



MACKILLOP NEWSLETTER

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PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

Dear families, students and friends,

The Opening Mass

Thank you to Mr Moyle, Mr Bowman, the music department, and maintenance team who, with so many others, worked to achieve a Mass of dignity and thanksgiving to open 2016 and to observe the sesquicentenary of the founding of the Sisters of St Joseph.

We were blessed to be joined by so many schools, five Sisters of St Joseph, including foundation Principal Sr Noelene Quinane, Senator Zed Seselja, Gai Brodtmann MP, Mr Steve Doszpot MLA, Joy Birch MLA, and especially the Principal of St Joseph's Adelong and two of his Year 6 students. It was very exciting for the largest school of the Archdiocese to welcome the smallest to our Mass.

A large number of parents, friends, past students, and members of the College Board also joined us for the Mass.

Congratulations to the students who entered into the Liturgy and Eucharist with respect and reverence and whose conduct was favourably commented upon by many guests.

The student leaders will join me and other staff at St Joseph's Church, O'Connor this Saturday to celebrate the sesquicentenary.

Year 12 visits the Wanniasa Campus

Years 7, 8 and 9 warmly welcomed Year 12 last Thursday. After morning tea with the staff, they were addressed by senior staff and then adopted Year 7 and 8 classes for the afternoon. Year 12's glamour, maturity, and real interest in the classes was widely welcomed by the campus. This has been an annual event at MacKillop for nine years now and is fondly remembered by the College for the rest of the year.

NAPLAN 2015

Year 9 2015 achieved extraordinary growth in literacy and numeracy in their NAPLAN tests last year. Their achievements were reported in last week's Canberra Times. The numeracy results in particular placed our students in the forefront of achievement beyond expected growth in Canberra schools.

The College's skills strategy, teacher mentoring and resourcing, as well as the mature approach of the students towards the tests are key reasons for this progress.

Yours sincerely in St Mary MacKillop,

MICHAEL LEE
PRINCIPAL

PRINCIPAL'S PRAYER

Lord, we give thanks for the 150 years of dedicated service of the Sisters of St Joseph. Amen.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAR WEDNESDAY	• Year 7 Community Day
23	
MAR FRIDAY	• Good Friday (Public Holiday)
25	
MAR MONDAY	• Easter Monday (Public Holiday)
28	
MAR TUESDAY	• Senior Exams • Year 7 elective change over
29	
MAR WEDNESDAY	• Senior Exams • Student mentoring
30	

COLLEGE NEWS

Term 1 School Fees

Fees for Term 1 should now be finalised unless paying by Direct Debit or other approved arrangement. Any outstanding fees should be paid immediately. If you require more information regarding Direct Debit arrangements or other approved payment methods or are experiencing difficulty paying the fees please contact the Fees Office.

Michelle Predovan, Fees Manager



AFL Umpire Roadshow

St Mary MacKillop College hosted the star-studded AFL Umpire Roadshow at the Wanniasa Campus this week. Staff and students were inspired by three-time AFL Grand Final Field Umpire Simon Meredith, six-time AFL Grand Final Boundary Umpire and All Australian Umpire Ian Burrow, and second season AFL Goal Umpire Brodie Kenny-Bell.

Drawing on powerful personal stories and utilising their wealth of knowledge and experience at the elite level, the AFL umpires addressed the Wanniasa Campus Assembly, inspired the Year 12 College Leadership Team, answered some tough questions during a Q & A presentation, gave great insight to what it takes to reach the elite level to the Year 10 PE Pathways students, worked with aspiring student umpires through the College Umpire Program and met with the Physical Education Staff.

Simon, Ian and Brodie were inspirational and gave students a lot to draw from to help inspire them to be the best they can at whatever they choose to do.

This opportunity came through the strong relationship the College has with the NSW/ACT AFL and linked in well to the AFL Umpiring Program that a number of our students are taking part in. This program offers students the opportunity to train and become an umpire for junior competitions. It develops their decision making skills, confidence and resilience. Umpiring also provides a source of income, all while contributing to the community. Students were amazed at how much they could potentially earn!

Any student who may be interested in becoming an AFL Umpire is encouraged to go to the website www.getinthegame.com.au and contact NSW/ACT AFL Umpire Development Coordinator Cameron Black at cameron.black@aflnswact.com.au.

Nathan Wood, Sports Coordinator

Chief Minister's Reading Challenge

All Years 7 and 8 students have been entered in the 2016 Chief Minister's Reading Challenge. Students are required to read fifteen texts, for example novels, comic books, graphic novels, poetry books, picture books or non-fiction books by 9 September. Each student has been issued with a Student Reading Record form, on which they record the titles of the books that they have read. Teachers, parents, carers, teacher librarians or public librarians are required to initial and date this form when a book has been read. Please support this initiative by encouraging your child to read at home and by discussing what they are currently reading.

To find out more about the Chief Minister's Reading Challenge, visit http://www.det.act.gov.au/teaching_and_learning/chief_ministers_reading_challenge

Anne Durham, Literacy Coordinator



Women's and Girls' Fun Run

Congratulations go to the female staff and students involved in the St Mary MacKillop team that participated in the Women's and Girls' Fun Run last Sunday. MacKillop was the largest Secondary School team represented narrowly edging out St Clare's for the title. The College was awarded \$500 prize money. The money has been kindly donated to Project Compassion.

Team Members: Kathryn Gooch, Sally Cunningham, Monica Bailey, Rebecca Hunter, Kate Manning, Lyndall Ruig, Lyndall Baker, Eva Baker, Lucy Manwaring, Emily Bailey, Gill Belcher, Jess Noble, Kiah Noble, Rachael McCormack, Liana Regan, Maggie Sharp, Alexandra Moody, Samantha Bowles, Megan Bowles, Sally Gervink and Kate Gervink.

Kate Gervink, PE

Debating

On Friday 4 March, three senior students - Manning Copeland, Brock Ginman and Deon Hickey - attended the ACT Legislative Assembly to take part in parliamentary debates with other schools from around the ACT. The students debated topics as varied as same-sex marriage, Australia Day and horse racing, and had the opportunity to speak with local politicians about important issues prior to the upcoming elections. Mrs Giulia Jones, member for Molonglo, who presided over the debate, commended the students for arguing in favour of free speech for all, regardless of the attitudes being espoused. The students are congratulated for representing the College with distinction. Well done, boys!

Danielle Logue, English

English Faculty News

The English Faculty has a plethora of activities available for students:

On the Isabella Campus every Friday, Day 5, we have Book Club and Fight Club (debating) for interested students.

At Wanniasa, students should check in with their English teachers as to current debating competitions available. There are currently four writing competitions available for students. These competitions are for poetry, short story and essay writing. Cash and prizes are great and varied. Write for Fun is running again and last year SMMC had TEN finalists who were all published in the Write for Fun National magazine.

The Wanniasa Campus holds Homework Club after school for students seeking extra assistance with their assessment work. At Isabella, there are weekly English tutorials from 3.20pm-4.20pm on either Tuesday or Thursdays. Schedules for these tutorials are in Student Reception, IRC and the English noticeboard in B Block.

Finally, a tremendous shout out to Simone Esposito and Danielle Logue, who presented to ACTATE (ACT Association for Teachers of English). Their presentations were warmly received and as a leading College in the implementation of the new Australian Curriculum, Simone and Danielle are still responding to emails from teachers across the territory seeking their advice (and RESOURCES!). Congratulations ladies and thank you.

*Nicola McLennan and Kath Piper
English Coordinators*

Future Stars/Student Achievement

Darcy Kinsella and Coby-Lee Maguire (both Year 8) represented the ACT at the Australian Junior Athletics Championships in Perth last weekend.

Jordan Coffey (Year 11), Nick Hosie (Year 10), and Kobe MacPherson (Year 12) have made the ACT Baseball team for May's National Championships in Perth.

WANNIASSA NEWS

Project Compassion

At MacKillop our Lenten fundraising focus is Project Compassion. Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal brings thousands of Australians together in solidarity with the world's poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. As a school community, it is a sign of our care for those in need and an expression of our gratitude for all that God has given to us. Works of charity and the promotion of justice are integral elements of the Christian way of life and a particular focus for our MacKillop community during the season of Lent.

There have been many fundraising opportunities for students during Lent; coin lines, watermelon and sherbet stalls and the daily Pastoral Care Class contributions. Importantly, students have been accessing the weekly Caritas videos that highlight the communities supported by Caritas through their fundraising efforts. Students are encouraged to continue their efforts in the final weeks of Lent in the hope that the total raised will exceed that of the previous years.

Status Awards

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

Emilia Piskuloska (9E2), Owen Lever (8F1), Ashley Bond (8E3), Rhys Parritt (8A1), Benjamin Van Puyvelde (8W2), Tori Martin (8W3), Bohden Dowling (7F3).



Young Carers Group

Young Carers Group will again be organised this year on the Wanniassa Campus to support students in Year 7 to 9. The program aims to support students who undertake a carer's role at home when a family is affected by a long term illness or disability.

Students involved will meet once a week during lesson time and will have the opportunity to participate in numerous workshops and learn more about their significant roles as young carers as well as supporting students with their study demands. The Group will again be facilitated this year by Mrs Berenice Sidorko.

If you believe that your son/daughter is a young carer, if or you would like further information, contact Mrs Berenice Sidorko on 6209 5213.

Parenting ideas

This article for parents below, "Teen Time" highlights the importance of spending time with teenagers at an age where they are also demonstrating their independence.

*Monica Bailey
AP Pastoral Care (Acting), Wanniassa Campus*

COMMUNITY NEWS

Tuggeranong Bulldogs

Tuggeranong Bulldogs Junior AFL (for ages 5 to 12) is holding its Season Launch on Sunday 3 April from 10am-12pm at Gordon Oval, off Heidelberg St, Conder. Registrations, meet and greets, a kick of the footy, and a BBQ will be available.

Also available at the Launch: Donate your old boots or purchase second hand boots, and/or purchase your mouthguard from the club.

Rugby League Refereeing

Refereeing is a fun, exciting way to be involved in the game. Referee Courses are being held this Sunday 20 March (9am-12pm) and Wednesday 27 April (6pm-9pm) at Raiders Club, Belconnen. For more information, visit <http://canberrareferees.leaguenet.com.au>.

Joyelle Calisthenics Club

Joyelle CaliDance is looking for some enthusiastic new members to join its teams, aged 3-15. Classes are held in Kambah, Wanniassa, and Pearce. Several disciplines are learnt as well as flexibility and muscle strength development. The first two classes are free, so try it now! Call Ali on 0412831695 or email juniors@joyelle.com.au.

Outward Bound

There's more to you than you know! Take part in the Outward Bound Navigator program. Details available at www.outwardbound.org.au.

Corpus Christi Easter times

Tuesday 22 March

- 9.30am Mass, Holy Family Church Gowrie
- 7.30pm 2nd Rite of Reconciliation, HFC

Wednesday 23 March

- 9.30am Mass, Sacred Heart Church, Calwell
- 7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper, Holy Family Church Gowrie
- Followed by Adoration until 10pm, Holy Family Church Gowrie

Good Friday 25 March

- 11am Stations of the Cross, outside at St Clare of Assisi School, Conder (cover is available if weather is inclement)
- 3pm Celebration of the Passion of the Lord, Holy Family Church Gowrie, Followed by 1st Rite of Reconciliation

Holy Saturday 26 March

- 1st Rite of Reconciliation 10am-11am, Holy Family Church Gowrie
- 7.30pm Easter Vigil, Holy Family Church Gowrie

Easter Sunday 27 March

- 8am Mass, Holy Family Church Gowrie
- 10am Mass, Holy Family Church Gowrie

What is NAPLAN?

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. All students in these year levels are expected to participate in tests in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials.

Why do students do NAPLAN tests?

NAPLAN is the measure through which governments, education authorities, schools, teachers and parents can determine whether or not young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy. The tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. They also provide schools, states and territories with information about how education programs are working and what areas need to be prioritised for improvement.

NAPLAN tests are one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process; they do not replace the extensive ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student's performance.

What will be tested and how?

NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. From 2016, NAPLAN content will be aligned with the Australian Curriculum. For more information on this please see the NAP website: www.nap.edu.au. Questions are multiple-choice or require a short written response. The writing task requires students to write a text in response to a prompt.

To give you an idea of what the tests look like, sample questions and a sample writing task are available on the NAP website: www.nap.edu.au

Who will run the tests?

NAPLAN tests are conducted at schools and administered by classroom teachers, school deputies or principals. Each state and territory is responsible for marking the tests in accordance with strict guidelines and processes.

How can I help my child prepare for the tests?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students have already been learning through the school curriculum. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the test formats and will provide appropriate support and guidance. If you have any questions about your child's preparation for NAPLAN, you should make a time to speak with their teacher.

The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to reassure your child that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day. The use of services by coaching providers is not recommended.

What additional support can schools provide for students with special needs?

All students are encouraged to participate in NAPLAN tests. Students with disability may qualify for adjustments that reflect the support normally provided in the classroom. Students who have a temporary injury may also be reasonably accommodated.

A formal exemption may be granted for a student with significant intellectual disability and/or significant coexisting conditions, or for a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background.

Your school principal and your state testing authority can give you more information on special provisions or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

How is NAPLAN performance measured?

NAPLAN is not a pass-or-fail type test. Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each test. Each test scale has 10 bands and all year levels are reported on the same scale. Six bands are reported for each year level for each test. One of these bands represents the national minimum standard for students at each year level. A result at the national minimum standard indicates that the student demonstrated the basic literacy and numeracy skills needed to participate fully in that year level. The performance of individual students can be compared to the average performance of all students in Australia.

What happens if my child is absent from school on test days?

Where possible, schools will organise for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the testing week. Individual students are not permitted to sit tests after Friday 13 May 2016.

Will I receive a report on my child's performance?

A NAPLAN report will be issued by your school later in the year. The same report format is used for every student in Australia. The school will notify you when the reports are being sent to you. If you do not receive a report, you should contact the school. Individual student results are strictly confidential.

How are NAPLAN test results used?

- Schools use results to identify strengths and weaknesses in teaching programs and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review programs and support offered to schools.
- Students and parents may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help them better identify students who require greater challenges or additional support.
- The community can see average school NAPLAN results on the My School website: www.myschool.edu.au

Where can I get more information?

For more information about NAPLAN:

- visit the NAP website www.nap.edu.au
- contact your child's school
- contact your state or territory's education authority (details available on the NAP website).

NAPLAN 2016 tests timetable

	Tuesday 10 May	Wednesday 11 May	Thursday 12 May
Year 3	language conventions 40 minutes writing 40 minutes	reading 45 minutes	numeracy 45 minutes
Year 5	language conventions 40 minutes writing 40 minutes	reading 50 minutes	numeracy 50 minutes
Year 7	language conventions 45 minutes writing 40 minutes	reading 65 minutes	numeracy calculator 40 minutes non-calculator 40 minutes
Year 9	language conventions 45 minutes writing 40 minutes	reading 65 minutes	numeracy calculator 40 minutes non-calculator 40 minutes

- Language conventions test includes spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- Numeracy test includes number; space; algebra, function and pattern; measurement, chance and data.
- Calculators are NOT permitted in the numeracy test in Years 3 and 5. In Years 7 and 9, each student sits one numeracy test where calculator use is permitted and one where it is not.



Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

Teen Time

Teenagers need their parents more than at any other stage, yet too often they are left to their own devices.

‘The younger the child, the more they need their parents’ has been traditional wisdom for some time. Many parents respond to this mantra by spending as much time as they can with babies and toddlers, then ramping up their careers as their kids move into school age. The older the children, the less time is put aside for them appears to be the current practice.

The Twists and Turns of Development

This notion assumes that child development and children’s independence is a linear process where parents can increasingly step back as kids get older. BUT this is wrong!

A child’s development is full of twists, turns and reversals so that a 10-year-old who is beginning to experience the confusion that can come with early adolescence has a far greater need of her parents than she did at eight.

While toddlers are very adaptable and can be satisfied with attention from caring adults, teenagers are far more in need of the special care and supervision that their parents provide.

The age between 10 and 14 is a particularly needy time. Friendships become complex and the challenges of school can overwhelm children at this stage. They benefit a lot from late afternoon and evening chats with a parent. Mornings are too rushed for the types of conversations they need.

The Myth of ‘I don’t need you’

Ken and Margaret Mellor, in their wonderful book *Teen Stages*, dispel the myth that teenagers don’t need their parents. The authors state that teenagers need their parents, but they won’t let on.

My experience raising three teenagers supports the fact that teenagers want their parents to succeed in managing, guiding, nurturing and supporting them. Adolescence is too hard for them to go through on their own. They benefit from the close physical presence of a parent – not in a smothering way – but someone who is monitoring their wellbeing and supervising their behaviour.

This can’t be done by mobile phone. Yet most teens won’t show their gratitude if you provide the close parenting they need. It’s not until they reach their early to mid twenties that they come clean and deliver a sort of belated apology to their parents. In the meantime, you need to hang in there.

Parenting Teens Is Tiring

While parenting toddlers can be physically tiring, responding to the mental and emotional demands of teenage children is equally if not more exhausting. If you come home totally fried by the demands of work, the last thing you want to engage in is mind games with a tricky but needy teenager. You’ve got to be fit and focused (on them) to parent teens well!

Minimise Being Home Alone

Late afternoon is a recognised danger zone for adolescence. Toddlers stay in long daycare and primary-aged kids use after-school care or are happy to be picked up by others. However, for teenagers who are testing their independence this is a tricky time.

Teens who are left to their own devices are more prone to engage in risk-taking behaviours, lose themselves online or in some cases become addicted to computer games. The world is trickier than when we grew up. Cyber-bullying, self-harm and depression are now part of the adolescent landscape.

Teenagers still need supervision, whether it’s through structured activities such as sports training or after-school or holiday programs. They also need parents who check up on them, make sure homework is completed and ensure that they have fulfilled their family obligations including completing their chore list.

Turn Conventional Wisdom On Its Head

It’s time to turn conventional wisdom on its head and start dedicating more rather than less time to raising teens. That way we’ll go a long way to giving them what they need, that is, parental guidance, management, nurturance and support to help them safely negotiate the twists and turns of the developmental journey from childhood into adulthood.



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.

