



MACKILLOP NEWSLETTER

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PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

Dear families, students and friends,

Thank you to former Prime Minister Tony Abbott

Last Friday, the then Prime Minister, Mr Tony Abbott, graciously agreed to meet 21 students from our school and two from MacKillop College, Werribee, to join him for a recording of an acknowledgement of the fifth anniversary of St Mary MacKillop's canonisation. We are a member of the Association of Josephite Secondary Schools of Australia and took the lead in arranging for Mr Abbott to agree to this presentation. Mr Abbott gave half an hour of his time at 12 noon last Friday to speak with our students and to make the recording, which is available at: <https://youtu.be/zONKJUboY-4>

In what, as it now seems, must have been a challenging day for Mr Abbott, it was a very generous donation of his time and he did his best to greet our students and ask about our schools. The College expressed its gratitude to Mr Abbott via the gift of Fr Gardiner's biography of Mary, which he received pleasantly. As you will see from the clip, Mr Abbott spoke quite movingly about the legacy of Mary MacKillop, particularly of her qualities of faithfulness and love and of her contribution to the progress of Australia.

I would like to record sincere thanks to Mr Abbott for his leadership in marshalling appropriate recognition of a day that is very important in the life of the Australian Church and in the lives of people everywhere who applaud and work for the Church's mission in education.

MacKillop Day

Thank you to everybody involved in the organisation and conduct of the College Mass and school celebrations for MacKillop Day. Whilst a number of invited guests were unable to attend, it was pleasing to see so many parents, board members, and past staff and students joining us at this important liturgy. A particular thanks to Mrs Maloney and Mrs McKenzie for their outstanding leadership of the choir and music, which invited us into the liturgy and inspired to a deep reverence and holiness. Mr Moyle and Mr Bowman are also to be acknowledged for their lengthy and skilful preparation.

Fr Luke Verrell and Fr Lachlan Coll, supported by Reverend Deacon Vince Barclay, provided a homily and presence that challenged students in a very contemporary manner, winning their interest and engagement. The Mass was added to by the presence of guests from MacKillop College, Werribee, and from 20 students from our sister school in Padua, Italy, and from other students who contributed to prayers of the faithful. This was a very good day in the Catholic life of St Mary MacKillop College.

Thank you, Mrs Lenore Moore

Mrs Moore has held the position of Coordinator of Inclusive Education at MacKillop for several years and prior to that as a Year Coordinator and classroom teacher going back to the early days of Catholic secondary education in the Tuggeranong Valley. Several months ago, Mrs Moore indicated that her time in the position and at this school was coming to an end and that she was looking forward to more time with her family and travel. Mrs Moore had her last day at the College on 11 September.

The inclusion of students of all abilities and the deep respect for difference that are fundamental to the life of this school have demanded the very best of Lenore Moore and people in her team. Students who face and learning and other challenges have been splendidly integrated into the College through her support, nurturing, and fabled organisational skills. St Mary MacKillop College owes Lenore Moore a considerable debt, expresses its thanks, and wishes her well for the richly deserved next stage of her life.

Mrs Donna Anderson has been appointed to replace Mrs Moore in this important role and brings to it outstanding academic qualifications, lengthy experience, many varied skills of great quality, and a shared vision for inclusive education at MacKillop. All of this and a lengthy detailed handover with Mrs Moore, will ensure a smooth transition and as little interruption as possible to the process of Inclusion at MacKillop. Congratulations to Donna Anderson upon winning a position of great importance at this school.

Yours in St Mary MacKillop,
MICHAEL LEE, PRINCIPAL

PRINCIPAL'S PRAYER

Lord, We give thanks for the life and example of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, whose canonisation anniversary is this October. Amen.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEP FRIDAY 18	• Year 10 Spring Zing
SEP WEDNESDAY 23	• Senior Leadership Speeches
SEP FRIDAY 25	• Last day of Term 3
OCT MONDAY 12	• Term 4 begins
OCT TUESDAY 13	• AST Second Sitting (Sessions 1 & 2)

COLLEGE NEWS

ACTION Bus Changes

The planned timetable change to ACTION School Services scheduled for Monday 12 October has been deferred. The College will provide updates as they become available. For more information, visit <https://www.action.act.gov.au/>

Future Stars/Student Achievement

Tyler Hays (Year 9), Thomas Seaman (Year 10), and Adam Seary (Year 11) have been selected to represent Australia at the Indoor Cricket World Cup in Brisbane during the school holidays.

Mel O'Mara (Year 11) will represent Australia at the NZ Gymnastics Championships in Christchurch at the end of this month.

Abbey McGuire (Year 7), will represent the ACT in Basketball at the Pacific School Games, which will be held in Adelaide this November.

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 30 October 2015. If you require more information regarding Direct Debit arrangements or other approved payment methods please contact the Fees Office.

Michelle Predovan, Fees Manager

INSPIRE Art Comp Award Winners

Overall Winners:

Claire Mackey - Year 11 and Jordyn Maher - Year 9

Year 11/12 First Place: Joseph Simpson - Year 11

Year 11/12 Second Place: Rebecca Ayun - Year 12

Year 9/10 First Place: Renee Hayter - Year 9

Year 9/10 Second Place: Megan Vu - Year 9

Year 9/10 Highly Commended: Jamie O'Hare - Year 9

Year 7/8 First Place: Monique Lewis - Year 8

Year 7/8 Second Place: Sarah Muir - Year 8

Year 7/8 Highly Commended: Vy Hoang - Year 8

Year 7/8 Highly Commended: Leila Rooney - Year 7

People's Choice Award: Jamie O'Hare - Year 9

A selection of the artworks entered will be on display at the Tuggeranong Arts Centre from Tuesday 15 September until Saturday 26 September.

Tamara Murdoch, Visual Art Coordinator



Mountain Bike

Congratulations to the Mixed Junior and the male College teams who both claimed second place at the CORC ACT Schools Mountain Bike Championships on Friday 28 August. Well done to all of the MacKillop participants and thanks to Mr McCombe, parents, and carers for supporting MacKillop on the day.

Haylee Bell, Year 8



Netball Champions!

On Wednesday 2 September, the Year 7/8 MacKillop Netball team took part in the ACT Netball Championships at Lyneham. They had won the ASC Netball carnival in July, and the top two teams were invited to play. The girls had also participated in the Canberra-Goulburn Archdiocesan Carnival and the NSW Catholic Combined Championships. These carnivals were an excellent lead up for the ACT championship.

During the ACT Netball finals, the girls played in round games against a variety of schools in Canberra in which they were undefeated. The girls demonstrated expert reading of the game, superb defence, excellent shooting in the goal circle, amazing driving through the centre court and impressive teamwork. The final was a hard fought game against Merici in which the lead changed at various times in the game. Due to skill, determination, and fitness, the girls brought the game home and won by two goals to be crowned the 7/8 Netball Champions. During the four carnivals the team achieved an astounding record of 27 games undefeated.

A huge congratulations to the girls on this tremendous achievement.

Rhonda Senti, Physical Education & Health Teacher



Soccer Champions!

Congratulations to the Year 9/10 boys and Year 7/8 girls football teams, who both took out the ACT Championships last week. Both sides went through their respective tournament undefeated, and both teams needed to win the dreaded penalty shootout in the grand final. Congratulations to the players from both teams.



WANNIASSA NEWS



Summer Uniform

A reminder that from the beginning of Term 4 all students are to wear 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.

Young People and Apps - What Are They Using Now?!

The following article provides some useful and up to date information written by Susan McLean. Susan is a leading cybersafety expert in Australia.

It is impossible to give you a definitive list of every app you need to be aware of as the list is seemingly endless. What is popular today, becomes oh so yesterday within the space of a month. Some apps are quite OK if used correctly but if used incorrectly cause harm. The best way to address the issue of apps is to do a quick risk assessment based on what the App promotes as its key feature.

Apps that promote anonymity such as Ask.fm and Qooh.me or those where the text disappears such as Telegram or Confide are often used as a means to cyberbully. They encourage disinhibition, a false sense of anonymity and a belief that as the content disappears they will not be able to be traced.

Apps where the sent picture disappears, the most popular one being Snap Chat, lulls teens into a false sense of security. Send whatever you like, naked pics included and no one will know! This often encourages teens to send naked or sexually explicit pics, thinking that no one will know because they 'disappear.' The reality however is that the picture does not disappear; it stays on the Snap Chat server as well as the fact that a forensic examination of a device can locate the pics as well.

Then there are Apps that use geo-location technology to connect you with those close to your physical location. These include Tinder and Popcorn Chat. Whilst it might be considered harmless 'fun' to find and connect with people close to your physical location, these apps are widely used by predators and online stalkers to attach themselves

to a victim who is happy to share their physical location.

Finally, apps that encourage the sharing of pictures such as Instagram can be used by predators looking to gather large numbers of images of children they like the look of. Posting pictures to social media when you have location services turned on for the camera is fraught with danger as it is a simple act to run the picture through a program that reads the meta data in order to obtain the precise physical location of where the picture was taken.

The app however that is causing considerable problems at the moment is KiK. KiK is a messaging app that is highly appealing to kids because it is free. Communication is via any Wi-Fi network so calls/texts do not come out of phone credit. A phone or phone number is not required to use this app. It is the number one app for causing problems in schools, especially with kids having unwanted contact by strangers and grooming. There are many adult content apps within it and no security settings. Because of the large number of very young, vulnerable kids and teens on the site, it is also a haven for online predators. Police around the world regularly warn about this one.

Apps have age restrictions designed to keep kids away from danger as long as possible so please ensure that they are followed. Even the most benign app can have a sinister side.

By understanding the basic features of an App, you can assess the potential risk and/or danger and have a relevant conversation with the young people in your care.

Lachlan McNicol, Assistant Principal Pastoral Care, Wanniasa

COMMUNITY NEWS

St Patrick's Bazaar Fair

St Patrick's Parish School, Cooma, would like to extend an invitation to St Mary MacKillop College to join in some community festivities of St Patrick's Bazaar Fair being held in Centennial Park, Cooma on Saturday, 7 November 2015. The commencement time is 10.00 am. This is a massive weekend for Cooma with the Snowy Ride, Busking Championships and Motorfest all being held that weekend in Cooma. Set up of stalls will commence from 7.30 am onwards. Breakfast will be available in the park at that time. All stalls will be ready to commence trading by 10.00 am.

Canberra School of Tennis

The Canberra School of Tennis Open Day takes place on 12 September at the Pines Tennis Club, Chisholm, from 1.30-4.30pm. Try the latest Tennis Australia Programs, meet the friendly and experienced team, and receive free adult and junior coaching clinics. Book your spot via email to robert@csot.com.au or visit csot.com.au.

Parenting *ideas* INSIGHTS

Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose



How to raise a child to be a giver

Michael Grose highlights why it is so important to teach your child to be a giver not a taker, and gives five practical ways to develop a sense of generosity in kids.

Young children are egocentric by nature. As any three-year old knows only too well the world revolves around them. "I want..." "Give me..." "It's mine!" and other variations are the mantras for this age group. This self-centredness is developmental, which means its something they grow out of...or they're supposed to.

But some kids never bridge the gap from self-centredness to generosity. They become takers with an inflated sense of entitlement rather than givers who do all they can to accommodate the needs of others. While it can be argued that some children maybe self-centred by temperament I'm not convinced that we can blame Mother Nature entirely. There is no doubt that parenting impacts enormously on a child's propensity to give rather than take.

In the eagerness to get kids off to a good start in life, a spirit of generosity is one quality that parents can easily overlook. Developing children's personal competencies tends to be higher on most parents' wish lists for their kids than developing a generous spirit.

But developing a sense of sharing in kids has plenty of positives. Children who are able to share their time, their space and themselves generally have more friends and experience more success than those who are self-centred and mean-spirited. Quite simply, they are leadership material!

Like most facets of child rearing developing a community ethos in kids can be a frustrating task but perseverance, modeling and expectations are parents' greatest allies when it comes to things that really matter.

Here are five practical ways to develop a sense of generosity in kids:

1 **Expect kids to help**

With families shrinking, kids get fewer opportunities to help at home than before. With this in mind expect your kids to help without being paid. Regular chores and activities that benefit others such as setting the meal table or helping a younger sibling get dressed teaches them that their contribution is valuable and very much required.

2 **Think 'gang'**

It's a quirk of modern life that parenting is an individual endeavour. "What's in the best interest of my child?" has replaced "What's in the best interest of the family?" as a key parenting principle. Encourage children to make allowances for each other which may mean everyone watches a sibling's special concert rather than some children missing it because 'it's boring!' 'We put ourselves out for each other' is a wonderful family strength that often needs to be reinforced by parents.

3 **Don't let them get away with meanness**

Children wear L-Plates when it comes to behaving generously. They don't always get it right, which means that parents as the wise adults need to remind children when their words and actions are intolerant or mean-spirited, or when they need to put their own needs behind the needs of others.

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... How to raise a child to be a giver ...

4 Develop a sense of other

Children and teenagers don't live in a bubble. The socialisation process demands that kids be accountable for their poor behaviours. "What does this social situation reasonably require of my child at his or her age and stage of development?" is a great question to ask yourself to develop a sense of other, rather than entitlement in kids.

5 Encourage giving

During the Victorian bushfires a few years ago I heard the story of a nine-year old whose mum went into his bedroom to growl at him for being up too late. She found him busy emptying his moneybox into little plastic bags, ready to donate at the school bushfire appeal next day. There were plenty of stories like this showing the generosity of Australian kids, we just need to encourage them in everyday life, rather than wait for a tragedy, to give their generosity a kick start. You can begin by encouraging them to give toys, books and clothes away when they have finished with them, or doing a good deed by a neighbor or friend.

The skills that kids need for future success are changing as technology, greater flexibility and mobility, and new economic forces are transforming workplaces at an astonishingly rapid rate. But the basic attitudes and character traits needed to succeed such as teamwork, initiative and generosity haven't changed too much over time. Ask any employer and I'm sure they'd say they'd hire a giver over a taker any day as they are just so valuable to have on a team. Hopefully they are not becoming a rarity as well!

Michael Grose



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