



MACKILLOP NEWS

TERM 1 WEEK 10 1ST APRIL 2020

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*"Never see a need without trying
to do something about it"*
St. Mary MacKillop

Dear Families,

The events of recent weeks and months mean we are all adjusting to new ways to teach, study and indeed live.

We appreciate that this is an intense time particularly for those in the health care industry – but also those in education and families. We understand that families are trying to protect and make sense of it all as well as trying to keep students engaged in the learning process.

The staff of MacKillop are here to support and work with you, our families. Below you will find some information from our various teams that will support you should school closure occur.

Notes from our Pastoral Team

There are various Pastoral Care avenues to access assistance at MacKillop. The first point of contact is your child's Home form Teacher. Other services available at the College to assist you are as follows.

If you are considering keeping your son /daughter home, then our **Teacher Librarian** Mr John Chisholm can assist students with selecting suitable educational reading material for the time spent away from the College. John can also assist with advice for Assignment Research. John can be contacted at: john.chisholm@nt.catholic.edu.au or by phone on 8930 5703.

If you are a Defence Family then our **Defence School Mentor**, Mrs Sue Lowery can provide assistance with referring students to Defence Support for counselling and provide information regarding the other support mechanisms in place and being put in place by Defence. Sue can be contacted at: sue.lowery@nt.catholic.edu.au

If you are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Family then our **Aboriginal & Islander Education Worker**, Jasen Bryers, can assist you with gaining support from the most relevant staff member or stakeholder with any particular issues you may be experiencing. Jasen can be contacted at: jasen.bryers@nt.catholic.edu.au

Our **Inclusion Support Coordinator**, Linda Van Heusden, can assist your family if your child is one of our students receiving classroom support. Linda can assist with accessing learning materials and ensuring the appropriate adjustments are being made. Linda can be contacted at: Linda.VanHeusden@nt.catholic.edu.au or by phone on 8930 5715

Our **Wellbeing & Family Liaison Officer** (and College Chaplain), Mrs Stella Wallis, can assist all families with a range of matters including referrals to external stakeholders (including counselling). Stella can be contacted at: stella.wallis@nt.catholic.edu.au or by phone on 0439 336 107

Some things to keep in mind at this time:

Access good quality information

- It's important to get accurate information from credible sources such as those listed below. This will also help you maintain perspective and feel more in control.
- Australian Government coronavirus (COVID-19) health alert
- Health Direct – Coronavirus (COVID-19)
- smartraveller.gov.au – travel information for Australian citizens
- World Health Organisation – coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak
- <https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/>

Notes from our Teaching & Learning Team

Staff at MacKillop Catholic College are preparing to teach lessons via the mixed mode of online learning and hard copy work packages in the event of a school closure. This remote learning will use our main platform SEQTA as the communication vehicle. Some teachers and classes may have existing platforms like Schoology or Edmodo with which your son or daughter are familiar. Please check these details with your son / daughter or their class teachers. Predominantly, our staff are migrating to SEQTA. I take this opportunity to thank our staff for their work in this area.

MacKillop Catholic College is open and will remain open until advised by Catholic Education Northern Territory. In the meantime, as well as preparing for possible future school closure, families choosing to keep their children home can support their son / daughter's learning by following a few key points outlined below:

1. Set up a learning environment at home that is quiet and away from distractions such as the TV and Mobile Phone;
2. Structure your child's day by maintaining morning and night-time routines. Support your child to take regular breaks (Recess and Lunch breaks);
3. Check in with your child to keep them on track;
4. Maintain regular contact with the College through their Home form teacher or class teachers;
5. Encourage your child to spend some time each day outside being physical;
6. Ensure your child can access SEQTA Learn. The address for SEQTA learn is: learn.mackillopnt.catholic.edu.au
The username and password should be the same as for NTSCHOOLS.
If students experience issues logging on, please email your Home form teacher who will send your request to our IT team who will email or call back. Please ensure you provide your contact details. Once logged in students will click on "course" and then the subject of choice;
7. SEQTA Engage, the parent platform for SEQTA, is not yet enabled for MacKillop Catholic College. Please see your child's account for work requirements and messages from class teachers within courses;
8. We encourage students and parents to concentrate on their core subjects of Mathematics, English, Science, SOSE and HPE (Health). Information for each of these subjects will be detailed on SEQTA;
9. If your child/ren are undertaking a Vocational Education and Training (VET) program, either with MacKillop Catholic College Registered Training Organisation (RTO) or any other RTO, Ms Rachel Taylor, the Managing Director: RTO, VET, Flexible Learning and Careers, can provide advice and support about how students can continue their VET studies. A number of national initiatives have commenced to discuss alternatives to Planned Structured Work Placements and the impact that not being able to undertake these will have on student completion of VET qualifications in the 2020 academic year. Parents and students are encouraged to contact their RTO Provider or Trainer however, if you cannot make contact Ms Taylor can assist with communications with external VET providers, including supporting students to access online materials and workbooks. Ms Taylor will ensure MacKillop RTO programs can run with workbooks and assessment task for students to complete at home. She can also assist students and parents regarding accessing their compulsory Personal Learning Plan (PLP) subject materials and for students who are undertaking the specialist VET Religious Education Program through the Flexible Learning Department. Ms Rachel Taylor can be contacted at: rachel.taylor@nt.catholic.edu.au or by phone on; mobile 0467 580 686.
10. For Stage 1 & Stage 2 Courses please check out the SACE website for NEWLY updated advice: [https://www.sace.sa.edu.au](https://www.sace.sa.edu.au/covid-19-coronavirus/for-teachers)

[au/covid-19-coronavirus/for-teachers](https://www.sace.sa.edu.au/covid-19-coronavirus/for-teachers)

11. There are a few simple things students can do to ensure learning continues if you are choosing to keep your child home:
 - All students prior to any absence are encouraged to visit the College Library and borrow a book to read each day. Reading for 30mins per day is always good practice under any circumstances. The College Teacher Librarian John Chisholm is available to help students select books;
 - Please ask your child to take all textbooks, subject resources and assessment tasks home. This may require the student cleaning out their locker for the period they are at home;
 - Ensure your child can log onto STILE. STILE is a learning platform for Science. If you have trouble logging on, please email your Science teacher through your son / daughter's Home form teacher. Once again through the Home form teacher. This is for Year 7-10 students only;
 - Ensure your child can log onto MATHSPACE. This is a learning platform for Mathematics. If you have trouble logging on, please email your Mathematics teacher through your son / daughter's Home form teacher. This is also only for Year 7-10 students; and,
 - Whilst we have stated above to concentrate on core subjects, the following could be done for elective subjects:
 - Languages: students are encouraged to organise with their languages teacher to pick up and take-home learning resources.
 - Music: students are encouraged to take home their instrument for practice. - Food Technology Year 7: a take home package is available.

Notes from our Catholic Care Counselling Team:

Catholic Care NT is open to business as per usual, and these include the School Counselling Program for students, ACCESS Counselling Program for school staffs, General Counselling for families who need support. On top of face-to-face counselling support, Catholic Care can provide services over the phone or through Zoom / Skype. If students are seeking counselling and are at home, they can contact Catholic Care via the intake@catholicarent.org.au. Alternatively, they can also contact Shirleen or Rebecca through the College stella.wallis@nt.catholic.edu.au to organise counselling over the phone or through Zoom / Skype.

These are challenging times. As educators of our Palmerston young people you have an important task ahead and we stand ready to accompany you as trusted companions on that journey. If you have suggestions as to how we may better serve you during this time of change and uncharted waters – please do let us know via our Principal's email: lauretta.graham@nt.catholic.edu.au

As your son / daughter's Home form teacher I wish to remind you that I am your home school link during these challenging times for all pastoral and curriculum matters. I am prepared to pass your emails on to your son / daughter's class teachers and look forward to supporting you where I can.

The staff at MacKillop are here to support and work with you, as you are our precious families.

Sincerely,

*The MacKillop Catholic
College Homeform
Teachers*

2018 MAGAZINE



Oren Tyler

Media, Promotions and Publications

The 2018 Yearbook finally arrived a few weeks ago. By now all homeform teachers of Year 9 and above should have handed it out to students who are the oldest in their families at MacKillop. We normally give one magazine per family, but please let us know if your family would like extra copies. If you have not received your magazine yet, please follow up with your homeform teacher or email oren.tyler@nt.catholic.edu.au.

If you are (or know) a graduate from 2019 or 2018, please send me your current mailing address so I can send you a copy, or drop by the College to pick one up.

Copies of the 2019 Yearbook, produced by a Year 8 class last year, are also available.

Oren Tyler

Media, Promotions and Publications

SCIENCE NEWS

Senior Chemistry Students Make Their Own Hand Sanitiser

With a looming shortage of hygiene products, our senior chemistry students along with our Lab Technician Eliys McEvoy and their teacher Mr Roy Joseph stepped up to the challenge in producing a large quantity of hand sanitiser for the College. Their efforts were praised by parents and community members who have suggested that the product be sold to the wider community as a fundraiser, and this idea is currently being looked at.



FROM THE LIBRARY



John Chisholm

Teacher Librarian

Dear MacKillop Families,

We know that many of you are making the decision of whether to keep your children at home on a day-to-day basis, based on the best advice available at the time. While we may not be able to make that decision for you, the library staff might be able to help you prepare and ease any isolation a little.

We are currently ignoring loan limits and loan times. That means that students can stock up on a few extra books, to have at home in case they do need to spend an extended period away from school.

Library staff are available during lunch and until 4pm Monday to Thursday if students wish to borrow, or if they would like advice on finding books they may like.

Students also have access to ClickView <http://online.clickview.com.au/> (think of it as Netflix for educational videos).

They log on using their school email address (firstname.lastname@ntschoools.net)

If they do not know their password for ClickView, the password reset button will sent them an email to their school email address. If you cannot logon please email john.chisholm@nt.catholic.edu.au and I will endeavour to ensure the account is working.

John Chisholm

Teacher Librarian



Going to be stuck at home?

You can borrow extra books from the library to keep you reading....

Mackillop Library
Father Gerry Remie Centre



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sun 5 Apr** **Palm Sunday**
- Mon 6 Apr** **Week 11 - Optional Attendance**
- Fri 10 Apr** **Good Friday - Public Holiday**
Last Day of Term 1
- Sun 12 Apr** **Easter Sunday**
- Mon 20 Apr** **Currently Scheduled First Day of**
Term 2 - Updates will be announced
depending on Coronavirus situation.

No Further events are scheduled until further notice

P&F ASSOC. NEWS

No further P&F Meetings will take place until further notice.

Depending on the situation, the Mother's Day Stall in May has not been cancelled as of yet.



26 March 2020



**Centre for Disease Control
Public Health Unit (PHU)**
Ground Floor, Building 4
Royal Darwin Hospital
Rocklands Drive
TIWINT 0810

Postal Address
PO Box 40596
CASUARINA NT 0811
T 08 8922 8044
F 08 8922 8310

File Ref: EDOC2020/108274

Dear Parent/Guardian,

RE: WHOOPING COUGH (PERTUSSIS)

Your child may recently have been in contact with a person from MacKillop Catholic College class 7.1 who has been diagnosed with whooping cough. If your child has received all the scheduled doses of whooping cough vaccine, the risk of disease is low.

What is whooping cough?

Whooping cough is an infection that can cause bouts of coughing, and sometimes breathing difficulties and vomiting. It can be a very serious infection in young babies. It usually starts with a snuffle or a cold and can last for many weeks.

What should people sick with whooping cough do?

If your child has symptoms, please take your child and this letter to your local doctor as soon as possible. Your doctor can advise whether whooping cough is likely and arrange for testing and treatment if needed. Treating people who have whooping cough with antibiotics can stop the infection spreading, but is more effective if started early.

To help prevent this infection spreading, people who have been diagnosed with whooping cough should not attend school until they have completed the first 5 days of a 5-7 day course of the recommended antibiotics. If antibiotics cannot be taken, then they must stay away from school for 3 weeks after onset of the cough.

How is it prevented?

Infants can have very severe disease, and sometimes we recommend babies, pregnant women and other people that have been exposed to pertussis and who could pass on the infection to 'at risk' babies and pregnant women take special antibiotics to help prevent whooping cough.

It is important to double check that your child is fully up to date with his or her immunisations against whooping cough. If in doubt, please ask your doctor or child health clinic to check.

Adult immunisation is also recommended for certain groups including pregnant women for each pregnancy and those caring for young children (see below for information regarding those eligible for free vaccine).

Need more information?

For more information see <https://nt.gov.au/wellbeing/health-conditions-treatments/bacterial/whooping-cough>, [printable fact sheet](#) or contact CDC on 08 89228044

Yours sincerely

Dr Vicki Krause,
Director, Centre for Disease Control – Environmental Health, Public Health Unit, PHU, TEHS Darwin
Centre for Disease Control