

Important Dates & Events

MAR.
THURSDAY

29

- Year 7 Community Day

MAR.
FRIDAY

30

- Year 12 Mentoring Day
- Year 7 iHum Excursion

APR.
MONDAY

02

- Year 7 iHum Excursion

APR.
THURSDAY

05

- Easter Liturgies
- Year 7 iHum Excursion

APR.
FRIDAY

06

- Good Friday

APR.
MONDAY

09

- Easter Monday

APR.
WEDNESDAY

11

- ANZAC Liturgies

APR.
FRIDAY

13

- Final Day of Term 1

“Lord, we pray to you for guidance and strength with our Lenten sacrifice.
May it bring us closer to you. Amen.”

Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

Vale Margaret Whitlam 1919 – 2012

Few students will know much about Margaret Whitlam or indeed about her husband or the early 1970s when they were so prominent. The black and white images of her that flashed across TV screens since her death on the weekend reminded many of us of a remarkable and influential woman who was an unfailing advocate for women, education, the arts, and the progress of Australian life for all.

She was a woman of extraordinary influence who, whilst never universally agreed with, was certainly admired. She came from that group of Australian women who had a notionally advantaged upbringing, a university education, became a wife and mother of four who raised her children whilst her husband was frequently away in Canberra.

She emerged in the 1970s as a clear common sense voice on the side of what she saw as social progress. She heralded an example of a thoroughly modern woman.

Margaret Whitlam's advocacy helped to make life easier for the woman of succeeding generations. This is a good thing. Her passing gives us a cause to pause and reflect upon a life well lived for her family, herself, and for others.

Margaret Whitlam, may her memory be blessed.

The Swimming Carnival 2012

It is always a fantastic day and this year was no exception. Certainly it has its serious swimming side and improved times and personal bests as part of the pool side experience, but the focus on participation, attendance, spirit, and support is what gives the even memorable atmosphere and colour!

Congratulations to Mr Nathan Wood and his team for the extraordinary organisation and to all the teachers who supported the event so well.

Congratulations also to the senior students who were encouraging of the younger ones, amazingly good humoured and cooperative, and who excelled at making the day such a success for all.

A particular mention of Isabella Campus Head Ms Sandra Darley's, should we say "swandive" towards the end of the day. She and teacher Michael Brennan jumped into the pool as promised after students raised over \$1300 for Caritas, which was appreciated by all.

Relay for Life

Thank you to Mr Jon Chandra and many other staff who supervised Year 12 in the Relay for Life held again this year at the AIS. This 24-hour overnight experience helped to raise considerable amounts of money for the Australian Cancer Council by putting the accent on exercise and cooperation. It was good to see some of our Catholic primary schools participating and so many former students and parents.

Yours in St Mary MacKillop,



Mr Michael Lee, College Principal

See College Calendar for more dates

St Mary MacKillop College

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School Fees

Fees are now due

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 on 6209 0147.

Michelle Predovan, Fees Manager

Future Stars

Congratulations!

Sam Jeffery (12F2) and Jamie Cooper (12W1) represented the ACT in the U20 Men's Touch squad at the National Championships in Port Macquarie earlier this month.

Joshua Hickman (Year 10) recently represented the ACT at the School Sport U15 Boys National Cricket Championships in Hobart.

Homework Club

Get help from Staff!

Homework Club takes place at the Wanniasa Campus on Mondays to Thursdays after school until 4.15pm. It's a great opportunity to get your homework and assignments done with the help of teachers and support staff. All Wanniasa students are welcome!

*Michelle Marks
Deputy Principal Curriculum*

Merit Certificates

GURABANG: Madison Peart (7E1), Paula O'Sullivan (7E1), Liam Jackson (7E1), Maddeline McNally (7E1), Bree Boland (7E1), Cory McInnes (7E1), Jack Cornford (7E3), Jacob Bishop (7E3), Brooke Simpson (7E3) Amberly Elliott (7E3), Connor Pring (7E3), Ben Parsons (7E3), Elsa Huber (7EW), Jessica Douglas (7EW), Molly Gregory (7EW), Lauren Frost (7EW), Nikala Speed (7EW), Ritesh Goundar (7EW), Sophie Burgess (7EW), Kira Guilfoyle (7EW).

MEUP MEUP: Leah Town (7F3), Liam Nagel (7F3), D'arcy Chrysostomou (7F3), Alexander Prescott (8F2).

MINDYGARI: Sam Ferguson (7A1), Jesse Lee Regan (7A2), Taylah Parr (7A2), Jade Ewart (7A2), Cameron Gawler (7A2).

NGADYUNG: Jordan Coffey (7W2), Nathan Nemec (7W2), Melanie Brookes (9W8).

NAPLAN

NAPLAN: 15 - 17 May

In 2012 the National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) testing will be held from 15th-17th May. For all schools in the ACT these dates correspond with Tuesday-Thursday of Week 13. NAPLAN testing is the annual national assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9.

The data obtained from NAPLAN testing is utilised by our school to enrich our teaching and learning for the benefit of all students in our community. The more students we have participating in 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, special provisions will be provided to reflect the support he or she would usually receive in the classroom. If you have any concerns regarding the support provided, please contact the Faculty Co-ordinator for Inclusive Education, Mrs Lenore Moore, or the College NAPLAN Co-ordinator.

If you wish to withdraw your son or daughter from all aspects of NAPLAN testing, you may do so; signed parent/carer consent forms are required and are available from the College NAPLAN Co-ordinator.

Students in Years 7 and 9 will receive a NAPLAN 2012 Information for Parents brochure through their Pastoral Care class in the coming week. Alternatively it is available at http://www.det.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/284858/NAPLAN_2012_Parents_Brochure.pdf. This brochure contains information pertaining to the NAPLAN testing and procedures. For more information about NAPLAN and NAPLAN testing please do not hesitate to visit any of the internet links provided below, or contact our College NAPLAN Co-ordinator.

Suggested links for more information:

<http://www.nap.edu.au/>

http://www.nap.edu.au/NAPLAN/Parent_Carer_support/index.html

College NAPLAN Co-ordinator:

Mrs Michelle da Roza

Teaching and Learning Co-ordinator

St Mary MacKillop College, Wanniasa Campus

(02) 6209 5298

Michelle.daroza@mackillop.act.edu.au

NAPLAN testing dates:

Tuesday 15th May Language Conventions and Writing

Wednesday 16th May Reading

Thursday 17th May Numeracy (calculator and non-calculator)

Michelle da Roza, Teaching & Learning Coordinator (Wanni)

Careers Info

Careers Information

As part of the college's careers program information is sent via GroupWise email to students for their consideration and action. Information is also placed in the student daily messages regarding careers events that are occurring. In addition, some information will be placed in this newsletter.

Over the past few weeks I have received the 2013 Undergraduate guides for the Australian Catholic University, Charles Sturt University, the University of New South Wales, the University of Melbourne and La Trobe University. Unfortunately the college only receives one copy however I am more than happy for students to borrow and return the guides once they have finished with them.

Charles Sturt University and the Australian Catholic University have sent through their 2012 Course cut offs and students can view these by visiting the Careers Office.

University of Melbourne

Students wishing to undertake and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine/Veterinary Science now need to enter through either the Bachelor of Science at the University of Melbourne or a science degree from another institution. The ATAR cut off for the Bachelor of Science in 2011 was 85.5.

An open day will be held on the 25 March at the university of Melbourne Veterinary Hospital at 250 Princes Hwy, Werribee. For further information visit www.vet.unimelb.edu.au/openday

Australian Catholic University – Experience Day

Experience Day on Tuesday 10 July is a free program which gives students the opportunity to sample their degree of choice. You get a day a to taste life at ACU by meeting academic staff and current students, to tour the campus, and to try out the course you are interested in studying. Go onto the ACU website for further information and to register your interest.

Professional Cadetships Australia

UBS Investment Bank will offer paid cadetship positions to highly-motivated, talented young people interested in careers in finance. For more information go to www.businesscadetships.com.au. Applications close on 9 May 2012.

Lattitude Global Volunteering

Applications for the 2013 placements are now open. The deadline for UK School Assistant applications is 27 April. In May and June, Lattitude will hold Information Sessions around Australia. The deadline for remaining placements will be 22 June. In July, application interviews will be held.

Further information can be found at www.lattitude.org.au.

Tutors Worldwide

Tutors worldwide handles recruitment of gap tutors for a number of schools in the UK. Full details of the recruiting program can be found on www.tutorsworldwide.org. Closing dates are advertised on the website and students need to be aware the program has a fee attach which is non-refundable.

Karen Hundy, Careers/VET

Community News

Join Canteen

You are eligible to join Canteen if you are aged between 12-24 years and have cancer or have a brother, sister, mother or father who has cancer or who has died from cancer. To find out more about Canteen, call 02 6101 2207 or visit www.canteen.org.au

Ice Hockey for Girls

Girls and Women are given the opportunity to try out Ice Hockey on Sunday 25 March at the Phillip Ice Skating Rink. Trials for Ages 14 and under will take place between 3.30pm-5pm while ages 15 and over will take place between 4.30pm-6pm. Call 0411 124 168 or email ihactwomen@gmail.com to register!

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

Tuggeranong Buffaloes Rugby League

The Tuggeranong Buffaloes JRLFC is now taking 2012 registrations for the under 14's. If you are or are turning 14 this year, we want you! For more information, please call Jean Wood on 0449 081 415 or visit www.thebuffaloes.org

Red Cross Volunteers

The Red Cross is seeking volunteers for a range of different roles to make a significant difference in the lives of people in your community. To find out more, email volunteernow@redcross.org.au or call 02 6234 7634.

AC Milan Soccer Camp

AC Milan is holding a soccer camp on 23-25 April at the University of Canberra for junior boys and girls. Find out more online at www.acmilansoccerschool.com.au.

Admin

School Funding

MySchool Data

Please see the attached letter from the National Catholic Education Commission regarding funding for Catholic Schools. The NCEC aims to inform parents about the need for greater investment in Catholic school education.

Latest school data heightens need for greater investment in school education

On the 24th of February the latest round of school funding data was published on the government's *My School* website.

The *ACARA My School* data identifies the amount of money each school in Australia received in 2010 for their day-to-day operations from all sources—Commonwealth and state governments and parent contributions—and provides an insight into the relative resources of all schools.

According to the data, government schools operate on average at around \$11,520 per student and Catholic schools with around \$10,340 per student.

Simply put, even when parent contributions are taken into account, Catholic schools receive on average around 10% less money for their day-to-day operations than government schools.

This means that Catholic schools continue to be the least resourced of all Australian schools.

While Catholic schools continue to deliver high quality education, doing 'more with less' is not sustainable into the future.

The recently released Gonski Report on Funding for Schooling identified that if Australia is to keep up with world standards than government investment in school education needs to increase by \$5 billion per annum.

The Catholic education sector has strongly backed the call for more investment in education and the latest *My School* data strengthens the need for this to happen sooner rather than later.

On behalf of all our Catholic schools, the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) will be continuing efforts in the coming months to work with all governments to promote the urgent need for more funding for schools.

Only with additional investment by governments, will all school sectors be able to continue to deliver quality education for all Australian students.

To keep up to date with NCEC activities please visit www.fundinginfo.catholic.edu.au.