

Important Dates & Events

SEPT.
FRIDAY

28

- Last day of Term 3

OCT.
MONDAY

15

- Term 4 begins

NOV.
THURSDAY

15

- Year 10 Exams

NOV.
TUESDAY

20

- Year 12 Breakfast and Farewell Assembly

NOV.
WEDNESDAY

21

- Senior Exams commence

NOV.
TUESDAY

27

- Final day of Senior Exams

NOV.
THURSDAY

29

- Year 10 Grad Practice

NOV.
FRIDAY

30

- Year 10 Picnic Day
- Year 12 Grad Practice

"And the tides of life will be the tides of the home-team's fortunes - the reckless proposal after the one-point win, the wedding and honeymoon after the grand final. They will not grow old as those from the more northern states grow old; life will always be three-quarter time with the scores level and the wind advantage for the final term." Life Cycle, Bruce Dawe

Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

Mackillop Day 2012

Thank you to the many staff and students who worked so hard to ensure that this day was such a success for the College community.

The students reverential conduct at Mass, the variety of welcomed guests, the reflection of Mrs Kath Evans, and the warmth of the clergy made this a memorable event in the life of the year. Monsignor John Woods contacted me after Mass to express his delight in the conduct of the students and his admiration for the teachers. He remarked on the willing tone of the College community.

The events on the Isabella Campus were engaging, entertaining, and good fun. A considerable amount of money was raised for the Tegan Blunt Memorial Gift; funds that will be a considerable benefit to students and their families at the school.

Footy season comes to an end!

For all codes this winter, it has been a season of highs and lows, splendid achievements, and a fair share of character building upsets. Happily it has been largely free of degrading and inappropriate scandal that robs us all of the best that sport can be.

The Brownlow Medal winner for 2012 is Essendon captain Jobe Watson, son of Essendon favourite #32 in the 1970s, 80s, and 90s Tim Watson. His remarks on television spoke with the generosity of all champions: "a lot of people have had faith in me, and this medal will bring them much enjoyment, I'm happy about that."

Those of us who follow sport invest energy, passion, emotion, and money into our code, colours, and heroes. We frequently get back more than we give. Following Essendon's 2000 Premiership, Kevin Sheedy dedicated the win to the mums and dads around Australia who support their kids in sport. He acknowledged them as the backbone of the game, its life's blood, its true heroes. He was right.

Let's hope the two grand finals produce the best that AFL and NRL can be, and that they are worthy of the passion and loyalty fans hope them to be.

ACT Election News

Please find attached two items of information regarding the policies of the ALP and the Canberra Liberals regarding commitments to funding of non-government schools and the 2012 ACT Elections. St Mary MacKillop College offers this information at the direction of the Catholic Education Commission and endorses no political party for the election. Families and students who are voting in this election can clearly make up their own mind.

Yours in St Mary MacKillop,



Mr Michael Lee
College Principal

See College Calendar for more dates

St Mary MacKillop College

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Admin

School Fees

Fees will be sent in the holidays

Thank you to the families who have paid Term 3 fees. Any outstanding fees should be paid immediately unless paying by Direct Debit or other approved arrangement.

Term 4 fees will be sent out during the holidays. Term 4 fees are due to be paid by 2 November 2012. If you require more information regarding Direct Debit arrangements or other approved payment methods please contact the Fees Office.

Michelle Predovan, Fees Manager

Future Stars

Congratulations!

Jasmine Dinning (Year 8) competed in a State Karate Tournament in mid-September. She won a Bronze Medal in Kumite (Sparring) and will now compete in the National Karate Tournament in November as well as the World Championships next year.

Earlier this month, Tom Makin (Year 9) won a Gold Medal in the Novice Mens Foil Riverina Fencing Championships and a Bronze in the U15 Foil competition.

Ashleigh May (Year 7) and her basketball team are the ACT U14 Champions for 2012.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral News

Menslink Award

Congratulations to Chris Murphy, who won the \$500 annual award from MensLink at a MensLink Business Breakfast on Wednesday this week.

Following a pre-recorded video interview with Chris and Martin Fisk of Menslink, Chris responded to questions about his experiences with Menslink and the ways in which the organisation supports young men.

Chris received the award from Menslink for his involvement and growth as a leader supporting younger boys, particularly at a recent MensLink camp.

Year 11 Leadership Interviews

Students from Year 11 interested in a leadership role in 2013 submitted their written applications and were interviewed for Boy or Girl Captain, Faith and Community, Performing Arts, and Sport. A new leadership role of Sustainability Leader has been added to the leadership team for next year. Mr. Lee, Mrs. Lorton and Mrs. White were most impressed with the open and authentic way in which each applicant presented themselves during the interviews. The leadership process will continue early in Term 4.

Spring Zing

Congratulations to Year 10 students and the Year 10 Pastoral teachers and Coordinators, Mr Jonathan Moyle and Mrs Barbara Morris, for their planning, participation and wonderful spirit evident in the obvious enjoyment of Spring Zing last Friday evening. There were many wonderful costumes, including the winning group of "Twister" girls, the Spartan soldiers and the winning Transformer costume made by its wearer's older brother.

Pastoral Program

Our Pastoral Review Committee is currently working to evaluate and improve Pastoral Programs for students 7-12. Our online parent surveys from Term 3 provided data from sixty five parents. This data has been most informative but represents a reasonably small sample of our parent body. If other parents would like to comment or make suggestions regarding Pastoral Care in general or Pastoral Programs in particular, please send your views in an email to your son or daughter's Pastoral Coordinator or to Mr McNicol or Mrs White before 16 October.

Last week's Pastoral programs at Isabella were very well received by students. Year 10 saw "Dusted Off," a story of courage presented through the eyes of a son whose father had served in Vietnam. Year 11 heard an interactive and relevant AFP presentation and discussion by Cnst. Dave Ridley about safe behaviours and responses to drinking and drugs, particularly in party and social situations. Year 12 attended an inspiring presentation by Francis Owusu from Kulture Break about setting goals, following dreams and persevering against the odds.

Uniform Reminders

All students are to wear in summer uniform at the beginning of Term 4. Boys are to wear grey socks if wearing shorts; girls are to wear plain white above ankle socks. Traditional black polishable lace-up shoes are to be worn. Parents and students are reminded that facial piercings or extreme hair colourings are not permitted.

Thank you

Thank you to all parents and carers for your support and involvement during Term 3. May you and your families enjoy a restful break from school routine and that you have an opportunity to enjoy time together.

*Lois White
AP Pastoral Care - Isabella*

Achievement

Merit Certificates

GURABANG: Connor Wende (7EW), Jesse Lee Regan (7EW), Liam Kennedy (7EW), Cameron Gawler (7EW), Paula O'Sullivan (7E1), Claire Mackey (8E5)

MINDYGARI: Tim Blewett (7A3), Sophie Dunn x 3 (7A3), Todd Dallinger (7A3).

NGADYUNG: Taryn Leslie (7W2), Anooj Lad x3 (7W1), Ashleigh May x3 (7W1), Leo Phimpravichith x2 (7W1), Samuel Hiscock (7W2).

General News

Year 12s receive awards from Governor General

Mackillop's Year 12 students who have been involved in working in classes on the junior campus have been selected as recipients of two ACT Children's Week Awards – The Youth Commitment Award and the Community for Children Award. These awards will be presented at a ceremony at the National Museum of Australia and followed by afternoon tea with the Governor General at Government House.

The inaugural year of the Year 12 Cross Campus Interaction Program at St Mary MacKillop College involved students in Year 12 volunteering their time to work on the junior campus, increasing the exposure and interaction that Year 7 to 9 students have with senior students. The Year 12 students have been involved in the classes of students in the younger years assisting with classroom activities. The program has fostered relationships through the benefits of the mentoring provided by students in Year 12 of those on the junior campus, and the Year 12 students are very worthy recipients of the award. We congratulate all students involved.

Lachlan McNicol, Campus Head (Acting)

St Mary MacKillop Art Competition Winners:

Overall Winner - Monique Borbas - Year 8

Year 7/8 - First Place - Liam Nagel

Year 7/8 - Second Place - Lara Clarke

Year 9/10 - First Place - Laura Rankin

Year 9/10 - Second Place - Jennifer Kennedy

Year 11/12 - First Place - Samantha Chester

Year 11/12 - Second Place - Lachlan Herbert

Mackillop's legal stars!

Throughout August and September, students from Colleges across the ACT were selected to attend a series of four Mock Trials at the Moot Courtroom in the University of Canberra. The Capital Region Mock Trial Competition is designed to provide an opportunity for senior students to explore the way real trials occur in the Australian legal system. The 2012 representatives for this program were: Meghann Griffin, Teeghan Lamb, Morgan Rosin, Ryan Larson, Eloise De Britt, Taylah Fellows, Yash Bhosale, Damien Cheatham, and Stefan Andric.

Once again the MacKillop students shone in the application, exemplary conduct, interest and participation in the five weeks of competitions and four mock trials. From 32 teams at the start of the competition, our students had won through to the Grand Final. Unfortunately we were not successful in winning the Grand Final. However, all of the team members were magnificent and the College won the Advocacy Commendation team award. Congratulations to all of the students who participated in the Mock Trial. We are extremely proud of the achievements and performance of all of the student team members.

*Michael Batten
SOSE Coordinator (Isabella)*

1 to 1 Laptops

Exciting News!! 1 to 1 Laptops for Students in 2013

We are very excited to announce that the College will in 2013 be in the position to provide all students at SMMC with a laptop. This is one year ahead of schedule!

Information Sessions for current Year 9 and 10 – Term 4 2012

Information sessions for parents of students receiving laptops for the first time, that is the current Year 9 and 10 cohorts, will be held during Term 4. Parents of all students who wish to receive a laptop will be required to attend one of these information sessions to clarify the obligations of the family, the potential risks posed as well as the opportunities made available to students by this program.

Both agreements relevant to the 1-to-1 Laptop Learning Program will be sent home to parents prior to these Information Sessions so that parents have the opportunity to raise any concerns or questions at the meeting. Agreements will be signed and witnessed by College staff at the end of each meeting.

In order to maximise the benefit to students a laptop orientation program will be run for Year 9 and Year 10 students after assessment is completed in Term 4. This will ensure that all students understand how to use and take care of the equipment issued to them. All tasks in the program will be accessed through Learning Groups created within Studywiz. Laptops will be distributed to these students during the first few weeks of Term 1 2013.

Current Year 7, 8 and 11 Student Laptop Information

Students currently in Years 7, 8 and 11 will retain their laptops, these will be re-imaged early in the new school year allowing IT Support to install important updates.

Year 12 Process for the Return of Laptops

We would ask that all current Year 12 students return their laptops to IT Support by Tues 27 November. A receipt will be provided indicating the equipment has been returned and identifying any repairs that may be required. Laptops should not be handed to any other member of the College staff (teacher, coordinator, front office staff) other than IT Support. Students who have not returned their laptop in good condition with a charger and bag by this date will be charged accordingly. The IT Support receipt is the only proof of return we will accept.

Ruth Walton, ICT Manager



**Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn
CATHOLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION****MEDIA RELEASE****CATHOLIC SECTOR WELCOMES FUNDING COMMITMENT BY
CANBERRA LIBERALS**

The Catholic Education Commission welcomes the announcement today from the Leader of the Canberra Liberals, Mr Zed Seselja, that if elected to form government in the ACT, they will progressively increase the ACT Government's per capita contribution to nongovernment schools' recurrent funding to 25 per cent of the average cost of educating a student in an ACT Government school.

"This announcement provides a guaranteed funding stream as it will establish an ongoing 25 per cent for Catholic schools into the future", said Mrs Moira Najdecki Director of Catholic Education.

"Increased funding is required to ensure that all students in Catholic schools continue to be educated to an excellent standard and are able to attend the school of their choice by slowing the growth of fees," said Mrs Najdecki.

The ACT currently has the highest proportion of Catholic school enrolments in Australia but receives the second lowest funding in the country.

Mr Daryl Smeaton, Chair of the Catholic Education Commission said, "With over 17,000 students in ACT Catholic schools, we will continue to work with the current ACT Government to secure a bipartisan commitment to ensure greater fairness and equity for the sector."

For further information please contact: Frances Neuss, 62345455.

30 August 2012

**Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn
CATHOLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION**

MEDIA RELEASE

**CATHOLIC SECTOR WELCOMES FUNDING COMMITMENT BY
ACT LABOR**

The Catholic Education Commission welcomes the announcement today from the Chief Minister, Katy Gallagher, that if re-elected, Labor will increase the ACT Government's contribution to non-government schools' recurrent funding based on need. This is a significant step towards achieving 25 per cent of the average cost of educating a student in an ACT Government school by 2020.

"ACT Labor's announcement has provided an indication that they are willing to work towards increasing recurrent funding, through a grants process based on need, to see Catholic schools heading towards the 25% target for recurrent funding", said Mrs Moira Najdecki, Director of Catholic Education.

"ACT Labor has committed \$13.5 Million to recurrent targeted funding and a further \$5 million to pre-school education for the non- government sector. This will enable Catholic schools to further assist students in need and to slow fees growth for families in pre-schools and schools," said Mrs Najdecki.

The ACT currently has the highest proportion of Catholic school enrolments in Australia.

Mr Daryl Smeaton, Chair of the Catholic Education Commission said, "We know that Catholic schools in the ACT desperately need an increase in recurrent funding particularly for those needy students towards whom it has been targeted. The announcement will work towards ensuring greater fairness and equity for the sector in recurrent funding for disadvantaged students in Catholic schools and will provide a boost for our pre-schools."

For further information please contact: Frances Neuss, 62345455.

Authorised by Daryl Smeaton, Chair, Catholic Education Commission
10 September 2012

ACT ELECTION ALERT

The ACT Legislative Assembly Elections will be held on 20 October 2012.

What We Have Asked:

- A commitment to progressively increase recurrent funding to 25% of the average cost of educating a student in an ACT Government school.
- A commitment to provide per capita funding support for preschool students in ACT Catholic schools equivalent to 50% of per capita funding provided for ACT Catholic school students in Kindergarten to Year 3.

The responses provide a very real policy difference for how Catholic Schools will be funded into the future.

What They Have Committed To Do:

ACT LABOR Response	CANBERRA LIBERALS Response	ACT GREENS Response
<p>If re-elected, ACT Labor will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invest \$18.5 million in needs-based funding through a grants process to support non-government students over the next four years including: - \$11 million dollars to support non-government students, and \$5 million to support non-government preschool students, based on need. - \$2.5 million funding ICT in non-government schools through the Smart School, Smart Student grants. <p>CROSS SECTORAL SERVICES ACT Labor will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fund \$1.7m for a student-focused Mt Stromlo Science Centre and Planetarium; - Increase the existing Secondary Bursary Scheme to \$750 per student; - Build an \$8.7 million Centre for Numeracy Excellence at the Caroline Chisholm School Senior campus; - Fund a \$0.4 million Preschool Matters program to assist parental engagement in government and non-government preschools; and - Establish a \$0.5 million fund to install water bottle refill stations and supply reusable drink bottles to any school that agrees to end the sale of sugary drinks in their school. 	<p>If elected, Canberra Liberals will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase funding by over \$48 million dollars to Catholic and Independent schools over the next four years. - This equates to an increase per student in the final year of \$637. - In addition to this commitment the Canberra Liberals will progressively increase funding to Catholic and Independent schools to reach 25% which is equal to the highest in the country. - The Canberra Liberals will also review legislation with a view to protecting through law funding for government and nongovernment schools. 	<p>If elected, ACT Greens will provide the following to schools cross sectorally based on need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commit to \$2m recurrent and indexed funding to support students with disability until the Gonski funding model is implemented. <p>Healthy Food for Healthy Children: To improve the health of children, ACT Greens will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legislate to protect children from junk food advertising to children, to help parents and children to make healthy choices, and to fight childhood obesity. - Improve school canteens by funding a high level task force, creating new jobs through social enterprise models, and improving canteen infrastructure; - Create new school gardens, to better educate students about nutrition and the environment; - Expand Breakfast Clubs to ensure children can perform better at school. - Implement 'Calmer Classrooms', evidence based trauma response training for carers and 400 teachers. - Expand the Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPPY) to the Tuggeranong region, to better support vulnerable families and children get the best start to learning and engage them with the first formal year of schooling. - Provide increased funding to the Children and Young Peoples Commissioner, to better support the enquiries of parents, in response to the recent inclusion of education in the ACT Human Rights Act.