



Newsletter - Week 4 - 20TH February 2013, ISSUE 2

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Follow the links to the newsletter on
the Web!

Dear Parents & Friends of the College

A few notes from the Principal.



Congratulations to our new 2013 P & F Team, and congratulations to all students on a wonderful start to 2013. It has been so good to see so many people in and about the College over the past weeks. Many of you will remember very clearly our start at CDU last year. What an adventure that was. Thank you for your faith and trust in us. This year, we will grow stronger and as a fully functioning community. I look forward to formally welcoming and introducing everyone over the next few days at the information night and working with you 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:

- Create a home environment that encourages learning,
- Express high, but not unrealistic, expectations for their children's achievement and future careers, and
- 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.

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.

What is coming up in the next few weeks:

- Yrs 7, 8, & 9 Faculty Information Evening in the College Library 4:30 – 6:30pm & College Tour 5pm
- Meeting to organise St Paddy's Day Disco – 7pm Weds 20th Feb (board room)
- Working Bee - Sun 10th March – 8am to 10am (to put grounds furniture/ seating together & whipper snipper batter from top level to bottom near central stairs)
- St Patrick's Day Disco – Saturday 16th March 7pm start (details to follow)
- Board AGM 18th March 7pm – all nominations through the Principal
- End of Term Parent/Teacher /Student Conferences Tuesday 26th March 3:30pm to 6:30pm
- Yr 10 Information Evening – Wednesday 27th February
- Commissioning Ceremony for Student leaders 9am Weds 27th February



**"Never see a need
without
trying**

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|---------------------|------|
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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"

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. Bicycle riders should be wearing helmets. The bicycle racks are located at the back of A Block 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 English. 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.

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: Ms Melanie Voakes.

With the hard work of Mrs Arrakal and Mrs Whiting most students have their student laptops. 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 Tuesday 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. May I leave you with this story as a reflection on the journey of lent.

A PRAYER FOR LENT

One day, two friends were talking. They both wanted to change the world. "Everyone will know who I am if I become the richest person in the world." said one of them excitedly. "I would have power! I could do anything I wanted. I could buy anything I wanted. Don't you think that would be great?"

The other friend didn't answer. It was not how the world was going to be changed.

After thinking about it, the quiet friend finally gave an answer: "The only way to *really* change the world is to change our hearts. Change begins in the heart."

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

We welcome more of our new Teachers!



Sam Gibb

Tolstoy explains the Devil's role in education is to persuade men that, while living badly, they could teach children the right way of living. This is central to how I aspire to teach, through action not just word. I try modelling compassion, love and self-reflection to the students. Although most of the time I fall far short of this goal I still attempt to 'learn the words I teach'. This is my first year teaching and I look forward to becoming involved within the Mackillop Community.



Conor Trouw

I was born in 1981 in Melbourne, Victoria. I moved to Darwin with my Mum and Dad in 1986 and spent the next 14 years in the Northern Territory, attending Wanguri Primary, Dripstone High and later Casuarina Secondary College. I left to go to university (University of Melbourne) in early 2000, graduating to become an archaeologist 3 years later. Over the last 10 years I have travelled to many different countries, including the United States, Israel and Syria, while living and working in Edinburgh and Montreal. Recently I have been living back in Wanguri and have two dogs, a girl named Bella and a boy named Jet.



Lauren Hill

I'm very excited to begin my new role as chaplain at MacKillop Catholic College. Hailing from Wangaratta, in Victoria, I moved to Darwin in 2012 to study Creative Arts and Teaching at CDU. I look forward to meeting every one of the brilliant students at the College, as well as their families, and getting to know them well. I will be around the school for a chat and a laugh, encouraging students to discover more about their faith and how much they are worth...an awesome amount! Stay tuned for more updates.. God bless.

FAMILY FEE STATEMENTS

Family fee statements will be sent later this term. In the interim, if you wish to commence payment, please contact the office. If you pay direct into our bank account could you please put the either the students or your Christian and Surname as the reference. Unfortunately we now have three unidentified payments made to our bank account on the 2nd October, the 29th October and the 4th February. If you think any of these belongs to you, please contact us as soon as possible.

Michelle Chambers
Business Manager

Calendar of Coming Events

February

27th - Year 10 Subject Information Night

March

15th 1st round Immunisations
28th Whole College Prayer for Holy Week 9am
29th - Good Friday
31st - Easter Monday

April

2nd - Students in class: Easter Liturgy-9am
5th - End of Term Liturgy 2pm

LAST DAY OF TERM
15TH 1ST DAY OF TERM

17 - Parent/Teacher Interviews

25 - Palmerston March

May

14-16th - NAPLAN Testing Years 7 & 9



Canteen Corner

Tuckshop Volunteers URGENTLY NEEDED

especially for Tuckshop on Mondays Wednesdays and Fridays (12.30pm to 1.30pm). Helping out in the tuckshop is a great opportunity for parents/grandparents to become involved in your College and make some new friends. Please phone or email the College if you can spare an hour to help out.

Uniform/Bookshop

Opening times: 2.30pm-4.30pm Wednesdays and Thursdays - if you are unable to make these times, please phone us on 89305757 to make an appointment!

REMINDER: the formal shirts for boys and girls will arrive in March. Thank you for your patience!



vision to excel

Sponsoring MacKillop

Catholic College

Orchestra

**Integrated system
planning and design
professionals**

