



YEAR 12 2014 RESULTS

Congratulations to the Class of 2014 upon receiving their Year 12 results for both their tertiary and accredited packages. I'd like to make the following points:

1. Congratulations to Claudia Holland, who was declared Dux of the College at Graduation and who has achieved the highest ATAR for the school. Whilst her ATAR is her business, it is substantially higher than she expected and one of the highest ATARs the school has had. This result speaks of Claudia's ability, very hard work, and the positive and respectful relationships she had with her teachers. The supportive role of her parents is a significant factor in Claudia's achievement.

2. Some people may have seen the median ATAR grid of the Senior Secondary Colleges in the ACT that was published in today's Canberra Times. I make the following comments about the median scores:

- The median is the middle mark and there are as many ATARS above that median as there are below.
- St Mary MacKillop College welcomes students of all abilities and interests and a great many of our students have achieved well beyond their expectations and perceived abilities, but not reached the median. They are to be congratulated.
- 75% of our tertiary students have achieved ATARs beyond what was predicted and expected. This is a particularly important statistic in terms of issues surrounding reward, achievement, ability, and self-esteem.

3. MacKillop's top students would also be thrilled to have achieved results beyond their expectation.

4. Readers of the grid would note that over 60% of Year 12 attempted a tertiary package with the support of the College and therefore were not directed to an accredited package to inflate the median.

5. All students who applied for early entry and principal's recommendation to university were successful.

6. Obviously there are some students who will be disappointed in individual grades and results. This would have occurred for a variety of reasons, and the College is working with those students to explore a variety of opportunities and pathways for worthwhile options beyond this point – our pastoral commitment continues.

7. Congratulations to the following students who were presented to the Canberra community at the ACT BSSS Recognition of Excellence Ceremony at the Canberra Theatre

on Monday: Hayley Ngametua (Community Service Award), Reece Inkpen (Vocational Studies Award), Nakiesha Rodgers (Performing/Visual Arts Award), Tyler Jones (Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Award), and Claudia Holland (Academic Studies Award).

8. Although first-round university offers will not be made until January, the College, relying on previous years, estimates that over 90% of our candidature will gain a place at university – many of them at the institution and in the course of their first choice.

9. There were a high number of students attempting a VET and tertiary package who will probably gain a place at university and achieve Certificate II or III against industry recognised standards and who are therefore well down the track of an apprenticeship should they wish to continue with that option. According to today's Canberra Times, MacKillop presented the third-highest number of Vocational Education Certificates to our students, highlighting yet again the comprehensive nature of our enrolments, the diversity of our senior studies program, and the integrity of our claim to be a Catholic school for all.

In conclusion, the Year 11 and 12 experience is a vastly more complex one than it was five years ago with a broader range of opportunities and options for students staying on to Year 12. The key outcomes for all students are:

1. Achievement beyond expectation
2. Student satisfaction with results
3. A range of pathways beyond school
4. A Year 12 Certificate from a school that provided them with shared identity, a strong sense of community, a relationship of mutual respect with their teachers, and a variety of pathways beyond school.

The College takes great pride in its Graduating Class of 2014 and their many achievements, shared and individual, only a few of which could be declared in a Year 12 Certificate. Thank you to the teachers and a particular thanks to the parents and carers of the graduating class, whose wisdom, judgment and support underpin the achievements of the year group.

Yours in St Mary MacKillop,

MICHAEL LEE
PRINCIPAL

COLLEGE NEWS

Fee Payments in 2015

Please note: St Mary MacKillop College is unable to accept cheque payments from 1 January 2015. The following methods of payment are available:

Cash & Eftpos: Cash and Eftpos payments may be made in person at both Isabella and Wanniasa Front Reception.

Bpay: Bpay is available at the College for payment of School Fees only. Payments can be made through internet and telephone banking by quoting the Biller Code and Reference Number located on your school fee statement.

Direct Debit: Payment of School Fees by Direct Debit will require completion of the relevant paperwork. Please contact Jayne Limbrick via email, jayne.limbrick@mackillop.act.edu.au, to set up your Direct Debit. Direct Debits commence in January and run over 52 weeks or 26 fortnights. All Direct Debits are to be altered in December for the following year's School Fees.

Credit Card Payments – Mastercard or Visa: Credit Card payments may be made in person, over the telephone, or details can be provided at the bottom of your school fee statement.

Michelle Predovan, Fees Manager

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 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 on the College website 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

Uniform Shop

The College's Uniform Shop, which is based at the Wanniasa Campus, will be open to students from both campuses on Wednesday 28 January from 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

College Create

Tuggeranong Arts Centre is highlighting the exceptional talent of 22 college students through the College Create Exhibition. The exhibition includes work by MacKillop Year 12 students Connor McKinnon, Erin Morrissey, Breanna Sturgess and Thomas Lander. The exhibition includes paintings, sculpture, photography and mixed media. It opened on Thursday 11 December at 6pm and continues until Saturday 20 January 2015.



2014 Fundraising

Market Day on the Wanniasa Campus was the final fundraising event for 2014. The activities and stalls organised by each PC class were very successful with the money raised by each stall contributing to their House's final fundraising tally for the year. The response from students was extremely positive and there was a great community atmosphere and spirit. Congratulations to Kate Durham and the SRC for their organisation of this end of year event.

This year a House Charity Shield was introduced to assist in the development of House identity and provide a friendly, competitive and fun approach to fundraising endeavours. Students have wholeheartedly supported the College charities throughout the year and in doing so raised over \$35,000.

The winners of the inaugural House Charity Shield for 2014, for raising the most money of the Houses across Years 7 – 12, was Meup Meup. As Mr Lee quickly stated, this was the first time for a long time that Meup Meup has won anything! (In fact their last major victory was in 2009.)

Congratulations to all students for their generous contributions to those in need throughout the year.

*Lachlan McNicol
AP Pastoral Care, Wanniasa Campus*

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. An information page in this Newsletter is designed to assist parents and students in clarifying what is suitable in order to avoid any confusion.

*Lachlan McNicol
AP Pastoral Care, Wanniasa Campus*

Solar Oven Challenge

During November, a team of 3 students from Year 8, Pia Gattuso, Sarah Duck and Ashy Kinsella entered the ACT schools' Solar Oven challenge, hosted by Lake Ginninderra College. The aim of the event was to build a solar oven over a number of weeks before the competition day with plan on the competition day to cook a muffin using the energy from the sun in the oven. Students also had to submit a journal on their rationale for oven design and methods. Under the guidance of Mr Lehmensich and Miss Avis their oven successfully cooked the muffin in an hour and 10 minutes. There were two prizes awarded on the day - fastest cook and best design - and the MacKillop girls were excited to win equal first place for best design. Well done.

Return Dates

School will restart on Monday 2 February for Years 7, 10, 11, & 12, and Tuesday 3 February for Years 8 & 9.



Parenting *ideas* INSIGHTS

Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

Making the most of these holidays

Often family differences are contained during the year but spill over when normal routines cease over the holiday period.

You don't need an instruction manual to make the most of the school holidays. After all, holidays are about kicking your feet up, relaxing and getting away from the usual routines. Right?

But the holiday season can be stressful. For many parents the prospect of keeping children occupied for up to six weeks can be daunting. Kids who kept busy with school, after school activities and weekend sport suddenly have time on their hands and look to you to keep them busy.

Christmas can also be a difficult and lonely time for some. Sole parents and step-parents usually experience particular challenges at this time of the year as family catch-ups cause conflict, and disputes can arise over who children spend their time with.

Often family differences are contained during the year but spill over when normal routines cease over the holiday period. High maintenance children who's behaviour is bearable when they are at school can suddenly seem very challenging indeed when you spend 24/7 time with them.

Here are some ways to help reduce tension over the festive season and make the holidays enjoyable and fruitful for all.

1 Be creative with how festivities are organised

For instance, two or more Christmas dinners may be needed so everyone is included. If you are flexible with your arrangements as well as your thinking then the potentially tricky times will flow more easily.

2 Mix up the routines

The best part about holidays is the move away from the routines of school-life. Some kids feel comfortable with the routines of school-life and can feel a little lost until the new holiday routine kicks in. Be patient with these routine-junkies! Also make sure you begin adjusting the routine as a return to school comes closer so kids are prepared for going to bed and getting up at earlier times.

3 Mix 'me' time with 'them' time

Plan a mixture of outdoor activities or trips with quiet at-home activities where you can relax and recharge your own batteries. The holidays are a chance to spend time as a family but you also need to take some time for yourself each day. It helps to let your kids know that you are having some timeout too.

4 Resist being your child's home entertainment machine

Give children opportunities to keep themselves occupied or think of

inexpensive, fun ways to keep themselves amused. "I'm bored" is an invitation for kids to keep themselves occupied rather than for you to keep them amused.

5 Team up with other families

Whether it is sharing celebrations with other families or just holidaying with friends, holidays offer the chance to broaden your child's social circle. Create opportunities to spend time with other families preferably with children the same age as yours.

Make sure you provide the three types of activities that children want with their parents – i.e. **rituals and celebrations**, including family mealtimes; **one-on-one activities** where you spend some time alone with each child; and unstructured, **impromptu activities** such as playing simple games, story-telling and walks around the neighbourhood. These are important relationship-building activities that bind families together and enable you to build up emotional collateral with kids as they move into adolescence.

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

