

**College**

**Newsletter**



**MacKillop**  
St Mary MacKillop College Canberra



**Volume** *Five*

**29 April 2022**

# Coming

# Up

MON 0 2 M A Y

- Year 7 2023 Open Day
- Big Science Competition begins

WED 0 4 M A Y

- ASC Swimming Carnival 12&U
- Mathematics CAT Competition begins

FRI 0 6 M A Y

- ASC Swimming Carnival 13&O
- Try MacKillop Day

MON 0 9 M A Y

- 5:30pm: ASBA Information Evening

TUE 1 0 M A Y

- NAPLAN

WED 1 1 M A Y

- NAPLAN
- Careers Expo
- Year 11 2023 Info Night

THU 1 2 M A Y

- NAPLAN

FRI 1 3 M A Y

- NAPLAN

MON 1 6 M A Y

- NAPLAN



# Principal's Letter

## *Principal's Prayer*

Lord, we pray for the life of Puoc Aboy, who entered into eternal life on 12 April. We pray in support of his bereaved family and friends and stand with them in their grief. Amen.



### **Sad News - Puoc Aboy**

Puoc was a young man who came to the College this year with his Year 7 friends from St Francis of Assisi. Puoc came already gravely ill with cancer and indeed was at MacKillop for only a few days before hospitalisation. Puoc entered into eternal life on 12 April. This information has been communicated to the Year 7 community and I was joined with a number of staff and counsellors when speaking to the Year 7 group on Wednesday and to our graduates from St Francis of Assisi.

This is a most challenging time for Puoc's family and friends and I am sure you will join with me in making them the focus of our prayer and sympathy. The family have expressed their gratitude to the College for our support of Puoc and them. This support will continue on your behalf. Requiescat in pace.

Dear parents, teachers and students,

### **ANZAC Day**

Thank you to Mrs Sandra Darley, Mr Jonathan Moyle and student leaders who were involved in what was a fantastic ANZAC Day online Observance, presented to the school on Wednesday. A particular thanks to the Board Chair, Commodore Nathan Robb RAN, for the quality and generosity of his Occasional Remarks. Thank you to all serving members of the MacKillop parent and alumni community. The qualities of sacrifice, courage, and duty should never be forgotten and 25 April reminds us each year of the significance of these qualities to the life and progress of the Nation. Let us not forget.

### **Welcome back**

Welcome back from what I am sure was a much-needed holiday for MacKillop staff, students, and families. I would like to acknowledge the outstanding commitment demonstrated by teachers and support staff last term. The number of lessons that were prepared and taken by others through illness and isolation was a tangible sign of the commitment of all of us to quality learning in these challenging times. I would also like to acknowledge the difficult circumstances many of our families faced. Their cooperation with MacKillop helped to ensure all students were supported during the term.

Term 2 will pose its own challenges and we will continue to prioritise safety and learning. Effective communication, trust, goodwill and humour will, I'm sure, play their part in our vital community.

### **Enrolments – Year 7 2023**

Enrolment Period begins next Monday, 2 May with the MacKillop Open Day. If you know of people considering MacKillop for Year 7, or who might be considering moving their child to MacKillop from another school, please encourage them to attend this event. There will be ample opportunity to engage with teachers and senior staff, to look at the College's facilities and resources, and to see quality learning and a well-ordered school in action.

I would like to thank all of the students and staff for their commitment to making MacKillop enrolment events high quality and authentic. Our publicity budget is much smaller than it used to be because of the positive word of mouth that you and your children offer about the school.

### **Over the holidays**

Over the break, I attended the Ancient Greeks Exhibition at the National Museum, the Shakespeare to Winehouse Exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery, and the Jeffrey Smart Exhibition at the NGA. Although I didn't understand the Decoded (coding) Exhibition at the Museum, I ran into a number of MacKillop students who did understand it and generously explained it to me! If you have not yet seen any of these, I warmly commend them to you.

Yours sincerely in St Mary MacKillop,

**Mr Michael Lee • College Principal**





**MacKillop**  
St Mary MacKillop College Canberra

**We're enrolling  
now for 2023!**

Visit our website to enrol or to  
register for our enrolment events:

**[www.mackillop.act.edu.au](http://www.mackillop.act.edu.au)**



## **Year 7 2023 Open Day**

**Monday 2 May  
Padua Campus**

Book a session:  
**[www.mackillop.act.edu.au](http://www.mackillop.act.edu.au)**

## **Try MacKillop Day**

**Friday 6 May  
Padua Campus**

For Year 6. Register at:  
**[www.mackillop.act.edu.au](http://www.mackillop.act.edu.au)**

## **Year 11 2023 Info Night**

**Wednesday 11 May  
St Peter's Campus**

Save the date - more  
information to come

Applications for Year 7 2023 close Friday 27 May  
Enrolment enquiries: [enrolments@mackillop.act.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@mackillop.act.edu.au)

*A Catholic school for all.*







## The Return to Term 2

St Mary MacKillop College enjoyed a positive start to Term 2 as students returned from the April school holidays on Wednesday.

Students started the day with an ANZAC Liturgy during Pastoral Care, before they returned to their classrooms freshly rejuvenated from their two-week break.

There were some noticeable changes on campus, with updates to COVID protocols meaning students were no longer required to wear masks indoors. An outline of the protocol updates was emailed to parents earlier this week.

Term 2 is one of the busiest stages of the College calendar, with Open Days, the Careers Expo, Try MacKillop Day, NAPLAN, the Cross Country, Urban Challenge, exams, camps, pastoral events, and reflection days all packed into the 10-week period. On top of these events, students are now able to return to school sport and other extra-curricular activities with the changes to COVID restrictions.



## College News



## MoAD

This week a delegation of students from across the college attended the launch of the new permanent exhibition "Democracy DNA - The People, The Prime Ministers and The World" at the Museum of Australian Democracy (MoAD) located in Old Parliament House.

As part of the excursion, students engaged with former Prime Ministers Kevin Rudd and Tony Abbott. The insights delivered through their speeches encouraged the students, as young people, to work hard, speak up, get involved and engage in democracy.

The students were the first members of the public to access the new exhibition and to learn more about the history of Democracy through interactive exhibits, artifacts, stories and audio visual displays. Some students were also fortunate enough to have a conversation with Kevin Rudd about what makes a great leader and how they can become better leaders.

**MJ Logan • Learning Commons Teacher**





# UNEDJAMACATED



## Unedjamacated

After a number of cancellations, our Canberra Comedy Festival show, Unedjamacated, is finally on!

Come and see the next big things in stand up, musical, and sketch show comedy as Canberra's finest new wave of comedians prove that being Unedjamacated is a full-time job in itself.

The show has moved to **Verity Lane along Northbourne Avenue** and will commence at **7pm on Thursday 5 May**. Tickets are available at:

<https://canberracomedyfestival.com.au/event/unedjamacated/>

Come support our students (past and present) and have a great laugh while you're at it. We'd love to see you there!

## Student Achievements

Isaac Cooper and Nicholas Christian (Year 7) represented the ACT at the Australian Little Athletics Championships in Melbourne. Both boys achieved PBs and did themselves proud. Nicholas also took out the bronze medal in the 1500m race walk.





## Pastoral Program

*Safe Behaviours and Wellbeing*

The Pastoral Program for Term 2 focuses on the theme of **"Safe Behaviours and Wellbeing"**. Each Year group will be studying different topics within the theme which are:

- **Year 7** – Cybersafety
- **Year 8** – Body Image
- **Year 9** – Mental Health
- **Year 10** – Party Safe
- **Year 11** – Safe Behaviours
- **Year 12** – Life skills for adulthood

## New PC Teachers

A small number of Pastoral Care Classes have a new PC Teacher from the start of Term 2 due to staffing changes. The new PC Teachers are:

- **8E3** – Bronwyn Griffin
- **9E1** – Ummehani Rangwalla
- **10W2** – Jane Watson



## Year 10 Urban Challenge

### *Parent/Carer Information Evening*

A Year 10 Urban Challenge Parent/Carer Information Evening will be held for interested parents at **6.00pm on Tuesday 3 May** in the **St Peter's Theatre**. The information evening will provide the opportunity for parents/carers that have particular concerns or questions about the camp, or students with particular needs, to receive an overview and more detailed information about the Challenge. This includes the Urban Challenge program, travel arrangements, catering, accommodation, dietary and medication requirements. All Year 10 parents are invited. However, please note that the evening is not for the information of students.

## Project Compassion

During the season of Lent, students at MacKillop are encouraged to donate towards Project Compassion - Caritas Australia's annual fundraising and awareness raising appeal, supporting the poor in both Australia and around the world. Led by the SRC on both campuses, the College **raised over \$12,000** with students demonstrating their generosity, community spirit and willingness to assist those in need.



## Term 2 After-School Sport

During Term 2 Net Games (Volleyball, Badminton, Mini tennis and Modified net games) will be run as an after-school sports activity, available to all students in Year 7 to 9. The sessions will take place on **Thursday afternoons** from **5 May until 16 June** in the **Padua Campus Gym**. Year 12 students will be coordinating the activities with a staff member present to supervise.

The afternoon sports activities provide a great opportunity for students to involve themselves in the school community, enjoy a social sporting environment and build friendships. Students who have attained Bronze or Silver Status can count the hours that they attend towards their application for the next level of Status, as Community Involvement time.

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

**Paul Durham • Assistant Principal, Pastoral Care**

## NAPLAN Testing 2022

The National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is 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 2022 is scheduled to take place between **Tuesday 10 and Friday 13 May 2022** for our Year 7 and Year 9 students. All testing will occur using the online testing platform.

### Testing Timetable NAPLAN 2022

Tuesday 10 May	Wednesday 11 May	Thursday 12 May	Friday 13 May
Reading (65 minutes)	Writing (45 minutes)	Conventions of Language (45 minutes)	Numeracy (65 minutes)
Year 9- period 1 Year 7- period 3	Year 9- period 1 Year 7- period 3	Year 9- period 1 Year 7- period 3	Year 9- period 1 Year 7- period 3

### 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 into the testing classrooms. 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.

If students are sick on the day of NAPLAN please keep them at home. They will be offered the opportunity to undertake catchup testing (depending on their return to school date). 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 2022, please make email contact with Lisa Buckland, Teaching and Learning Coordinator, in the first instance at: [lisa.buckland@mackillip.act.edu.au](mailto:lisa.buckland@mackillip.act.edu.au)

**Maria O'Donnell • Assistant Principal Academic Care**





## Science

This year the Science Faculty is teaching two new electives - **Forensic Science in Year 9** and **Data Science in Year 10**.

### *Forensic Science*

Forensic Science is a multidisciplinary science that has gained popularity through media exposure including television shows such as CSI. Over the course of the semester, students will enhance their working knowledge and application of a number of scientific processes and research skills, including observing, making inferences, problem solving, drawing conclusions, organizing data, and measurements.

**During Term 1**, students conducted a number of experiments where they were required to collect and analyse physical evidence using the tools of a forensic scientist. Student highlights from the term include lifting fingerprints from various surfaces using different dusting powders, observing hair fibres under a microscope, analysing bite mark impressions and matching tyre track evidence.

### *Data Science*

There is a huge amount of data in the world, and an understanding of this data can help to answer difficult questions about society. The Big Data in Science elective is designed to develop students' skills to effectively analyse and make sense of the results of large-scale scientific experiments. Students completing the elective have strong interests in science, programming and problem solving. Students have been given access to large sets of data looking at Stars, Climate, Chemical Elements and Motion, with highlights of generating their own Hertzsprung-Russell diagrams and working out the average temperature of all the yellow stars visible in the night sky.

**In Term 2** student will be using their problem-solving skills and creativity to answer their own scientific questions by designing experiments using data loggers and large data sets, which they will share with a general audience.

**Mel Pert & Kate Goolagong • Science Coordinators**





## Turnitin - More than just a plagiarism checker

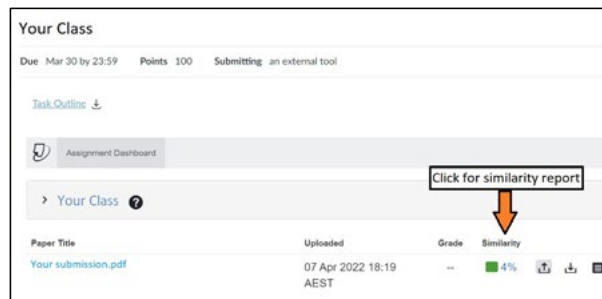
Turnitin is a text matching program that allows students to check their referencing, originality of expression, grammar, spelling and punctuation. When an assignment is uploaded through Turnitin, text within that assignment is compared with other texts online, in databases and within a repository of student assignments from around the world. From this, a similarity report is generated which highlights what percentage of the assignment matches or closely matches text found elsewhere. This percentage can be broken down to specific sources that the text originated from.

All students at MacKillop are **required to submit their written assignments to Turnitin via Canvas**. While this process is familiar to students across the College, many only use Turnitin to fulfil this requirement, not realising that this program is also a valuable learning tool that can be utilised to improve their research skills and the quality of written work.

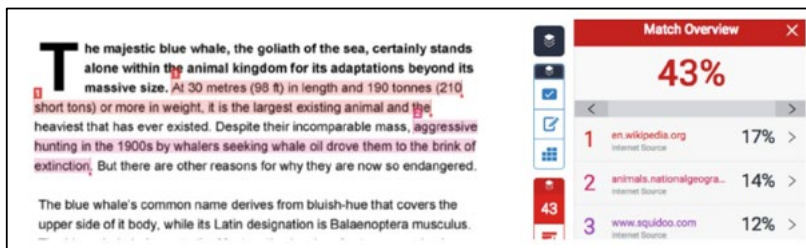
Students are encouraged to utilise this valuable learning tool. If they have any questions they should talk with their teachers or the staff in the Learning Commons.

**Trent Wilson • Digital Learning Coordinator**

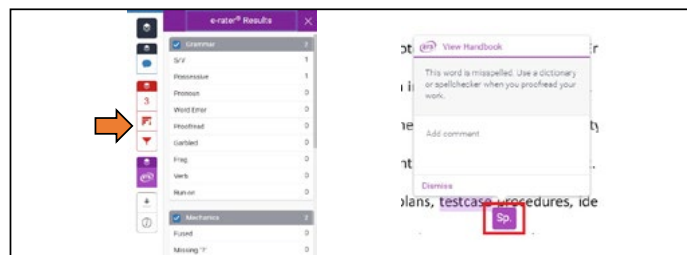
### How you could be better using Turnitin: A guide for students



Upload your assignment prior to the due date through Turnitin and download the Similarity Report.



Use the Similarity Report to determine whether you have written information in your own words, used quotation marks for quotations and cited any ideas that are not your own. To learn more about the Similarity Report, read the guides [here](#).



Access the e-rater feedback tool. This tool provides you with feedback about grammar, usage, mechanics, style and spelling errors. Utilising the feedback from this tool will assist you to improve the quality of your writing before submitting a final copy of your task. To learn more about the e-rater feedback tool, read the guides [here](#).

## ASC Athletics Results

MacKillop competed in the ASC Athletics carnival on **Tuesday the 26th of April**. We had some great success with the following students achieved a **top 3 finish** in their events:

**Nicholas Christian 7F3** – 1st in Javelin; 2nd in 200m, 400m  
**Annabelle Renda 7F2** – 2nd in Long Jump; 3rd in 100m  
**Mia Keen 8W4** – 1st in Javelin, 200m, Long Jump, Triple Jump; 2nd in 100m, Discus  
**Charlotte Cummins 8E1** – 2nd in Javelin  
**Samuel Rizzuto 8E4** – 2nd in 800m  
**Ariella Patterson 8A2** – 3rd in 800m  
**Brandon Wake 8F3** – 3rd in Triple Jump  
**Milly McCabe 10AF** – 2nd in 800m, 1500m  
**Leila Nikolic 9W3** – 3rd in 1500m  
**Maximilian Swoboda 9W1** – 2nd in 400m  
**Madeline Brown 9E2** – 1st in Javelin  
**Olivia Rizzuto 10E1** – 1st in 800m  
**Cameron Rutten 10W3** – 3rd in 800m  
**Ariadne Stergiou 12W1** – 1st in Long Jump, High Jump, Shot Put; 3rd in 200m

A big congratulations to the following students who achieved the age champion for their age group.

Mia Keen – 13-Year-Old Female Age Champion  
 Nicholas Christian- 13-Year-Old Male Age Champion  
 Ariadne Stergio- Opens Female Age Champion



## Mountain Bike Competition

St Mary MacKillop College was represented by three boys (Cody, Will and Charlie) at the Australian Interschools **Mountain Bike Competition**. It was a very busy event with over 1000 students competing. A special mention goes to Cody Owen who finished 7th in his age category despite competing in three of the four races. MacKillop will be looking to increase its representation at this event next year.

**Monique Foran • Sports Facilitator**



## Term 2 Fees

Term 2 Fees were electronically sent to family email addresses on **13 April 2022**. Fees are due to be paid by **13 May 2022** unless paying by Direct Debit or other approved method.

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**

## Uniform Shop

### Second Hand Uniform Shop (SHUS)

We regret to inform you that the SHUS will be closed until 20 June.

Don't forget that you can contact the uniform shop via email: [uniforms@mackillop.act.edu.au](mailto:uniforms@mackillop.act.edu.au) or call/text: 0427 089 370

### Lowe's Schoolwear

2 Day VIP Event on **5 May** and **6 May**.

**20% off** original prices on schoolwear and everything else.

**Judy Keogh • Uniform Shop Coordinator**

## PE Pathways Inside the Fitness Centre

*Let's meet some of our student athletes!*



**Ebony Brunt, Year 12**

### Sport: Ice Hockey

**Biggest accomplishment so far:** Going to the 2020 Winter Youth Olympics. I have played in the u18 Australian team twice, once as assistant captain. This year, I made the national women's team and the u18 Australian team.

**Sporting Hero:** My dad – he has been playing for over 35 years and represented Australia 7 times.

**Sporting aspirations:** Contribute to AWHL, gain leadership roles in the Aussie team, and encourage young girls in the sport.

**Favorite inspirational quote:** "Look good, feel good, play good"

**Favorite song to listen to when training?** Icon by Jaden Smith

**What do you like most about the PE Pathways program?** Working out and getting to better myself, along with the friendships and teamwork of the class. It's such a supportive environment.







**MacKillop**  
St Mary MacKillop College Canberra

## 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 SMS Line**  
**0429 131 463**

## Socials



[www.facebook.com/  
mackillop.act](http://www.facebook.com/mackillop.act)



[www.twitter.com/  
mackillop\\_act](http://www.twitter.com/mackillop_act)



[www.instagram.com/  
mackillop\\_act](http://www.instagram.com/mackillop_act)



[www.youtube.com/  
stmarymackillop](http://www.youtube.com/stmarymackillop)

## INSIGHTS

### Standing behind difficult decisions



Johan and Harry were both suspended from school for a day after willingly watching a schoolyard fight. Their school had a zero-tolerance policy toward fighting and believed that those who watched a fight were as complicit in the conflict as those engaged in the fighting.

The reactions of both sets of parents to the boys' suspensions differed greatly. Johan's parents supported the school's actions and made the necessary changes to their work schedules to accommodate the suspension. Privately, they thought that the suspension may have been harsh, but as they agreed with the school's zero tolerance approach to violence, they knew they had no option but to accept the suspension. They counselled their son against similar behaviour in future and made sure his time away from school was spent doing schoolwork.

Harry's parents weren't quite so supportive. Thinking that their son's suspension was unfair, they contacted the school's principal asking to have the suspension removed. The principal listened to their concerns however she didn't remove the suspension. She reminded Harry's parents of the reasons behind the school's zero tolerance approach to fighting and urged them to support of their policy. Disappointed but obviously not deterred, Harry's father took time off work to take his son on a fishing trip on the day of the suspension. This action showed little regard for the school's efforts to encourage a culture of respectful relationships, as well as scant respect for the principal's authority.

#### Make the most of learning moments

Both sets of parents thought that the suspension of their sons was harsh. However, only one set saw the situation as a learning experience for the son. Johan's parents discussed with their son the place that bystanders play when violence breaks out. They reinforced the message that although it may take courage to stop a fight or bring it to the attention of teachers, it's these sorts of actions that constitute positive leadership.

Harry's parents couldn't see past the injustice of the suspension and missed a great opportunity to teach their son any number of lessons. These include what he may do next time a similar incident occurs, how he might respond when he sees someone being bullied or even how to nip conflict between peers in the bud before it escalates. There are many discussions they could have had with their son due to the suspension. From an educative perspective, this was an opportunity missed.

#### Trust the process

Arguably, the bigger issue in this story is that just as Johan's parents did, we parents need to trust the processes that teachers put in place at school, even when we don't always agree. Family-school partnerships are strongest when parents stand behind the difficult decisions that teachers make, even though the wisdom behind them may not be immediately evident. Sometimes, we all have to stand back and trust a process that's been in put in place, particularly when it's been implemented after a great deal of thought and diligence.



## 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.