



# ST MARY MACKILLOP COLLEGE CANBERRA



22 March 2013

## IMPORTANT DATES

MAR  
FRIDAY  
**29**

• Good Friday

APR  
MONDAY  
**01**

• Easter Monday

APR  
TUESDAY  
**09**

• Year 8 Sydney  
Trip  
• Year 7  
Community  
Day

APR  
WEDNESDAY  
**10**

• Year 8 Sydney  
Trip



## PRINCIPAL'S PRAYER

"Lord, we hold close to our hearts those who are very ill in our community; may they know your love, and the work it does through St Mary MacKillop.

Amen."

## PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

### Thank you Michelle da Roza, AP Curriculum

Thank you to Mrs Michelle da Roza who splendidly acted as principal while I was representing the Catholic Secondary Principals Association of Australia at the US Principals Conference in Washington DC earlier this month. She brought the qualities of good humour, confidence, wisdom, and judgment to the discharging of her responsibilities and represented me and the College at several meetings and seminars.

### It's more than a Swimming Carnival at MacKillop!

Congratulations to Sports Facilitator Mr Nathan Wood, his team, the staff and student leaders who worked magnificently to ensure the Swimming Carnival was a triumph - again!

Whilst most schools hold their carnival in summer, and have a heavy focus on swimming, at MacKillop it's a bit different. With an emphasis on attendance, a wide range of events in and out of the water, participation, dressing up, and fun, this carnival was a raging success. Everybody had fun, everybody was responsible, older students encouraged the younger ones, and the 400 new students to the school all got a chance to meet new people and to have the chance to belong.

All of us look forward to it being even bigger and better in 2014!

### NAPLAN 2012

Let's be clear about NAPLAN test results:

- Too many people read far too much into these results.
- There are lots of measures of student achievement and school success, including NAPLAN.
- Although there is much more to do at MacKillop, we are doing very well indeed.

On the next page are the Canberra Times Graphs published last Saturday. They compare the value adding of a school between Year 7 and 9 when compared to that of similar schools around Australia. In general, MacKillop can be very proud of where we are ranked among ACT schools in terms of what we do for our students between Years 7 and 9. This is particularly true when, over the past three years, we have consistently improved. Our students have a good attitude to their studies, learn in a vibrant, engaging environment, are in increasingly state-of-the-art facilities, and have a group of teachers who are talented, professional, dedicated, and committed.

We won't be taking our eye off the ball, but these results are, again, something the MacKillop community can be proud of.

Yours in St Mary MacKillop,

MICHAEL LEE  
PRINCIPAL

# YEAR 9 2012 RESULTS

READING			WRITING			SPELLING			GRAMMAR			NUMERACY		
RANK	SCHOOL	SCORE DIFF	RANK	SCHOOL	SCORE DIFF	RANK	SCHOOL	SCORE DIFF	RANK	SCHOOL	SCORE DIFF	RANK	SCHOOL	SCORE DIFF
1	Covenant College	653 25	1	Covenant College	644 31	1	Covenant College	644 31	1	Covenant College	673 24	1	Canberra Grammar School	679 22
2	Orana Senior School	635 20	2	Wanniassa School	644 33	2	Wanniassa School	674 13	2	Canberra Grammar School	668 11	2	Covenant College	652 20
3	Caroline Chisholm School	632 13	3	St Clare's College	600 16	3	Bungarra Anglican School	615 4	3	Melba Copland Secondary School	678 6	3	Melba Copland Secondary School	583 0
4	St Mary MacKillop College	589 12	4	St Mary MacKillop College	566 13	4	Tokook Park School	621 4	4	Orana Senior School	600 5	4	St Mary MacKillop College	582 2
5	Canberra Grammar School	640 11	5	Marist College	590 12	5	Canberra High School	599 4	5	Canberra Grammar School	644 5	5	Marist College Canberra	620 3
6	St Clare's College	614 11	6	Canberra Girls Grammar School	629 6	6	Canberra Girls Grammar School	624 1	6	St Clare's College	606 4	6	Stromlo High School	592 3
7	Canberra Girls Grammar School	644 9	7	Bungarra Anglican School	600 6	7	Marist College	591 3	7	St Mary MacKillop College	576 11	7	Lynham High School	620 4
8	Melba Copland Secondary School	583 9	8	Radford College	627 4	8	Benedicta Christian College	638 3	8	St Mary MacKillop College	627 1	8	St Edmund's College	589 4
9	Marist College	605 9	9	Alfred Duggan High School	589 11	9	St Clare's College	595 4	9	Marist College	594 3	9	Darmanan College	606 3
10	Radford College	643 8	10	Lynham High School	521 9	10	Melrose High School	579 5	10	Benedicta Christian College	618 2	10	Melrose High School	585 7
11	St Francis Xavier College	597 6	11	St Francis Xavier College	555 12	11	Orana Senior School	602 4	11	Canberra Girls Grammar School	633 4	11	Wanniassa School	582 2
12	Bungarra Anglican School	623 4	12	Canberra Grammar School	607 10	12	St Mary MacKillop College	570 8	12	Melrose High School	577 6	12	Bungarra Anglican School	626 7
13	Marist College Canberra	615 4	13	Caroline Chisholm School	532 21	13	Radford College	615 6	13	Gold Creek School	580 7	13	Radford College	648 7
14	Belconnen High School	582 2	14	Telopaa Park School	593 21	14	Canberra Grammar School	615 9	14	Canberra High School	552 8	14	Canberra High School	550 9
15	Canberra High School	565 2	15	Canberra High School	595 22	15	Wanniassa School	599 9	15	Wanniassa School	546 9	15	Canberra Girls Grammar School	644 10
16	Canberra High School	614 2	16	Darmanan College	551 22	16	Melba Copland Secondary School	565 10	16	Bungarra Anglican School	610 10	16	Canberra High School	565 12
17	Telopaa Park School	626 1	17	Gold Creek School	543 23	17	Gold Creek School	575 12	17	Lynham High School	602 10	17	Kingford Smith School	564 12
18	Alfred Duggan High School	614 1	18	Emmus Christian College	577 23	18	Marist College Canberra	593 13	18	Marist College Canberra	600 11	18	Lynham High School	555 13
19	Benedicta Christian College	617 2	19	Benedicta Christian College	580 24	19	Lynham High School	591 14	19	Darmanan College	589 11	19	Belconnen High School	574 13
20	Melrose High School	581 3	20	Melrose High School	540 24	20	Darmanan College	584 14	20	St Edmund's College	582 11	20	Trinity Christian School	617 13
21	Canberra High School	592 4	21	Lynham High School	568 22	21	St Francis Xavier College	575 15	21	Emmus Christian College	608 11	21	Orana Senior School	582 15
22	Stromlo High School	582 5	22	St Edmund's College	545 27	22	Trinity Christian School	592 17	22	St Francis Xavier College	570 12	22	Gold Creek School	580 16
23	Darmanan College	596 6	23	Marist College Canberra	566 28	23	Belconnen High School	583 18	23	Radford College	624 13	23	Marist College	587 16
24	St Edmund's College	585 9	24	Belconnen High School	528 31	24	Canberra Grammar School	541 21	24	Alfred Duggan High School	603 13	24	St Francis Xavier College	582 18
25	Trinity Christian School	605 11	25	Stromlo High School	533 24	25	St Edmund's College	571 21	25	Lynham High School	545 18	25	Amos School	582 18
26	Campbell High School	583 13	26	Canberra High School	543 36	26	Stromlo High School	566 21	26	Belconnen High School	563 15	26	Canberra Grammar School	547 19
27	Lynham High School	590 18	27	Trinity Christian School	588 43	27	Alfred Duggan High School	586 23	27	Amos School	574 16	27	Alfred Duggan High School	609 20
28	Gold Creek School	572 15	28	Campbell High School	535 43	28	Campbell High School	569 25	28	Trinity Christian School	599 18	28	Telopaa Park School	527 21
29	University of Canberra High School Kallen	552 16	29	Melba Copland Secondary School	500 44	29	Amos School	565 25	29	Stromlo High School	568 19	29	Benedicta Christian College	632 21
30	Wanniassa School	542 16	30	Orana Senior School	553 46	30	Canberra High School	569 26	30	Canberra High School	575 22	30	St Clare's College	590 23
31	Kingford Smith School	582 17	31	Amos School	585 56	31	University of Canberra High School Kallen	549 39	31	University of Canberra High School Kallen	558 39	31	University of Canberra High School Kallen	587 28
32	Amos School	573 18	32	University of Canberra High School Kallen	493 58	32	Kingford Smith School	538 31	32	Kingford Smith School	543 24	32	Canberra High School	576 30
33	Emmus Christian School	591 24	33	Kingford Smith School	472 73	33	Emmus Christian School	562 47	33	Campbell High School	565 31	33	Emmus Christian School	586 43
	Blue Gum Community School	no score		Blue Gum Community School	no score		Blue Gum Community School	no score		Blue Gum Community School	no score		Blue Gum Community School	no score

# Teaching & Learning

## NAPLAN 2013

In 2013 the National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) testing for Years 7 and 9 will be held on 14-16 May (Week 13).

The data obtained from NAPLAN is used by our school to enrich teaching and learning for the benefit of all students in our community. The more students we have participating in the NAPLAN testing the greater the benefit for our College when implementing the available data in our teaching and learning programs.

If your son or daughter has special needs, or requires special provisions during their classroom learning, these will be provided during the NAPLAN testing. If you have any concerns regarding the support provided, please contact the Coordinator for Inclusive Education, Lenore Moore or the College NAPLAN Coordinators (Maria O'Donnell or Clare Fletcher).

If you wish to withdraw your son or daughter from all or some aspects of the NAPLAN testing you may do so. All withdrawals require a signed Parent/Carer Choice to Withdraw form. These forms are available from the NAPLAN Coordinators. The ACT Department of Education

and Training has requested that these forms be completed and returned to the College NAPLAN Coordinators (Clare Fletcher or Maria O'Donnell) by 28 March.

### NAPLAN Testing dates for 2013 are:

Tuesday 14 May Language Conventions and Writing  
Wednesday 15 May Reading  
Thursday 16 May Numeracy (calculator and non calculator)

A NAPLAN 2013 Information for Parents brochure is available at [http://www.nap.edu.au/verve/\\_resources/NAPLAN\\_2013\\_Parents\\_Brochure.pdf](http://www.nap.edu.au/verve/_resources/NAPLAN_2013_Parents_Brochure.pdf). This brochure contains information regarding the NAPLAN testing and procedures. Further general information about NAPLAN is available at <http://www.nap.edu.au/>. Please feel free to contact Maria O'Donnell or Clare Fletcher if you have any questions regarding the NAPLAN testing.

*Clare Fletcher and Maria O'Donnell*  
Teaching and Learning Coordinators  
62095298 (Wanniassa) 62090140 (Isabella)  
[maria.odonnell@mackillop.act.edu.au](mailto:maria.odonnell@mackillop.act.edu.au)  
[clare.fletcher@mackillop.act.edu.au](mailto:clare.fletcher@mackillop.act.edu.au)

## Senior Studies.

As the school year marches on, students on the senior campus are fast discovering the strict nature of BSSS (Board of Senior Secondary Studies) assessment protocols and I feel it's timely to remind both parents and students of some of the more rules that we as a College are duty-bound to adhere to:

### 1. Senior Class Attendance

According to the BSSS, students must attend 90% or more of classes to successfully complete a unit. If their absences exceed this without adequate

explanation, then students will receive a Void for that unit. This equates to seven unexplained absences across the semester. Staff try to be vigilant about sending Void warnings home so that you can see absences we don't have explanation for, this allows for intervention before it's too late.

### 2. Senior Class Assessment

The BSSS also state that students must submit at least 70% of assessment to be awarded a grade for a unit. We again send Void warnings home if assessment is unaccounted for so that

you have the opportunity to speak with your son or daughter and their teacher before the unit is Voided.

### 3. Absence on the day of Assessment

If a student is absent on the day a piece of assessment is being done, almost the only reason that the BSSS will accept is if a Medical Certificate can be produced. This is again quite a strict rule but one that is essentially out of the College's control. If you expect to be absent during a piece of assessment and don't approach the College in advance, we have very little option but to consider that task incomplete.

While the College has a lot of discretionary power in Years 7 - 10 regarding these matters, this is not always the case in Senior School. The BSSS dictates much of how any ACT College delivers and assesses unit content and its black and white nature can sometimes come as a shock to students.

Whatever grade your son or daughter is in, I'm sure attendance and assessment will always be a major concern. If they are in Years 11 and 12 however, extra vigilance regarding these matters will almost certainly be of benefit.

*Colby Cruwys*  
Senior Studies Coordinator



## The 2013 Swimming Carnival

**F**RIDAY 15 MARCH saw the annual College Swimming Carnival take place at the Dickson Aquatic Centre in very warm conditions. The atmosphere was electric and students had the opportunity to take part in numerous competition and novelty events throughout the day as well as raising money for Caritas in "Caritas Corner".

In Caritas Corner, there was a Teacher Dunking Tank, Sponge Throwing and a Lolly Guessing Competition, with the added incentive of raising

\$3000.00 to have Mrs Lois White, Assistant Principal Pastoral Care at the Isabella Campus, thrown in the pool at the days end. Unfortunately we didn't reach that target, but did manage to raise close to \$1500.00 and Mrs White agreed that was enough to get her in the pool. Well done Mrs White!!

This year saw the second running of the MacKillop Marlin with Ayrton Kiraly of Year 10 taking the honours in the boys and Rebecca Cross of Year 8 defending her 2012 title. We also saw a new event, the MacKillop

Ironman/Ironwoman event which was a spectacle that all were able to enjoy. The inaugural winners of this event were Jack Morris of Year 12 and Rebecca Cross of Year 8.

Competition for the Spirit Cup and Championship Trophy was tight all day and in the end Ngadyung (Water House) took out both honours. It must be noted that they won the Championship Trophy by only 4 points. Well Done to Taylah Fellows, Tom Burgess and their House on their achievements.



Congratulations must go to all of the students whose behaviour and participation were exemplary on the day. The staff at the Dickson Aquatic Centre were in awe of our students and said it was one of the best carnivals that they had hosted this year. Well Done MacKillop!!

*Mr Nathan Wood  
College Sports Facilitator*

## Year 7/8 Girls Softball Champs!



**L**AST WEEK, OUR Year 7/8 Girls competed in the Softball competition at Mawson playing fields.

Without any prior training together, we were a little unsure of our skills and experience. However, it wasn't long before our coach; Mrs. Mansfield knew we would be serious contenders for the finals. Our four pitchers, Sarah Nolan, Nicola Bowell, Breanna Payten and Lauren Thomas each with their own dominance in the circle blew most of our opposition away before even leaving the plate. They were all confidently supported by the safe hands of our

catcher, Felicity Spratford.

Our big hitters; Nicola Bowell and Breanna Payten brought home loaded bases on a number of occasions and our speedy base runners were; Nicola Williams, Sarah Nolan, Gabriella Hardie, Jess Douglas and Tahlia Howard. If the other team did happen to connect with the ball it always landed safely in the hands of our gun fielders; Toemii Lavender, Jemma Hudson, Shweta V and Tahlia Howard.

Finals day had arrived and in stark contrast to Mawson, the sun was high in the sky and the blue sky seemed endless. The girls didn't ever look like they

would lose control of any of the games over the two days of competition. We had a convincing win over SFX in the semis and knew our biggest competition, Belconnen High, was waiting for us in the final.

Keeping a cool attitude and our same clever attitude we had won and were on our way back to the club house accepting the champion's trophy.

Congratulations to all the girls and a big thank you to the 'Merry Band of Mums' who helped coach, train, manage and score for us. We couldn't have done it without you.

*Mrs Petrina Mansfield*

## Community Sport

### CALWELL SWANS

The Calwell Swans are looking for players up to 13 years of age for their Auskick AFL teams. Visit [www.calwellswans.com.au](http://www.calwellswans.com.au).

### DANCEDGE DANCING

Classes for ballet, tap, jazz, contemporary, hip hop, and musical theatre are available with DancEdge. For more details, visit [www.dancedge.com.au](http://www.dancedge.com.au).

### KNIGHTS JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE

The South Tuggeranong Knights Junior Rugby League are looking for players up to U16. Call Steve on 0407 786 307 to register.

# College News.

## School Fees.

Fees for Term 1 should now be finalised unless paying by Direct Debit or other approved arrangement.

Any outstanding fees should be paid immediately.

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*

## Status Awards.

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

**Bronze Status:** Liam Court, Sarah Cunneen, Tara Maybin

*Lachlan McNicol  
AP Pastoral Care (Wanniasa)*

## Padua Class of '83 Reunion

There is a Reunion planned for the Class of '83 in November 2013. The organising committee is trying to locate ex-students who would have completed Year 10 at Padua Catholic High School in 1983. This includes students who may have left a little earlier as well as any teachers who would have had the pleasure of educating us!

Please contact Kerrin Hardie (Prout) on 0404 462 292, kezzah68@gmail.com, or there is a facebook page: Padua High Wanniasa Class of '83.

## Summer Dress.

Savvy has informed the College that a batch of 2013 summer dresses had faulty buttons. If this applies to you, visit Savvy to have it fixed free of charge.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Weekend for married couples:

14 - 16 June at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW. Visit [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au).

### St Thomas CD Launch

Some of the musicians who provide music at St Thomas the Apostle Parish, Kambah have made a CD of their music called 'Different cultures, one voice'. This CD will be launched in the St Thomas the Apostle Primary School Hall, Kambah, at 7pm on Friday 12 April 2013. Everyone is invited to come along to the launch; selected items will be performed, there will be refreshments and the CD will be on sale.

## Parent communication with members of staff

The day to day running of a school is becoming increasingly complex and demanding. Like many other professions there seldom seems enough time in a working day to accomplish the best laid plans and attend to required agendas. Often teachers need to prioritise issues that arise and are often time constrained to do so. The ebb and flow of a school day constantly presents a network of circumstances for which the College is mindful of formulating and developing appropriate responses often with the partnership of parents.

Please remember that many of the College teaching staff have a highly structured and organised daily timetable. Many teachers have up to 150 different students to teach during a day as well as playground supervision responsibilities, staff meetings, attending assemblies and professional learning responsibilities to attend to. Many are involved in extra curricula activities before, during and after school.

Secondary school teachers particularly are very mobile during the school day - constantly changing classrooms and supervision areas. As a consequence, many teachers are not in a position to answer telephone calls or respond to email enquiries immediately.

The College places great value on developing effective communication with parents and carers. Emailing staff members is easy if you know their name. The format for email addresses is [firstname.surname@mackillop.act.edu.au](mailto:firstname.surname@mackillop.act.edu.au). If the matter is of an urgent nature, a telephone call to the College reception (6209 0100) explaining the issue is the best strategy. Matters which are less urgent or if you are not sure who to direct your message to can be emailed to [info@mackillop.act.edu.au](mailto:info@mackillop.act.edu.au). The College has a skilled administrative staff that is capable of screening such calls and actioning an appropriate response.

As parents and carers, please be aware of this situation when engaging with staff. It is more than reasonable to expect a response from a member of staff to an email or phone call within 24 hours during a school week.

Similarly, if you need to speak with a teacher about an issue face to face, the normal protocol is to make an appointment that is mutually convenient to home and school. Such a protocol leads to better outcomes and does not keep teachers away from their prescribed duties without fair notice.

Thank you for your understanding and adherence to these guidelines.

*Lachlan McNicol  
AP Pastoral Care  
Wanniasa Campus*

*Lois White  
AP Pastoral Care  
Isabella Campus*

# kindle

An exhibition of artworks produced by St Mary MacKillop College staff.

Gallery open to the College community between 3.30pm and 5.00pm on Tuesday, 2 April and Wednesday, 3 April.

Gallery open to students at Recess and Lunch on Tuesday, 2 April and Wednesday, 3 April.