



MACKILLOP NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1 2016, 5 FEBRUARY

PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

Dear families, students and friends,

Welcome to the new year

I hope everybody in the MacKillop community had a happy and relaxing summer break and that Christmas was filled with the peace and comfort of the manger.

2016 is a significant year for the College; we are 18 years old and part of the 150 year story of the Sisters of St Joseph. We are a long way from her first school, a small hut in Penola; but the mission and vision remain: a powerful belief that human dignity and progress comes through a rich experience of education, in faith, Church teaching, a secular curriculum, and in values. Let us be worthy.

Staffing and leadership changes

Significant changes to the leadership structure and staffing have occurred over the summer. Ms Sandra Darley was to assume responsibilities as Campus Head on the Isabella Campus but has been seconded to Catholic Education in Manuka for 12 months. This is an exciting opportunity for Ms Darley to bring her talents to secondary curriculum across the Archdiocese. All of us wish her well and a swift return for 2017.

New arrangements for 2016 are as follows:

- Campus Heads: Mr Paul O'Callaghan (Wanniassa) and Mr Lachlan McNicol (Isabella)
- Assistant Principal Pastoral Care: Mrs Monica Bailey (W) and Mr David Johns (I)
- Assistant Principal Curriculum: Mrs Michelle da Roza
- Assistant Principal Faith Leadership: Mr Jonathan Moyle
- Pastoral Care Coordinators: Mr Joe Ciccarone and Mr Phil Belcher (Year 7), Mrs Colleen Kain and Mr Nathan Wood (Year 8), Mrs Lyndall Ruig and Mr Steve Lowe (Year 9), Mr Paul Durham and Mrs Anna Keppel (Year 10), Mrs Kate Durham (Year 11), Mr Simon Kelly (Year 12).

I would like to congratulate those who have successfully applied for these positions and acknowledge the strength of the field of applicants.

New staff

Mr David Johns: David was at MacKillop for Term 4 2015. He is a past Head of Science and AP Curriculum at Hennessy Catholic College, Young, and Principal of St John's College, Darwin. A graduate of Daramalan College, David returns to Canberra with his wife and children.

Mrs Lyndall Ruig: Lyndall was Acting Head of Mathematics at MacKillop in 2011 prior to her husband's military transfer to Washington, DC for two years. I am delighted to welcome her back to MacKillop; she has been missed.

Mr Daniel Ryall: Daniel is a recent graduate of UC and joins us in his second year of teaching. He joins our PE and RE faculties with a variety of other teaching capacities. Beyond MacKillop, his role as senior coach at Eastlakes Football Club will be a distinct advantage to sport.

Mr Ben Allen: Ben joins MacKillop's SOSE and PE faculties having studied here in Canberra and in the USA. Ben brings real enthusiasm and promise to the classroom and his experience with basketball at an elite level will enliven students with a passion for that game.

Jen Robson: Jen joins our Inclusive Education team. She has a Bachelor of Psychology and is currently studying a Bachelor of Education. She worked in Learning Support at Arawang Primary, volunteers for St Vincent de Paul, and spent time in the holidays in a remote Indigenous community in Northern Territory.

Jodie Newman: Jodie is currently studying a Bachelor of Education (Primary) and Bachelor Arts/ Psychology. She has worked in Learning and Administration Support at Merici College. She has two children at MacKillop. We welcome Jodie to the Inclusive Education team.

Yours in St Mary MacKillop,

MICHAEL LEE, PRINCIPAL

PRINCIPAL'S PRAYER

Lord, we give thanks for 150 years of the work of the Sisters of St Joseph. Through their devotion, the legacies of St Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods continue to contribute to the common good. Amen.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEB MONDAY 08	• Year 10 Parent Info Session • Year 11 Parent Info Session
FEB TUESDAY 09	• Year 7 Parent Info Session
FEB MONDAY 15	• Year 8 Parent Info Session • Year 9 Parent Info Session
FEB WEDNESDAY 17	• Year 12 Interviews
FEB TUESDAY 23	• Swimming Carnival

COLLEGE NEWS

Parent Information Sessions

Parents are invited to attend information evenings being held over the coming two weeks. Information relevant to each Year group will be presented at the sessions. There will also be an opportunity for parents to meet with their son or daughter's PC teacher along with the Pastoral Care Coordinators.

- Monday 8 February, 5.30pm: **Year 10** Parent Information Session at the Isabella Campus
- Monday 8 February, 7pm: **Year 11** Parent Information Session at the Isabella Campus
- Tuesday 9 February, 7pm: **Year 7** Parent Information Session at the Wanniasa Campus
- Monday 15 February, 5.30pm: **Year 8** Parent Information Session at the Wanniasa Campus
- Monday 15 February, 7pm: **Year 9** Parent Information Session at the Wanniasa Campus
- Wednesday 17 February, 4pm onwards: **Year 12** Interviews at the Isabella Campus

QCity Bus change

There have been some changes to the QCity bus routes 21 & 50 Servicing Jerrabomberra: Bus #21 from Wanniasa Campus will now service Waterfall Drive. Students from the Isabella Campus needing to access Waterfall Drive need to board bus #50. This bus will then meet bus #21 for you to transfer on to. It will then proceed to Waterfall Drive.

Fees Information

Term 1 fees will be mailed out next week. Fees are to be paid by 4 March 2016 unless paying by Direct Debit or other approved payment method.

The following methods of payment are available:

Cash & Eftpos: Cash and Eftpos payments may be made in person at both Isabella and Wanniasa Front Reception.

Bpay: Bpay is available at the College for payment of school fees only. Payments can be made through internet and telephone banking by quoting the Biller Code and Reference Number located on your school fee statement.

Direct Debit: Payment of school fees by Direct Debit will require completion of the relevant paperwork. Please contact Jayne Limbrick via email, jayne.limbrick@mackillop.act.edu.au to set up your Direct Debit. Direct Debits usually commence in January and run over 52 weeks or 26 fortnights. All Direct Debits are to be altered in December for the following year's school fees.

Credit Card Payments – Mastercard or Visa: Credit Card payments may be made in person, over the telephone, or details can be provided at the bottom of your school fee statement.

*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. Applications must be lodged with the ACT Education and Training Directorate. 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



T20 Milo Blast National Finals

Late last year, the 7/8 Girls Cricket Team took part in the National Finals Day at the Melbourne Cricket Ground after qualifying as ACT Champions in Term 1.

The girls arrived at the MCG and were certainly overwhelmed but extremely excited. While having lunch, the team was briefed by Cricket Australia about the day and were then allowed to set foot on the ground to warm up for their first game.

The girls played four games – three pool games and a final. The first game really let the team know what they were up against and unfortunately they went down. This was a learning curve and each game they improved to eventually finish 5th overall, which was a tremendous effort.

Along with the privilege of playing on the MCG, the girls also had the opportunity to meet Meg Lanning who is the captain of the Australian Southern Stars and Melbourne Stars WBBL Cricket teams. The girls were able to sit and talk with Meg and ask her questions about her career and what they could do to emulate her success.

Thank you to Mrs Kate Durham and Mr Nathan Wood who supervised the trip, also a special thank you to Matthew Paton from Cricket ACT for his guidance and assistance throughout the competition.

Each of the girls, Abigail Adera, Tamica Chifley, Georja Dickie, Maddy Garfath, Georgia Opie, Lauren Phillips, Charlette Polmanteer, Giann Rosin, Alanah Smith and Maddy Watson represented themselves and the College tremendously well and had a life experience that they will never forget. Congratulations girls!

Nathan Wood, Sports Facilitator

Future Stars/Student Achievement

Connor Pring (Year 11) represented the ACT in Volleyball in the school holidays. Connor was also selected for camps at the AIS and Bendigo last year for selection into the U17 Australian Volleyball team.

Welcome to our Cooma students

St Patrick's, Cooma, sent us an image of our new students from Cooma waiting for their bus on the first day of school. We welcome them to MacKillop in 2016!



WANNIASSA NEWS

Welcome back

Welcome back to another eventful year at MacKillop. The students of the Wanniasa Campus have settled quickly into the school routine, laying a firm foundation for a year of achieving their best. On Monday we welcomed 338 Year 7 students who have come to us with a vibrancy and enthusiasm that will be a great asset to our community. They spent the morning orientating themselves to life at MacKillop; including daily organisation and the layout of the school ably supported by the skilled Year 7 Pastoral team and the Year 8 and 9 members of the Student Representative Council.

Year 8 and 9 have settled well into their new classes and are preparing themselves for the challenges that lay ahead. All students have been reminded of the important role that Pastoral Care teachers play in the school life of each student. The daily contact students have with the PC teacher provides a great support for students and in most cases they are the first point of contact for parents for issues of a general nature.

The Pastoral Care Coordinators provide leadership and direction to each Year group. They work closely with each of the Pastoral Care teachers in their team and often manage complex or sensitive student issues. The Pastoral Care Coordinators on the Wanniasa Campus are:
Year 7 - Mr Phil Belcher and Mr Joe Ciccarone
Year 8 - Mr Nathan Wood and Mrs Colleen Kain
Year 9 - Mrs Lyndall Ruig and Mr Steve Lowe

Absences and late arrivals

If students are absent from school for any reason, or arrive late, a signed note or parent email is required explaining the late arrival or absence. A proforma is also available for this purpose and can be downloaded from the College website <http://www.mackillop.act.edu.au/index.php/our-school/publications-policies/policies-forms/item/absence-proforma>.



Status Awards

The College Status System recognises, affirms and rewards students' positive behaviours. Students may progress to the levels of Bronze, Silver or Gold Status.

All students are issued with a Merit Point Card that allows staff to recognise and record positive behaviours. To achieve Bronze Status students submit their Merit Card and application to Pastoral Coordinators and the Assistant Principal Pastoral Care for approval. As reward students receive:

- A Bronze Status Certificate
- \$5.00 canteen voucher or elect to donate this money to their House Charity
- First access to the canteen pass
- 6 Tokens each on both MacKillop Day and Market Day
- Semester 1 or 2 afternoon activities rather than attending classes at that time

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

Bronze Status - Ryan Wardell 8A1 and Harry Virtue 8E2
Silver Status - Charlotte Breen 8A3

*Monica Bailey
AP Pastoral Care, Wanniasa Campus*

VISUAL ARTS

Professional Learning

During the school holidays our Visual Arts teachers attended the National Visual Arts Education Conference at the National Gallery of Australia. They were treated to presentations by world renowned Australian artists such as Christian Thompson and Julie Rrap as well as international gallery and arts education experts and researchers. Updates on the *Australian Curriculum: The Arts* were provided and teachers had the opportunity to participate in practical workshops and network with teachers and gallery educators from around Australia.

It was a truly inspiring conference and the Visual Arts teachers are looking forward to bringing new knowledge and creative ideas back to their teaching programs and classrooms.

*Tamara Murdoch
Visual Arts Coordinator*



FAITH LEADERSHIP

THE YEAR OF MERCY

"Mercy is the down to Earth expression of love"

I hope that this holiday season just past has been a relaxing, holy and refreshing one with your family and loved ones as we approach 2016, reinvigorated and ready take on the highs, lows and challenges ahead of us together.

This year we focus on two significant events as a Catholic community. We celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of St Joseph and the calling of Pope Francis for the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, called "extraordinary" because while the Church has jubilee celebrations, Pope Francis has ushered in the Year of Mercy by his own calling, as he has seen its urgent need now.

So what is mercy? It is easy for us to contextualise mercy perhaps through the media or texts: begging for 'mercy' in a life or death situation, showing 'mercy' to our adversaries as the noble hero. Yet when we understand it from a faith perspective, it goes deeper than that. It has both a complex and rich theology, but (and for our purposes here) an incredible and gentle simplicity.

Mercy is the highest quality in the heart of God. Therefore, it is the most important quality that we need to witness to the world. It is the power, gifted to us by God through grace to open ourselves to others, despite their wrong doings and fallibilities and the ability for us to open ourselves to God with humility, authenticity and to surrender ourselves to God's mercy, knowing that God accepts us unconditionally. Mercy is the concrete, down to earth expression of love. So whether we have faith, know or know nothing of God, we are all still capable of displaying this awesome power.

There can be perhaps no greater example of those living out lives of mercy than those of the Sisters of St Joseph, founded by Julian Tension-Woods and our patron St Mary of the Cross MacKillop 150 years ago this year. Living lives of simplicity, they went out to the poor and marginalised and through mercy, offered hope to the hopeless. Will we, as a community, both metaphorically and literally, be prepared to feed the hungry, give drink to those who are thirsty, welcome the stranger and clothe the naked?

2016 certainly offers us opportunity both for reflection and action in our world.

*Jonathan Moyle
Assistant Principal Faith Leadership*

COMMUNITY NEWS

Tuggeranong Buffaloes

Tuggeranong Buffaloes Rugby League registration days are on:

- 7 February at Kambah No 1 oval, 10 am -1 pm (Chirnside Circuit Kambah)
- 14 February at Tuggeranong McDonalds 10 am-1 pm
- 21 February at Kambah No 1 oval, 10 am -1 pm (Chirnside Circuit Kambah)

Players from U6's through to U16's are welcome.

Parentline ACT

Parentline ACT is a confidential, anonymous telephone counselling and information service. Phone Parentline if you would you like:

- To talk with someone about those parenting issues.
- Help with some ideas on raising children.
- Support in the important job you are doing.
- To know what is available for parents, teenagers and children.
- To build better relationships in your family.
- Help to understand your child or teenager's behaviour.

Monday to Friday (except on public holidays), 9am to 5pm.
Phone: 6287 3833

Messengers Program

The Messengers Program is an arts based early intervention program for young people aged 13 - 18 who are disengaging from school and the community due to early signs of mental health issues including eating disorders, anxiety, depression, social isolation, gender issues and personal or family difficulties. The Messengers program:

- Utilises artistic expression as a tool to build resilience in young people.
- Gives participants access to professional artists & staff, who encourage them to develop their creative, social and living skills.
- Encourages young people from diverse cultural backgrounds to attend.

The program is run by and held at the Tuggeranong Arts Centre. Visit www.tuggeranongarts.com/messengersprogram for information.

Tuning in to Teens

This Parenting Program for parents of 10-18 year olds begins in February and takes place in Belconnen. For more information and to register interest for the program, contact Ellen McKenzie on 0412 856 988 or email mckenziepsychology@gmail.com.



Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

Creating good study and work habits in secondary school

Here are seven healthy and strong study habits that will serve your young person well throughout their school years and their lives.

Natural smarts is not the only factor that will impact on your young person's success at school this year. A positive attitude, a sense of resilience and a willingness to persist and work through difficulties will help. Perhaps more importantly, it's your young person's work and study habits that will have the most potent impact on the marks they receive at the end of the year. It's worth keeping in mind that the study habits they develop in school also impact on their success in life beyond school.

Here are seven ways to develop healthy, strong study skills that will serve your young person well this year and throughout their lives.

1 Establish a thorough homework process

Doing the homework is one thing, but there are many steps in the process before handing an assignment in. Encourage your young person to:

- Write down an assignment when it's given orally
- Ask the teacher clarifying questions if he doesn't understand anything
- Use a planner or some other organiser to plan his or her time
- Place his homework in a designated place as soon as it's finished.

2 Establish a Study Zone at home

Choose a consistent study or homework space that's conducive to working. Encourage your young person to stick to this space. Some young people need absolute quiet when doing homework, while others work better with soft music. Contrary to the opinions of many teens, studies consistently show that loud music and/or TV are highly distracting to students. Don't let your young person develop the habit of working in bed as this will make it difficult to go to sleep. Keep work and sleep spaces separate.

3 Establish a regular study time

The establishment of a consistent and specific time to do home work has been linked to academic success. Help your young person work out the best time for him or her to crack the books – before or after dinner, or both. Encourage your young person to take regular breaks to keep their brain alert. Every hour – or whenever she feels frustrated or angry – she should get up and walk around, get a snack and let her brain recover.

4 Establish a way to stay organised

Getting organised reduces stress levels and improves the chance of success. Consider a colour-coding system to keep assignments organised by selecting a single colour for each class (like science or history). Use that colour for that subject's folder, highlighters,

sticky notes, etc. The colours will not only keep your teen organised but will also enhance his or her recall of the subject.

5 Establish good time management skills

The best way to help your young person organise their time is to use a large wall calendar so they can jot down study, leisure, family and other activities. The visual nature of the wall calendar will enable you as a parent to help them stay on track as well.

6 Eliminate time robbers

Many teens work inefficiently wasting time on mobile devices and other activities. Help your teen recognise time robbers and eliminate them so they can finish homework quickly and have more time to do other things.

7 Conduct a regular extracurricular audit

Take a hard look at your young person's overall time commitments. Help them reprioritise their commitments if much of their time and energy is taken up with a part-time job, extracurricular activities, and their social lives. While it's important that young people have interests outside school, it's equally important that these commitments don't overwhelm or impact negatively on their study.



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.

