



ST MARY MACKILLOP COLLEGE  
www.mackillop.act.edu.au • 02 6209 0100



## The Principal's Letter

Lord, we give thanks for the opportunities 2017 will give to our community.  
Help us to remember that we advance always in Your Name. Amen.

Dear families, students and friends,

### WELCOME TO 2017

I hope that all our families enjoyed the blessings of Christmas and had safe travels and an enjoyable summer with their children over January. Whilst most staff and families enjoyed the break, many teachers at MacKillop were involved in academic study, professional travel and writing, and evaluation and preparation for the 2017 academic year. I'm sure many of you will agree that it was disappointing that a Federal Member of Parliament chose to make fun of holidays for teachers and to cynically misrepresent long holidays as a time exclusive to relaxation and not much of the work that goes on. Congratulations to the Prime Minister's daughter, Daisy Turnbull (herself a teacher), who spoke out, along with others, in defence of the profession.

Staff members have been back for well over a week engaged in Archdiocesan-wide conferences and professional learning specifically targeted to the school's annual improvement plan and to preparation for the new year.

Welcome to the new staff who have joined us for 2017. Extensive advertising, thorough interviewing, and referee checks were in place to secure the very best teachers we can to teach your children. I'm very excited about the range of talent and ability that they will bring to our community.

### NEW COLLEGE FACILITIES

Whilst the new furnishings are still in transit, students and staff returned to the Isabella Campus to a \$400,000 refurbishment of the Isabella Library. The removals of walls, partitions, and doors, rewiring of electrical and cable, carpet and paint and furniture have significantly improved this facility for student learning. Isabella families will be able to see the facility at the Parent Info Sessions over the next few weeks. More work will be done in the April holidays which will significantly expand teaching and learning spaces for Year 12.

The Isabella Campus will also be home to extensive building of the classroom block and the Fr Julian Tenison Woods Centre for Scientific Enquiry (it will be fabulous!), which will be completed this year. Work has already commenced on these buildings at the back of the campus, which will be completed without disruption to student learning. The Theatre on the junior campus will also be refurbished this term – a long overdue project!

### WELCOME TO YEAR 7 2017

Whilst it is my intention to survey Year 7 prior to the Year 7 Parent Information Session next Tuesday, anecdotal evidence (me talking to them) suggests that their entry into high school at MacKillop has been a raging success. Teacher comments, such as "what a lovely group," are commonplace in staff offices and the enthusiasm from the students is what we have come to expect and provide for from Year 7. Congratulations to first time parents who have negotiated the drop off and pickup process on the Wanniasa Campus!

### OPENING MASS 2017

St Mary MacKillop College invites members of the community to join us at our Opening Mass, which will be held at the Tuggeranong Southern Cross Stadium on 28 February. Guests are asked to be seated by 9.15am.

Yours sincerely in St Mary MacKillop,

MICHAEL LEE, COLLEGE PRINCIPAL



## College News

### Science Tutorials - Isabella

Science tutorials will be held on Monday afternoons from 3.20-4.20 pm in the Isabella IRC. Staff will be available to assist with class work, homework and assessment tasks.

*Kate Goolagong, Science Coordinator (Isabella)*

### World Challenge

A World Challenge pre-training camp skills meeting will be held after school on Tuesday 21 February in the Isabella IRC at 3:45 to 6pm. World Challenge students from all 3 teams are required to attend. Parents are asked to attend from 6pm for a 20 minute update.

*Sam McCombe*

### Student Achievement

Ebony Brunt (Year 7) has been selected to represent Australia/South Australia in the Pee wee International Ice Hockey Friendship Games Tournament in St Paul Minnesota, USA, next month.

## ICT Update

### Bring Your Own Device

The BYOD program enables a student to bring their own tablet or computer (laptop, iPad, android, netbook etc.) to school for the purpose of learning. BYOD allows for diverse and flexible learning styles in and out of the classroom.

All students in Years 8 - 10 are invited to be part of a Hybrid BYOD program. Students have a choice; to bring an appropriate device to assist with their learning or continue using their College-provided laptop.

If families opt to BYOD, the student must hand in the College provided laptop to the IT Support Office, located in the library. A Laptop Return Receipt will be signed by a member of the IT Support team and given to the student to confirm that the laptop has been returned. Students will be responsible for any personal device that they bring to school and will be required to read and sign the Personal Electronic Device Acceptable Use agreement before using their device at school.

Additional information about the BYOD program can be found on the MacKillop website by searching 'BYOD'.

### Canvas

To enhance the learning experience for students we are excited to announce the introduction of the new learning management system, Canvas. A learning managing system is a platform that provides tools to facilitate learning when using devices such as a laptop or a tablet. The new learning management system will replace our previous platform, Studywiz. Canvas will deliver unit outlines, assessment instructions and resources to students.

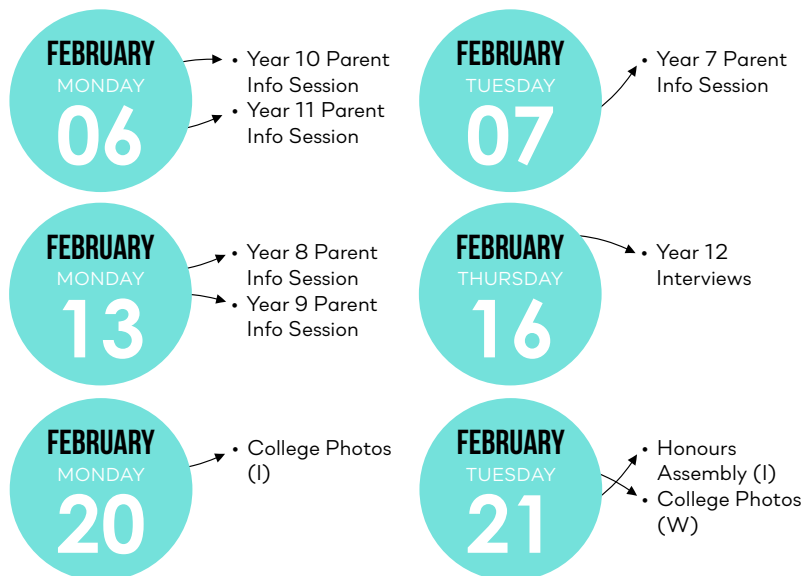
If you have not received an email outlining how to login to Canvas please don't hesitate to contact Jessica Stokman on 6209 5229 or [jessica.stokman@mackillop.act.edu.au](mailto:jessica.stokman@mackillop.act.edu.au).

Parent sessions for Canvas will take place on:  
14 February, Isabella Campus 6pm - 7pm in the Library  
16 February, Wanniasa Campus 6pm - 7pm in the Library

Parents are welcome to attend either sessions, regardless of their son/daughter's current campus. You are welcome to bring a device to this session.

*Jessica Stokman, Learning Commons Coordinator*

## Upcoming Events



## School Fees

### Term 1 Fees and how to pay

Term 1 fee statements should be received by next week. Fees are to be paid by 3 March 2017 unless paying by Direct Debit or other approved instalment payment method.

Please note the College does not accept cheques.

The following methods of payment are available:

#### PAYMENTS BY QKR!

All payments to the College can now be made through the Qkr! app. Payments for school fees, excursions and tours etc can all be made using Qkr! Details on how to download and register the App are available on our website.

#### 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](mailto:jayne.limbrick@mackillop.act.edu.au) to set up your Direct Debit. Direct Debits usually 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*

### 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 at [www.det.act.gov.au](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 8262.

*Michelle Predovan, Fees Manager*



# Pastoral Care

Mrs Monica Bailey,  
AP Pastoral Care

## Welcome back!

Welcome back to the 2017 academic year. I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas break and the start to the year has been positive. Thank you for the work you have undertaken in preparing your sons and daughters for their return to school. The first week has been a steady one and we look forward to continuing our working relationship with the students and families.

In the searing heat on Monday we welcomed 346 Year 7 students to the Wanniasa Campus and the return of 830 Year 10-12 students at the Isabella Campus. Year 7 eased their way into high school life with orientation session and plenty of opportunities to navigate the College. The Year 10 and new Year 11 and 12 students settled quickly, with the aid of supportive peers and staff, and were hard at work by mid-morning. Year 8 and 9 joined the ranks on Tuesday adding to the enthusiastic buzz of the Wanniasa Campus attending to their elective and core subject classes as well as offering support to the Year 7 students.

Students are reminded of the important role the Pastoral Care Teacher plays in supporting the academic learning and wellbeing of each student. Continued support is offered by each student's Pastoral Care Coordinator. The Coordinators of each year group will write to families by the end of this week providing their contact details and an outline of the term ahead.

The Pastoral Care Coordinators of the College are:

- Year 7 – Mrs Jane Cunneen and Mr Steve Lowe
- Year 8 – Mr Phil Belcher and Mr Joe Ciccarone (Term 1 Mr Dominic Lenarduzzi)
- Year 9 – Mr Nathan Wood and Mrs Colleen Kain
- Year 10 – Ms Lyndall De Ambrosis and Mr Paul Durham
- Year 11 – Mrs Anna Keppel
- Year 12 – Mrs Kate Durham

Two new positions have been created this year to support student wellbeing and academic achievement, titled the Directors of Student Wellbeing. The staff in these positions will work closely with the Pastoral Care Coordinators and the Assistant Principal Pastoral Care (Years 7-12).

Assistant Principal Pastoral Care (Years 7-12): Monica Bailey  
Director of Student Wellbeing- Wanniasa Campus: Mrs Isabelle Ensuque  
Director of Student Wellbeing - Isabella Campus: Mr Paul Durham

## Absence and late arrivals

If students are absent from school for any reason, or arrive late, a signed note or parent email is required explaining the late arrival or absence. A proforma is also available for this purpose and can be downloaded from the College website <http://www.mackillop.act.edu.au/index.php/our-school/publications-policies/policies-forms/item/absence-proforma>. There is also a link on the homepage of the website. Simply scroll down to "Read the latest Publications" and click on the "Absence Proforma" link.



## Parent Information Sessions

Parents are invited to attend information evenings held over the coming two weeks. Information relevant to each Year group will be presented at the sessions. There will also be an opportunity for parents to meet with their son or daughter's PC Teacher along with the Pastoral Care Coordinators and a number of key staff.

The Wanniasa Campus information sessions will commence in the Theatre at the following times:

- Year 7 – Tuesday, 7 February at 7.00pm
- Year 8 – Monday, 13 February at 5.30pm
- Year 9 – Monday, 13 February at 7.00pm

The Isabella Campus information sessions have been moved from the gymnasium to the IRC. These will commence at the following times:

- Year 10 – Monday, 6 February at 5.30pm
- Year 11 – Monday, 6 February at 7.00pm

## Status Awards

The College Status System recognises, affirms and acknowledges student's positive behaviours. Students may progress to the levels of Bronze, Silver or Gold Status.

All students are issued with a Merit Point Card that allows staff to recognise positive choices. To achieve Bronze Status students submit their Merit Card and application to Pastoral Care Coordinators and the Assistant Principal Pastoral Care for approval. In recognition of this achievement students receive:

- A Bronze Status Certificate
- \$5.00 canteen voucher or elect to donate this money to their House Charity
- First access to the canteen pass
- 6 Tokens each on both MacKillop Day and Market Day
- Semester 1 or 2 afternoon activities rather than attending classes at that time

Congratulations to the following students who have this week been presented Status Awards at the Wanniasa Campus Assembly:  
Bronze Status: Natalie Mazhindu 8E2, Shannon Grant 8E3, Georgia Mercieca 8E2, and Clara Van Puyelde 8W2.

# Performing Arts

## In-school Instrument Tuition

Bellchambers Music School will continue to run its in-school instrument tuition program at MacKillop in 2017. Information and bookings are available by calling Bellchambers on 6281 6270.

**BELLCHAMBERS Music School**  
The Beat Goes On

**Join Us in 2017!** ✓ Call us on 6281 6270 to enroll

Bellchambers currently have some vacancies in piano at St Mary MacKillop College for 2017.

Enjoy the convenience of having your piano lesson during school time with Camilo, our wonderful, caring and experienced teacher.

Lessons are available on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We rotate the timetable to ensure you miss a minimal of school lessons.

## College Musical

Interested in being part of the College Musical? See the flyer at the back of this newsletter for audition information.

## Year 7 Concert Band

Do you play a band instrument? Were you in a primary school band? Come along in 2017 and join the Year 7 Concert Band.

Never played a band instrument before? This is your chance to learn! Hire an instrument from the college, start lessons on your instrument and join the band!!

Play flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, saxophone, violin...

Wednesday Mornings: 8.30am – 9.30am

If you are interested please fill out the form at the back of this newsletter and return to Mrs Jiear (Performing Arts Coordinator) or send it via email to: [kerrie.jiear@mackillop.act.edu.au](mailto:kerrie.jiear@mackillop.act.edu.au).

*Kerrie Jiear, Performing Arts Coordinator*





# College Counselling Service

As part of their pastoral care program for students, Catholic Schools have access to a Student and Family Counselling service provided by CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn (CCG). CCG are contracted by Catholic Education and Congregational Schools to provide a counselling service to students and their families. There is no fee to access this service.

St Mary MacKillop College provides counselling services to all students and families within the school. Three counsellors, employed by CatholicCare, work across both campuses.

The counsellors have contact with students regarding a range of issues and for varying lengths of time. Some students may only require a one off meeting; others may be engaged over weeks, terms or even years.

Some typical concerns that counsellors work with include: anger, anxiety, behavioural problems, depression, eating problems, family breakdown and family conflict, grief and loss, learning and educational challenges, parenting challenges, peer and other social relationships, school avoidance, stress and study skills. As well as individual sessions with students, counsellors can run groups, do family work, consult with parents and teachers and make referrals to other services and supports.

Counsellors are not employed as specialists in any area and at times will suggest referrals for specialist services. Counsellors also do not provide cognitive or learning assessments or court reports. Families requiring these will be referred to another service.

All Student and Family counsellors are professionally qualified Social Workers or Psychologists who participate in regular clinical supervision and professional development. Student and Family Counsellors subscribe to a set of professional ethics that include duty of care and respect for the individual's right to privacy and confidentiality. The counsellors' obligation is to ensure the safety, wellbeing and confidentiality of the student they are working with. All counsellors are mandated to report any disclosure or sign of abuse (including self-harm) or neglect to Child Protection Services.

## BOOKING AN APPOINTMENT

Students can make an appointment to see a counsellor by filling out a slip available either from student reception or from outside the counselling offices, and returning it either directly to us or to student reception. Offices are located at the end of the corridor to the left of student reception at Wanniasa, and in C block at Isabella.

Alternatively, teachers, coordinators and parents are all welcome to make a referral for counselling on behalf of a student. However, the student must provide consent before the referral can be made. Parents are also welcome to contact the counsellors directly if they have any concerns or wish to discuss their child.

At times, there can be a waiting period of up to two weeks for initial appointments. However, we always endeavour to see students as soon as possible and prioritise urgent cases.

Our counsellors for 2017 are Cate Robson and Danielle Mayer (Wanniasa) and Linda Norris (Isabella).

Current counselling hours are:

### WANNIASSA CAMPUS

Monday: Cate and Danielle  
Tuesday: Cate (PM only) and Danielle  
Wednesday: Cate (AM only)  
Thursday: Cate  
Friday: Cate and Danielle

### ISABELLA CAMPUS

Monday: Linda  
Tuesday: Linda  
Wednesday: Linda (AM only)  
Thursday: Linda  
Friday: no counsellor

### Privacy and Confidentiality

Contact with counsellors is carried out in a way that ensures as much privacy for students and families as possible. All contact with a school counsellor is confidential, and no information is discussed with parents, friends or teachers unless permission is given by the student, or the counsellor has serious concerns about the safety of the client. This will be discussed in more detail at the first meeting with the counsellor.

### Contact details

Wanniasa: 6209 5268 (Cate) or 6209 5234 (Danielle)  
Isabella: 6209 0132 (Linda)  
Email:  
cate.robson@mackillop.act.edu.au  
danielle.mayer@mackillop.act.edu.au  
linda.norris@mackillop.act.edu.au

Remember, you don't have to worry about things alone!

*Cate Robson, Danielle Mayer, Linda Norris - College Counsellors*

# English News

## Wanniasa

I am very excited to be taking up the baton from Kathleen Piper following her success as English Coordinator and look forward to building on all of her hard work to deliver an improved and enjoyable English Curriculum.

Through the units that the students will be studying, we are hoping to create more globally-aware and socially-conscious students that take an active interest in the world around them. As a department, we are all passionate about sharing the love of English and reading to our students, but more than that we want to develop their questioning, reading and writing skills. What better way to do that than with a book? It's not just about the enjoyment of English but providing them with the real-world skills to operate effectively and productively once they advance beyond these years.

We will be introducing English Tutorials on a Monday afternoons from 3:20 – 4:20 in the library starting in Week 2. The tutorials are a drop-in session for students who have questions regarding their assignments or just want extra support or guidance with their English work.

My email is [Lyndall.Baker@mackillop.act.edu.au](mailto:Lyndall.Baker@mackillop.act.edu.au) and I am happy to discuss any queries you may have with regards to English. I look forward to a productive 2017!

*Lyndall Baker, English Coordinator (Wanniasa)*

## Isabella

This year we have altered our assessment program such that students have three final pieces to submit over the course of the semester. We are focussing our attention on inquiry-based learning; class content and formative assessment is centred on engaging students and developing students' questioning, researching, reading and writing skills. It's a change in direction which fulfils all the requirements of BSSS and the new Australian curriculum, while easing the pressure on students regarding assessment burdens and increasing the need for student attendance to all classes.

Students' academic development and wellbeing are important to us and as such I would like to take a moment to bring three key essential services to your attention.

**Ms Marilyn Veech:** our teacher-librarian is an excellent resource for students wishing to start any information gathering activity. Ms Veech can teach students how to access databases, how to narrow searches on the internet and most importantly assist students in identifying which pieces of information are relevant for the occasion.

**Mrs Petrina Mansfield** is our Learning Commons teacher and is located in the library to assist any student seeking her attention. Mrs Mansfield is especially skilled in helping students access tasks, break them down to the foundation, and guide students in beginning the task in a structured manner.

Of course, the **classroom teacher** is always available to assist students and can meet at mutually convenient times. We offer a weekly afterschool **tutorial service** and students are invited to attend tutorials for assistance with assessment items and classroom content. The schedule for the tutorials is posted in the IRC, in each of the teaching blocks, and on the B Block (English) notice board. If parents and students want an individual copy of the schedule, I can email this out on request.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at [nicola.mclennan@mackillop.act.edu.au](mailto:nicola.mclennan@mackillop.act.edu.au) or 6209 0142 and I will return your email or phone call at the earliest possible convenience.

*Nicola McLennan, English Coordinator (Isabella)*

**St Mary MacKillop College**

# **AUDITIONS**

**2017 Musical Production**



## **Information Evening:**

**Thursday 9 February**

**7.00pm – 8.30pm**

**Information for parents and students about:**

- \* Roles, Auditions and Rehearsals**

- \* Time and Financial commitment**

- \* Performance dates**

- \* Community involvement**

**An audition pack will be distributed at the information evening. Sign up on the night and receive everything you need to prepare for a successful audition.**

**AUDITIONS DATES: 16, 17, 23, 24 February**

**3.45pm – 5.30pm**

**See Mrs Jiear for further information.**

# Year 7 Concert Band Application Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PC (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you own your own instrument or would you like to hire one?

☐ I own my own instrument. It is a \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I would like to hire an instrument. Instrument you would like to play:

First choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Second choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Third choice: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please enrol my child in the school instrumental tuition program

☐ My child has tuition outside of school and does not need to be enrolled in the school program

Students will try out each of their three choices (depending upon availability). The instrument that is most suited to the student will be allocated to him/her. Hired instruments will be issued on a 'first-in, first-served' basis. If the school does not have the instrument you wish to hire, you can arrange hire or purchase through a music store.

For parents: I give permission for my child to join St Mary MacKillop Year 7 Concert Band. I agree to enrol my child in tuition and to assist him/her to arrive at school in time to attend band rehearsals. I agree to my child's participation in future band performances. I understand that there is a fee attached to the hiring of College instruments.

Parent/Caregiver signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

*Forms should be returned to Mrs Jiear - Performing Arts Coordinator.*