

**College**

**Newsletter**



**MacKillop**  
St Mary MacKillop College Canberra



**Volume One**

**3 February 2023**

# Coming

# Up

MON 0 6 F E B

- Year 11 SRC Elections
- 5:30 pm: Year 11 Parent Information Evening

TUE 0 7 F E B

- 5:30 pm: Year 7 Parent Information Evening

THU 0 9 F E B

- Year 7-10 PAT Testing
- Year 11 Senior Studies Day

FRI 1 0 F E B

- Year 7-10 PAT Testing

MON 1 3 F E B

- Year 7-10 PAT Testing
- Commedia dell'arte Performance

TUE 1 4 F E B

- Year 11 AST Trial

THU 1 6 F E B

- 4:00pm: Year 12 Interviews (ATAR)
- 5:30pm: Year 12 Careers Presentation (non-ATAR)

TUE 2 1 F E B

- Honours Assembly (St Peter's)
- 6:00pm: Year 11 Cooma Parent Information Evening

THU 2 3 F E B

- College Swimming Carnival



# Principal's Letter

## *Principal's Prayer*

Dear Lord, we give thanks for 25 years of MacKillop education here on Ngunnawal Country in the Tuggeranong Valley. Amen.



Dear parents/carers, teachers and students,

## Welcome Back

The College gives thanks for 25 years at MacKillop this year. Those of you joining us this year (there's well over 400 of you) and those of you returning will have opportunities to pause and be grateful for staff, students, clergy and board members who have got us to this point. I am particularly focused on the energy, talent, skills and spirit of each member of our community and how each of us can harness those qualities to take us to the next level.

I am pleased that so many students and staff have had holidays of adventure, relaxation, family and many, many trips to the coast.

Welcome back!

## Cyber Safety

Many of you would know that the College has an excellent relationship with the Australian Federal Police and indeed many AFP Officers have their children at this school. Over the holiday break an AFP Officer, who works in the area of e-safety and security, gave me great affirmation for how the school engages with students and helps to equip them to operate within boundaries and to understand safety protocols. His advice was that there has been a spike in unlawful and exploitative traffic online which has placed members of the community, including our own, in positions of vulnerability. Every parent and carer should be encouraged to have regular conversations about online use and safety protocols that all people of good will operate within. It's good to know that we are doing a good job and we'll continue to work with agencies to maintain our standard.

## Australia Day Honours

There are many fine hard-working Australians in education and indeed in other vocations who have not been honoured in the way that I was on Australia Day. The response of so many people in the MacKillop community and in education around the country has been overwhelming, very encouraging and richly appreciated by my family and myself. Thank you to everybody.

Yours sincerely in St Mary MacKillop,

**Mr Michael Lee**  
College Principal





## School Begins for 2023!

The College has enjoyed a great start to the 2023 academic year, with more than 2000 students commencing at MacKillop across the two campuses.

On Tuesday 31 January, our 370 new Year 7 students spent their first day with the entire Padua Campus to themselves, while Years 10, 11 and 12 commenced at the St Peter's Campus. Years 8 and 9 commenced on Wednesday 1 February.

The first few days were extremely positive and there was an amazing energy from the students, who were excited to see their teachers, reconnect with friends, meet new people, and try new classes.

The College warmly welcomes those who are new to the MacKillop community and congratulates all students for the way they have started the year. We wish you the best of luck for 2023!





## Grateful for 25 years

"Set your hearts on His Kingdom first, and on God's saving justice, and all these other things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself, each day has enough trouble of its own." Matt 6:33-34.

This small quote from the Gospel that is read on the feast of St Mary of the Cross (MacKillop) holds such depth and meaning. In it we read about where we should focus our hearts and what we will receive if we do – focus on His Kingdom and we will receive his saving justice. If, in our daily lives as students, teachers, parents and carers, we start our mornings simply by offering them up to God with a short, simple morning offering (*'Dear God, my day is yours. Amen'*), this will allow us to demonstrate that simple statement of 'setting your hearts on His Kingdom.'

Our focus as a school, celebrating our Silver Jubilee, is to be grateful. 'Gratitude is an emotion that reflects our deep appreciation for what we value, what brings meaning to our lives, and what makes us feel connected to ourselves and others.' (Brene Brown – *Atlas of the Heart*)

As I start my new role as Assistant Principal of Faith, Mission and Religious Education, I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks and gratitude to the school community for giving me this chance to lead the school in these three areas, which are central pillars to a Catholic School.

I am looking forward to working with students, teachers, parents, carers and the wider Tuggeranong Valley to build a community where faith is shown through understanding, prayer and action, that is through the actions of our head, heart and hands.

Thankful for 25 years of MacKillop education on Ngunnawal land.

*"See and be grateful"* - Mary MacKillop, 1884

**Clare Kinnane • Assistant Principal for Faith, Mission and RE**

## Year 7 Information Night

We invite our Year 7 parents and carers to attend our annual Year 7 Information Night. The event provides an opportunity for you to meet some of the key College staff involved in the education of your children. A variety of presentations will be delivered that focus on Academic Care, Pastoral Care, Digital Technologies and Integrated Humanities. Parents and carers will also have the opportunity to meet and greet your child's Pastoral Care Teacher. Transition into high school presents many changes for students and families, we aim to provide relevant information to offer support throughout their journey as students at St Mary MacKillop College.

**Date:** Tuesday 7th February 2023  
**Start Time:** 5:30pm-7:00pm  
**Venue:** Padua Campus Gymnasium

Groups on the evening are based on your child's allocated House Group, if you are unsure of this, the information is located on each child's timetable. We would also request that parents and carers park only in designated College areas as neighbouring venues and schools may lock gates after hours.

## Pastoral Care Teachers and Coordinators

Pastoral Care Teachers play an essential role in supporting the students' well-being and academic achievement in their PC Class. In most cases, PC teachers have continued with the same classes from 2022 into 2023. The PC Teacher is usually the first point of contact for parents for issues of a general nature and can also direct enquiries to other staff members.

The Pastoral Care Coordinators who provide leadership and direction to each year group have written a letter of introduction to families, and this will be received next week.

The Pastoral Care Coordinators this year are:

**Year 7** – Mrs Kathleen Galvin & Miss Anita Ramirez  
**Year 8** – Miss Belinda Fox and Mr Steve Lowe  
**Year 9** – Mrs Colleen Kain and Mr Simon Kelly  
**Year 10** – Ms Leonie Sullivan and Mr Peter Johnson  
**Year 11** – Mrs Jane Cunneen and Mr Matthew Crowe  
**Year 12** – Mr Charles Bootes

The Directors of Student Wellbeing, who work closely with the coordinators on each campus to support student well-being and academic achievement, are:

**Padua Campus** – Mr Nathan Wood  
**St Peter's Campus** – Mr Rohan Langford

## Student Absences and Late Arrivals

St Mary MacKillop College requires parents to provide a written explanation of their child's absence from school.

If students will be absent from school, parents/carers are requested to notify the College in advance, or on the day of the absence, by contacting the **Absentee SMS Line: 0429 131 463**



In the event that a student is absent, or late to school, and contact from a parent/carer has not been received, the College will send an SMS message to the first listed parent/carer. Parents/carers are asked to respond to the SMS indicating:

- their child's name
- the date of the absence
- the reason

Receiving this information will allow the College attendance records to be updated, with the explanation of the absence documented. **No further action from parent/carers will be required.**

If a student arrives late to school, a parent/carer may also physically sign their child in at Student Reception or provide a written note of explanation.

## Status Awards

On the Padua Campus, a Status System recognises, affirms and rewards students for positive behaviours. Students may advance to the levels of Bronze, Silver or Gold Status.

Students are issued with a Merit Point Card and encouraged to seek recognition for their positive contributions to the life of MacKillop through aiming for the progressions of Bronze, Silver and Gold Status. When students have met the criteria for each level an application form can be sought from their Pastoral Care Coordinator.

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

### Bronze Status

Myles Aitken 8W4, Seth Bacher 8F3, Sam Braun 8A2, Maddison Gardner 8A4, Chelsea Hogan 8E1, Junn Li 8W4, Olivia Carbone 8A3, Kiara Nott 8E2

**Paul Durham • Assistant Principal Pastoral Care**

## Student Representative Council

Our College Student Representative Council plays a vital role in our College Community. Our student leaders on both campuses have been busy during the holidays planning for upcoming events, and our Padua Campus SRC were at school all day on Monday, participating in planning activities and looking at ways to support and welcome Year 7.



During the Padua Campus Assembly, the 2023 Student Representative Council members received their badges and were inducted into their student leadership positions. Year 7 will have an opportunity to elect their SRC later in the Term.

Congratulations to:

**Padua Campus Captains:** Laura Del Bianco and Alexander McLennan

### Padua Campus House Captains:

Mindygari	Gurabang	Meup Meup	Ngadyung
Cooper Willson Scarlett Wilde	Henry Winslade Jasmine Dolbel	Christopher Esguerra Indiana Kildey	William Mundy Mia Keen

### Year 8 SRC:

Mindygari	Gurabang	Meup Meup	Ngadyung
Zack Fuller	Georgia Meffert	Elsie D'Ambrosio	Liam Corey

The College Captains, the Portfolio Captains and the St Peter's Student Representative Council will be inducted and receive their badges next week.

## School Drop-Off and Pick-Up

All parents, or others, who drop-off or pick-up students before and after school are asked to do so on the Basketball Courts at each campus. This is to ensure that the safety of students and other road users is maximised at this time.

It is requested that students are not dropped-off or picked-up on the surrounding streets at each campus or in the bus bays. Cars parked on surrounding streets combined with students crossing roads increases the risks of accidents that could potentially be avoided.

## School Counsellors

At MacKillop, we are committed to supporting students to reach their full potential in all aspects of their growth and development, including supporting mental well-being. The counselling service is a confidential and free service for students to access regarding personal support needs, including concerns around friendships, mental health, family issues, identity, risk taking and any issue that is a concern to the student. School counselling takes a solutions-focused approach, aiming to equip students with tangible tools to better cope. It is always voluntary and confidential.

We know that starting a new school year can be stressful and it's not unusual to feel nervous and anxious at this time. Please check out the student wellness page on Canvas where we post regular updates and helpful tips, including how to start the term off strong.

We are also delighted that all our College counsellors are now employed directly by the school. To access support, we'd recommend first speaking to your Pastoral Care Coordinator or you can self-refer by emailing: [counsellor@mackillop.act.edu.au](mailto:counsellor@mackillop.act.edu.au).



### Padua Campus (Year 7-9)

Jerry Wilkes (Mon-Fri)  
Alli Chambers (Mon-Thur)



### St Peter's Campus (Year 10-12)

Lisa Seidel (Mon-Fri)  
Rachel Davidson (Mon-Fri)

## Generation Next *Meningococcal*

Recently, *Generation Next* posted an article about [Meningococcal](#). This disease can form an adverse lining around the brain and/or sepsis of the blood. The article was quite direct in stating that the key groups most affected by Meningococcal were small children, and adolescents and young adults aged 15-24. The impact of this disease can be quite devastating, with the potential for loss of limbs, deafness and blindness in a minority of cases, and even death in some rare events. Strikingly similar to long COVID, Meningococcal can also linger, with fatigue and ongoing forgetfulness being the result of battling the disease for many people.

There are several variants of Meningococcal, with many now having a vaccine to help protect children and adolescents against the disease. Since 2019, a free, government sponsored program of vaccinations has occurred throughout secondary schools in Australia. This program generally targets Year 10 students and on 31 March at the St Peter's Campus, vaccinations will be conducted. Year 10 students will receive an important form to bring home related to these vaccinations. We ask that this form be returned to your child's Pastoral Care teacher by 9 February.

Some families prefer not to have their children immunised, others elect to get their GP to perform this service in the comfort of their clinics. At MacKillop, we endeavour to provide a safe and private experience for students who choose to obtain this vaccination here at school. If there are any queries, especially from Year 10 families, please contact me at school: [rohan.langford@mackillop.act.edu.au](mailto:rohan.langford@mackillop.act.edu.au)

**Rohan Langford • Director of Student Wellbeing**

Welcome to the 2023 School Year

## New Opportunities for Success

The beginning of each new school year brings students many new opportunities and the hope to achieve better results, to make new friends, and to try new sports and subjects. There are a number of habits that help students to achieve or bring these new opportunities to fruition.

- 1. Attention and focus** - attention reflects active engagement with new work, new people and situations. Focus on the desired area for improvement engenders the possibilities for development and growth.
- 2. Goal setting** - deliberate thinking about what one wishes to achieve, how they will go about this, and what it will look like, helps to set the direction and creates a commitment to act. Without this commitment, the individual has less to hold them to accountable action.
- 3. Organisation** – knowing what has to be done, how it needs to be done and when it needs to be done is essential in meeting work requirements. Less cognitive load ( this is the demand on the working memory; when there is less demand, the brain can respond better) reduces stress and anxiety, which are often present with poor organisation. One of the other positive consequences of organisation is the building of individual confidence.
- 4. Effort is rewarded in achievement** – effort is a significant requirement of academic success. One can be talented, but without genuine and sustained effort achievements are less than they can be. **All students have control over the effort they put into their work.**
- 5. Using the resources of the College** - the teachers, the Learning Commons, Counsellors and Pastoral Care, homework club, extra-curricular activities and other services provide students with advice, support to understand work, and services which are student directed and responsive.

Regular work habits such as study time, revision of daily class notes, exercises and creating study notes encourage the brain to move work from the short term memory to long term memory. This means that the work is then accessible when called upon in assessments. The College recommends that all students spend time each school night completing study, homework and assessment work.

The hours recommendations for each year group per school night are:

<b>Years 7 and 8:</b>	1-1.5 hours per night
<b>Years 9 and 10:</b>	1.5-2 hours per night
<b>Years 11 and 12:</b>	minimum of 3 hours per night

Learning is an active process requiring attention, focus, effort and assistance.

Welcome to the new school year and the many possibilities it brings.

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

## ChatGPT *Some Preliminary Comments*

One of the most contentious topics being discussed by educators and the broader community right now is "How will Education change in the face of ChatGPT?". In one sense, the day-to-day practice of schools remains the same; students will continue to learn how to research, study, recall and retain knowledge, cite and produce assessment just like they always have. However, ChatGPT certainly presents both opportunities and risks.

ChatGPT is essentially a web-based computer program you can chat or interact with about anything, including asking it to produce any type of written output you request. While that may sound like nothing new, what makes it so powerful is that it has been trained on a Large Language Model that encompasses most of the content that exists on the Internet; you can refine its output through a conversation. So if you needed an essay written on the origins of Pokemon, a poem created about the seasons, a computer program that can play Tic Tac Toe, ChatGPT can easily and quickly generate them for you.

Where there exists some risk, is that the content produced is unique. It isn't 'copied and pasted', it is simply written in response to a request by extraordinary Artificial Intelligence. This may make plagiarism detection a challenge. ChatGPT is also prone to producing spurious content that needs serious vetting and verifying. A student looking to quickly produce a take-home assessment piece could well land themselves in a murky Academic Misconduct situation. Students need to remember that using the work of others and passing it off as their own has not changed, this is still cheating and represents a very serious breach of academic integrity, for which there are commensurate consequences.

Having said that, a tool like this presents incredible opportunities. It allows for individuals to further their own understanding of topics at the pace they need, at a level they feel comfortable with. Its use of Natural Language is incredibly forgiving, and it will converse with individuals at their level. It is a near-perfect tutor!

2023 will be a significant year for both students and teachers to explore the AI space. Finding a way to use its best features and avoid its pitfalls is a new and exciting path we are looking forward to exploring together.

**Colby Cruwys • Senior Studies Coordinator and IT Specialist Teacher**

## Music at MacKillop

Students can participate in our in-school instrumental tuition through the College. If you would like to take part or for further information, please speak with Ms Boulton or Mr South.

### Instrumental tuition that is available:

**Woodwind** – Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone

**Brass** – Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Euphonium, Tuba

**Percussion** – Drum Kit and Orchestral Percussion

**String** – Violin, Viola, 'Cello, Double Bass, Guitar, Bass Guitar

**Piano**

**Voice**

### Our Ensemble Program:

<b>Monday</b>	MacKillop Choir	St Peter's	3:45-4:30pm
	PCoPA	St Peter's	4:30-5:30pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Guitar Ensemble	Padua - Music Room	8-8:45pm
	Senior Wind Ensemble	St Peter's - Music Room	3:45-5pm
	St Peter's String Ensemble	St Peter's - ARC Theatre	3:45-5pm
<b>Thursday</b>	Junior Band	Padua - Ensemble Room	8:15-9am
	Junior Strings	Padua - Music Room	8:15-9am
	Musical	Padua - Theatre	3:45-5:30pm
<b>Friday</b>	Padua Concert Band	Padua - Ensemble Room	8-9am
	Padua String Ensemble	Padua - Music Room	8-9am

**Veronica Boulton • Director of Music & Performance**

## COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Tests

MacKillop has a supply of Rapid Antigen Tests available for collection by students. Students may collect up to four RATs from Student Reception at their campus.

## Canvas Information for Students and Parents

Canvas is accessible for all students and their families. You will find that this is an important resource for you and your sons/daughters. It will have unit outlines, assessment tasks and resources for each class they have. The calendar function also will show assessment due dates for the semester.

At the start of the year, it is helpful to check your notification settings to see if they are meeting your family needs. Notifications for due dates and announcements are particularly helpful to turn on.

If you are yet to login to Canvas and are wondering what your username and/or password is, you can recover your username or reset your password at the following links:

- <https://passwd.mackillop.act.edu.au/sspr/public/forgottenusername>
- <https://passwd.mackillop.act.edu.au/sspr/public/forgottenpassword>

If you do not receive the email within an hour please check your junk mail folder or contact: [enrolments@mackillop.act.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@mackillop.act.edu.au) to verify or make the necessary changes to your family email address.

**Trent Wilson • Digital Learning Coordinator**

## Technology

Our Year 10 Automotive class is in need of some old lawn mowers. If you have an old lawn mower that you would like to donate, please call 62090164 or email: [john.solari@mackillop.act.edu.au](mailto:john.solari@mackillop.act.edu.au) to arrange a drop off time.

## Fees

Term 1 fee statements will be sent next week. Fees are to be paid by 3 March 2023 unless paying by Direct Debit or other approved instalment payment method. **Please note the College does not accept cheques.**

The following methods of payment are available:

### Payments by Qkr!

All payments to the College can be made through the Qkr! app. Details on how to download and register the App are available on our website.

### Bpay

Bpay is available at the College for payment of School Fees only. Payments can be made through internet and telephone banking by quoting the Biller Code and Reference Number located on your school fee statement.

### Direct Debit

Direct Debits usually commence in January and run over 52 weeks or 26 fortnights; however, it's not too late to commence a Direct Debit for 2023. Please contact Robert Jonas via email:

[Robert.jonas@mackillop.act.edu.au](mailto:Robert.jonas@mackillop.act.edu.au) to set up your Direct Debit. All Direct Debits are to be altered in December for the following year's School Fees.

### Credit Card Payments – Mastercard or Visa

Credit Card payments may be made in person, over the telephone, or details can be provided at the bottom of your school fee statement.

### Cash & Eftpos

Cash and Eftpos payments may be made in person at both the St Peter's and Padua Campus Front Reception.

**Michelle Predovan • Fees Manager**

## The Second Hand Uniform Shop

The Second Hand Uniform Shop (SHUS) is up and running for 2023 with a healthy quantity of stock in most ranges and sizes. Special thanks to those who were able to donate their surplus uniform items. However, the SHUS is low on grey shorts and senior ties so if you have any spares of these lurking at home the SHUS would be happy have them (along with any other surplus uniform items). These surplus uniform items can be left at either campus front office. For hygiene reasons, please could you wash uniform items before donating.

Remember, during school term, the SHUS is generally open on Thursdays (unless advised otherwise) for your second hand uniform needs. Please call 0427 089 370 or email [uniforms@mackillop.act.edu.au](mailto:uniforms@mackillop.act.edu.au) to make an appointment to visit the shop. Phone orders are possible if you are **certain** on the size required. Uniform items come to the SHUS regularly. If the SHUS was out of your uniform item at one point, it may well have it in stock now. The easiest way to check is to email the SHUS.

The SHUS has a variety of buttons, zipper pulls, and jacket cords taken from unsaleable items. Should you require any of these items, please email the SHUS advising of your need. Remember to provide your child's name, year and PC class so the replacement item(s) can be sent home.

Please be advised the SHUS will be closed on **Thursday 16 February** (and for that whole week) but will be back open on 23 February.

**Judy • Uniform Shop Coordinator**

## ACT Secondary Bursary Scheme

The ACT Government's Secondary Bursary Scheme provides assistance to low income earners in the ACT with dependent full-time students.

Eligibility requirements and application forms are available online at: <http://www.education.act.gov.au/support-for-our-students/financial-and-resource-assistance-for-families>

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

**Michelle Predovan • Fees Manager**

## Department of Education Collection Notice

The Department of Education would like to advise all parents and careers that it collects certain information about St Mary MacKillop College, its staff and student body. To view the collection notice [click here](#).

## Community News

### Pines Tennis Club Free Open Day

Pines Tennis Club is hosting a free open day on Saturday 11 February from 1-3pm at The Pine Tennis Club in Chisholm. All kids 3+ and adults are welcome to come along and try their tennis programs.

To book email [robert@csot.com.au](mailto:robert@csot.com.au) or call 0432 118 204.

### Eastlake Term 1 Free AFL Clinics

Eastlake Demons FC is conducting a four-week footy clinic for Year 7, 8 & 9 school students starting in February. The clinic runs on Fridays from 4:15-5:15pm at Kingston Oval.

Current, old and new players all welcome!

[Register here](#)

### Come & Try Hockey ACT

Hockey ACT is holding a Come & Try field hockey day. Entry is free and all are welcome.

Come & Try (Northside): Saturday 18 February from 9am-12pm at the National Hockey Centre, Lyneham.

Come & Try (Southside): Sunday 19 February from 9am - 12pm at Tuggeranong Hockey Park, Greenway.



# 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)