



**MacKillop**  
St Mary MacKillop College Canberra

COLLEGE  
NEWSLETTER

**16**

NO.  
13 OCTOBER 2017

## In this edition.

### Captain Elections

Our 2018 leaders have been chosen. Mr Lee has the names of our six successful candidates.

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### Spring Zing

The Year 10 Spring Zing took place in Week 9 last term with the theme "Dream big, laugh often."

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### Trip to Italy

A small group of students visited our sister school in Italy - and took in the sights, of course.

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## Coming Up.

WEDNESDAY

# 18 OCT

- Outdoor Ed Camp departs

WEDNESDAY

# 25 OCT

- Senior Hospitality Parent Dinner

WEDNESDAY

# 01 NOV

- Campus Captain Speeches and Elections

TUESDAY

# 07 NOV

- Year 10 Exams commence

WEDNESDAY

# 08 NOV

- ISART Exhibition Opening

TUESDAY

# 14 NOV

- Year 12 Breakfast
- Year 12 Assembly

## Contact Us.



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PO Box 1211  
Tuggeranong ACT 2901



Mackinnon Street, **Wanniassa** (Years 7-9)  
Ellerston Avenue, **Isabella Plains** (Years 10-12)



*Lord, we give thanks for the life and example of St John XXIII, the Pope of humility, wisdom, and the Second Vatican Council. Amen.*

## The Principal's Letter.

Dear families, students and friends,

### COLLEGE LEADERS

Although the current College and Portfolio Captains are reluctant to exit stage left at this stage, all of you will be delighted, I am sure, to join with me in congratulating the six students who have been elected to lead in 2018: Sarah Purcell and Thomas Couper-Logan (College Captains), Elle Caldwell (Faith and Community), Sophie Highmore (Performing Arts), Ryan Badowski (Sustainability), and Lochlan Hattch (Sport).

The courage and enthusiasm of all other candidates to put their name forward should also be commended.

The new leaders will be sworn in at the 20th Anniversary Celebration Mass on 20 March 2018. The captains were warmly congratulated at the junior assembly on Wednesday.

### STAFF CHANGES

At the end of last term, the Director of Student Wellbeing, Mrs Isabelle Ensue, successfully applied for the newly created position of Languages Coordinator at the College. Her skill and enthusiasm for the role will add to the profile of languages at MacKillop.

Mr Ben Antoniak will act as Director of Student Wellbeing for this term. Mr Antoniak is currently head of PE and has given MacKillop lengthy and distinguished service as a Year Coordinator and in the areas of curriculum and co-curricula leadership. These are key roles at the College and I congratulate both staff on their appointment.

### SPRING ZING

Congratulations to Year 10 for a very successful Spring Zing at the end of last term. The Tuggeranong Vikings Club proved to be an excellent and generous venue and the event itself was marked by a strong sense of community spirit, imagination, and fun. Pleasingly, the costumes worn by the students (and staff) reflected imagination rather than expense. With the growing cost of events like the Year 12 Formal, the Spring Zing concept of low-budget and high energy must be a welcome one for families as well as their children. Year 10 is a wonderful year group and I would like to thank them for their conduct on the night.

Yours in St Mary MacKillop,

MICHAEL LEE  
COLLEGE PRINCIPAL

*"You will be delighted, I am sure, to join with me in congratulating the six students who have been elected to lead in 2018."*



# College News.



## Spring Zing

St Mary MacKillop College's Year 10 students and their teachers celebrated the annual Spring Zing event at the Tuggeranong Vikings in Greenway on Friday 15 September.

The night was well attended and involved music, fancy dress, dancing, food, drink, a lolly bar, and a lot of fun. The night also featured a brief appearance from MacKillop's own comedian, Mr Jeremy Margosis.

Students dressed to the theme 'Dream Big, Laugh Often', with students dressing as sports stars, Disney princesses, TV characters, animals, rockstars, and more!

Thank you to all students for your good behaviour, enthusiasm, the efforts you made on your costumes, and the good spirit you brought to the occasion. It was truly a night to remember!





## College News.



## The MacKillop Trip to Italy

During the recent holidays, six students, accompanied by Mr Johnson and Ms De Ambrosis, journeyed to Italy. The trip took us to major historical sites, such as the Colosseum, the Pantheon and the Vatican, as well as cities including Verona, Venice and Florence.

While our time in these places was splendid, I believe that I speak for all when I say that the most rewarding and enjoyable part of the trip was in Padua, with our respective hosts, who had previously been here. Our friendship and their hospitality (and food) equated to a marvellous experience.

I would also like to take this moment to thank Mr Peter Johnson for all of his work in planning this trip and ensuring that it went ahead with so few people and Ms Lyndall De Ambrosis for her efforts as well.



*Dominic Strmota*

Year 11 student

## College News.



## Pierre de Coubertin Award

Congratulations to Year 12 student Molly Philpot on her nomination and receipt of a 2017 Pierre de Coubertin Award by the Australian Olympic Committee. The Pierre de Coubertin Award recognises students who have participated actively in the school Physical Education program with a consistently positive attitude; and demonstrate the attributes consistent with the fundamental aims of the Olympic movement. Molly was nominated for this award based on her tremendous commitment to her Senior Physical Education studies, completing this throughout Year 11 and 12 along with having represented the College in numerous sporting teams each year.

As part of this award Molly and the other recipients from the ACT attended an 'Olympic Academy' day at the Australian Institute of Sport participating in a variety of workshops and presentations by Olympians Lauren Wells and Shelley Watts on what it takes to be an Olympic athlete and life balance.

Congratulations Molly on an honour thoroughly deserved and thank you for your commitment and support of sport and Physical Education at St Mary MacKillop College.

*Dale Argall*  
PE & Health Coordinator

## Sport News

### ACT FOOTBALL (SOCCER) CHAMPIONS

On 15 August, the Year 7/8 girls MacKillop Football team participated in the Southside Football Tournament. It was a great day for MacKillop as the team won the tournament undefeated without a single goal conceded through the whole day. As a result, the team got the chance to take part in the ACT Finals Day on 15 September. The girls came across more challenging teams throughout the day, but still came out on top. The MacKillop community would like to thank all the parents who made it possible for their daughters to participate, and congratulations to all the girls who played and made the tournament a fun and exciting day.

Congratulations also to the Year 9/10 girls, who finished as ACT Champions as well and the Year 7/8 boys who finished in 2nd place.

*Mazen Fields*

Year 8 student



### INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT

Maddie Prescott (Year 11) has been selected to play in the Australian Women's Ice Hockey League for the Adelaide Rush over the summer.

## What's been happening?



### WE RETURNED FOR TERM 4

The well-deserved break for schools came to an end when staff and students returned to MacKillop for Term 4 this week. We wish all members of the community the very best for the term ahead.



### SENIORS VISIT WANNIASSA

The presence of senior students at the junior campus has grown in 2018, with a number of visits by Year 12 classes to help with lessons or mentor students. This week, the Senior Social and Community Work class visited Wanniasa, providing a rich experience for both juniors and seniors.

## Academic News.

### End of Semester Examinations

Semester exams form an important part of the teaching and learning, and assessment and reporting cycle. The upcoming exams are an opportunity for all students to demonstrate their learning over the semester.

Students can maximise their achievement by:

- Creating and using an organised, regular study routine
- Seeking clarification when understanding or learning is challenged
- Practising the skills and knowledge that will be tested
- Studying in a comfortable space with minimal distraction
- A regular sleep routine
- Fuelling their bodies with nutritious food
- Balancing study time with exercise and relaxation time

You will find the Semester 2 Exam Timetables in this newsletter. Year 11 and 12 students and parents will shortly receive an email outlining Exam Guidelines. These guidelines ensure that all students have an opportunity to do their best and are underpinned by BSSS principles.

*Maia O'Donnell*

Assistant Principal Curriculum (Acting)



### Law Scholarship

Year 12 legal studies student Ingrid Francis is one of six ACT College students shortlisted for the Snedden Hall & Gallop University Scholarship for 2017.

On 11 October 2017, Ingrid presented in the Moot Court of the University of Canberra on the topic of "copyright in the digital age". The presentation was judged by Dr Alison McLennan (Assistant Professor, School of Law & Justice, University of Canberra), Murray Rankin (Chairman, Snedden Hall & Gallop Lawyers) and Suzanne Sharwood (Senior Associate, Snedden Hall & Gallop Lawyers). The judges noted that they were struck by the high standard set by all the students.

*Peter Johnson*

SOSE Teacher



### Lit Society

On 18 September, Lit Society conducted an expedition to the UNSW Canberra to witness their current book's author, Isobelle Carmody, speak. As an Australian author, Carmody is an inspiration to all, and her speech was heart-felt throughout. She spoke of her experiences growing up, her inspiration for her most brilliant novels, and her smashing advice to aspiring authors and readers alike. For Lit Society, the experience was unforgettable, and one they hope will stimulate others to join them in their not-so-fiction adventures!

*Jade Paton*

Year 10 student



## Important Notices.

### ACTION Buses

This is a reminder that the new Transport Canberra Timetable started operation on Saturday 7 October 2017. All details are available on the Transport Canberra website, [transport.act.gov.au](http://transport.act.gov.au).

*Monica Bailey*

Assistant Principal Pastoral Care (Acting)

### School Fees

Term 4 Fees have now been sent out. Fees are to be paid by 27 October 2017 unless paying by Direct Debit or other approved method. If you would like more information regarding Direct Debit payments or have any queries regarding your fees, please contact the Fees Office.

If you would prefer to have your fees sent electronically please send an email to [michelle.predovan@mackillop.act.edu.au](mailto:michelle.predovan@mackillop.act.edu.au) from the email address you would like to have your statement sent to.

Please note we now accept payment through the QKR! App.

*Michelle Predovan*

Fees Manager

### Careers News

#### MBA GROUP TRAINING

Master Builders Group Training is holding an information night for potential new apprentices and their parents on Wednesday 18 October at the MBA Group Training Skills Centre from 4.30-5.30pm. For information, visit [www.mba.org.au](http://www.mba.org.au) and search under Employment/Apprenticeships.

#### ANU TUCKWELL SCHOLARSHIPS

Year 11 students are encouraged to consider applying for a Tuckwell Scholarship at ANU. This process will begin in March next year. Visit <http://tuckwell.anu.edu.au> for information.

*Kasen Hundy*

Careers + VET Coordinator

## Month of the Rosary.



### About the Rosary

The Rosary has a rich sometimes disputed history. Some believe that its origins stretch back as far as the late 3rd Century and gradually developed into its current form over time. Others believe it was a gift from St Dominic in the 13th Century, revealed to him through an apparition of the Virgin Mary. Others still claim that its origins lie further to the East in the same period. One thing is certain however; prayers contained within it are as old as Christianity itself, the most obvious being the prayer Christ gave us (Our Father/Lord's Prayer) and the prayer of devotion—or more appropriately the “angelical salutation”—to Mary (Hail Mary). The Rosary is recognised as a uniquely Catholic form of prayer.

Yet over the over the centuries the Rosary has become much more than a request for intercession, albeit that it remains its primary purpose. MacKillop itself has utilised the Rosary's distinct tradition for intercession but also to come together as community, especially in times of sorrow. As ‘Christian Meditation’ has increased in popularity once more, there is also recognition of the ‘mantric’ nature of the Rosary and its powerful effect to calm the mind (and heart).

October is the month of the Holy Rosary and St Mary MacKillop always celebrates this tradition by saying the Rosary in October on Thursday afternoons in the chapels of both the Isabella and Wanniasa campuses from 3.30 pm. The Rosary takes between 15 and 20 minutes. Whether you are staff, a student or a parent, with no knowledge of Rosary, of a different faith or no faith at all; you are most welcome to come to this reflective and prayerful moment together.

*Jonathan Moyle*

Assistant Principal - Faith Leadership

## Pastoral Care.

### Student Leadership Elections

The Term 4 Pastoral Program theme is Community Service and Leadership, incorporating the continuing process of electing student leaders for 2017. Nominations forms for Year 12 2018 College House Captains are due on Monday and nominations from available for collection from Pastoral Care Coordinators on Wednesday 19 October for Year 7-9 on Wednesday 18 October. The nomination period closes on:

- Monday 16 October for current Year 11 students
- Wednesday 25 October for current Year 8 students
- Friday 27 October for students currently in Year 7 and 9

*Monica Bailey*

Assistant Principal Pastoral Care (Acting)

### Status Awards

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

Bronze Status: Joshua Campbell (7E3), James Cochrane (7E2), William Dolbel (7E2), Owen Gair (7E2), Chiara Hackney-Britt (7AF).

Silver Status: Carly Lyons (7AF), Aaron Hilborn (8A3).

*Monica Bailey*

Assistant Principal Pastoral Care (Acting)

### Parentingideas.

The article below "Failure! What a genius idea!" highlights the importance of teaching student's that making mistakes is a crucial part of learning. Although it feels uncomfortable people need to fail more if they are to succeed and this needs to occur in a supportive environment.

## Community News.

### ST PATRICK'S COMMUNITY FAIR

St Patrick's Parish School Community Council invites you to the Community Fair on Saturday 4 November from 8.30am-2.30pm at Centennial Park, Cooma. With local and boutique stalls for the family to enjoy, this should be a fun day out!

### CANBERRA SCHOOL OF TENNIS CARNIVALE

The Tennis Carnivale takes place this Saturday 14 October from 1-4pm at Weston Creek Tennis Club. Try the latest programs or take part in free coaching clinics. Bookings are essential: [csot@grapevine.com.au](mailto:csot@grapevine.com.au) or contact Mark on 0408 486 191.

### TENNIS CANBERRA

Term 4 coaching programs are underway! Ages 6-16 are welcome to learn from Tennis Australia Hot Shots and Junior Development coaches. Eight venues to choose from around Canberra. [www.tenniscanberra.com.au/junior-tennis](http://www.tenniscanberra.com.au/junior-tennis)

### TUGGERANONG UNITED 2018 WOMEN'S NPL

TUFC has trials for the 2018 soccer season over five Wednesday evenings commencing 8 November. U13, 15, and 17 from 5.30pm and Seniors/Reserve from 6.30pm. Contact Michael on 0438 327 155 or via [wplcoach@tufc.org.au](mailto:wplcoach@tufc.org.au).

### SMITH FAMILY SAVER PLUS PROGRAM

Can Saver Plus assist you with high school costs? Join Saver Plus and match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to \$500 for education costs including school uniforms and text books; computers, laptops and tablets; excursions and camps; sports equipment, uniforms and lessons; and music tuition and instrument hire. You may be eligible if you have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, are at least 18 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your partner), and have a child at school or study yourself.

Contact Kathleen Watson at [kathleen.watson@thesmithfamily.com.au](mailto:kathleen.watson@thesmithfamily.com.au) or (02) 6283 7606 or enquire online at [www.saverplus.org.au](http://www.saverplus.org.au).

### LIVING THE GOSPEL TODAY - GALA DINNER

St Gregory's Parish, Queanbeyan is hosting the 'Living the Gospel today - Next steps to re-imagining our Parish communities' Gala Dinner on Tuesday 28 November (7pm for 7.30pm) at the Queanbeyan Roos Club. The keynote speaker is renowned journalist Geraldine Doogue AO. Contact St Gregory's Parish on 6299 4611, email [queanbeyan@cg.org.au](mailto:queanbeyan@cg.org.au), or visit <https://www.stgregorysparishqueanbeyan.com>. Tickets are \$65.

## Year 10 and Senior Exams - Semester 2 2017

Year 10 Exams S2 2017		
Tuesday 7 November	Period 1-2	Year 10 Mathematics
Wednesday 8 November	Period 1-2	Year 10 RE
Thursday 9 November	Period 1-2	Year 10 Science

- Students are to attend normal scheduled Year 10 classes for all other periods.
- All other Year 10 assessment will be scheduled in normal class time.

Senior Exams S2 2017		
	Year 11	Year 12
Wednesday 15 November Morning (9.00am)	English T	IT A/T Social and Community Work Exercise Science A/T Sociology A/T
Wednesday 15 November Afternoon (1.15pm)	Sociology A/T Earth Science Physics	English T
Thursday 16 November Morning (9.00am)	Literature Business A/T Geography A/T	RE A/T (Mr Nulley, Mr Barclay and Ms Milo's Classes Only)
Thursday 16 November Afternoon (1.15pm)	Mathematical Applications Mathematical Methods	Literature Geography A/T Chemistry English A
Friday 17 November Morning (9.00am)	History A/T – Modern Biology	Mathematical Applications Mathematical Methods
Friday 17 November Afternoon (1.15pm)	IT DM Hospitality T Economics Psychology A/T	IT DM Psychology A/T
Monday 20 November Morning (9.00am)	IT A/T Legal A/T	Business A/T Biology
Monday 20 November Afternoon (1.15pm)	Exercise Science A/T Senior Science Business Administration	Hospitality T Economics General Science A/T Business Administration
Tuesday 21 November Morning (9.00am)	Social and Community Work Chemistry	History A/T – Modern Physics
Tuesday 21 November Afternoon (1.15pm)		

Please Note: Some courses do not have a final semester exam

- All Year 11 and 12 students will receive a personalised examination timetable indicating session start and finish times and locations.

Enquiries regarding exam schedule should be directed to Janine Hickson, Student Records in the first instance on 62090129.



## Failure! What a genius idea!

by Michael Grose

*A leading Victorian independent school is actively encouraging its students to fail, which is an absolutely genius idea.*

As reported in *The Age* (28th August 2017), Ivanhoe Girls Grammar School is holding Failure Week to teach students that making mistakes is a crucial part of learning.

Teachers are sharing their personal stories of failure and students from prep to Year 12 are learning challenging activities such as abstract painting, juggling, reciting poetry and dancing. At the end of the week they'll be displaying their new skills in front of each other with the emphasis being on stuff ups rather than perfection.

I suspect for many students making errors, stuffing up and struggling to get things right will feel uncomfortable. But that's the whole point.

### **Kids need to fail more if they are to succeed**

Traditionally, schools and, in recent years, parents have excelled at celebrating student success. "Top marks", "Dux of the school" and "Perfect score!" are the types of aspirations that teachers and parents have for kids.

But to many students academic success means "Don't stuff it up!", "No mistakes please!" and "You've got to get it right!"

It's been widely reported that Australian kids are anxious, perfectionistic and risk averse. They just don't feel comfortable with failure. And who could blame them? We've hidden failure and disappointment from them for far too long. In recent years there's been a common perception that failure damages people. Unfortunately, this is to the detriment of young people's future success.



Failure is an integral part of learning anything significant, challenging or worthwhile. Resilient learners realise that they don't always get things right the first or even second time but with effort and practice they will master skills, find solutions and gain the knowledge they need to succeed.

As reported in *The Age*, failure, if handled properly, provides kids with the feedback they need to help them achieve excellence. Yes, kids need positive feedback too ... but only when it's deserved. When we tell a child everything is wonderful when, in fact, his work is mediocre at best, we give him a false sense of achievement.

### **Failure takes bravery**

I've long been a fan of encouragement. What I mean by that is parents and teachers focusing their comments on

the processes (effort, contribution, improvement) of what kids do rather than the outcomes. Encouragement places the locus of control onto the child, which is essential for resilience. That doesn't mean that we avoid giving a child feedback if their work or behaviour isn't up to scratch. By all means, we should inform kids when they need to lift their game, but this feedback needs to be provided respectfully and with sensitivity if we want it to be taken on board.

The real strength of encouragement is hidden in its French derivative, the verb *coure*: 'to give heart'. Encouraging teachers and parents to somehow find a way to give their kids the courage to be imperfect. It takes a brave soul to make a mistake sometimes, particularly when others may be watching.

### **Failure needs a supportive environment**

It's all very well to encourage kids to have a go but they won't stretch themselves unless mistakes are truly accepted by the people that matter to them. A child won't speak up in class when he's unsure of the answer if he knows his classmates will laugh at his errors. Similarly, if kids are to take more learning and social risks they need to know that mistakes and stuff ups won't be thrown back in their faces at home by parents or siblings.

### **Five simple ways to encourage kids to fail and celebrate errors**

**1. Model failure:** Next time you break a plate when emptying the dishwasher, avoid negative language ("What a klutz!") or catastrophising ("This is the worst thing ever!). It's a plate. Stuff happens.

**2. Tell stories of failure:** We tend to be nostalgic of the past and tell kids of the good stuff when we talk about our childhoods. But kids love to hear the warts'n'all stories of the difficulties you faced and stuff-ups you made as a kid. It makes you more human and also gives them permission to do the same.

**3. Encourage them:** Develop a vocabulary around effort, improvement, contribution and enjoyment. Be your child's cheerleader but don't avoid giving feedback when necessary.

**4. Tell and show kids how to improve:** Feedback is always best when it has a teaching focus. So next time you pick up a child on their poor schoolwork or untidy bedroom, make sure you remind them how to do it right.

**5. Provide the time to fail and get it right:** Modern teachers and parents are time poor. Crowded curricula and busy lifestyles make us less tolerant of failure. But as anyone who has taught a young child to do up his or her shoelaces will know, some things can't be rushed. Time and patience can be your best assets when helping kids to handle learning challenges.



Failure doesn't sit comfortably with many of us, but it's an essential element to success. The idea of a school setting aside a week to encourage their students to fail more may challenge our perceptions of the education process. But it's a very timely, very smart idea that should be adopted and adapted by schools and families everywhere.



### **Michael Grose**

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's the author of 10 books for parents including *Thriving!* and the best-selling *Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It*, and his latest release *Spooned Generation: How to raise independent children*.