

Newsletter - Term 1, Week 2 January 2014

MacKillop Catholic College

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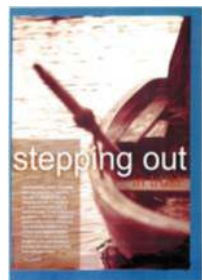
The Newsletters will be uploaded to our website this year. Use the link above.



"Never see a need without trying to do something about it"

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Dear Members of MacKillop Catholic College Community,



Accompanying Christ, remaining with Him requires a "stepping outside," a stepping beyond. Stepping outside of ourselves, of a tired and routine way of living the faith, of the temptation to withdraw into pre-established patterns that end up closing our horizon to the creative action of God. God stepped outside of Himself to come among us, He pitched His tent among us to bring the mercy of God that saves and gives hope. — Pope Francis

Welcome to our 2014 Academic Year. I hope that your holidays and Christmas season have been filled with all that brings you joy, peace and hope. This year, as we expand into Year 11, we welcome a number of new staff. Congratulations to all students on a wonderful start to 2014. It has been so good to see so many people in and about the College over the past weeks. This year, we will grow stronger as a fully functioning community. I look forward to formally welcoming and introducing everyone over the next few days at various social and information nights and especially at our Opening Mass next Wednesday 11th February, at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Emery Ave Woodroffe. Please make welcome our new staff: Mr Dave Barnard, Mrs Leanne Pope, Miss Jade Timmins; Mrs Rhonda Scullen; Miss Laura McCosh; Miss April Yoe; Mrs Paula Wilson; Mr Rod Plummer; and Mrs Alison Litchfield. Further to this I look forward to working alongside you at Working Bees throughout the year. We are certainly excited about the year ahead.

Parental involvement to improve our students' Learning. It is no mystery that parent participation in the life of a school and in their son/daughter's schoolwork has a positive impact on student outcomes. I hope in the short time you have been involved with our College we have given you a strong sense of welcome. Anne Henderson and Nancy Berla in the US summarised findings from studies of the relationship between parent behaviours, including parent involvement in schools, and children's learning. "The evidence is beyond dispute. When schools work together with families to support learning, children tend to succeed, not just in school but throughout life. In fact, the most accurate predictor of a student's achievement in school is not income or social status, but the extent to which the family is able to:

1. Create a home environment that encourages learning,
2. Express high, but not unrealistic, expectations for their children's achievement and future careers, and
3. Become involved in their children's education at school and in the community.

Schools and communities also profit. Schools that work well with families have:

- Improved teacher morale,
- Higher approval of teachers by parents, more support from families,
- Higher student achievement, and
- Better reputations in their communities.

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"May your journey always be filled with blessings, and may the life of Saint Mary MacKillop ignite in you the flames of faith and service"

From the Principal's Desk



Laurretta Graham
Principal

Please be part of our College. Give us positive as well as constructive feedback, come to our information and social nights, working bees and liturgies. We love having you at the College. The tuckshop, the library, where ever you want to be we are happy to have your help. Please refer to our Term Planner for dates and times. This document has recently been sent via email and is attached to this newsletter.

The College appreciates the support of parents in ensuring that students wear correct and tidy uniforms. It's not enough to wear the right items. The uniform needs to be worn with pride and it should be clean and neat and without holes and tears. College expectations in this area are listed in the student diary. Parents are asked to be pro-active in this area and not leave the entire correction of problems to the College Staff. As Staff we appreciate that there will be times when a clean dry uniform is not available and a note from home in the diary will be appreciated by the home form teacher. This note saves a multitude of problems. For our children's safety bicycle riders should be wearing helmets. The bicycle racks are located at the back of A and B

Blocks and students must walk their bike in and out the school grounds on pathways. We would all agree that this is safer than having students walk or ride between cars.

The College appreciates the support of parents in ensuring that students use standard and respectful language. It's not enough for students to avoid profanity in school. It is important that students respond respectfully when spoken to and acknowledge staff and parents in appropriate greetings and not grunts. I know we are all working on this and as I walked around the campus recently I was greeted by many very well-mannered students.

The College appreciates the support of parents in ensuring that students do homework. It's not enough for students to have their eyes open in class or appear to be working at home on their homework. Teachers and parents can work together by insisting that homework is done well and on time. Sitting for hours playing on the computer is not study and not homework. Please contact your son/daughter's Home Form Teacher for additional support if needed when it comes to home work.

It is a pleasure when students embrace their lessons and all that the College has to offer. With a confident self-awareness, students feel part of a place when they put their hand up for activities both sporting and cultural that are run in and out of school hours. Through these activities students strives for excellence in seemingly small things, and they respond accordingly in the big things." For music lessons contact our Music Coordinator: Mr David Graham and for Sporting activities and events contact our Sports Coordinator: Miss Brodie McCutcheon.

With the hard work of Mrs Arrakal and Mr Adam Falconer most students from yr 8 to 11 have their student laptops (Yr 7's will be issued after their computer induction times). This is far from a simple task as all text books are now part of the laptop program. Mrs Arrakal will be running an information night for parents new to this program on Wednesday 19th March at 7pm, giving parents the opportunity to ask questions and understand the arrangements the College has in place regarding the 1 to 1 computer program at MacKillop Catholic College. Please ensure that your son/daughter appreciates this laptop and shows the necessary regard for their laptop. Carelessly leaving a laptop on the floor to be stepped on or out in the rain does not constitute an accident when it comes to insurance. Please have this conversation with your son or daughter.

It is important that students finish what they start and celebrate with the College on designated Feast Days and Carnivals. Student's reports will be withheld by the College pending an interview with me as Principal if students: do not finish the term by attending the last day activities; or decide that other College celebrations or activities during the term are not an important part of life at our College. It is a shame that some students choose not attend the last day or feast days but rather go to movies etc. with friends. Our liturgies, celebrations, carnivals and last days are important to the life of the College. I accept that on occasions there is a reasonable and acceptable reason for absence and on these occasions it would be anticipated that parents send a note through the Home Form Teacher. Understandably, parents sometimes, due to family circumstances, take students out of school prior to the start of holidays and at these times a letter to me is required.

Thank you for all you have done so far and I look forward to an excellent year ahead. Please remember that staff at MacKillop are always at your service and help is only a phone call or an email away. We are always happy to arrange a meeting time, particularly if you are experiencing difficulties in any way.

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Principal's Message continued:

Thank you for all you have done so far and I look forward to an excellent year ahead. Please remember that staff at MacKillop are always at your service and help is only a phone call or an email away. We are always happy to arrange a meeting time, particularly if you are experiencing difficulties in any way.

Blessings

Lauretta Graham
Principal

*The blessing of God the Creator, there from the beginning;
the blessing of Christ our Saviour, God-with-us in history and humanity;
the blessing of the Spirit, calling us into a future of hope:
be with each one of us and our school community, now and evermore. Amen*

Acknowledgement: "The 'Stained-Glass Window' Theory" by David Hill in Education Week, Aug. 13, 2008



Mr Chris Trevillion
Deputy Principal
Academic Studies

From the Deputy Principal Academic Studies

It has been a great start to 2014; this year saw the arrival of 110 year 7 students as well as many other new students across the College. It was awesome to witness the excitement of continuing students reuniting as well as meeting new friends.

As the Deputy Principal of Academic Studies, I have had the pleasure of helping students with their elective choices. It is amazing to see the array of talents and interests that the students are passionate about and even more amazing to see the kids step outside their comfort zone to try new experiences. One of the many strengths of MacKillop Catholic College is the vast range of electives that we provide and it is very encouraging to see children take an active role in their education.

The design for the cover of college diary was selected from a competitive group of designs in an art competition last year. Huge congratulations to Tullalah Ormsby for her outstanding creativity with her design of the new College diary. The design will be a part of MacKillop history.

This year brings the excitement of new staff who have injected energy and enthusiasm to the MacKillop family and are truly welcome to the College.

All our teachers have been working very hard planning for the term ahead and are more than happy to help out in any way, so please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. The Heads of Departments this year are;

Religion – Mrs Marie Butt

Science – Mrs Vicki Dorgelo

Flexible pathways – Mr Dave Barnard

Maths – Mr Kirwan Thorbjonson

English and SOSE – Mrs Pauline Watson

PE- Mr Rod Plummer

Art – Mrs Sherri Bryers

Dance and Drama – Ms April Yeo

Home Ec – Mrs Rachel Griffen

Design and Technology – Mr Roy Anderson

LOTE – Ms Zoe Saliba

The MacKillop Community is growing every year and going from strength to strength. I know this year is going to be full of memorable moments, if you are new to the College we welcome you and let's make this year one to remember!

Yours sincerely,

Mr Chris Trevillion

Deputy Principal Academic Studies



**Ms Laura McTosh, Inclusion
Support Coordinator**



**Mrs Leanne Pope, Tuckshop
Coordinator**



**Ms Paula Wilson, Senior
Students Open Education**



**Ms April Yeo, Dance & Drama
Coordinator**

We
Welcome
our new
Teachers
and wish
them well for
2014!



**Ms Jade Timmins, Year 7 Homeform
Teacher & SOSE & PE**



**Mrs Alison Litchfield, Textiles &
English Teacher**



**Mr Rod Plummer, Year 10 & PE
Coordinator**

**Mr Dave Barnard, Year 11
Coordinator & Flexible
Learning Coordinator**



Around the Campus

Music Department:



Music Support Committee Meeting

17th February 2014 5.30pm

All Welcome to come along and join
in!



Holiday Capers

Congratulations!



150th Celebrations of the Cadet Forces in New Zealand that 2 of our students, *Aidan Cross* and *Jasper Pfau*, were selected to participate in representing the Australian Cadet Force. What an honour for them well done!



There were 61 cadets from across Australia chosen from our Army, Naval and Air Force divisions to participate in these celebrations. Aidan was also given the role of Section Commander!

Holiday Capers Continued!



Kelso Road Project - a family in need: Liam

Maxwell and his family spent a lot of their holidays fundraising for this project in their original home town. Liam donated a week's pocket money and in December rode his bike for 23kms and raised over \$500 for the project! In addition he volun-

teered his time assisting with some renovations: building fences; demolishing walls; hanging plaster; installing insulation; painting; digging holes and lots of other jobs! Liam said he "really liked working on the house and when he thought of the family it made him sad and so I just thought I'd help". As a result of the whole community effort, an almost brand new home was delivered to the family. **Well done Liam!**



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award NT: Celebrating our Volunteers Event

Was held at Parliament House on 5th December to coincide with International Volunteer Day. The Ceremony was held in recognition of the outstanding efforts the Award Leaders and Volunteers have put into the development of our youth throughout the year.

Congratulations and recognition were given to **Ms Brodie McCutcheon**, our PE and Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator for her efforts with our students!

Also to MacKillop Catholic College parent **Mr Lance Johnson** for his work with our students.



Cisco Networking Academy

IT Essentials V4 Instructor Course

Late last term our IT Manager, Mrs Vanaja Arakkal attended the IT Essentials V4 Instructor Course in Melbourne.

This course provides the IT Essentials: PC Hardware and Software curriculum provides an introduction to the computer hardware and software skills needed to help meet the growing demand for entry-level information and communication technology (ICT) professions. The curriculum covers the fundamentals of PC technology, networking and security and also provides an introduction to advanced concepts. This course is designed to prepare participants to pass the CompTIA A+ certification exams. Participants will complete hands-on laboratory course.

Mrs Arakkal passed this course with flying colours, a distinction! **Congratulations!**

Catholic Youth Festival Melbourne December 2013

In the last week of Term 4 2013 Mrs Butt, Mr Graham and our Chaplain, Ms Lauren Hill took a group of our Senior Students to the Catholic Youth Festival in Melbourne. They had a wonderful time getting to know other students and teachers from all over Australia!



Mrs Selena Stewart, IEW

Abstudy Schooling A: is for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander school students who are living at home and are secondary students aged 15 or younger, or primary students aged 14 at 1st January.

Eligibility: a student must be enrolled, attend school for at least 85% of each term and :

- ♦ have a parent/guardian who qualifies for certain Centrelink payments or receives Community Development Employment Projects wages or holds a current Health Care Card, or
- ♦ be under the minimum school leaving age, and qualify for independent status as a homeless student, or
- ♦ qualify for independent status as an orphan or whose parent(s)/guardians(s) cannot exercise their responsibilities, or
- ♦ In State care.
- ♦ *Phone 1800132317 for further information*

National Indigenous Youth Parliament 2014: 28th May-3rd June, Canberra. Are you: a young Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person aged 16 to 25? Interested in learning about Parliament and how laws are made? Passionate about issues that affect you, your community and your country? Willing to stand up and be heard? YES? The National Indigenous Youth Parliament is for you! Come and see Mrs Stewart in the Blue Room for more information!

Community Notices

Commerce-PINTS Hockey Club



Come and have a go at **Indoor Hockey** –
places in teams available

Contact: Robyn Northcote

8927 6621

email: commerce.pints@gmail.com

Outdoor Season: Training on Wednesdays,
starting 12 March, 5.30 – 6.30

**Start up pack - stick, shin pads and ball
for new U8 & U10 players.**

Wear a stunning spider uniform!

Registered to accept \$75 Sport Vouchers

We are Family Friendly
and Full of Fun

All abilities welcome and encouraged.



FREE



Junior Hook in2 Hockey Development Camp

11 to 15 year olds

(All levels of experience welcome)

24th & 26th February

Marrara Hockey Stadium, Abala Rd

4.00pm to 5.30pm

Camp will consist of skills training and games.

Cost of Camp is FREE

Nominations close on **Friday 21st Feb**

Please visit:

<http://www.nthockey.asn.au/Development/Junior-Hook-in2-Hockey-Camps>, or contact Mark Davis on developmentofficer@nthockey.asn.au.

College Calendar of Coming Events

Thursday 13th Feb	Mini Night TONIGHT! Years 7-11
Wednesday 19th February	1:1 Laptop Program Information Night for Year 7 parents/guardians
Wednesday 5th March	ASH WEDNESDAY
Monday 10th March	Parents and Friends AGM
Monday 17th March	College Board AGM
Friday 4th April	LAST DAY OF TERM 1
MONDAY 14TH April	FIRST DAY OF TERM 2

“May your journey always be filled with blessings, and may the life of Saint Mary MacKillop ignite in you the flames of faith and service”