

College

Newsletter



MacKillop
St Mary MacKillop College Canberra



Volume *Nine* **2021**

16 JULY

**WELCOME BACK PAGE 3 • MUSICAL PAGE 4 • ELECTIVES PAGE 5 • PASTORAL CARE PAGE 6
TEACHING + LEARNING PAGE 7 • SPECIAL PROGRAMS PAGE 8 • NOTICES PAGE 9**

Coming

Up

WED 2 1 J U L

• Year 12 Retreat begins

MON 2 6 J U L

• Musical - Opening Night
• Science Competition week

WED 2 8 J U L

• Semester 1 Awards (Jnr)

FRI 3 0 J U L

• Musical - Closing Night

MON 0 2 A U G

• Staff Conference (Pupil-free day)

WED 0 4 A U G

• Semester 1 Awards (Snr)

THU 1 2 A U G

• Moderation Day (Pupil-free day)

MON 1 6 A U G

• Science Week

Contact Us

Contact details



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Tuggeranong ACT 2901



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



Absentee SMS Line
0429 131 463

Socials



www.facebook.com/
mackillop.act



www.twitter.com/
mackillop_act



www.instagram.com/
mackillop_act



www.youtube.com/
stmarymackillop

Principal's

Letter



Dear parents, staff and students,

WELCOME BACK

Congratulations to the many students who exceeded their own academic expectations in assessment and exams last semester. The advice of the College to all students is it doesn't matter where you finished; it matters that you've worked with us to set goals and use strategies to increase your achievement. Year coordinators, faculty heads, executive members of the staff, teachers, and your own peers are an excellent resource to help you set goals and begin afresh.

The re-emergence of COVID-19 is an alert for us all. Thank you for the positive feedback from a number of families to my communication last week. The College has implemented a number of COVID strategies with the staff. Most importantly, were the ACT to have to go into lockdown, the College is well prepared to move to remote learning that would be accessible, clear, and appropriate to all students' needs. In the meantime, let's be glad for the state we are in!

Although the College had to cancel a number of events for our year groups late last term, the ACT's vigilance and good fortune means that the Year 12 Retreat will now be going ahead at Canberra Park, Gungahlin, rather than at Collaroy, Sydney. The College will continue to work with ACT Health and Catholic Education to ensure that, where possible, calendar events proceed.

XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL INITIATIVE

Last term, I attended a Josephite Educational Leaders Conference in Darwin, NT. The day after the conference, I was flown to Bathurst Island in the Tiwi Islands at the expense of a Principal's association that I belong to. This was a profoundly different experience and a very rich one for me.

From this visit, a teacher exchange program is now being developed. The aim of this exchange is to support teachers at Xavier High School, Bathurst Island (the only high school in the Tiwi Islands). MacKillop would welcome, twice a year, a teacher from Xavier, have them shadow our teachers, explore our policies and practices in their area of responsibility, and to provide forums for them to talk to our teachers about the pedagogy and welfare issues for indigenous students in a remote community. This initiative will be funded through MacKillop's extensive professional learning program. It will have the benefit of supporting excellent teachers in a remote community and bringing a different lens to the professional dialogue and profile of MacKillop's staff.

I am hopeful that the first visitor from Xavier will arrive for a week later this term.

Yours in St Mary of the Cross MacKillop,

Michael Lee
College Principal

"Congratulations to the many students who exceeded their own academic expectations in assessment and exams last semester."

Prayer

Lord,

Help us to share the grief of those in our community who have suffered loss.

Amen.

ST MARY MACKILLOP COLLEGE PRESENTS



ROALD DAHL'S
Matilda
THE MUSICAL

Book
DENNIS KELLY

Music & Lyrics
TIM MINCHIN

26-30 JULY, 7PM
PADUA CAMPUS THEATRE

\$20 STUDENTS
\$30 ADULTS

Tickets available at the Front Office or on Qkr!
www.mackillop.act.edu.au/qkr

Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia).
All performance materials supplied by Hal Leonard Australia.



Updates to College Events

The College has updated some of its calendar events for Semester 2, 2021. The following key events have been changed/updated:

- **Monday 2 August** - Staff Conference & Spirituality Day (Pupil-free day)
- **Monday 23 August to Wednesday 25 August** - Year 10 Urban Challenge (Group A)
- **Wednesday 25 August to Friday 27 August** - Year 10 Urban Challenge (Group B)
- **Thursday 2 September (P1 & 2)** - MacKillop Day Mass (St Peter's Campus)
- **Friday 3 September (P1 & 2)** - MacKillop Day Mass (Padua Campus)
- **Monday 25 October to Tuesday 26 October** - Year 11 Retreat
- **Tuesday 9 November to Thursday 11 November** - Year 10 Examinations
- **Thursday 11 November** - Year 12 last day of classes
- **Friday 12 November** - Year 11 last day of classes
- **Friday 12 November** - Year 12 Breakfast and Assembly
- **Monday 15 November to Friday 19 November** - Year 11 and 12 Examinations

2022 Electives for current Years 7-9

It is now time for students in Years 7, 8 and 9 to make elective choices for the 2022 academic year. The process for making elective choices is:

1. Students discern about their elective choices by reading the relevant handbook (found on the College website) and talking to their parents/carers, friends and teachers.
2. Students will receive a link sent to their GroupWise email account on Friday 16 July.
3. Students will use this link to access the electives selection portal and make their selections following the instructions provided on the portal.
4. All choices must be submitted electronically by Thursday 29 July.
5. Students are to print a copy of their elective choices, parent/carers are to sign the form and it is to be returned to their PC teacher no later than Friday 30 July.

All students will participate in an Electives Presentation at school, explaining the role of the electives in their study package and how to make selections.

A PowerPoint Presentation of information regarding about elective choices can be found on the year level Canvas page for Years 7, 8 and 9 students.

Should you have any questions regarding electives selections please email me at maria.odonnell@mackillop.act.edu.au.

Maria O'Donnell • Assistant Principal Academic Care

Parliament of Youth on Sustainability

On Thursday 24 June students participated in the Parliament of Youth on Sustainability. The question students had to answer was What was the one action we can take to thrive on Ngunawal Country.

Year 12 students had the opportunity to photograph, facilitate and MC the event. There were two teams, Emily Rasheed and Tom Curtis from Year 11 and Darcy Thrupp and Isabel Roussidis from year 7. All the students were outstanding.

**Ummehani Rangwalla, Hannah Ulrick and Maeve McGregor
Science Teachers**



School Attendance *Every day counts*

"If you're a parent ... one the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time". – Michael Grose

The Parenting Ideas Article at the end of this Newsletter discusses the importance of parents/carers maximising their son or daughter's chance of future success by making sure they come to school on time, every day and saving absences for genuine illness and poor health.

How can you assist your son or daughter to maintain good attendance habits:

- establishing routines each evening and morning can provide structure to ensure your he or she arrives at school on time.
- speak with your child about the importance of attending every day.
- if possible make appointments out of school hours.
- avoid taking your teenager away for holidays during the school term.

A student's level of school attendance is a major influence on their achievement.

Attendance

Certificates

186 students achieved a record of 100% attendance during Semester 1. Those students will be presented with an Attendance Certificate recognising this accomplishment and their commitment to their studies at Year Assemblies next week.

New PC Teachers

As a result of some staffing changes at the College, a small number of Pastoral Care Classes have a new PC Teacher in Semester 2 The new PC Teachers are:

- 7F1 – Josephine Taylor
- 7F2 – Dereje Aby
- 8W1 – Ajay Gupta
- 10E2 – Jenny McKeveit
- 10E3 – Danielle Hartnett
- PCoPA – Chris Bounds

Term 3 After-School Sport *Indoor Soccer*

During Term 3 indoor soccer 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 July until 16 September in the Padua Campus Gym. Year 12 students will be coordinating the activities with a staff member present to supervise.

Consent forms for students are available from Pastoral Care Coordinators, the PE Staffroom or can be downloaded from Canvas.

Status Award *Recipients*

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

BRONZE STATUS

Lara Breen 7E3, Hunter Britton 7W3, Mitchell Campbell 7E4, Sienna Catanzariti 7E4, Conor Edwards 7A1, Delilah Ewings 7E4, Olivia Fearn 7E3, Alana Fraser 7E3, Chloe Kelly 7A2, Charlotte Marshall 7E3, Ava Nicholson 7E4, Ryan Rixon 7F1, Brandon Wake 7F3

SILVER STATUS

Alexander McLennan 7A1

Lachlan McNicol • Assistant Principal Pastoral Care

Maths Club *Padua Campus*

Maths Club is available on Tuesday and Thursday in the Padua Campus Learning Commons for students who require assistance in maths or those who would just like to finish their homework. Each session runs from 3.15pm-4.15pm.

Please note that Maths Club will **NOT** be available on the following dates:

Week 2	Tuesday 20 July
Week 5	Thursday 12 August (Moderation Day)
Week 7	Tuesday 24 August
Week 8	Tuesday 31 August
Week 9	Tuesday 7 September
Week 11	Tuesday 5 October
Week 11	Thursday 7 October
Week 13	Tuesday 19 October
Week 15	Tuesday 2 November

Anna Keppel • Maths Coordinator (Padua)



Big Science Competition *Results*

The ASI Big Science competition is a nationally benchmarked Science competition for students in Years 7-10. It is an online, multiple choice competition with questions that draw on real-life examples and contemporary issues. Students are assessed on their science knowledge, critical-thinking and problem-solving skills.

This year, all students in Years 7-10 had the opportunity to sit the exam in their science classes. The following students received certificates of High Distinction and Distinction:

HIGH DISTINCTION

Year 7: Reuben Lilley, Samuel Major, Ophelia Van Doorn.

Year 8: Oliver Briody, Daniel Collis, Ava Fradgley, Dylan Gourlay.

Year 9: Jett Blyton, Robbie Crisp, Luca Pettit, Cameron Rutten, Lucius Stefanutti, Darwin Van Doorn, Jasper Van Doorn, Oliver Wright.

Year 10: Patrick Dunn, Sven Leicester, Jacob Loughlin, Keira Polmanteer.

DISTINCTION

Year 7: Emily Bordiuk, Caitlin Chifley, Elise Coates, Conor Edwards, Hu Jenkins, Kyle Richardson, Jake Watson.

Year 8: Jay Anderson, Shiloh Bevan, Eleanore Burg, Tara Coates, Thomas Crispin, Nishchal Divi, Jasmine Donelly, Sophie Ggetti, Caila Gubbins, Ethan Hitchens, Mak Hukic, Amy Lenihan, Finn Matthews, Riley Mill, Ava Nielsen, Amelia Nolan, Hima Pynadath, Nathan Salvage, Jesinda Sebastian, Jack Stanford, Callum Whitta, Mia Willis, Brynmor Worrell.

Year 9: Thomas Blenkin, Maddoc Egan, Finnian Hughes, Elisabeth Lilley, Alexander May, Milly McCabe, Alexander Parnell, Alexandra Phathanak, Francis Rodgers, Hannah Rose, Laurence Shepherd-Ashby, Stella Wilde.

Year 10: Maria Ajamieh, Imogen Brewer, Elise Dredge, Adrian Georgiadis, Chelsea Gilchrist, Hugh Hagan, Lachlan Harris, Lucas Murray, Patrick O'Leary, Oliver Patron, Ashton Rajkovic, Thomas Rodgers, Jack Valois.

Kate Goolagong & Tristan Burg • Science Coordinators

NAIDOC Week *MacKillop Mob Report*

NAIDOC Week was celebrated in the second week of the holidays with this year's theme being HEAL COUNTRY. Country is inherent to our identity. It sustains our lives in every aspect - spiritually, physically, emotionally, socially, and culturally. It is more than a place. When we talk about Country it is spoken of like a person.

Country is family, kin, law, lore, ceremony, traditions, and language. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples it has been this way since the dawn of time. Through our languages and songs, we speak to Country; through our ceremonies and traditions we sing to - and celebrate Country - and Country speaks to us.

This country was criss-crossed by generations of brilliant Nations. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were Australia's first explorers, first navigators, first engineers, first farmers, first botanists, first scientists, first diplomats, first astronomers and first artists.

As NAIDOC Week was in the holidays, activities will be conducted throughout Term 3. These include learning and playing Buroinjin, making Emu Callers, throwing Boomerangs and getting stuck into some Bush Tucker. We look forward to sharing and celebrating culture and encourage you all to connect with all the different cultures represented in our community.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS:

Congratulations to Shaun Drazovich in Year 7 who made the ACT Cougars Oztog Representative Team.

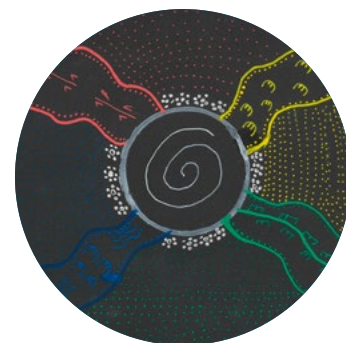
STUDENT SUPPORT IN SEMESTER 2:

Year 7 - Thursday A, Period 4

Year 8 and 9 - Thursday B, Period 4

Year 10 - Friday A Period 1

Year 11 and 12 - Monday B, Lunch or if you have a study - Wednesday A period 5, Friday A Period 1 and 2 and Monday B Period 4 and 5. Senior students can also arrange extra times during their free periods if I am available. My timetable is on the MacKillop Mob Canvas page.



Jeremy Margosis • Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Education

Music Program

Welcome to Semester 2. All rehearsals have resumed along with 2 NEW ensembles - Year 7 Concert Band and Year 7 String Ensemble.

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Tuesday: | • Vocal Ensemble 8am Ensemble Room - Padua |
| | • Guitar Ensemble 8.30am Music Room - Padua |
| Wednesday: | • Senior Wind Ensemble 8am Music Room - St Peters |
| Thursday: | • String Ensemble 8am Music Room - Padua |
| | • Year 7 Concert Band 8.15am Ensemble Room - Padua |
| Friday: | • Concert Band 8am Ensemble Room - Padua |
| | • Year 7 String Ensemble 8.15am Music Room - Padua |

Private lessons are available for brass, woodwind, strings, percussion and voice.

Please see Ms Boulton or Mr South for more information.

Veronica Boulton • Director of Music & Performance



Drug & Alcohol Research

On a recent Generation Next podcast, psychologist Andrew Fuller interviewed Paul Dillon, Director- Drug and Alcohol Research and Training Australia ([DARTA](#)). In the interview, Dillon laments the dearth of data related to adolescent drug and alcohol use and abuse during 2020. That said, he relates some of his observations gained from school visits towards the back end of the year, as well as contact with young people through his Instagram page.

Dillon notes most particularly:

- The rise of vaping in schools throughout Australia;
- The impact of social media in facilitating access to illicit substances and vaping devices; and
- Risks young people are taking with drugs like cannabis.

Information of this nature presents clear challenges to us as educators, parents and guardians as we all strive to provide the highest level of care to young people. To be well informed of the issues, especially from an expert in the field as highly regarded as Paul Dillon, only helps us to achieve that aim. On that basis, I commend the [podcast](#) to you.

Rohan Langford • Director of Student Wellbeing (St Peter's)

School Fees for Term 3

Term 3 Fees were electronically sent to family email addresses on 2 July 2021. Fees are to be paid by 30 July 2021 unless paying by Direct Debit or other approved method. If you would like more information regarding Direct Debit payments or have any queries regarding your fees, please contact the Fees Office. Please remember to notify the College of any changes to your email address as this is our primary form of communication.

Please note: Credits for Year 7 Camp and MacKillop Place Excursion have been placed on accounts.

Michelle Predovan • Fees Manager



Sustainability Week 2 events

We have two initiatives for Week 2 at the Junior Campus!

1. Please bring to PC your bread tags and washed bottle lids (with foam insert removed).
2. We are also encouraging everyone to take part in Plastic Free July for Week 2.

Hannah Ulrick • Sustainability

Community News

PARENTLINE - FREE HELP FOR WORKING MUMS

Parentline ACT has a new service to help with the issues and stress of being a working mum. Call 6287 3833 for free advice and counselling, or visit www.parentlineact.org.au

ELEVATE EDUCATION PARENT WEBINAR SERIES

MacKillop parents/carers have access to a webinar series by Elevate Education, with the first webinar on 21 July. [Register here.](#)

ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE YOUTH MINISTRY

St Thomas the Apostle Parish is running a Youth Alpha open for anyone from years 6 to 12. Alpha is a video series that explores and asks big questions about your faith and world. The first session will be held on 25 July at the Parish Centre (37 Boddington Cres, Kambah) from 3.30-5pm. Please RSVP to kambah@cg.org.au or on 6231 9219. They're also on Instagram: @kambah_ym

DANCE CENTRAL UNVEILED EVENT

Some of our students will perform at Erindale Theatre on Friday 16 and Saturday 17 July. [Click here for more information.](#)

INSIGHTS

On time, every day



During the current COVID-19 pandemic parents are rightfully urged to take a cautious approach and keep children and young people at home if they show symptoms of the virus.

It's a balancing act if you're a parent as one the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time. It sounds simple, but it's true. The correlation between school attendance and children's achievement levels is well established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success. Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools.

According to a report by the Australian Curriculum and Assessment authority nearly 13 per cent of Australian students are missing at least one year of schooling by the time they reach year 10. In today's highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

It's reassuring to know that you can maximise their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And, of course, regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with no excuse.

As a parent:

- Commit to sending kids to school every day
- Make sure kids arrive at school and class on time
- Inform the school when they are away, sending medical certificates and other evidence of genuine absence
- Follow current COVID-19 health guidelines and recommendations
- Consider catching-up on missed work
- Make kids who are away stay in their bedroom, which is where unwell kids should be



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.