

College

Newsletter



MacKillop
St Mary MacKillop College Canberra



Volume *four* **2021**

1 APRIL

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Coming

Up

THU 0 1 A P R

- Easter Liturgies
- Term 1 concludes

TUE 2 0 A P R

- Term 2 commences
- Parent/Teacher Interviews

THU 2 2 A P R

- Parent/Teacher Interviews

MON 2 6 A P R

- ANZAC Day Public Holiday

WED 2 8 A P R

- ANZAC Ceremonies
- Year 9 Outdoor Ed Camp departs

MON 0 3 M A Y

- Open Day

THU 0 6 M A Y

- Cross Country

FRI 0 7 M A Y

- Try MacKillop Day

Contact Us

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Absentee SMS Line
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Socials



www.facebook.com/
mackillop.act



www.twitter.com/
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www.instagram.com/
mackillop_act



www.youtube.com/
stmarymackillop

Principal's

Letter



Dear Parents, Teachers and Students,

HAPPY EASTER

Easter offers us the enduring message of love, sacrifice, and redemption. Over the next week, many of us will be at Reconciliation, walking the Stations of the Cross, keeping vigil, and celebrating on Easter Sunday our risen Lord and saviour. The central message of redemption and hope is there for all of us. This time last year felt like we stood on a precipice of a bleak immediate future and a lengthy unknown. This year we have cause for optimism. This Easter, let's give thanks for what has sustained us – our own initiative and resilience, our refreshed experience of collective responsibility, and a deep strength and comfort that comes from shared identity and community. Many of us always knew the enduring value of these qualities and experiences. Now we all do! I would like to wish every teacher, student, and family a safe and happy Easter and thoroughly deserved holiday. Alleluia!

ISSUES OF RESPECT, CONSENT, SEXUALITY & AGGRESSION

On Monday last week, I wrote to parents and carers and to staff about these issues from a school community point of view. My letter was co-signed by the Chair of the Board, Danielle Chifley. Thank you to the many families who responded positively to the sentiments of the letter and the College's response to this challenge. Since writing, some good feedback has been gained from students and some meaningful research has taken place to better inform the College going forward. I look forward to writing to you again at the end of May about the results of the audit.

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Congratulations to Gurabang and Ngadyung, who were respective winners of the Championship Trophy and Spirit Cup. The day was superbly organised by Sports Coordinator Matthew Crowe and his staff, and willingly entered into by record numbers of students. In wonderful weather, I'm not sure I cared who won, but I was just delighted it could go ahead. I think this feeling was widely shared! Congratulations to the students for their many examples of outstanding athleticism, especially to those who achieved personal bests or those who broke records – some of which were long held.

RELAY FOR LIFE

Congratulations to the Class of 2021 for their outstanding efforts in raising over \$58,000 for Relay for Life. This is a huge amount of money by any standard and surpassed that raised by all other groups in the ACT and far exceeded previous amounts raised by MacKillop. The generosity and effort of the year group has been clearly showcased, as has the generosity of those who sponsored them. Cancer is an insidious and cruel business, well known to many courageous people in the MacKillop community. Let's hope that lasting good can come out of this generosity.

Yours in St Mary of the Cross MacKillop,

Michael Lee
College Principal

*"Congratulations to
Year 12 for their
outstanding efforts
in raising over
\$58,000 for
Relay for Life."*

Prayer

*O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
A second Adam to the fight
And to the rescue came.*

-St John Henry Newman



The Athletics Carnival

Gurabang and Ngadyung were the big winners at the College Athletics Carnival, taking home the Championship Trophy and Spirit Cup respectively.

Held at the AIS on Thursday 25 March, the carnival saw record attendance levels and participation despite the threat of rain in the lead up to the event. The displays of athleticism on the track and in the field, as well as the unrelenting spirit in the stands, made it a day to remember for all in attendance.

The theme for the carnival, 'MacKillop Olympics', meant students dressed in a wide range of costumes in support of their House. Both trophies were closely fought and the intensity of the individual battles in each event led to nine records being broken on the day.

Congratulations to Mr Crowe and his team, as well as all students for the high levels of participation, demonstrations of athletic prowess, and positive attitudes that made the carnival such a success.



Year 12 Relay for Life

MacKillop's Year 12 students have raised a massive \$58,000 for the Cancer Council's Relay for Life, smashing the previous College record in the process. The amount raised, which doubled the previous record set in 2019, saw MacKillop finish the Relay for Life as Canberra's top fundraising group. There were also a number of personal achievements, with three MacKillop students finishing in the top five fundraising individuals for the event. Jade Camilleri raised the highest amount in the ACT.



MacKillop held its version of the 'Relay Your Way' theme at the Padua Campus on Saturday 20 March. Year 12 students completed laps of the Padua Campus oval between the hours of 7am and 7pm. At the conclusion of the relay, students held a candle ceremony in honour of loved ones lost to cancer and to support those who are living with cancer.

A special mention goes to Oliver Bryson from the Class of 2020. Oliver donated his DJ services during the day, which helped to keep the positive vibes going from start to finish.

Whilst the Class of 2021 has every right to celebrate these efforts and achievements, the real reward for the students was to see the money go to a good cause. Great effort, Year 12!



Constitutional Convention

On Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 March, I was honoured to represent the ACT at the National School's Convention at Old Parliament House. At the convention, we listened to a broad range of excellent keynote speakers. Each team was tasked with creating a new preamble for The Australian Constitution which included recognition of our history, old and emerging cultures and modern society. A preamble is an introduction of sorts, and is symbolic in democratic societies. The ACT team was successful in the first cuts of the Convention, making the top six preambles. On the second day, after a vote from all 108 delegates across 11 cities and towns, the ACT team was victorious with our preamble getting chosen, winning by over 80 votes. From there we had editing stages and soapboxes across the 11 hubs, via Zoom, and we then presented our preamble to the Head of the Senate to be passed onto Parliament. I would like to thank Mrs White and Mrs Logue for the opportunity to apply for the Convention and to the Convention itself for the amazing experience!

Kira Tawton • Year 12



RAAF Centenary

This week marks the Centenary of the Royal Australian Air Force. This is a momentous occasion which has been celebrated across the country in a variety of ways including the flyover on Wednesday. To commemorate this, MacKillop students have been applying their scientific understanding of forces like lift to perfect their design of paper planes. Students on both campuses competed against one another to see whose plane could go the furthest. Congratulations to Caelen and Alexandra for their excellent, winning designs!

Danielle Logue • Defence Support Mentor



SRC report

With this being the final week of Lent, we are very close to announcing a total for **Project Compassion** fundraising. This money will go towards helping those less fortunate than ourselves within our own country and others around the world. We would like to thank all who have contributed at different fundraisers, the carnival, Caritas Carpark and during PCs.

An update from **Sports Captain** Sam Robinson about the Athletics Carnival: Held last Thursday, records were smashed for attendance. The day was a hit, with each student participating in their own way, having fun and enjoying the atmosphere. A massive thank you to Mr Crowe and all the organisers for the day.

Performing Arts Captain Callum Doherty, organised a mini music festival on the Senior Campus this week. Coined "Groovin' in the MacKillop", the festival was an amazing success with numerous fabulous acts performing! We would like to thank all the acts; they blew the spectators away with their talent! A quick reminder that the Boys and Girls Dance Crews and the Drama Club are still recruiting more members – head to the Performing Arts Staffroom for more information.

Kira Tawton • Communications & Connections Captain



Year 7 Community Day

Year 7 Community Day started off with a performance about St Mary MacKillop and her life. This provided students with more information about Mary's work and the struggles that she dealt with. Then we had a presentation about leadership. This opened the elections for the Year 7 SRC and we learned about what some leadership qualities are. After this we had some activities within our House groups. The activities helped us show some leadership and to work as a group. It was a great day because we got to meet new people that we might have never talked to before. Overall Year 7 Community Day was a great experience and an awesome day over all.

Cameron McWhirter • Year 7



GRIP Leadership Day

The Padua Campus Student Representative Council attended a GRIP Leadership Conference at Exhibition Park along with representatives from many other schools. We learnt strategies to improve our leadership skills and were able to share our own thoughts and experiences. We benefitted from this day and are excited to implement our new knowledge.

Lara D'Ambrosio & Cooper Lovekin • Year 8 SRC

Year 7 SRC

Yesterday, Year 7 students participated in elections to elect a member of the Student Representative Council for each House. 38 students nominated to stand as candidates for the 4 leadership positions.

The elected Year 7 student representatives were announced this morning. They will be inducted into the SRC and presented with their Leadership Badges at the next Padua Campus Assembly.

Congratulations to the elected student leaders in Year 7 for each House:

Mindygari	- Alexander McLennan
Gurabang	- Henry Winslade
Meup Meup	- Delany Hanns
Ngadyung	- Mia Keen

Uniform News Winter Uniform

From the beginning of Term 2 all students are to be wearing the Winter Uniform.

- For boys this means that tailored mid-grey school trousers are to be worn with a black belt and junior (7-10) or senior (11-12) school tie.
- Girls may wear the pleated tartan winter skirt or tailored navy slacks with College monogram, a white over-blouse with College monogram and a teal kerchief. Opaque navy tights are optional.
- The College teal jumper and/or navy College jacket with College crest should be worn to keep warm
- School shoes are to be traditional, lace up, black and polishable

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 Term 2 compliant with the uniform.

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, and extreme variations of length are not permitted.

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



Students have been reminded that 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 term.

If there are circumstances that prevent students from wearing the correct uniform, they are required to bring a signed note from their parents to explain the situation. This needs to be presented to the Pastoral Care Coordinator during PC time each morning to obtain a uniform pass.

After-School Sport Term Two

During Term 2 Basketball/Netball will be run as an afterschool sports activity, available to all students in Year 7 to 9. The sessions will take place on Thursday afternoons from 29 April until 3 June in the Padua Campus Gym. Year 12 students will be coordinating the activities with a staff member present to supervise.

Consent forms for students will be available from the start of Term 2 from Pastoral Care Coordinators, the PE Staffroom or they can also be downloaded from Canvas.

NAPLAN Update

The National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for all students in Years 7 and 9. It tests the types of skills that are essential for every student to progress through school and life. The tests cover skills in reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy.

As a College we value the NAPLAN testing for a variety of reasons. We are provided with detailed data about individual students and the respective cohorts which assist in informing teachers about areas of student strength and areas for development.

NAPLAN 2021 is scheduled to take place between 11 and 14 May 2021 for our Year 7 and Year 9 students. All testing will occur using the online testing platform.

TESTING TIMETABLE NAPLAN 2021

Tuesday 11 May	Wednesday 12 May	Thursday 13 May	Friday 14 May
Writing (42 minutes)	Reading (65 minutes)	Conventions of Language (45 minutes)	Numeracy (65 minutes)
Year 7- Period 2 Year 9- Period 3	Year 7- Period 2 Year 9- Period 3/4	Year 7- Period 2 Year 9- Period 3	Year 7- Period 2 Year 9- Period 3/4

STUDENT EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

1. A fully charged device (laptop computer).
2. Earphones (plug in earphones are preferred rather than wi-fi versions which may drop out over the course of the testing and provide interruption to student testing).
3. Writing equipment (pens, pencils eraser and sharpener).
4. Water bottle.

Please note that students are not to bring any mobile phones or digitally enabled watches. All students will be asked to remove their watches and place them in their pocket for the duration of the testing. All tests have a clock on them to assist students with time management.

Parent/carers and students can access more information about the testing at: <https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>

If any parents/carers would like to discuss any aspect of NAPLAN 2021, please make email contact with Lisa Buckland, Teaching and Learning Coordinator, in the first instance at lisa.buckland@mackillop.act.edu.au

Maria O'Donnell • Assistant Principal Academic Care

MacKillop Mob

Our first cultural activity for the year was learning about and playing Buroinjin, a fast-paced eight-a-side game adapted from the game played by the Kabi Kabi people of Southern Queensland. Originally, the game was played with a ball made from kangaroo skin called a Buroinjin, which was smaller than a soccer ball. The game itself is somewhat like a mix of Netball, Aussie Rules and European Handball.

It was a great opportunity to be able to learn more about Aboriginal culture as well as sharing our culture and experience with non-aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. We had an awesome time and are really looking forward to competing in the ACT Buroinjin Championships later on in the year. A special thanks to Mr McCombe and Mr Jones for assisting on the day.

Billy Margosis – Wiradjuri • Year 11



HASS

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY COMPETITION

Over 150 Year 9 History students will be participating in the Australian History competition from 30 May to 4 June. The Australian History Competition has three main aims:

1. To provide a quality resource that demonstrates approaches to the assessment of the skills and understandings required by the Australian Curriculum: History
2. To provide a vehicle that showcases the importance of History in the development of students' critical analytical skills.
3. To foster engagement in the study of History and in using a range of historical sources and questions; and testing the student's analytical and interpretive skills. (<https://australianhistorycompetition.org.au/>)

The Australian History Competition integrates well with the Year 8 and 9 HASS courses at St Mary MacKillop College. The Inquiry process (analytical and interpretive skills) are essential strategies utilised in the Year 8 and 9 HASS classroom. The inquiry process helps students to develop and foster a point of view about the world around them. This is even more important today, where our economic, political and environmental climate are constantly changing.

MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY

On the 12 May, our Year 9 Civics and Citizenship students will be attending a program organised by the Museum of Australian Democracy. The Behind the Lines exhibition focuses on political literacy through the use of political cartoons. I am sure that our students will learn a lot from this experience.

ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATION

On the 28 April, St Mary MacKillop College will commemorate ANZAC Day with a ceremony. We come together as a College community, in spirit and respect, to commemorate the men and women who have served our nation in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations.

Ms Sandhya Tulpule • HASS Coordinator (Padua)





Industrial

Technology

Industrial Design & Technology - Term One

Term 1 in the Industrial Design and Technology has been busy to say the least. It is a common feel amongst the staff that the students that engage in the subject really enjoy the hands on nature of the classes, the student agency built into assessment and the constant challenge and development of learning technical skills.

Braden Longo • Industrial Technology Coordinator



STUDENT WORK

Jack Valois is a student in the Year 10 Applied Engineering and Automotive class who has combined his love of music with his love of welding to create this electric guitar, which he plans to hang on his bedroom wall at home. This term was the first time Jack had used a welder and is keen to continue to refine this skill into the future.



YEAR 7 TECHNOLOGY

The Year 7 Technology classes always have a high energy environment, where the majority of students are in the workshop for the first time learning about the design process while using wood working hand tools and electrical circuits. In Term 2 they will further refine their skills using different types of timber and resin to create their individual design solutions.

CONSTRUCTION PATHWAYS

The Year 12 Construction Pathways class has been held up significantly by the rain we have experienced in the recent weeks, but are making the most of the drier days and have started their brick wall construction.



DESIGN & EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

This semester the Design and Emerging Technologies class are exploring product design, where they are using the design process to create a design solution that will be presented in an 'expo style' format later in the semester. Some of the ideas that are being explored by the class are a wallet that has a wireless charger built in to charge a phone and a self-cleaning drink bottle.



STEM Presentation at Sts Peter + Paul

Last Wednesday four Year 10 students went to Sts Peter and Paul Primary School to give a presentation about STEM to the Year 5 and 6 students. Mr O'Connor supported us in this opportunity, as he believed that we all have the ability to communicate the importance of STEM and how MacKillop can develop the skills of STEM students to meet the needs of the workforce.

We began the presentation by introducing ourselves and explaining how we became interested in STEM and why we love STEM so much. We then introduced the students to the technology and STEM courses MacKillop has to offer as part of its elective courses. This includes Year 8 STEAM and Digitech, Year 9 STEM astronomy and solar projects, and the Year 10 STEM student-led project. The presentation highlighted the STEM project we had completed and the STEM principles that exist within each course.

The visit to Sts Peter and Paul was an amazing experience, especially when we saw the faces of the students light up when we spoke about things that we are so passionate about. As we were talking, we would hear students say things like "that's so cool!". It was amazing to see younger children contemplating a future in STEM, just like we did when we were their age.

To engage the students in a real world STEM activity, Mr O'Connor organised an activity for them. The activity was called the "Climbing man." It used a cardboard cutout of a person, string, and cut up straws, all of which we prepared beforehand. When the string was put through the straws attached to the cutouts, it was possible to pull both or one at a time. This meant the person would either slide or climb up the string. After the activity we then explored the question, "How does this work?" The students then discussed the effect of the friction between the string and the upward force allowing the person to climb up the string.

On the way back to school, we reflected on the experience. We commented on how engaged and excited they all were and how this made it a positive experience. We are hoping to have the opportunity to talk to more young primary school students about STEM for MacKillop in the future.

Riley, Josh, Jasmine and Grace • Year 10 STEAM Students

Visual Arts *Know My Name*

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.



GEMMA SMITH

My favourite work in this exhibition is a very subtle work and may not be noticed by some at all. The NGA commissioned this work by painter Gemma Smith to devise a colour palette for the Know My Name exhibition walls. Gemma's work explores the concept of colour and how even in its subtle use, it produces different effects, moods and responses from an audience. This work encourages people to consider the progression of colours on the walls and the way these colours affect us as they change from room to room. As the artist explains '...the colours are still active but barely discernible... This approach will reward attentive viewing, slowing down the experience of art, encouraging visitors to pay more attention'.

Katrina Banyai • Visual Art Teacher

Enrolment *events*

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.

Monday
3
MAY

MacKillop Open Day

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

Friday
7
MAY

Try MacKillop Day

For current Year 6 students.
Please register students online at www.mackillop.act.edu.au

Applications for Year 7 2022 close Friday 28 May 2021.



School Fees *for Term 2*

Term 2 2021 fee statements will be sent electronically in the upcoming holidays.

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

Thank you to the families who have paid Term 1 fees. Any outstanding fees should be paid immediately unless paying by Direct Debit or other approved arrangement.

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

Sustainability Group *Bottle lid + bread tag blitz*

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 inner-plastic cover removed. Pop-top lids cannot be accepted.

Padua Campus Sustainability Group



INSIGHTS

Seven ways to be a positive influence on children and young people



Parents and teachers influence children most during their first twelve years of life. We have less influence over teens as they become increasingly independent and look to their peers for guidance and approval.

The following strategies will help ensure that you have a positive influence on children at any age.

1. Be available

Nothing says “You matter” more than a busy parent giving a child undivided attention. Research has established that children whose parents are emotionally present for their kids have better social, academic, and wellbeing outcomes than those whose parents aren’t available.

2. Be warm

Sometimes we can forget that our children are people too – particularly when they’re irritable, tired and obnoxious. By responding to kids warmly (even when you don’t feel like it), you show that you value them as people. A gentle touch, a smile, or soft words bring warmth to a relationship, and increase the likelihood that you’ll be listened to and be a positive influence on their lives.

3. Listen, but don’t fix

Parents can fix sore knees, broken hearts, messy friendships, and even some difficult homework projects. But kids generally don’t need adults to fix them. They just want us to ‘get’ what they’re going through. When you see the world through their eyes, you are more understanding – and more likely to be listened to when they need us.

4. Set limits

Nothing says “I love you” more than a firm and clear “No!” from mum or dad.

“No, you can’t say that to your sister. How can you make things right?”

“No, it’s not ok for you to stay out until midnight. You’re 14.”

“No, I don’t feel right about you having your smartphone/tablet/laptop in your bedroom. Ever!”

Children and young people will often argue with you, but setting limits means that you are having a positive influence on your children. The trick is to not become too authoritarian or you’ll simply drive unwanted behaviour underground.

5. Play

Playing games and laughing together binds us close to our kids. Through play you build a relationship of trust with that facilitates our ongoing positive influence.

6. Be grateful

Grateful people are happier, healthier, have better relationships, sleep better, have more income, are less materialistic, achieve better academic outcomes and are more energetic. By being grateful you'll be a positive influence in the lives of your children. Say thanks often – and mean it.

7. Love them and show it every day

We're always correcting our kids or telling them what to do. Pick this up, put that away, get off the computer, pack your bag, tidy up your room, and so on... and that's before 7.30 in the morning! Our ratio of negative to positive statements can often be the wrong way round. So find opportunities to tell your kids such things as:

- "You really make a positive difference around here."
- "I am amazed at the exceptional effort you make at..."
- "I love you – no matter what."

Your time with kids is short. By setting a positive example, you can be a positive and lasting influence in your children's lives.



Dr Justin Coulson

Dr Justin Coulson helps families be happier. His Goalcast and TEDx positive parenting videos have been viewed by more than 100 million people. He is the author of 6 books about creating flourishing families and raising resilient children. Justin and his wife, Kylie, are the parents of 6 daughters. Find the Dr Justin Coulson's Happy Families podcast on Apple Podcasts and Spotify. For further details visit www.happyfamilies.com.au