



PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

End of year events

With the end of the term and the end of the year fast approaching, the following dates and events will be of interest to you:

- Year 12 Graduation Mass: 10am, Wednesday 3 December, Holy Family Church (Gowrie)
- Year 12 Graduation Formal: 7pm, Wednesday 3 December, AIS Arena
- Year 10 Presentation: 5pm, Monday 8 December, Tuggeranong Basketball Stadium
- Wanniasa Awards Assembly and Mass: 11.30am, Wednesday 10 December

Students meet the President of France

Thank you to the Australian War Memorial who invited myself and six students to meet President Francois Hollande and Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott at the planting of a French Oak within the grounds of the memorial commemorating the forging of Australia's relationship with France during the Great War.

Chloe Boyd, Grace Fidge, Maddison Landon, Aliyah Kiraly, Andrew Slavich, and Riley Devoy were fortunate enough to be able to greet Monsieur Hollande who was warm and friendly and deeply appreciative of the small gift presented to him on behalf of the MacKillop community. The MacKillop students are French speakers or had just returned from the French trip in October. Vive la France, vive l'Australie!

Performance reviews of school leaders

Congratulations to the many Faculty and Year Coordinators, Assistant Principals, and Campus Heads, who have undergone successful reviews of their performance in the last six months. Thank you to the parents and community stakeholders who chose to participate in these processes. The school leaders have been provided with significant, warm affirmation and rich feedback, which will inform their goal setting into their next contracts. Regular performance reviews, along with mentoring and professional critical reflection, are key components in the formation and development of the MacKillop staff. A number of families chose to make additional comments and suggestions about the progress and development of the school, which I appreciated.

The last newsletter

The last newsletter of the year will contain information about Year 12 achievement and best wishes for a holy and peaceful Christmas to members of the College community. It will be distributed on Tuesday 16 December.

Yours in St Mary MacKillop,

MICHAEL LEE
PRINCIPAL



PRINCIPAL'S PRAYER

Lord, we wish Year 12 all the best for their last day, for their examinations and for Graduation in December. We thank you for the blessings they have bestowed upon our community. Amen.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DEC MONDAY 01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 6 Induction Day • Year 10 2015 Transition Day
DEC TUESDAY 02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 6 Induction Day • Year 10 2015 Transition Day
DEC WEDNESDAY 03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 12 Graduation Mass & Formal
DEC MONDAY 08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 10 Presentation

COLLEGE NEWS

Yearbooks and Library books

Students in Years 7-9 will receive their Yearbooks on the afternoon of 10 December, the last day of school.

Students in Years 10-12 will be required to come into the Isabella Campus IRC on Tuesday 16 December. Yearbooks will not be available to Isabella Campus students prior to this date. Please note that the College closes for the remainder of the year after 16 December, so students who are unable to collect their Yearbook on this date will need to wait until the 2015 school year.

In order to collect Yearbooks, students are required to have all their borrowing records up to date. This means that **all library books must be returned to the College** or, if books are damaged or missing, these need to be paid for prior to students collecting their Yearbook.



St Vincent de Paul

After completing their exams, the Year 10 students (and staff) turned their attention to fundraising for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. The students generously donated \$380 of 'spare change' in a coin line drive that took the shape of a Christmas tree. Motivated by the generosity of the students, the staff not only matched the student's donations but took the total to over \$800. The Year 10 SRC students accompanied the Pastoral Care Coordinators in spending the funds raised to fill 2 trolleys worth of presents for the Christmas Appeal. A big thank you to all who contributed and we encourage all to consider how they can give generously to others experiencing difficulty at this time.

*Phil Belcher & Colleen Kain
Year 10 Coordinator*

Student leavers at the end of 2014

If families are leaving the College at the end of this year, early advice would be appreciated as we have a number of families wishing to enrol for 2015. Please contact the Enrolment Officer, Vivienne Joice, by emailing vivienne.joice@mackillop.act.edu.au or by calling 6209 5217.

*Vivienne Joice
Enrolment Officer*



Future Stars!

Congratulations to Gabrielle Petersen (Year 7) who was a recipient of a 2014 Excellence in School Sport Award. Only ten of these were awarded across the ACT. Joy Burch, minister for Education and Training, presented Gabrielle with the award on 21 November at the Legislative Assembly.

Amber Thornton (Year 7) won the U13 ACT/NSW Brett Ogle Junior Master Golf Tournament held at Goulburn Golf Course last week. Amber has also been selected to represent the Jack Newton Junior Golf NSW team to compete against Queensland in January.

School Fees

It is now time to review all existing Direct Debit payments for 2014. If you currently pay fees by Direct Debit please email the Accounts Office at jayne.limbrick@mackillop.act.edu.au from Monday 1 December, for a new calculation of payments.

Please note that Direct Debit arrangements begin in January 2015 and run for 26 fortnights or 52 weeks.

Bpay is also available for parents wanting to pay by other arrangements from above eg monthly.

The 2015 fee schedule is now available on the College website and can be accessed at <http://www.mackillop.act.edu.au/index.php/enrolment/school-fees-schedule>.

Fees for 2014 should now be finalised. Any outstanding fees should be paid immediately.

Michelle Predovan, Fees Manager

ACT Secondary Bursary Scheme

The ACT Government's Secondary Bursary Scheme provides assistance to low income earners in the ACT with dependent full-time students.

Eligibility requirements and application forms are available online at <http://www.det.act.gov.au> and by following the links located at the top of the home page - School education/starting school/financial assistance for families.

For further information please ring the Bursary Administrator on 6205 9300.

Michelle Predovan, Fees Manager

WANNIASSA NEWS

2015 SRC Members

Following the election process that has taken place this term, the SRC for 2015 was announced at this week's Wanniassa Campus Assembly.

It is courageous for young people to stand for a position of leadership, to make a speech before their peers and then put themselves forward for election with the possibility of disappointment. I congratulate each of the students who did just this by nominating themselves for an SRC position.

The successful candidates, who join the previously announced Wanniassa Campus Captains, Abbey Jameson and Tom Rogers, are listed below. They will be formally inducted into the SRC early in 2015.

Year 8 2015 SRC

MIndygari	Maddyson Watson
Gurabang	Louise Tomelty
Meup Meup	Tamara Darwich
Ngadyung	Jackson Keen

Year 9 2015 Wanniassa House Captains

MIndygari	Taylor Ruhen and Bailey Goymer-Peak
Gurabang	Amber Brophy and Ruben Mayenco
Meup Meup	Jasmine Fraser and Nick Hosie
Ngadyung	Sophie Highmore and Charles Stephens

Year 10 2015 SRC

MIndygari	Betina Calderon
Gurabang	Emily Haskew
Meup Meup	Jack Adamson
Ngadyung	Chanel Kamilo

Status Awards

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

Bronze Status - Caitlyn Bell-Torevell 7E1, Jeremy Benavidez 7E2, Georja Dickie 7W1, Flynn Gibbs-Patterson 7A3, Khi Langridge 7W1, Rebecca Murphy 7EW, Demi Nikias 7F3, Alexandra Owen 7F2, Jaimee Quayle 7E2, Riley Quinn 8W2, Summer Rule 7EW, Ella Rummery 7E3, Bethany Weaver 7A2, Dylan Williams 7A3, Stephanie Zaal 7EW.

MacKillop School Shoes

In preparation for the 2015 school year, many students may be in a position of needing to purchase new school shoes. The policy regarding school shoes is outlined on the College Website and in the Student Diary. It states:

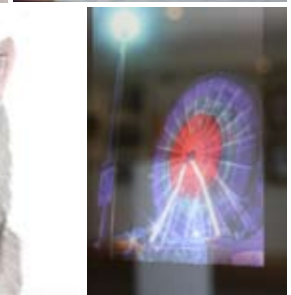
"In terms of footwear, the expectation is traditional, black, leather, lace up, polishable school shoes. Suede shoes and black joggers are not acceptable for safety reasons. Elevated shoes and platform heels are not a part of the College uniform. The sole should be no more than 2 cm high and the heel 3 cm. Buckle shoes, canvas shoes, ballet shoes, cloth shoes, and slip on shoes are NOT permitted".

As we approach the holidays, students on the Wanniassa have been reminded of this at Assemblies this week in preparation for the new year. The information page later in this Newsletter is designed to assist parents and students in clarifying what is suitable in order to hopefully avoid any confusion.

*Lachlan McNicol,
AP Pastoral Care, Wanniassa*

ISART OPENING

The Senior Art Exhibition at the Isabella Campus



COMMUNITY NEWS

Questacon Holiday Workshops

Questacon is holding 'Maker Project' workshops at the Ian Potter Foundation Technology Learning Centre in Deakin from 12-16 January. Half-day and full-day workshops available. For information, call 1800 889 995 or visit www.questacon.edu.au

Senior English Workshops

Canberra Writing School is holding a series of English courses during the holidays. Visit www.canberrawritingschool.com.au for information.

Tennis in the holidays

Canberra Velocity is hosting 2 rounds of the Asia Pacific Tennis League on the 6-7th of December at the Canberra Tennis Centre, Lyneham. The matches will feature internationally ranked tennis players with the team playing at 1pm Saturday and 10am Sunday. There will also be community activities from 10am-2pm each day including the Australian Open Trophies (Saturday only), Hit the target competitions, speed serve, and ANZ Tennis Hot Shots. Entry and all activities are free.

Canberra School of Tennis is holding Summer Tennis Camps in December and January at the Pines Tennis Club in Chisholm. Contact Robert Jamieson on 0432 118 204 or csot@grapevine.com.au.

SIBLING DISCOUNT FORM

SIBLING DISCOUNT

The Catholic Education Office offers a discount on Tuition fees to siblings who are attending St Mary MacKillop College and one or more of the following schools:

- ☐ Merici College
- ☐ St Clare's College
- ☐ St Francis Xavier College
- ☐ John Paul College

If you have a student attending any of the above Colleges, as well as having a student at St Mary MacKillop College, please complete the section below and return it to the Accounts Office for the sibling discount to be applied to your account in 2015.

Please note that you do not need to fill in the form below if all siblings are attending St Mary MacKillop College as they automatically receive the sibling discount.

If you have any concerns regarding this matter, please contact the Fees Manager on 6209 0147.

FAMILY NAME: _____

Address: _____

STUDENT'S FULL NAME	SCHOOL ATTENDING IN 2015	Year Group 2015

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE ACCOUNTS OFFICE BY 10 December 2014

Parenting *ideas* INSIGHTS

Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

Are you amongst the 10% of smart parents?

Parenting is challenging but you don't need to go it alone. We all need help from time to time. Here are some ideas to help parents build their support network.

New Queensland research revealed that half of parents struggle with the stress of raising children, but only 10 per cent regularly ask for help. They are the smart 10 per cent!

Parents need assistance, advice and support from others to help them successfully raise their kids. Yet, 90 per cent of them do not regularly ask for help.

My experience suggests this is an Australia-wide phenomenon.

Help-seeking behaviours are healthy

Traditionally, Australians have not been great at asking for help of any kind. The term 'battler' is an endearing term attributed to someone who is doing it tough.

But for every battler who has fought against the odds and succeeded there are at least ten who struggled alone and never really got anywhere. And their families suffered as a result.

Fear of judgment

Anecdotal evidence suggests that many parents don't seek help through fear of being judged as poor parents. Of course, the reality is that ALL parents struggle from time to time coping with their children's behaviours and attitude. We can all use some help, as it's easy to get STUCK in your parenting.

Help comes in many forms. It's essential to build your network of support. Here's how:

1 Start with family and friends

You need between three and five trusted, non-judgemental people who you can call on for help. Count how many you have right now. If you fall short, look for ways to build your social capital.

2 Work alongside your child's teacher

Develop an open and communicative relationship with your child's teacher so that you can work with them, seek support and develop ongoing strategies. Understand the best time to touch base with your teacher and establish how regularly this contact is needed.

3 Find counselling, parent education services and professional assistance

Whether paid or free (such as Parentline), there are various services that you can go to when you need significant assistance. Foster a relationship with a professional (general practitioner, psychologist, specialist in a child's disorder, social worker) that you can trust and return to over time.

4 Follow a voice you can trust

Part of modern parental stress comes from the plethora of information about raising kids. Answering the basic question, "Am I doing a good job?" is now super-confusing. Choose expertise wisely.

5 Don't blaze trails

Many parents think like the Lone Ranger, they are blazing a trail through uncharted territory. Raising twins on your own? You're not the first. Got a child with ADHD, another with autism and your 15 year old wants to get a tattoo? You're not the first. Seek out like-minded parents or experienced professionals who have been down these paths, or have helped people navigate similar situations and get their perspectives. Trail-blazers are easily lost.

If you are like the majority of parents who find the job tough from time to time then I encourage you to be one of the smart 10 per cent and adopt help-seeking behaviours. The alternative, struggle along with the majority of parents, is just not necessary.

Michael Grose



Stay one step ahead of your kids with great ideas & expert advice from Michael Grose. Join Michael's **NEW Parentingideas Club** today at parentingideasclub.com.au. You'll be so glad you did.



parentingideas.com.au





St Mary MacKillop College

School Shoes

In terms of footwear, the expectation is traditional, black, leather, lace up, polishable school shoes. Suede shoes and black joggers are not acceptable for safety reasons. Elevated shoes and platform heels are not a part of the College uniform. The sole should be no more than 2 cm high and the heel 3 cm. Buckle shoes, canvas shoes, ballet shoes, cloth shoes, and slip on shoes are NOT permitted.



Traditional school shoes are leather, have a heel, a sturdy upper and a sole of sufficient density to ensure safety in the differing learning areas where students work.



Shoes which do not meet the College criteria:

- do not cover all of the upper foot
- are not polishable
- do not have a heel
- have a thin sole
- are not robust enough to protect the top of the foot





SPECIAL PROMOTION FOR

MARY MACKILLOP COLLEGE

SPECIAL SALES

DAYS X 3

AT LOWES STORE - TUGGERANONG

**Wednesday 3rd – Thursday 4th - Friday 5th December
2014**

RECEIVE 15% DISCOUNT

Off the regular price on all uniform items for
Mary MacKillop College

PLUS

BONUS EZY-WAY 5% DISCOUNT

additional for Lowes Ezy-Way customers

OR 5% REWARDS

Lowes Rewards Card holders receive in-store Gift Vouchers
to the value of 5% of their purchase

PLUS

Lowes will pay your school annual **5% rebate** on every
uniform purchased in-store.