



PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

College Mass and MacKillop Day

Thank you and congratulations to Fr Luke and all the staff and students who participated in what was a very moving and dignified Mass at last Friday's MacKillop Day. Fr Luke's Homily will be memorable for many of us who were there and the glorious quality of the music transported all of us to another place.

The MacKillop Day celebrations at the Isabella Campus helped the College raise a significant amount of money for the Tegan Blunt Memorial Gift, which will make a significant difference to many families and students at MacKillop.

Congratulations to all the students who participated beautifully in the Mass and who conducted themselves in an exemplary fashion at the festivities afterwards.

Finalist, ACT Schools Vocational student of the year, Reece Inkpen

Congratulations to Reece Inkpen, who was a worthy finalist in this category of the DET Awards announced last week. Reece's enthusiasm and skill, expert teaching, and industry-standard facilities in his area of Hospitality were key reasons for the honour of being nominated for this award. Congratulations Reece, the College is very proud of you.

Bon Voyage to the French trip

Bon voyage to the teachers and students who are travelling to France over the holidays. I'm sure the trip will be a rich and rewarding experience for all of you as you visit St Joseph's College, Paris, and the battlefields of Northern France. Safe travels.

To everyone in the MacKillop community: enjoy a good holiday – all of you deserve it!

Yours in St Mary MacKillop,

MICHAEL LEE
PRINCIPAL

ACEL Fellowship

It is with great pride that the college announces that our Principal is to be made a Fellow of the Australian Council for Educational Leaders. This prestigious award will be conferred at the ACCEL Conference in Melbourne in October.

One of three recipients in the ACT, the ACCEL Fellowship recognizes Mr Lee's outstanding leadership skills, his ability to inspire and lead change as well as his contribution to educational leadership at both national and international levels. Congratulations Michael!

PRINCIPAL'S PRAYER

Lord, We give thanks for all the blessings bestowed upon our community this Term. Help us to bring your peace and grace to those who have sustained loss and who are experiencing grief among us. Amen.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEP FRIDAY 19	• Year 10 Spring Zing
SEP WEDNESDAY 24	• Senior Leadership Speeches
SEP FRIDAY 26	• Last day of Term 3
OCT MONDAY 13	• Term 4 begins

COLLEGE NEWS

INSPIRE Art Comp winners

Congratulations to the winners of the St Mary MacKillop College INSPIRE Art Competition:

Claire Mackey, Year 10 - Overall Winner
 Breanna Sturgess, Year 12 - Year 11/12 First Place
 Ben Jenkins, Year 10 - Year 9/10 First Place
 Jordyn Maher, Year 9 - Year 7/8 First Place
 Jozeph Nassar, Year 11 - Year 11/12 Second Place
 Kira Guilfoyle, Year 9 - Year 9/10 Second Place
 Grace Spratt, Year 7 - Year 7/8 Second Place

Tamara Murdoch, Visual Arts Coordinator



School Fees

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 31 October 2014. If you require more information regarding Direct Debit arrangements or other approved payment methods please contact the Fees Office.

Michelle Predovan, Fees Manager



Sports Success

A few of MacKillop's sports teams have had some success in recent weeks.

Congratulations to the 7/8 Girls Netball team and coach Kate Durham who were crowned ACT Netball Champions for 2014. This is a culmination of a successful season with this team also being the Runners Up in the ASC and NSW Combined Catholic Colleges Competitions and winners of the Archdiocesan Netball Competition.

Congratulations to the 7/8 Girls Football (Soccer) team and coach Lee Rose who last week took out the ACT High Schools Championship against Merici College.

Congratulations to the 9/10 Boys Football (Soccer) team and coach Iain Robertson (pictured) who also took out the ACT High Schools Championship last week.

Nathan Wood, Sports Facilitator

Future Stars!

Gabrielle Petersen (Year 7) will represent the ACT at the National Touch Football Championships in Victoria next month.

Adam Walker (Year 7) has been selected in the U13's ACT/South Coast GWS Academy Team for AFL. He will be playing in the Joss State Tournament in Albury next week.

Matthew Wallace (Year 11) has been identified as an elite basketball player and will attend the Tristar Basketball tour of the USA in November/December this year.

DEFENCE NEWS

What a great third term it's been for our Defence family students, with trips to ADFA and the Australian War Memorial.

The ADFA excursion certainly tested the stamina of the students as they gingerly attempted the assault course over the pool! This was followed by lunch in the Cadets' mess and a tour of the university and living quarters. A few students have now decided that ADFA is the place for them so it was a successful visit.

On Wednesday 3 September, three Isabella students were selected to attend the Australian War Memorial for the Battle for Australia Commemorative Ceremony. Our students, along with students from seven other schools, helped to create a wattle wreath as a gesture to all those who fought in the Battle for Australia. The term "Battle for Australia" was first used by Prime Minister John Curtin after the fall of Singapore in the Second World War. It was a respectful and reverent ceremony and was attended by many dignitaries including Diplomatic representatives from our Allies of World War 2.

*Steph Stephens,
 Defence Transition Mentor*



WANNIASSA NEWS

Summer Uniform

A reminder that from the beginning of Term 4 all students are to be wearing the Summer Uniform.

- For boys this means that tailored mid-grey school shorts are an option in addition to the trousers. Grey or black socks may be worn with the trousers, however if shorts are worn the socks must be grey.
- Girls may wear the teal check summer dress with plain short white socks, or the tailored navy slacks with MacKillop monogram and a white over-blouse with MacKillop monogram.
- Any holiday 'variations' such as facial piercings or fashionable extremes to hair such as colours or styles should be rectified before returning to school for the new term.
- School shoes are to be traditional, lace up, black and polishable

More detailed information is available in the Student Diary, on the College website and on StudyWiz.

If there are circumstances that prevent students from wearing the correct uniform, they are required to bring a signed note from their parents to explain the situation. They need to present this to their Pastoral Care Coordinator during PC time each morning to obtain a uniform pass.

Status Awards

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

Bronze Status - Caitlin Court 7F1, Kayla Garcia 7F3, Tayla Harnas 7A1, Alexis Lanuza 7E1, Monique Lewis 7E3, Breonie Main 8E1, Darryl Maningding 7E2, Jayde Mohr 7F3, Petria Nagel 8F3, Chloe Osborne 7EW, Elizabeth Tomas 7EW

NAPLAN/Attendance and Parentingideas

On the following pages, we have included an article on the importance of attendance to the learning process and our usual Parentingideas article.

*Lachlan McNicol,
AP Pastoral Care, Wanniassa*



Maths Investigation Tasks

During 2013 and 2014, Maths Investigation Tasks have been introduced at the Wanniassa Campus to primarily get students ready for the expectations of the Isabella Campus. The Board of Senior Secondary Studies requires that senior students complete at least 25% of non-test related assessment per semester. Non-test related assessment includes (and is not limited to) projects, journals, portfolios, oral presentations and investigations. In previous years we have used projects and assignments as assessment tools however these types of assessments can sometimes be done by tutors so they are not a true reflection of the student's capability.

In recent times, MacKillop has introduced investigation style tasks which often require students to read some background information on a particular Maths topic and then interpret a mathematical procedure to arrive at a solution. Students have found these types of tasks to be more engaging as they often relate to real world problems. The design of these assessment tasks can also be in GRASP format which follow the principles of Understanding by Design.

Investigation tasks can also provide the opportunity for students to work in groups and build their collaborative skills which can also increase their ability to communicate solutions effectively. Some examples of investigation tasks we have used in 2014 have been based on: the honeybee conjecture, solving a murder mystery, a pirate adventure, a bead percentage investigation and calculating the volume of drinking vessels.

Jonathan Chandra, Maths Coordinator (Wanniassa)

COMMUNITY NEWS

Women's Cursillo

A Women's Cursillo (meaning 'short course') will be held at St Clement's Retreat Centre, Galong, from 30 October to 2 November 2014. Take time out to reflect on your faith through a series of talks, exploring what it means to live a more fulfilling Christian life. Fr Michael Fallon is part of the team as Spiritual Director. For more information and/or application form, contact Marian on 0413 686 551.

Canberra School of Tennis

The Canberra School of Tennis is running a holiday camp at the Pines Tennis Club, Chisholm, over 7-10 October. Call 0432 118 204 or email csot@hotmail.com.au for more information.

Weston Creek Cricket

Attend a cricket school these October holidays or join a team for the 2014/15 season! Visit www.wccc.org.au for details.

Olympia Judo

Olympia Judo Club is taking enrolments for Term 4 (2014) and Term 1 (2015). Contact Sensei Stephanos and give it a try...you'll love it! Call 0411 105 449 or email olympiajudoclub@hotmail.com

Calwell Little Athletics

Do you like to run, jump and throw? Join Calwell Little Athletics! A registration session will take place at Calwell Shops on 20 September between 1-4pm. Little Athletics meets at Calwell Playing Fields every Saturday morning from 8.45am, commencing 11 October through to the end of March. More info at www.clac.net.au or contact David Lawrence on 0411 144 046.

Lanyon Little Athletics

Lanyon Little Athletics is held on Saturday mornings at Banks oval from 8.45am, commencing Saturday 18 October. An Orientation Day will be held on Saturday 11 October at Banks Oval from 8:30 am - 11:30am. Come and try some events and learn how Little Athletics works. You can also register on the day, or visit register online at www.actlaa.org.au. For further information please visit our Website at www.lanyonlittleathletics.org.au or call Jason on 0438 204 233.

Softball players needed

The Boomerangs Softball club is looking for four more girls aged under 15 to play in the upcoming softball season. If you are interested please contact Belinda Staier 0407 252 282 ASAP.

NAPLAN + ATTENDANCE

Skipping school for just one day affects NAPLAN results, study finds

Parents of students in Year 7 and 9 have in the last two weeks received the NAPLAN results for their sons or daughters. The following article by Amy McNeillage from the Sydney Morning Herald was published on the 3rd August. It shows the importance of attendance to the learning of students in all Year levels and that there is no safe level of school absence.

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/skipping-school-for-just-one-day-affects-naplan-results-study-finds-20140802-zzjmr.html>

Missing just one day of school has negative consequences for a student's academic achievement, the first major study linking poor attendance to lower NAPLAN results has found.

And school attendance patterns established as early as year 1 can predict how often a student will show up to class right through high school, according to the research.

The average public school student in NSW misses almost three weeks of school each year. Australia is alarmingly slack when it comes to school attendance, with high school students skipping more days of school than almost any other developed country.

On Monday, the harmful effects of that absenteeism will be exposed by the results of a study to be presented at the Australian Council for Educational Research's annual conference.

An analysis of the attendance records and NAPLAN results of more than 400,000 students from Western Australia found any absence from school leads to a decline in academic performance.

The study dispels the belief there is a safe level of absence students can get away with before their grades will suffer.

"We were able to show that actually every day counts and days that you're missing in year 3 and year 5, we can detect that all the way through to year 9," the report's co-author, Stephen Zubrick, from the University of Western Australia, said.

"A 10-day period of unauthorised absence in a year is sufficient to drop a child about a band in the NAPLAN testing."

Year 3 numeracy achievement in 2012 declined by 1.6 NAPLAN points for every unauthorised day of absence in the first two terms of that year.

The most startling finding, Professor Zubrick said, was that students arrive

in year 1 "with their school attendance careers already in their pockets".

"For most children, year 1 sets the pattern for what school attendance will look like in the future," Professor Zubrick said. "You're learning more than reading and writing. You're learning to show up."

Absence was found to have a greater impact on writing than it did on numeracy and reading.

While poor attendance is a problem across the socio-economic spectrum, families in affluent areas often interrupt schooling for overseas holidays.

Professor Zubrick insists his message is not about finger wagging or guilt trips, but says "we do need to recognise that when a child is standing on the Eiffel Tower, so to speak, they may be learning a lot about the world but they're not necessarily learning everything they'd be learning at school."

The average attendance rate for NSW public school students in 2013 was 92.6 per cent - about 14 days off per year - and has been relatively consistent over the past decade. Attendance is much poorer among high school students with the average student missing 20 days per year.

Julie Townsend, the headmistress of St Catherine's School in Waverley, said the girls' school had a "very strict" attendance policy and did not consider a family holiday to be an appropriate reason for missing school.

"We [tell parents] that we only teach for about 185 days a year and we expect that they take their holidays during the very generous holiday period," she said. "If the parents go - and that's just happened this week - we call them in and we talk about the breakdown of our relationship and that our values aren't aligned. We take a very hard line on it."

She said acceptable grounds for leave could include compassionate reasons, health complications or the commitments of elite athletes.

In a major international survey of 15 year olds, conducted by the OECD in 2012, almost one-third of Australian students said they had skipped at least one day of school in the previous two weeks.

That means Australian students skip school more frequently than any other developed country except Turkey and Italy. In high-performing countries such as Japan and Korea that figure was less than two per cent.

The NSW Education Department's school attendance policy states principals have the authority to grant students exemptions from school for up to 100 days per year. Reasons can include family holidays if they are "in the best educational interests of the child", employment in the entertainment industry or participation in elite sporting events.

Ross Tarlinton, the headmaster of St Joseph's College, said it was always his priority to maximise a student's attendance but he would make exceptions for ill-health, family or sporting commitments and occasionally travel.

"I had a boy who went with his father who was doing some pro bono medical work in a Third World country for a short period of time to have that experience and I let him go," he said. "That boy came back so rich for the experience."

The head of SCEGGS Darlinghurst, Jenny Allum, said understanding that you have to show up even when something else might be more desirable is an important life lesson.

"School isn't something you normally or mostly do. It's something you always do," she said.

"If you're making a commitment to something else over school, boy that better be important."

Article by:
Amy McNeillage
Sydney Morning Herald
3 August 2014

Parenting *ideas* INSIGHTS



Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

Building deep relationships with kids

Building a strong relationship with their children is every parent's dream. Here are some time-honoured ways of doing this ... if you can stick to them.

Every parent I know wants a great relationship with their children.

An effective way of promoting such relationships is through rituals and traditions. Rituals and traditions build close families.

For example, most strong families I know are underpinned by a strong food culture. In these families, every kid, no matter what their age, is expected to come to the meal table. Kids in these families are generally also expected to participate in other rituals and traditions.

This can require some parenting spine, but these rituals build wide relationships – that is, they gather the tribe together creating a wide relationship circle.

Individual parent-child relationships need to go deep. Deep relationships provide leverage. They also survive the potential storms of adolescence, during which relationships can become stormy and intense.

Certainly some ages are more amenable to positive relationship building than others. Developmentally, it's easiest to build deep relationships in the opportunity years of latency: five through to ten years of age.

The easiest way to build a deep relationship between yourself and each of your kids is to spend regular one-on-one time together.

- Go somewhere for a whole day with a child.
- Go away for a weekend with just one child. Do things you enjoy.
- If possible, go camping.
- Talk. Cook. Mooch.

These shared experiences can have a magic impact on relationships. They can sometimes lead to vast improvements in children's behaviour.

Another way to build deep relationships is to share an interest with a child. Having something in common, whether it's a shared love of sport, books or a hobby, creates an individual bond that goes deep. A shared interest also creates 'natural' opportunities for one-on-one time.

Make it happen

- One-on-one time needs to be organised.
- It generally won't happen by accident.
- It takes time. It takes energy. It takes a support mechanism to make it happen. Most of all it takes permission.
- But one-on-one time is so worth the effort.
- One-on-one time is the coat hook upon which each of your children will hang their memories of you.



Stay one step ahead of your kids with great ideas & expert advice from Michael Grose. Join Michael's **NEW Parentingideas Club** today at parentingideasclub.com.au. You'll be so glad you did.



parentingideas.com.au

