

Important Dates & Events

FEB.
FRIDAY

24

- Opening Mass

FEB.
WEDNESDAY

29

- Honours Assembly (Isabella)

MAR.
THURSDAY

01

- Photo Day (Isabella)

MAR.
TUESDAY

06

- Pupil-free day (Moderation Day)
- Year 11 & 12 AST Trials

MAR.
THURSDAY

08

- Photo Catch-Up Day

MAR.
MONDAY

12

- Canberra Day Public Holiday

MAR.
FRIDAY

16

- College Swimming Carnival

MAR.
THURSDAY

29

- Year 7 Community Day

See College Calendar for more dates

St Mary MacKillop College

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"Lord, Bless our College as we return for another year of building up your kingdom."

Dear Parents, Staff and Students,



Mackillop Welcomes Julia Gillard

Last Friday was a memorable day for the College. It is a rare event to host the Prime Minister of Australia at your school but MacKillop did it with style!

Julia Gillard and Schools Minister Peter Garrett spent nearly 2.5hrs at MacKillop, opening and inspecting the St Joseph the Worker Campus of the Canberra Region Pathways Trades Training Centre on MacKillop's Isabella Campus.

Congratulations to Isabella Campus Head Ms Sandra Darley, her team and all students who worked to ensure that this was an outstanding and memorable event for the College and our guests.

All politicians are welcome at MacKillop and many of them come to our Masses, community events, and contact me via phone and email. It is very important that all political parties learn what we are about, what we achieve with our students, and that families who choose us to help them raise their sons and daughters are taxpayers, too.

The Prime Minister was relaxed, warm, interested and engaged in what we do and praiseworthy of our students and staff.

MacKillop students are always welcoming of guests; their warmth, behaviour, generous applause for the Prime Minister, genuine excitement and interest impressed everybody – again! It was a great day for MacKillop – and the Prime Minister.

The Opening Mass

All are welcome to join the College at this significant event in the College Calendar. The Mass will take place, tomorrow, Friday 24 February from 9.30am at the Tuggeranong Basketball Stadium.

Yours in St Mary MacKillop,



Mr Michael Lee, Principal

Admin News

School Photos

The dates for school photos are Thursday 23 February at the Wanniasa Campus and Thursday 1 March at the Isabella Campus, with a catch up day scheduled for Thursday 8 March at both campuses.

Students should have brought home order forms for these photos. If you did not receive an order form, please contact MSP Photography directly on 6255 9208. Provide the name of the student, year group and roll class.

Internet from Home

If you are having trouble accessing the internet from home from your student laptop (for Year 7 and 8), please visit: zav.mackillop.act.edu.au/vpn/index.html

The Bursary Scheme

The ACT Government provides financial assistance to support families with education expenses through the Secondary Bursary Scheme for students in Years 7-10 and the Student Support Fund programs. The scheme provides assistance to low-income earners in the ACT with dependent full-time students in Years 7-10.

More information and application forms can be found at: http://www.det.act.gov.au/school_education/starting_school/financial_assistance_for_families

Co-Curricula: Music

Any students who wish to play in a Jazz / Show band this year please contact Mr Rodriguis at the Wanniasa Campus on 62090230. Students should have skills in playing brass, woodwind, guitar/bass, or drums.

Any student who would like to learn a musical instrument this year please contact Mr Lazzarato for further information in regarding tuition/ hire etc.

Future Stars

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Courtney White of 8F5 for her participation in the Canberra Philharmonic's production of Fiddler on the Roof.

Kiarnah Hayes (9E9) and Lauren Weir (9EW) competed in the 2012 ACT International Judo Tournament on Sunday 12 February. Both girls performed extremely well with Kiarnah winning gold in the Senior girls under 52kg division and Lauren winning silver in the Senior girls under 48kg division. Both girls are to be congratulated for their achievement at such an elite event.

Wanni Pastoral

Welcome Back

Welcome back to 2012 school year. In particular welcome to our new students and families joining the MacKillop community. The start to the school year has been very settled and calm and all students are commended on the positive way in which they have returned and engaged in their lessons. While this is my eleventh year at MacKillop I am a new face to the students on the Wanniasa Campus. It has been great that many students have made the effort to come and say hello and introduce themselves. I look forward to getting to know all of our students as this year progresses.

Pastoral Care Coordinators for each Year on the Wanniasa Campus are:

Year 7 – Mrs Anneliese Prestipino and Mr Lee Rose

Year 8 – Mrs Colleen Kain and Mr Steve Lowe

Year 9 – Mr Ben Antoniak and Mr Gary Pickering

Many parents have already met and spoken to your son or daughter's PC Teacher and Year Coordinators at the information evenings over the last 2 weeks. I would like to remind parents that if you have any concerns about any aspect of your son or daughter's progress, you are encouraged to speak with their PC teacher or class teachers.

Pastoral Program

Each PC class has a scheduled Pastoral Program lesson every second Wednesday morning which focuses on a specific theme for each term. Pastoral Program, is designed to develop knowledge and skills in relation to adolescent health and well-being, to assist students to make appropriate decisions, engage in safe behaviours and to balance their study, work and personal commitments. Lessons will include up to date and relevant content delivered through a tailored specific program through lessons with the PC teacher and via whole year group presentations. The theme for each term is:

Term 1 - Organisation and study skills

Term 2 – Safe Behaviours/Wellbeing

Term 3 – Relationships

Term 4 – Community: Service through Leadership

Buses

All students are reminded about behaving in a respectful manner on the bus services provided to our students. This includes following all of the MacKillop school rules such as using appropriate language and 'hands off' along with complying with the bus regulations like refraining from eating and drinking.

Some problems have been experienced on Action bus services with overcrowding on some routes. This is common at the start of a year with changes that take places as cohorts come and go. Action have been working with the College in an attempt to resolve these issues and some information on services of concern are outlined on the next page:

- **PM service 661 to Gordon** - A larger articulated bus has been organised. However, students are asked to note that this service will be required to depart at 3.22pm
- **PM service 500 to Gordon** – This bus is usually full, or close to it. However, students do have another option as they can catch service 526. While this bus is later and so can be a hassle for students and parents it may need to be used as an option if the 500 service is full. Action has advised that they are working on a more suitable fix for this issue.
- **Am services 660 from Gordon and 665 from Conder** – Morning services from the Lanyon Valley are continuing to be assessed by Action. An Augment bus will accompany the 665 to pick up any students who may not fit on the main bus. Action will notify the college if changes are made to these services.

Uniform

The overwhelming majority of students have complied with the College’s uniform policy upon their return to school. All students have been reminded about the importance of wearing the College uniform correctly, whilst at school, but also while they are representing MacKillop in the broader community on the way to school each morning and the way home every afternoon. We seek the support of parents in ensuring that this is the case.

If you are unsure of the uniform requirements or require any clarification, particularly in regards to jewellery, piercings, hair and footwear, details are published on the College Website and on Pages 12 and 13 of the Student Diary.

Lachlan McNicol
Assistant Principal Pastoral Care (Wanniassa)

News

Counsellors

Information for Parents

Welcome to a new year. We hope all are returning to school refreshed and relaxed!

St Mary MacKillop College provides counselling services to all students and families at the school. Three counsellors, employed by CatholicCare, work within the school across both campuses.

Counsellor Times:

Wanniassa:		
Monday	8:30 am – 4:30 pm	(Ana & Tara)
Tuesday	8:30 am – 4:00 pm	(Tara)
Wednesday	8:30 am – 12 midday	(Ana & Tara)
Thursday	8:30 am – 4:30 pm	(Ana)
Friday	8:30 am – 4:00 pm	(Ana & Tara)

Isabella:		
Monday	No counsellor on campus	
Tuesday	9:00 am – 3:30 pm	(Ana)
Wednesday	8:30 am – 12 midday	(Jane)
Thursday	9:00 am – 3:30 pm	(Jane)
Friday	9:00 am – 3:30 pm	(Jane)

Contacting a counsellor:

Students can make appointments by filling in a slip from student reception or from outside our offices (next door to the PE staffroom or behind the library at Wanniassa, and in C Block at Isabella). Return it directly to us or to student reception.

Teachers may also make a referral for counselling on behalf of a student.

Parents, too, are welcome to contact the counsellors if they have any concerns or wish to discuss making a referral for their son or daughter. The counsellors can be contacted directly on the numbers below:

Wanniassa	6209 5234 (Ana)
	6209 5268 (Tara)
Isabella	6209 0132

Why the counsellor:

Some students see us to get advice about helping a friend or family member who may be having a hard time. Some come to see us to check if the feelings they are having are usual. Others come for particular reasons, such as working out how best to cope when someone they know has passed away, finding ways to deal with bullying, being overwhelmed by school work, or having problems with friends that they can’t sort out easily.

When parents separate or things are difficult at home, we can also help you sort out your feelings when things get too much. You can also just come to say hello and have a general chat to get to know us.

Counselling may be a place where you acknowledge your strengths and set the path to reach your potential. It helps if you see that counselling is just another way of helping you get yourselves through your school, personal, social and family life when things might be getting a bit tricky. It is not just for students with major issues.

We encourage students who are concerned about an issue to make contact early. Having a chance to discuss an issue and explore options can mean that a situation does not have to become a crisis – you do not have to worry about things alone.

Privacy and Confidentiality:

Contact with counsellors is done in a way to ensure as much privacy for students and families as possible.

All contact with a school counsellor is confidential and no sessions are discussed with another unless permission is given by the client or the counsellor has serious concerns about the safety of a client. This will be discussed in more detail at a first meeting with the counsellor.

Ana, Tara & Jane
School Counsellors

Sports News

Calwell Swans Partnership

Last year saw St Mary MacKillop College enter into an exciting partnership with the Eastlake Football Club and Calwell Swans Australian Rules Football Club. As a part of this partnership, the Calwell Swans will be using the Isabella Campus' Oval for training and matches on the weekends. Eastlake Football Club and the Calwell Club have agreed to provide the College with assistance to maintain the Isabella Oval, the annual provision of AFL school equipment, an annual AFL Award and a set of MacKillop College AFL jumpers.



The College was asked by the club to arrange for the design of the new AFL jumpers through a competition with prizes donated by Eastlake to the winners. After an abundance of entries, the winner was decided. Chloe Boyd of Year 8 was declared the winner and is pictured above with her winning design. For her efforts, Chloe received gift vouchers to the Tuggeranong Hyperdome.

Congratulations Chloe and we look forward to seeing our Australian Rules Football teams proudly competing in the uniform that you designed.

*Nathan Wood
Sports Facilitator*

Senior Studies

Moderation Day

Year 12 students who intend sitting the AST are required to attend a Writing task workshop and Trial all day Tuesday 6 March. Please meet Ms. Jorgensen in the library at 9.00.a.m.

Year 11 Students who intend sitting the AST are also required to attend the College from 9 - 11.30am. Please line up in alphabetical order outside the gym prior to entry.

Practice papers from past AST are undertaken by students under exam conditions. This gives students valuable feedback on their areas of strength and weakness. Please ensure that you are available on this day to undertake this valuable practice. For more information please contact Ms. Jorgensen on 62090173.

*Marlene Jorgensen
Teaching & Learning Coordinator - Isabella*

Tasmania Trip

SOSE Trip to Tasmania

The SOSE Department is pleased to announce that preparations for a SOSE Trip to Tasmania have begun. An information night for Years 9 and 10 students and their parents will be held at the Wanniasa Campus on Monday 27 February at 6pm. So if you are interested in Australian History, Ghost tours, chocolate factories, boat trips, waterfalls, 30-metre high sand dunes and travel around Tasmania, please come along to see what the SOSE Department can offer for you.

Michael Batten, SOSE Coordinator - Isabella

Community News

Questacon Events

The Shell Questacon Science Circus will be holding a FREE public exhibition on Sunday 26 February at Calwell High School, 11 am-3pm. All are welcome to have a great time interacting with the exhibits and watching the shows. For more information please contact the Science department at the Wanniasa Campus.

Questacon is also hosting The Adventures of Alvin Sputnik: Deep Sea Explorer by Tim Watts on 9 and 10 March. More information and tickets available at the Ticketek website.

Resourceful Adolescent Program for Parents

RAP-P is designed to help parents help their kids get through, develop a healthy self-esteem, and gain independence, while aiding the parent with conflict and stress management.

The Program starts on Thursday 8 March and runs weekly for three weeks at CatholicCare in Red Hill. A fee of \$50 covers materials and supper. For more information/bookings, contact Gayle on 6162 6159.

Galilee Foster Care

Ordinary people can do extraordinary things, like becoming a foster carer with Galilee! Information sessions start soon. To find out more, call 6290 2191 or visit www.galilee.org.au

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

The Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend for married couples is being held on 23-25 March at Douglas Park, NSW. bookings: 02 4283 3435 or wsharpe@bigpond.net.au Information: www.wwme.org.au

Try Scouts!

You are invited to Come and Try Scouting for a FREE 3 week trial. What will I get from Scouts? Friendship, confidence building, life skills, adventure, challenge, responsible risk taking, leadership, fun, and much more... Call 1800 SCOUTS or visit our website www.act.scouts.asn.au to find your local Scout Group.