

ST MARY MACKILLOP COLLEGE
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The Principal's Letter

Lord, we ask for your guidance and support for us on our Lenten journey. Amen

Dear families, students and friends,

THE YEAR 11 RETREAT

Congratulations to Mrs Anna Keppel, Year 11 Coordinator, to her Pastoral team of teachers, and to Year 11 students who have enjoyed a very positive experience on Retreat at Merroo Retreat Centre at Kurrajong in NSW.

I was pleased to be able to drive up to Retreat yesterday afternoon and to have an evening meal with the year group and to talk to them after dinner. It is difficult to be critical of any student at MacKillop for very long, but this year group impressed me with their level of engagement, commitment, and spirit of cooperation. Taking 240 students interstate for an overnight trip is not everyone's cup of tea, but I am always impressed with the worth of the exercise and the spirit of cooperation students and staff display.

The Retreat Centre itself is undergoing extensive refurbishments, which, to be frank, are long overdue, and the College has already give clear feedback about the standard of accommodation offered this year. I say this to all members of our community in the interests of transparency – not to in any way retract from the overall quality of experience for Year 11.

REGISTRATION AND ACCREDITATION PANEL VISIT

Senior Catholic Education staff, peer principals, and DET representatives will be visiting the College over three days next week to review the school's compliance with legislation, policies and procedures, teaching and learning programs, and the strategic direction of the College over the next three to five years. This is a major administrative challenge for MacKillop in terms of providing opportunities for this large panel to meet as many staff and support staff as possible over the three days. It is an opportunity for MacKillop to showcase many of our practices that are allowing us to build a strong sense of identity, improve student achievement, and to attract and invest in our staff. The panel will be meeting with student leaders and captains, visiting many classes on both campuses, and will attend a board meeting to engage with parents. MacKillop is well placed for this panel visit and is keen to seek feedback and recommendations to carry us forward.

The outcome of the Registration Panel Report will be published in future newsletters.

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS DINNER, FRIDAY 10 MARCH

This year was MacKillop's turn to host the awards dinner, which was done last Friday night at our Café Bella. Some 60 staff and students, under the guidance of Mrs Janelle Maas, were involved in providing the meal, music, light and sound, and ushering guests through our campus. I've been pleased to receive very positive remarks from the guests, many of whom were recipients of awards for outstanding contribution to Catholic Education. The highest point of praise was for the quality of the meal and, more importantly, the confident and welcoming nature of our students. Congratulations to MacKillop award winners Louise Davidson, Di Lovekin, Trevor Fritzlaff, and Bernie Sullivan, and to teachers Joel Coates and Hannah Baillie who were inducted into Catholic Education at the Mass. This was a real highlight of MacKillop's calendar for Term 1.

Yours sincerely in St Mary MacKillop,



MICHAEL LEE
COLLEGE PRINCIPAL



College News



GRIP Leadership Day

On Monday 6 March, the Wanniasa SRC team participated in the GRIP leadership conference; aimed at giving young leaders an insight into what being a successful leader looks like. There was a great community atmosphere with leaders from a variety of schools from the ACT and interstate represented. We were taught about the fundamentals of leadership, along with other skills such as overcoming challenges, getting projects off the ground and making them effective. The GRIP team were fantastic in helping student leaders understand their role within their school setting in interesting and funny ways. The Wanniasa SRC leadership team took a lot from the day, both in developing individual leadership skills and as a team. Our intention is to build on this knowledge to motivate and focus us throughout the year to successfully lead the MacKillop community.

*Maddison Coles and Darcy Kinsella
Wanniasa Campus Captains*



Cooma Netball Gala Day

On Wednesday 10 March, 50 Year 7 and 8 girls travelled to Cooma to represent MacKillop at the Cooma Netball Gala Day. The girls played against St Patrick's Cooma, Monaro High School and Snowy Mountain Grammar School. They competed with great dedication and are congratulated on their performance. Special thanks to Maddie Barbic, Keely Harrison, Shawna Gray, Lauren Philips, Giann Rosin, Ashley Sencor, Jessica Povey and Ashleigh Steinke for helping with coaching and umpiring.

Sally Cunningham

For the Attention of Parents of Year 9

In preparation for completion of student work online, the College will be checking that all Year 9 students have a functioning device. Could you please ask your sons/daughters if the device hired from the College is damaged, to see the IT Department promptly prior to Wednesday. On Wednesday, students will need to bring earphones.

Colleen Kain and Nathan Wood, Year 9 Pastoral Coordinators

AFL Umpiring for girls

AFL Canberra is running a female umpiring program in conjunction with MacKillop! The program will run on Saturday 18 March from 10am-3pm at the AFL Office at Woden Tradies. Information is available through Mr Nathan Wood: nathan.wood@mackillop.act.edu.au.

Wanniasa Campus Library

A focus for the Wanniasa Campus Library is reading. Each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at recess, the students are encouraged to come to the library to read - no chess, no board games - just reading. During RAGE (Read and Get Enjoyment) sessions in the library it has been suggested to the students to join Libraries ACT. If you are a member of Libraries ACT you have access to Books, Overdrive ebooks, Zinio digital magazines, databases such as Britannica and so much more. To join Libraries ACT, simply go to http://www.library.act.gov.au/how_to_use_the_library/join_the_library.

Cathryn Thomas, Teacher Librarian

School Fees

Fees for Term 1 should now be finalised unless paying by Direct Debit or other approved arrangement. Any outstanding fees should be paid immediately.

Please note the College no longer accepts cheques.

We are now able to email Term Statements. If you would like to switch off your paper statements and receive Fee Statements by email, please send an email to me at michelle.predovan@mackillop.act.edu.au from the email address you would like to receive your statement.

If you require more information regarding Direct Debit arrangements or other approved payment methods or are experiencing difficulty paying the fees please contact the Fees Office.

Michelle Predovan, Fees Manager

Upcoming Events

PLEASE NOTE: Term 2 will no longer begin on Monday 24 April. It will now commence on Wednesday 26 April.

MARCH
WEDNESDAY

22

• Year 7
Community Day

MARCH
THURSDAY

30

• College Athletics
Carnival

APRIL
MONDAY

03

• Parent/Teacher
Interviews (W)*

APRIL
TUESDAY

04

• Parent/Teacher
Interviews (I)*

APRIL
WEDNESDAY

05

• Parent/Teacher
Interviews (W)*

APRIL
THURSDAY

06

• Parent/Teacher
Interviews (I)*

APRIL
FRIDAY

07

• Final day of
Term 1
• Easter Liturgies

APRIL
WEDNESDAY

26

• Term 2
commences
• ANZAC
Ceremonies

*Information for Parent/Teacher Interviews will be distributed by email by Friday 24 March. Please contact Student Records if you do not receive your Parent/Teacher Online (PTO) details by this date.



Pastoral Care

Mrs Monica Bailey,
AP Pastoral Care

Status Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have this week been presented Status Awards at the Wanniasa Campus Assembly this week:
Bronze Status: Taylor Armstrong (8AF), Olivia Seary (8W3)
Silver Status: Max Leonard (8A3), Jordyn Parritt (8A1) and Samantha Urbaniak (8F1)

Chewing Gum

Chewing gum is being brought to school by a number of students on both Campuses. This is leading to increasing issues of chewing gum being left in various locations around the school and not being disposed of correctly. All students have been reminded that chewing gum is not permitted at school and after-school detentions will be issued to repeat offenders.

The Journey through Adolescence

This program for parents of adolescents will be offered by CatholicCare commencing Monday 20 March 2017 from 6-9pm at 57 Hicks Street, Red Hill. The course is three hours per week over a three-week period. This course is suitable for parents of children in Years 5-12. Bookings are essential. Please contact 1800 068 698 free call and see flyer attached.

Parenting ideas

The article for parents, *Digital social skills*, supports parents in preparing their children for positive social interactions online. It highlights the need to reinforce positive digital social skills that maintains the respect of others.



Smith Family Reading Program

The College has again been approached by The Smith Family requesting volunteers from Years 8-10 to take up the opportunity to become a buddy in their *student2student* Program. This peer to peer 18 week mentoring program invites students to provide an invaluable experience and the opportunity to help disadvantaged students improve their reading skills.

Students in the program will receive free training by specialist staff, are provided with a complete tool kit and are fully supported during the program. A representative for The Smith Family spoke at the Wanniasa Campus Assembly this week and interested students from either campus are encouraged to speak with Mrs Bailey for further details.

Enrolment Information Sessions

1 MAY

THE YEAR 7 2018 INFORMATION NIGHT

6.30PM, WANNIASSA CAMPUS. INCLUDES TOURS OF CAMPUS.

5 MAY

TRY MACKILLOP DAY (FOR YEAR 6 STUDENTS)

ONLINE REGISTRATIONS OPEN ON MONDAY 27 MARCH.

10 MAY

THE YEAR 11 2018 INFORMATION NIGHT

6PM, ISABELLA CAMPUS. INCLUDES CAREERS EXPO.

Community News

Corpus Christi Baptism

Do you or your child have a desire to celebrate Baptism or other sacraments? Corpus Christi Parish will soon be running a program for parents and children to prepare for the sacrament of Baptism. Please contact the Parish on 6291 6688 for information.

Cerebral Palsy Ignite Walk

The brand new challenge event, the Ignite Walk, takes place in Canberra on Friday 28 April. In the Ignite Walk, families walk and glow as they make their way through a fully accessible (7km, 14km, or 21km) track past Lake Burley Griffin and Lennox Gardens. There will be live entertainment, installations, neon face painting, and music as you sparkle in the dark! Visit www.ignitewalk.com.au.

The ATOM Photo Comp 2017

Entries are now open for the ATOM Photo Comp 2017. The competition now includes an 'Open' category for adults! Entries close Friday 1 September 2017. Visit atomphotocomp.org for informations, competition guidelines, or to submit your entry!

Queanbeyan Whites Rugby

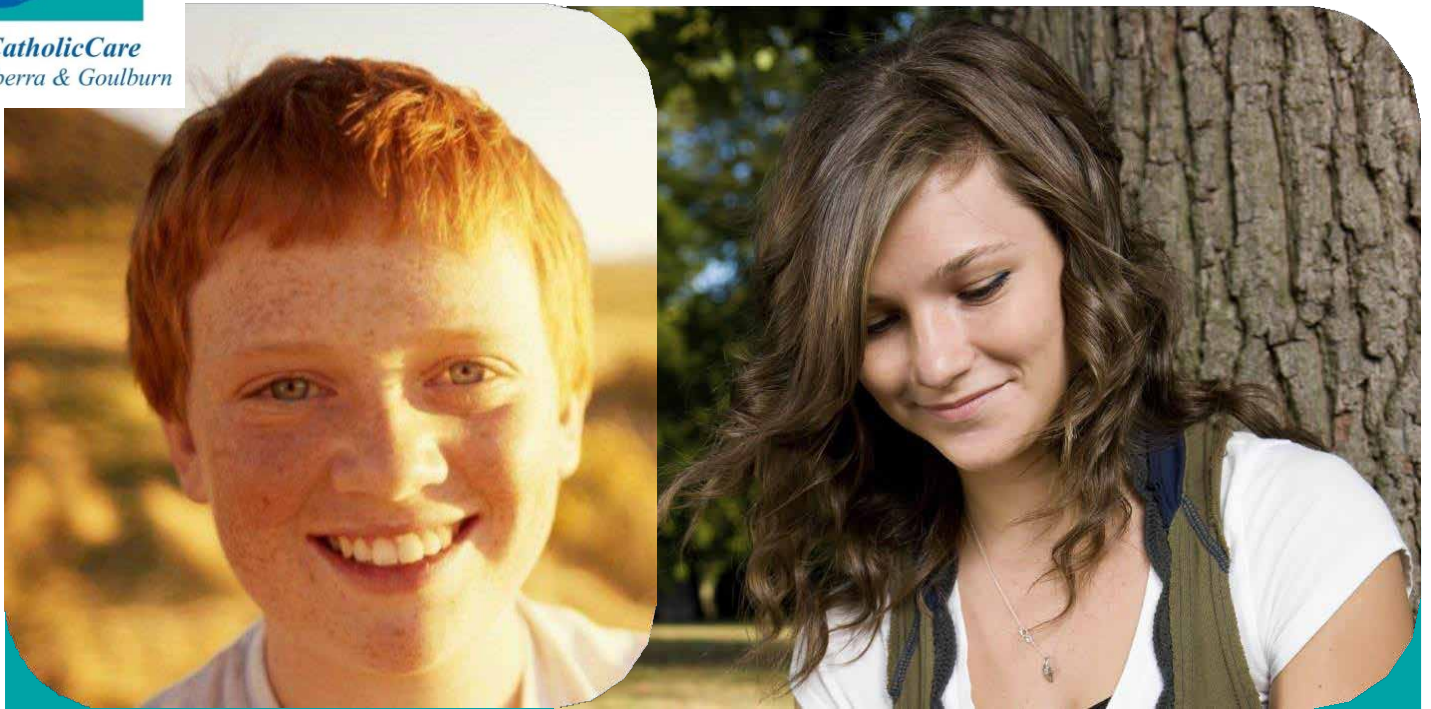
Come and join the Whites in 2017! Whites are recruiting for Boys U13s-U18s and Girls (10-a-side) U13s-U17s. For information, email info@whitesjuniorrugby.org.au or visit www.whitesjuniorrugby.org.au.

Try AFL Clinic for Girls

A FREE Come and Try AFL Clinic for girls takes place THIS EVENING at Reid Oval from 5pm.



CatholicCare
Canberra & Goulburn



The Journey THROUGH ADOLESCENCE

The Program is called The Resourceful Adolescent Program for Parents (RAP – P). This program is suitable for parents and carers of children attending primary school years 5 & 6 and secondary school students attending years 7–12.

RAP – P will help you:

- Help your teenager to develop a healthy self-esteem
- Help your teenager to gain independence while still feeling safe and part of the family
- Manage your stress so you can do your best job as a parent
- Prevent and manage conflict with you teenager
- Promote harmony in your family

The course is offered 3 hours per week over a 3 week period.

DATES: 20th March, 27th March & 3rd April

TIME: 6pm—9pm

VENUE: 57 Hicks Street, Red Hill

FEE: \$80 (Concessions available)

Fee includes light supper & course materials

Bookings Essential
Contact

1800 068 698



Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Catherine Gerhardt

Digital social skills

Just as we teach children social skills for real life, there are important social skills for the digital world. It is imperative that parents teach children to follow a few basic rules.

The internet is a portal into some of the most amazing places, and just like any new place we visit, we are likely to make a few social stumbles. If travelling the world, every culture you visit would have its own social nuances that you are likely to have to work your way around. It would be easy to misunderstand what others say or take offence to something that was not intended.

Young people, at the best of times, are still learning social rules and developing their critical thinking skills around collective interactions. Well-meaning personalities can make all kinds of mistakes when they enter this new online culture.

As parents we want to do whatever it takes to minimise the mistakes our children make online. Netiquette is a set of general guidelines for cyberspace behaviour. Here are some basic principles parents can use to help children solve their own 'netiquette' dilemmas.

Be kind Remember the human behind every screen. Every user is an independent person with individual thoughts and

feelings. It can be easy to misunderstand another person's intentions or even be rude to others when you are not interacting with them in person and given the grace of viewing facial expressions and emotions. Perhaps the best mantra we can go back to as parents is the golden rule of "Treat others how you would like to be treated." Developing empathy and trying to see that comment, post or photo from many different perspectives takes practice. How would you feel if someone said that to you? Treating others with respect is paramount. Yes, there may be times when you might have to stick up for yourself, however it needs to be done in a responsible and respectful way.

If you wouldn't do it there, don't do it here Social standards apply to both online and offline spaces, and standards of online behaviour should be consistent with real life expectations. As parents we put many rules and expectations in place as to how we expect our children to behave in a public place. I know I expect my children to show respect, use their manners, help others out, practice kind language, etc.

Online is the biggest public place your child will ever find themselves, which is all the more reason to work on exceeding those standards of behaviour.

Respect privacy With the world wide web being a public place, privacy is paramount. Learning how to protect personal information and the importance of looking at a website's privacy policy can help develop skills around internet privacy. Asking for permission before creating accounts and downloading files, strategies for identifying scams and limiting the type of information kids give about themselves or others can help set a strong foundation for their digital lives. Children do not always appreciate that they may be putting their information in jeopardy, because the warning signs are not always obvious. Respecting other people's right to privacy is also crucial; don't tell other people's stories, spread rumours or give away personal details without permission.

more on page 2 >>>



Want more ideas to help you raise confident kids and resilient young people? Subscribe to Happy Kids newsletter, my **FREE** weekly email parenting guide at parentingideas.com.au. You'll be so glad you did.





... Digital social skills ...

Develop their internal filter

Parents may feel that they have some control over their child's use of technology and many use programs and apps that allow for monitoring and filtering content. Despite the best intentions, there are times when filters are re-set, not set up correctly or not even in place – for example when your child goes to their friend's house, gets online and no safety mechanisms have been established. What this means is that we need to help our children develop their internal filter, as this is the one they will always have and may need to rely on. Research is clear that the best way to teach morals and ethics is through example.

Teach them to do the right thing

Parents can nurture moral principles that will guide their children to stand up for their beliefs and act right even without us. Know what you stand for so that your child knows. Parents with clearly identified moral convictions are more likely to raise children that do the right thing. Pursue opportunities to look for moral issues and talk about them as they come up: from TV shows and news events to situations at home, school, and friends. Discuss with your child how you feel about the issue and why.

Be upstanding There will be times online when your child will have to be brave and stand up for others, when they will have to go against social pressure to do what is right. When someone they know is being deliberately upset or harassed by another person, expect your child to move from bystander to upstander, because

this is the right thing to do. In most cases many people contribute to the cyberbullying. Many know about the situation, but choose not to get involved. Encourage your child to stand up, speak up and act up against online abuse. They can support the target by letting them know they are there and provide empathy. Encourage your child to report what is happening to a trusted adult; someone who they believe will listen and has the skills, desire, and authority to help.

Technology is moving forward quickly, and it continues to evolve at an unprecedented pace. Taking the time to impart digital social skills at an early age is vital for our children as they move from playground friends to social media and gaming friendships.

These simple rules apply all along the developmental spectrum. They also give us a clear understanding of what we can do as parents, to help our children manage a positive digital reputation.

Catherine Gerhardt

TOP TIPS FOR PARENTS

- 1 PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT** keep reinforcing positive digital social skills and a strong foundation will be laid.
- 2 COACH** about privacy in a public place.
- 3 FOLLOW** the social code of good people.
- 4 MANNERS** are necessary.
- 5 COMPLIMENTARY** conduct is proper.
- 6** We are **FREE** to follow group rules. We are not **FREE** to hurt others.
- 7** Encourage the **THINK** rules.

THINK

Using the THINK rule can go a long way in practicing digital social skills. It is a checklist of questions that children must go through before they post or comment online. Is it True? Is it Helpful? Is it Inspiring? Is it Necessary? Is it Kind? Created to emphasise care online, it applies to real world engagement as well.

Catherine Gerhardt is a dedicated advocate of critical thinking skills in children and young people. As a parent of school aged children she understands the commitments and challenges parents face ensuring they provide the right information to young people in a way that empowers them to develop their personal and social capabilities. Catherine is a certified training provider through the Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner.



Want more ideas to help you raise confident kids and resilient young people? Subscribe to Happy Kids newsletter, my **FREE** weekly email parenting guide at parentingideas.com.au. You'll be so glad you did.

