygiene, sanitation and financial management training. This helped Arshad fund a toilet for his household and teach others in his community how to do so as well! Especially after 2020, the importance of hygiene is a fundamental skill that all humans should have access to. Caritas helps those struggling in the world to have these fundamental resources.

This week the Senior **Sustainability Club**, led by Ali Staniforth (Sustainability Captain), hosted a bottle collection to raise money for Project Compassion. Thank you to the helpers of the club and all the people who donated their containers! The Junior Sustainability Club will be holding a bottle cap collection next term. More details about this are available in the Notices section of this newsletter. Two weeks ago, the Sustainability Club led a mini Clean Up Australia Day in our own community! Awesome work guys!

In other news, **Sports** Captain Sam Robinson restarted the After-School Sport Program two weeks ago with an awesome group of junior students joining some Year 12 leaders in the fun of touch football! If junior students wish to join, a note is available on Canvas under the school sports page.

If you want to have some fun in **performing arts**, join the Drama Club and/ or one of our Dance Crews! Callum Doherty, our Performing Arts Captain, has released loads of information about these but if you have missed the information, check student messages.

As always, make sure you follow @mackillop\_src on instagram to keep updated with all the information about school, fundraisers and events!





#### Kira Tawton • Communications & Connections Captain

### **Pastoral Care**



Gift of Life Walk

On 5 March, 105 Year 11 students participated in the Gift of Life Walk to raise awareness for organ and tissue donation. The Gift of Life is a Canberra based organisation that aims to raise awareness about becoming an organ and tissue donor. This cause is particularly important because an overwhelming number of Canberrans support organ and tissue donation but unfortunately, only 25% are on the register.

The walk held at the College, provided students with information, awareness and encouraged students to have a conversation with families and to register as organ donors to give many families in our community and around Australia that gift of life.



#### Amy Scott • Year 11

### **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.

### Tech, Teens & Time Online Free Webinar

In partnership with the <u>eSafety Commissioner</u>, the Council of Catholic School Parents will be holding a free webinar to provide parents and carers of 12 to 18 year olds with strategies to establish a safe online environment for their children. It will be presented by Greg Gebhart, one of Australia's leading online safety presenters, from 7.30pm – 8.30pm on Tuesday 23 March 2021. <u>Register Here</u>



### Status Awards

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

#### **BRONZE STATUS**

Samuel Bailie 7A4, Ethan Caffery Caragh 7E3, Amelia Christian 7A4, Sophie Gerbich 7F1, Lilly Kennedy 7W1, Sam Major 7E3, Lachlan Marshall 7W3, Connor Mills 7W3, Tristan Mowlam 7W2, Chloe Patron 7A1, Reid Stewart 7F2, Blake Shannon 7W3, Anneliese Turner 7W3

#### **SILVER STATUS**

Emily Couper 8W2, Penelope Kemp 8A2, Millie Terracini 8W2

Supporting boys in early Gecondary Gchool

Boys can tend to disengage in early to middle secondary school. The Parenting ideas article at the end of this Newsletter discusses how parents can ease their struggle with understanding, realistic expectations, warm communication, and some lightness and kindness. At the end of the article is information about how to access a Free Webinar presented by Maggie Dent: Communicating with teenage boys.

The webinar is taking place on Wednesday 24 March 2021, 8.00pm – 9.00pm. It will discuss how using compassionate, empowering communication with teenage boys can better guide them across the bridge to healthy manhood to a place where they feel worthwhile and engaged in respectful relationships.

#### Lachlan McNicol • Assistant Principal Pastoral Care

### **Teaching & Learning**



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The benefits of reading

Health and education experts would all agree that with reading comes many different benefits for all of us. From the time we are little, being introduced the world of reading, to as adults, picking up the latest novel from Pip Williams, Jane Harper or Lee Child. Encouraging reading is not a new concept, but one that continues to show great benefits to building life-long writing and communication skills.

Did you know that reading has many different benefits, not only for our students, but for us all? Reading can help:

- Our cognitive development the way you think about the world
- develop empathy we get caught up in the lives of our characters and can understand and empathise with their situation
- explore the world or even an alternative world learning about people, places, culture
- build stronger relationships particularly if a parent is reading to a child, or you are reading a story that others are reading or have read and can discuss the events and characters
- expand our vocabulary
- build greater concentration
- taps in to our imagination

Many studies also suggest that reading can help to reduce stress, enhance mental stimulation and activate memory retention. These are all vital to keeping us mentally active and engaged. Importantly, better reading skills is connected to improving communication, writing and creativity that are important skills for any student.

Barak Rosenshine says that "students need extensive and broad reading, and extensive practice in order to develop wellconnected networks of ideas." As English teachers it is part of our nature to love literature and to try to encourage that passion for reading in our students. It is safe to say that while not everyone you ask would say they are avid readers, we're sure you'd agree that for most people, we all enjoy a good story. Sometimes it's about finding that good story. Please talk to your children about reading, not just novels, but a range of different texts. For any recommendations please ask them to speak to their English/IHUM teacher or visit the Learning Commons.

As Dr Seuss so eloquently penned, "You can find magic wherever you look, sit back and relax, all you need is a book."

#### Lyndall Baker & Erin White • English Coordinators

### **Teaching & Learning**





It's all happening in The Learning Commons!

Before school, Recess, Lunch and after school Homework Club is busy, busy, busy. Students are working on their assessment tasks and everyday homework with the assistance of multiple qualified teaching staff at every occasion. But we are not just all about work. The library has a quiet reading lounge, study spaces as well as social group areas where students can come together to play card games, board games and online cool math games. There are many opportunities to get involved in a variety of activities on a weekly basis. Over the next few weeks in The Fish Bowl we have Makerspace Mondays where we are starting to make props and sets for Matilda the School Musical. On Tuesdays, we will be holding the Lego Masters Easter Challenge, the online Cool Math Games competition on Wednesday and Friday is movie day. So get involved!

#### Amanda Knott • Learning Commons Coordinator (Padua)





In support of the Know My Name campaign and exhibition, our Visual Arts teachers are featuring a female Australian artist in each edition of the College Newsletter.

#### **GRACE COSSINGTON SMITH**

The Know My Name exhibition celebrates the artist Grace Cossington Smith. She was one of the first artists to bring Modernism to Australia. Her paintings depict a broad range of subject matter reflecting on life in Australia.

As an oil painter myself, I have always been inspired by Cossington Smith. Her interiors painted in the 50's and 60's are my favourites as they tell a story of a humble room transformed completely by light. This room was in an ordinary, suburban home in Turramurra, Sydney. Her depiction of this room in Interior in yellow, surpasses literal interpretation with her painting style pushing the boundaries of Impressionism. This painting is of a bygone era. But it reminds me that it's the most familiar of compositions, like interiors of our homes which can hold our dearest memories and therefore, deserve to be preserved in paint.

Grace Cossington Smith was a true pioneer of Australian Modern painting, everyone needs to Know Her Name.

Francesca Miller • Visual Art Teacher



Grace Cossington Smith Interior in yellow 1962-64, oil on composition board, 127.7x 90.2cm, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, purchased 1965.

### **Teaching & Learning**



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# Year 12 Drama Pantonine Performance

This semester Year 12 Drama have been studying 'Theatre for Young People' and were tasked with creating a pantomime for the preschool children at Isabella Plains Early Childhood School.

On Monday 15 March the Year 12 Drama class donned their costumes and walked to the preschool (much to the amusement of passer-by's). The pre-schoolers were entering the hall the same time as our arrival and the excitement was obvious. There were many exclamations about the characters that could be seen like Batman, Spiderman, Elsa and Belle.

They started the performance of Goldilocks and the Three Bears, but Goldilocks was missing! All the other characters joined in to help the narrator finish the story. Some of the pre-schoolers and their teachers were pulled up to help, and there were many excited shouts when the audience were asked a question.

At the end of the performance the pre-schoolers told us about their favourite parts. The three bears chasing Goldilocks out of their home was a crowd favourite, and many also enjoyed singing 'Let it Go' with Batman, Spiderman, Elsa and Belle, whilst Hansel and Gretel breaking the bear's chair were "funny and silly".

But the best review we were given was that it was "so cool". Well done, Year 12 Drama. You were all "so cool".

#### Jacinta Paquay • Drama Teacher



In Week 5, Canberra's Lightbulb Improv presented a series of shows to the Year 8 and Year 9 Drama classes. They provided great insight into what is possible through improvisation, presenting a light and enjoyable series of acts and scenes for the audience.

The group showed us different techniques including various ways of using the scenery or background, using improvised background music, musical theatre as well as incorporating levels and space.

Watching the group's performance was great fun and it also provided some Drama Tech experience for me, allowing me to experiment with the lights to convey mood and set the scene for the performance.



#### William Edwards • Year 9

### **Special Programs**





Music Lessons + Ensembles

The Year 7 Ensembles have made a great start and it has been exciting to see the addition of orchestral strings under the direction of Mr Henry South.

Instrumental Music Lessons are available through the school. Please contact Ms Veronica Boulton if you would like to learn an instrument or have vocal lessons.

The extra-curricular ensembles have now been rehearsing for a few weeks and are sounding great. We look forward to being able to get out into the community soon to perform. If you are keen to join one of our extra-curricular ensembles please contact Ms Veronica Boulton or Mr Henry South. Rehearsals are held in the mornings.

- Vocal Ensemble: Tuesday Padua Ensemble Room
- Guitar Ensemble: Tuesday Padua Music Room
- Senior Wind Ensemble: Wednesday St Peters Music Room
- String Ensemble: Thursday Padua Ensemble Room
- Concert Band: Friday Padua Ensemble Room

Veronica Boulton • Director of Music & Performance

### Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Support MacKillop Mob

Currently we have 74 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at the College. At MacKillop, we value cultural diversity and the representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students within and beyond our school community.

As well as the Study Support offered to all our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students we will be participating in a variety of cultural activities including traditional games, bush tucker, language, art and cultural awareness.

These activities aim to provide students with a pathway both academically as well as personally, to foster pride in their heritage and culture and to allow the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students opportunities to learn about and share their experiences with non-aboriginal students in the College.

For more information and Study Support times check out the MacKillop Mob page on Canvas, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander display areas on both Campuses or feel free to contact me: jeremy.margosis@mackillop.act.edu.au

#### Jeremy Margosis Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Contact Teacher









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MacKillop has embraced the return to school sport, with a lot of success in a number of recent competitions.

On Friday 5 March, four teams competed in the Southern Zone Touch Carnival. All four MacKillop teams were able to make their respective grand finals! The 7/8 and 9/10 girls came runners up, losing in their grand finals, but the 7/8 and 9/10 boys got through the competition in top spot, winning their grand final!

On the same day, 60 Year 12 students entered the Beach Volleyball competition in Lyneham - a great turnout which made for an enjoyable day of sport and community.

This week, our Year 7/8 boys took out the Rugby League 9s competition to become ACT Champions!





MacKillop Judo Club has continued to have great success, with some outstanding results at the International Judo Competition, held in Sydney last month. The following MacKillop students achieved success: Jessie Gevorgian (Silver Medal, Senior Girls), Lewis Bell (Gold Medal, Cadets), Jake Bell (4th place, Cadets), Adrian Georgiadis (5th place, Cadets).

#### **SELF-DEFENCE CLASSES**

MacKillop Judo club seeks expressions of interest for after-school 'self-defence' judo grappling sessions. If we get sufficient interest, the program will commence at the beginning of Term 2. The sessions would be held after school until 4:45pm on Wednesdays.

The program will be delivered by qualified judo instructors with the assistance of MacKillop students who are senior members of the MacKillop Judo Club. It will provide an alternative after-school activity for students as well as an opportunity to learn useful self-defence skills within the school environment. It also serves as after-school care for working parents.

Please email stephanosjudo@hotmail.com or call 0411 105 449 to register your interest.

#### Stephanos Georgiadis • MacKillop Judo Club

Student Achievemen

Congratulations to Stephanie Brettargh (Year 12), who will be competing in the Australian Waterpolo League in Brisbane at the end of March.

### **Notices & Information**



School Fees Should now be finalised

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



Due to the number of items in Lost Property, the College will clear it out at the conclusion of the term. Please make sure that your son/daughter checks for any belongings that they may have lost during the term.

Learning Commons Hours GT Peter's Campuz

The Learning Commons on the St Peter's Campus has been open to students for extended hours during Weeks 6 - 9. The extended opening hours enable students to study for exams, complete assessments and to seek assistance if needed. We encourage students to take advantage of this opportunity. Please see the timetable for the final two weeks of term:

| Week | Monday      | Tuesday     | Wednesday   | Thursday    | Friday      |
|------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 8    | 8.00 - 5.30 | 8.00 - 5.30 | 8.00 - 5.30 | 8.30 - 3.30 | 8.30 - 3.30 |
| 9    | 8.00 - 5.30 | 8.30 - 4.30 | 8.30 - 4.30 | 8.30 - 4.30 | Closed      |

We look forward to supporting each student's study and wish them all the best for the final weeks of the term.

#### The Learning Commons Team • St Peter's Campus



For ONE WEEK ONLY (Week 2, Term 2) 26 - 30 April, the Padua Campus Sustainability Group will be collecting bread-tags and bottle lids. Both items can be donated to boxes that will be found in PC rooms.

Please note that the bottle lids need to be WASHED and have the white innerplastic cover removed. Pop-top lids cannot be accepted.

#### Padua Campus Sustainability Group



### **Community News**

#### WEST CANBERRA WANDERERS - STELLAR CUP

The West Canberra Wanderers are excited to announce that the Stellar Cup is going ahead in 2021! Stellar Cup is the biggest preseason soccer tournament in Canberra, with Cup and Shield competitions for 8-18 year olds of all levels and abilites. Registrations are now open. Contact events@wwfc.org.au.

### parenting **\***ideas

#### INSIGHTS

### Supporting boys in early secondary school



The first year of secondary school is a time of massive change and boys can struggle more than girls. Even though some of our boys are physically mature and look big and grown-up, this time can be challenging, unpredictable and full of big emotions.

Buried under some early adolescent angst are tendencies for forgetfulness and poor organisation due to brain pruning, which is a 'trimming down' process in the teenage brain where irrelevant/unused mental connections from childhood are lost.

The larger environment of secondary school with its many different classes, and different teachers who have varied expectations can be particularly confusing for boys. Anxiety is often surging through their hormonally charged bodies and parents need to be mindful to recognise that for many pubescent boys, every day at school feels like going into a war zone because it is so unpredictable.

#### Have realistic expectations

In this transitional year parents need to be creating as calm and predictable an environment as possible at home given the everyday stress at school. Parents can do this by avoiding too many questions and too much pressure especially around homework. Especially avoid criticism, nagging and lecturing — they won't improve anything.

#### **Keep things light**

Boys appreciate lightness and humour, especially when they may be struggling with anxiety or worry. Maybe you could find some funny, goofy cat or dog videos to show them or share some funny experiences that might trigger the beautiful happy neurochemicals in their brain. Be a bit ridiculous – intentionally.

#### Share developmental changes

Have brief conversations with your son about brain changes, especially pruning, so that he can understand why he may be struggling with organisation and be forgetting things that he used to remember. Once he knows there is a reason, he'll tend to manage it better — indeed many boys are relieved! Help your son to work out ways to remember important stuff.

#### **Stoke his spark**

If your son has a passion whether that be surfing, music, soccer or gaming help him keep it alive and burning throughout high school. Disengagement is very common among boys in the middle school years and those who have an interest they love and are capable at, tend to struggle less. Obviously if it is gaming there needs to be healthy boundaries around prioritising schoolwork ... and a firm bedtime.

### parenting **\***ideas

#### Watch for red flags

While it is normal to experience anxiety at the beginning of the school year, some anxiety can be ongoing and difficult for parents to identify. Some boys display anxiety through silliness, inappropriate behaviour, an increase in aggression often toward siblings, disrespectful language towards parents, changes in eating patterns and struggles with sleep. If you have ongoing concerns check in with your son's year coordinator and seek help.

#### **Practise kindness**

Even though this sounds counterintuitive if you are experiencing some hot moments with your early secondary school son, kindness especially in small unexpected ways has enormous power. Our boys struggle with low self-worth and when they muck up they struggle even more with feeling acceptable and loved.

Above all, reassure your son often that you love him fiercely and unconditionally, no matter what.

#### Maggie Dent presents a related webinar: Communicating with teenage boys

Our school has a membership with Parenting Ideas. As part of this membership, you can attend the upcoming webinar 'Communicating with teenage boys' at no cost.

#### About

In this webinar, Maggie Dent shows how using compassionate, empowering communication with teenage boys can better guide them across the bridge to healthy manhood to a place where they feel worthwhile and engaged in respectful relationships.

#### When

24 March 2021 8:00pm AEDT

#### To redeem

1. Click this link: www.parentingideas.com.au/parent-resources/parent-webinars/webinar-communicating-with-teenage-boys

- 2. Click 'Add to cart'
- 3. Click 'View cart'

4. Enter the voucher code COMMUNICATION and click 'Apply Coupon' Your discount of \$39 will be applied.

5. Click 'Proceed to checkout'

6. Fill in your account details including our school's name to verify your eligibility. These are the details you will use to login to your account and access your webinar and resources

7. Click 'Place Order'

This offer is valid until 24 June 2021. If you're unable to make the broadcast time, just register anyway and you will get access to the recording.



#### **Maggie Dent**

Commonly known as the 'queen of common sense', Maggie Dent has become one of Australia's favourite parenting authors and educators, with a particular interest in the early years, adolescence and resilience. She has written seven major books including the bestselling *Mothering Our Boys* and her 2020 release, *From Boys to Men*. Maggie is host of the ABC podcast, <u>Parental As Anything</u>. She is the mother of four sons and a very grateful grandmother. For further details visit <u>maggiedent.com</u>