



MACKILLOP NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 20 2015, 18 DECEMBER

YEAR 12 ACHIEVEMENT FOR 2015

Dear families, students and friends,

Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2015, you've done VERY well!

Congratulations to the Class of 2015, who have achieved well beyond their expectations this year. It is important to remember that St Mary MacKillop College is open to all different kinds of students, so students with a wide range of abilities have been seeking to access university via the Year 11 and 12 program here – 65% of our Year 12 class chose to pursue a Tertiary package.

With a territory median of 77.65 and with a University of Canberra cut-off of 65 – some 12 points lower than the territory median – many MacKillop students will be going to university based on their achievement this year. A median is a very limited guide to a school's performance but it is an indicator of the strength of a particular school's cohort, and these are two very different things. For 2015, St Mary MacKillop's median was 75.05, the second-highest median for a Catholic school in Canberra (congratulations, Marist) and the second-highest median of the schools in the Tuggeranong Valley (congratulations, Trinity Christian School)! Excitingly, 78% of the Graduating Class achieved an ATAR of 65 or more. Few schools have bettered that achievement!

In June 2015, Year 12 students were given a five-mark ATAR estimate range. On Wednesday, 92.5% of our tertiary package students achieved an ATAR better than their estimate. This points to their dedication to their studies, the quality of their relationships with their teachers, a skilled and enthusiastic staff, and expert support and feedback on in-school assessment. It also points to the supportive environment created by the students' parents and caregivers in the home.

The Canberra Times rightly pointed out that MacKillop awarded the second-highest number of VET Certificates of any school in the ACT (216 - congratulations, Gungahlin College, 284). This also is a cause for real celebration as it points to the integrity of our claim that we are indeed a Catholic school for all. It is very exciting to know and a source of great pride for our school that so many of our students moved to the front of the line for further study at CIT, apprenticeships, and workplace employment because of the value of the VET Certificates that they achieved here.

Congratulations to Amy-Leah Tepes, who was Dux of the College with an extraordinary ATAR. While Amy-Leah's score is her business, it is a joy shared by us all.

I would like to congratulate the entire class for their better-than-expected success, **for the fact that around 90% of our tertiary students will be studying at university next year**, for the wide range of VET Certificates that were awarded, and for their remarkable contribution to the progress of the College.

Whilst there is little that is dignified about boasting or "showing off" and it is true that our community needs to continue to work hard at finding other ways to encourage enhanced achievement for our students (and we do this), I hope that all of you take deserved pride in the success of our large, comprehensive and welcoming school.

The end of the school year

It is common these days to wish people a "happy holiday," "Seasons greetings", as well as a "Merry Christmas". In the interests of social cohesion, inclusion, and deference to a multi-cultural society, this is entirely a good thing. As a Catholic school, by doctrine, foundation, and tradition, firmly rooted in the Christian faith and the Gospels of our Lord, may I offer a heartfelt happy Christmas to all members of our community and to those who have supported us throughout the year. In so many ways, the strength of our community has been tested and not found wanting in times of sadness and loss, and in times of joy and happiness. The manger reminds us that Christ was born poor and lowly, unable to be provided even with a room at the inn. Christmas time is an opportunity to reflect on our creation, lovingly by God, and the gift of the life and resurrection of his son. Have a safe and happy holiday.

Yours in St Mary MacKillop,

MICHAEL LEE, PRINCIPAL

PERPETUAL AWARDS FOR THE CLASS OF 2015



EMMA CLARKE

THE PRINCIPAL'S AWARD



JESSICA APOLINAR

TENISON WOODS STUDENTS' CHOICE AWARD



ELISE PAULL

ST MARY MACKILLOP AWARD FOR CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP



NICHOLAS MCDONALD

TEGAN BLUNT SOUTHERN CROSS SPORT AWARD



JACK LOWE

ROHAN SCHULTZ 'PER ARDUA AD ASTRA' AWARD



AMY-LEAH TEPES

SR NOELEN QUINANE AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



DANTE CLAVIJO

ST MARY MACKILLOP COLLEGE CREATIVE ARTS AWARD



BAILEY DARK

JODIE HIGGINS CALTEX BEST ALL-ROUNDER AWARD



BRAD ELLIOTT-BOOL

ELITE ATHLETE AWARD (Kayaking)



ALEX FLOROS

ELITE ATHLETE AWARD (Indoor Cricket)



SAVANNAH KRIS

ELITE ATHLETE AWARD (Netball)



ASHLEIGH MAAS

THE ACU CEO TEACHING SCHOLARSHIP



SARAH WALSH

THE ACU CEO TEACHING SCHOLARSHIP

BSSS AWARDS



TAYLAH GRADY

VOCATIONAL STUDIES AWARD



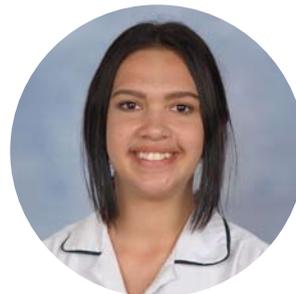
ELISE PAULL

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



DANTE CLAVIJO

PERFORMING/VISUAL ARTS AWARD



EMMA HOLGATE

ABORIGINAL + TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AWARD



AMY-LEAH TEPES

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

COLLEGE NEWS

Starting dates for 2016

The first day of the 2016 school year for Year 7, 10, 11, and 12 students will be Monday 1 February.

Students in Years 8 and 9 will commence on Tuesday 2 February. Students who are new to the College in Years 8 and 9 will also have an orientation program for an hour on Monday 1 February.

World Challenge

25 students in Years 10 and 11 are currently in Vietnam and Cambodia as part of two separate World Challenge Expedition teams.

'Team 2' (pictured below) completed 8 days of trekking including the main 5 day hike in the mountains around Dalat, Vietnam.

After some sight seeing activities including the Cu Chi Tunnels near Ho Chi Minh City, The Killing Fields in Phnom Penh and Angkor Wat in Siem Reap the team will complete their month long expedition by working on a project and engaging with the community in an orphanage near Siem Reap.

Lachlan McNicol



Future Stars/Student Achievement

Eleanor Stewart, Sierra Thurecht (both Year 8), and Tori Guglielmin (Year 10) recently represented Canberra - through Canberra City Cheerleading - at the All Star Cheerleading Federation's National Competition, where they came first in the Senior Hip Hop division.

The following students took part in the recent Pacific School Games in Adelaide: Rhys Parritt, Ally Thornton (Year 7), Gabrielle Petersen (Year 8), Mitchell Kaye (Year 11), and Sam Roestbakken (Year 12).

Lachlan Fields, Luke Masters, and Jakeb Wiseman (all Year 9) represented the ACT in the FFA NTC Challenge at the end of November.

Josh Weir (Year 10) represented the ACT in Oztag in Coffs Harbour.

Host family needed

Student Exchange Australia New Zealand is looking for a volunteer host family for a 17 year old girl from the Netherlands who arrived in the ACT in July and is currently attending MacKillop.

She is a social and creative person interested in fitness, cooking and learning about the Australian culture. Together with her host family she would love to experience new activities and simply be part of her host family's daily life.

We are looking for a family able to host her from January until May 28. If you can help, please phone Claire at the Student Exchange Office on 1300 135 331. Thank you very much for your help.



College Create Exhibition

Following the recent Year 12 ISART Exhibition; seven students of Photography and Media have had their work selected to be part of the College Create Exhibition at the Tuggeranong Arts Centre, celebrating Year 11 and 12 artworks from schools in South Canberra. Max Burgess, Chloe Knox, Rachel Mugridge, Tanya-Jessica Tepes, Amy-Leah Tepes, Matthew Wallace and Oscar Thomas will be exhibiting their work from their final semester of study. The exhibition opens at 6.00pm Friday 18 December 2015 and will be open until Saturday 23 January 2016.

Fiona Bolton

Fees Information

It is now time to review all existing Direct Debit payments for 2016. If you currently pay fees by Direct Debit please email the Accounts Office at jayne.limbrick@mackillop.act.edu.au for a new calculation of payments.

Bpay calculations are also available for parents wanting to pay by this method.

The 2016 fee schedule is on the College website and can be accessed at <http://www.mackillop.act.edu.au/index.php/enrolment/school-fees-schedule>.

Fees for 2015 not paid by Direct Debit should now be finalised. Any outstanding fees should be paid immediately.

Michelle Predovan
Fees Manager

ACT Secondary Bursary Scheme

The ACT Government's Secondary Bursary Scheme provides financial assistance to low-income families with student(s) in years 7 to 10 attending an ACT public, Independent or Catholic systemic school or who are home schooled. To be eligible, applicants must have a current Centrelink card or Healthcare card with means tested payment codes.

The ACT Secondary Bursary Scheme is an annual payment of \$750 per applicant. To ensure eligible applicants receive payment for the start of the 2016 school year applications must be lodged with the ACT Education and Training Directorate by 30 November 2015. Applications received after this date will be paid as soon as possible but payment may not be made until after school has commenced in 2016. An electronic copy of the form can be found at: http://www.det.act.gov.au/school_education/starting_school/financial_assistance_for_families.

If you require further information please call the Bursary Administrator on 6205 8262 or via email at: ACTSecondaryBursary@act.gov.au

WANNIASSA NEWS

Market Day

On 4 December, the Wanniassa Campus held its annual Market Day. This is a fun-filled day with food and activity stalls run by all PC classes. Some of the stalls included Red Doughnuts, Dance Off, Sausage Sizzle, Lolly Guessing Competition, Spiders, Gaming Room, Haunted House and much more. The atmosphere on the day was fantastic; music playing on Northside and stalls being set-up all around the school. Everyone really enjoyed themselves and everything ran smoothly. To finish the day off, the Year 8 Band performed in the gym to over 1,000 students and teachers. The energy in the room was electric, with people cheering the band on as they performed iconic songs from bands such as ACDC. All money raised from the selling of tokens goes directly to our House Charities. A huge thank you needs to be given to Mr Wood, who organized everything that happened on Market Day; Mrs Bailey for overseeing the set-up of stalls along with Mr Wood; the SRC who sold the tokens; Sound Crew for setting up the music on Northside and the lighting and sound in the gym; and all PC Classes and Teachers for setting up the stalls.

Tom Opie

MacKillop School Shoes

In preparation for the 2016 school year, many students may be in a position of needing to purchase new school shoes. The policy regarding school shoes is outlined on the College Website and in the Student Diary. An information page in this Newsletter is designed to assist parents and students in clarifying what is suitable in order to avoid any confusion.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

Thank you to all families that have kindly donated to the 2015 St Vinnie's Christmas Appeal. The staff of St Vincent de Paul were grateful for the generosity of the MacKillop community when collecting the gifts this year and were keen to distribute them to many needy families in the Canberra region.



Year 10 2016 Transition Day

Year 9 had the opportunity to take part in two transition days to the Isabella Campus on the 2nd and 3rd of December 2015. We all arrived on day one, expecting two days of boring lectures and lessons. What we received was far from it. We were greeted in our PC classes by a group of enthusiastic teachers that were very keen to meet us. After a brief tour around the school we received some interesting speeches from next year's leadership team and were briefed on what to expect at the senior campus.

Each of us then proceeded to attend a series of classes and attempted to find our way around the campus without getting lost. This continued to the second day which was concluded with fun activities in our House groups. A highlight that everyone can agree on was learning about the dangers of alcohol use and abuse through wearing an accessory known as 'drunk goggles' as an introduction to PE at the senior campus.

We are now more prepared to face the next three years at MacKillop. Although we are sad to be leaving the Wanniassa campus behind, along with many happy memories, we are excited to take the next step in our journey.

Katie Buxton and Sarah Purcell

Status Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have been presented Bronze Status Awards at the Wanniassa Campus Assembly: Arabelle Eve (7E1), Ethan Young (7AF)

Monica Bailey

Acting Assistant Principal, Pastoral Care, Wanniassa Campus

COMMUNITY NEWS

Corpus Christi Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve - 3 Masses:

- 6pm (outside) Sacred Heart Church, Calwell
- 9pm, Holy Family Church, Gowrie
- Midnight, Holy Family Church, Gowrie

Christmas Day - 1 Mass:

- 9am, Holy Family Church, Gowrie

SHFPACT Summer School

Learn about Cyber Safety, Puberty and Personal Development, Friendships, Respectful Relationships, Healthy Body Image, Resilience, and more. SHFPACT Summer School starts Monday 11 January 2016 with a series of short workshops for young people 10-14 years and their parents/carers. For details and bookings, call 6247 3018 or visit shfpact.org.au/summerschool.

Jerrabomberra Tutoring

Jerrabomberra Tutoring Services is enrolling now for 2016. Improve your child's confidence and school grades. "Catch-Up" and "Enrichment" lessons for students in Kindergarten to Year 12. Phone Michele Burgess on 6299 6865 for information.





St Mary Mackillop College

School Shoes

In terms of footwear, the expectation is traditional, black, leather, lace up, polishable school shoes. Suede shoes and black joggers are not acceptable for safety reasons. Elevated shoes and platform heels are not a part of the College uniform. The sole should be no more than 2 cm high and the heel 3 cm. Buckle shoes, canvas shoes, ballet shoes, cloth shoes, and slip on shoes are NOT permitted.



Traditional school shoes are leather, have a heel, a sturdy upper and a sole of sufficient density to ensure safety in the differing learning areas where students work.



Shoes which do not meet the College criteria:

- do not cover all of the upper foot
- are not polishable
- do not have a heel
- have a thin sole
- are not robust enough to protect the top of the foot



SIBLING DISCOUNT

The Catholic Education Office offers a discount on Tuition fees to siblings who are attending St Mary MacKillop College and one or more of the following schools:

- Merici College
- St Clare’s College
- St Francis Xavier College
- St John Paul College

If you have a student attending any of the above Colleges, as well as having a student at St Mary MacKillop College, please complete the section below and return it to the Accounts Office for the sibling discount to be applied to your account in 2016.

Please note that you do not need to fill in the form below if all siblings are attending St Mary MacKillop College as they automatically receive the sibling discount.

If you have any concerns regarding this matter, please contact the Fees Manager on 6209 0147.

NAME: _____

Address: _____

STUDENT’S FULL NAME	SCHOOL ATTENDING IN 2016	Year Group 2016

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE ACCOUNTS OFFICE **BY 11 December 2015**



Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

The many faces of independence

Here are 5 ways for parents to give their children skills, encouragement and support in their quest for independence.

It's been well documented in recent years that children/young people are dependent on adults for longer. In Australia one in four 18-30 year olds still lives at home and those numbers are on the increase. There are many reasons for this including lack of housing, affordability, working and partnering later, and simple convenience.

The propensity for many parents to do too much for children is a massive contributor to this increased dependency. Oddly, this is the exact opposite of what parents have always done, which is to develop their children's independence, and in doing so effectively become redundant from their children.

There are a number of reasons for the current high level of dependency parenting including family shrinkage (parents are able to do a great deal for kids in small families), older parents (often over-concerned), busyness of life (it's easier to do than delegate) and a heightened fear that the world is a

dangerous place for children and young people.

Independence is the point

When independence becomes your priority then suddenly you've found a pathway to the development of other positive qualities and traits in your children including the key four – confidence that comes from facing fears; competence that's built through mastery; creativity that's encouraged when kids must resolve their own problems; and character that is forged under the duress of challenge and hardship.

Adults are the gatekeepers for children's independence. And of course, independence takes many guises including:

1 Self-help skills

The starting point for independence building is giving kids the skills, know-how and confidence to look after their own wellbeing and welfare. This is shown in the many everyday

situations where parents model, teach and provide opportunities for children to look after themselves. Including toddlers undressing themselves, primary-aged children preparing their own snacks, and teenagers organising their own transport to school and after school activities. Kids develop real confidence from being able to look after themselves and others.

2 Autonomy to make choices and mistakes

Without realising it, as parents we frequently make choices on our children's behalf. We choose the food they eat; the games they play; their leisure activities and often the clothes they wear. When families are large (four or more children) parents usually give their children more space to make their own decisions as well as opportunities to learn from their poor choices.

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Want more ideas to help you raise confident kids and resilient young people? Subscribe to Happy Kids newsletter, my **FREE** weekly email parenting guide at parentingideas.com.au. You'll be so glad you did.





... The many faces of independence ...

This may mean that children choose healthy interests and pursuits that parents are unfamiliar with, or even swim against the tide of their parents' wishes. In small families parents often know so much about minutiae of children's lives that inevitably we tend to impose greater well-intentioned control over children's decisions.

3 Freedom to explore the neighbourhood

On a recent trip to Italy I was struck by how much freedom to wander their neighbourhoods Italian children had. It was a throwback to the type of childhood that many of today's parents experienced, where we had the opportunity to navigate our neighbourhoods on our own without having to check in with our parents all the time.

4 Freedom to explore unpredictable and potentially risky environments

Independence is also built when children spend time in unpredictable, potentially risky environments such as the bush or new environments beyond their neighbourhood. There may be some risk involved but this is where real learning lies for children and

young people. Eliminate the risk and you eliminate the learning.

5 Taking responsibility for your own problems and actions

There's no doubt many kids are adept at shifting their problems and responsibilities to adults. One of my children would always blame me when they were late for school. Even though the child in question had an alarm clock and was more than capable of using it, any lack of punctuality was somehow shifted to me. Go figure! Independence comes when children take ownership of their responsibilities rather than using someone else as a scapegoat.

In order to grant children and young people the type of independence outlined parents need to be brave rather than fearful; work hard to develop the skills and know-how kids' independence requires; and be willing to give kids the encouragement and support they need to step out of their comfort zones when independence seems to hard.

Michael Grose



Want more ideas to help you raise confident kids and resilient young people? Subscribe to Happy Kids newsletter, my **FREE** weekly email parenting guide at parentingideas.com.au. You'll be so glad you did.

