



MacKillop

St Mary MacKillop College Canberra

giving thanks for
20
YEARS

COLLEGE
NEWSLETTER NO. 02
23 FEBRUARY 2018

IN THIS EDITION

20-YEAR CELEBRATIONS

The College is holding a range of events to celebrate MacKillop's first 20 years, including a staff brunch, Opening Mass, and blessing of the new buildings.

PAGE 4

CAT AWARD WIN

Liam Jackson was successful in claiming a CAT Award for his performance in the College's 2017 musical, *Hairspray Jr.*

PAGE 5

PROJECT COMPASSION

MacKillop hosted the launch of the Caritas Project Compassion. Now, we're raising funds in an attempt to beat last year's massive effort.

PAGE 6



COMING

UP

MON **26** FEB

• College Photos (Isabella)

TUE **27** FEB

• College Photos (Wanniassa)
• Honours Assembly (Isabella)

THU **01** MAR

• Swimming Carnival

MON **05** MAR

• Year 11 Cooma
Information Evening

TUE **06** MAR

• Moderation Day (Pupil-free)
• Year 11 AST Trial

THU **08** MAR

• Photo Catch-Up Day

FRI **09** MAR

• Staff Conference
(Pupil-free)

CONTACT DETAILS &

SOCIAL MEDIA



02 6209 0100



info@mackillop.act.edu.au



www.mackillop.act.edu.au



PO Box 1211
Tuggeranong ACT 2901



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



www.facebook.com/
mackillop.act



www.twitter.com/
mackillop_act



www.instagram.com/
mackillop_act



www.youtube.com/
stmarymackillop

PRINCIPAL'S

LETTER



Dear families, students and friends,

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHTS

Thank you to all the staff who prepared and attended our parent information evenings, which were held at both campuses over the past few weeks. Feedback from parents and staff has generally been extremely positive in terms of venue, format, timing, and content.

Should there be any further suggestions about these events, I would be pleased to hear them.

Parents of students in Years 7 and 11 were "talked at" quite a bit. Given the material that needed to be covered, it was difficult to think of an alternative method. Thank you for your forbearance.

I am aware that many staff have had a series of late nights on top of faculty, pastoral, staff, and campus meetings. I would like to acknowledge their commitment to these events and thank them for their warm participation.

CURRENT AND PAST STAFF BRUNCH SUNDAY 18 MARCH • 10.30AM • ISABELLA CAMPUS

As part of the 20-Year Celebrations, the College will host a brunch for current and past staff members of MacKillop, St Peter's and Padua. It will be an opportunity for this critical element of the MacKillop story to gather and reacquaint themselves. A tour of both campuses will be available.

If you know of any former staff members, I would appreciate your help in spreading the word.

For catering purposes, attendees should RSVP to events@mackillop.act.edu.au by Friday 9 March.

COLLEGE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

We are all looking forward to the College Swimming Carnival at Dickson Pool next Thursday. Information has gone home to families and students have been preparing for the day in their house groups. Thank you to Jen Fahey, the College Sports Facilitator, and her team for leading the preparations for the carnival.

It is sure to be another memorable event for the students of MacKillop.

APOLOGIES TO THE ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI COMMUNITY

St Francis of Assisi generously invited me and two Year 12 Captains to be present at their Opening School Mass and to participate in presenting Year 6 with their badges. I was really looking forward to this, but regrettably, I was in possession of the wrong date and was unable to attend. Please accept my best wishes to Year 6 for a highly successful and fulfilling final year of Primary School. I look forward to visiting soon.

Yours in St Mary MacKillop,

MICHAEL LEE
COLLEGE PRINCIPAL

"The College Swimming Carnival is sure to be another memorable event for the students of MacKillop."

PRINCIPAL'S PRAYER

*Lord,
Let all we do magnify Your name.
Amen.*





20 YEAR CELEBRATIONS

CURRENT AND FORMER STAFF BRUNCH

SUNDAY 18 MARCH • 10.30AM • ISABELLA PLAINS CAMPUS

All current and former staff of MacKillop, St Peter's, and Padua are invited to brunch at the College's Isabella (St Peter's) Campus. Following brunch, tours of both Campuses will take place.

RSVP: events@mackillop.act.edu.au by Friday 9 March.

OPENING MASS

TUESDAY 20 MARCH • 9.30AM • TUGGERANONG BASKETBALL STADIUM

Members of the community are invited to celebrate Mass at the Tuggeranong Basketball Stadium on 20 March. Mass will be celebrated by Fr James Antony of the Corpus Christi Parish. All welcome.

OPENING OF THE NEW BUILDINGS AT ISABELLA

TUESDAY 20 MARCH • 12PM • ISABELLA PLAINS CAMPUS

The Opening and Blessing of the Fr Julian Tenison-Woods Laboratories and the Providence Building takes place after the Opening Mass. These buildings are to be opened by Sr Mary Ellen O'Donoghue, Regional Leader of the Sisters of St Joseph (NSW/ACT) and blessed by His Grace, Archbishop Christopher Prowse.

RSVP: events@mackillop.act.edu.au by Friday 15 March.



LIAM CLAIMS CAT AWARD

Congratulations to Liam Jackson (Class of 2017), who received the Canberra Area Theatre Award for Best Youth Actor in a Musical, awarded for his performance as Corny Collins in MacKillop's 2017 production of Hairspray Jr. Liam was announced as an award recipient at the CAT Awards Gala Ceremony at the Canberra Theatre last Saturday night.

The College received seven CAT Award Nominations for Hairspray Jr - an incredible achievement by the cast and crew!



WELCOME, ST JOSEPH'S!

On Wednesday night, after much anticipation, the College welcomed 23 student guests from Institution St Joseph's, France. They have already joined in classes and are looking forward to exploring Canberra and the surrounding region.

Thank you to the MacKillop families who are hosting our exchange students.

Peter Johnson

International Programs Officer



ENGARDE FENCING

This month, the ACT Fencing Association held its 2017 award presentations. Engarde@MacKillop Fencing club won two awards, the 2017 ACT Club Participation (Cadet & Below) and the 2017 ACT Club Competitive (Cadet & Below).

Individually, MacKillop students also featured in the annual presentations with awards going to:

- Ashy Kinsella (Year 12) - ACT Champion Foil U17, U20, U23, Open ladies, ACT Runner up Epee U17 & U20 and Sabre U17, U23 & Open Ladies
- Oliver Bryson (Year 10) - ACT Champion for Epee U15, U17 & U20, Foil U15 and ACT Runner up Foil U17
- Darcy Kinsella (Year 10) - ACT Runner up Sabre U15
- Benjamin Crowley (Year 8) - ACT Champion Sabre U15 and ACT Runner up Sabre U17

Congratulations to these Engarde fencers and good luck for the 2018 season!



ST PATRICK'S/SMMC SCHOLARSHIP

MacKillop recently paid a visit to St Patrick's, Cooma, to attend the Opening Mass and to meet the Year 7 students who were awarded the MacKillop Scholarship for Years 11 and 12 in 2022 and 2023. MacKillop students Daniel Wallis and Alexei Shatrov, formerly of St Patrick's, were on hand to congratulate the scholarship recipients, Mitchell Burke and Sienna White.

Mitchell's and Sienna's applications for the scholarship were reviewed by a panel in 2017 and the pair were deemed to be worthy recipients. Mr Lee will meet these students later this year.

These scholarships are a practical demonstration of the special partnership that MacKillop and St Patrick's share with each other.

Frances Robertson

Principal, St Patrick's Parish School, Cooma

STUDY TOUR TO FRANCE

The MacKillop Study Tour to France in December 2018 will feature the best of French culture, cuisine and history. Students will visit Paris, the Normandy region as well taking in the battlefields of the Western Front. Students will be immersed in the French way of life, spending a week living with a French family and making friends at our sister school Institution St Joseph's. Parents of interested students are invited to attend an Information Evening, held on Wednesday 28 February 2018 from 6pm. The venue is the IRC at the Isabella Campus.

For more information, please contact Peter Johnson (peter.johnson@mackillop.act.edu.au).

Peter Johnson

International Programs Officer



ASSESSMENT PLANNERS AND GOAL SETTING (WANNIASSA CAMPUS)

Students at the Wanniasa Campus have this week engaged in Student Mentoring sessions. This has involved completing a Semester 1 Assessment Planner on pages 22 and 23 of their Student Diary. The planner provides an easy to read overview of due dates for each assessment task issued during the semester. It aids in time management and organisation as students can better plan to meet deadlines and complete work to the highest standard they are capable of. The distribution dates and due dates for each assessment task can also be viewed on the Canvas calendar.

Students have also set school related goals along with strategies to achieve these. Parents may access these on pages 24 and 25 of the Student Diary.

Checking the Assessment Planner and goals, provides parents with the ability to be informed when speaking with their sons or daughters about upcoming assessment and to support them with their organisation and focus throughout Semester 1.

COLLEGE PHOTOS

College photos will be taken at the Isabella Campus on Monday 26 February and at the Wanniasa Campus on Tuesday 27 February. Students have received a photo envelope/order form which is to be returned on photo day with any money or payment details handed directly to the photographer at the time the photo is taken.

Boys will be required to wear the College tie in their photograph and have been asked to bring this with them to school on Monday or Tuesday. For students in Year 7, or others who are new to the College, who may not yet have their own tie, one will be provided for the photograph.

STATUS AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who have been presented with Bronze Status Awards at the Wanniasa Campus Assembly: Chloe Ball 8A1, Ruby Glynn 8W1

PROJECT COMPASSION

During the season of Lent, the College raises money for Project Compassion, the annual appeal of Caritas, to help the world's poorest communities. The SRC will be driving fundraising activities as well as increasing an awareness of global poverty, social justice and what donations can be used for.

Last year MacKillop staff and students raised over \$40,000 for the College's charities. All fundraising this year will again be tallied for each House to contribute to the awarding of the annual House Charity Shield.

PASTORAL PROGRAM

The Pastoral Program at MacKillop is a key component of pastoral care at the College. A one hour lesson is scheduled into students timetables in every two week cycle. Across the content covered from Year 7 – 12 the program covers important elements of welfare and healthy development of adolescents and young adults that compliments and enriches the formal curriculum.

Each term addresses a particular theme, with each cohort focusing on a particular topic each term. The themes are: Study Skills and Organisation (Term 1), Safe behaviours and well-being (Term 2), Relationships (Term 3), Community Service/Leadership (Term 4).

In Term 1, the topics that will be addressed with each year group for Study Skills and Organisation are:

Year 7 – Orientation to working in High School

Year 8 – Study Habits

Year 9 – Requirements of the Year 10 Certificate

Year 10 – MacKillop – The senior experience

Year 11 – Orientation to Senior Studies

Year 12 – Towards success

Lessons are usually delivered by the PC Teacher. However, where appropriate, outside agencies are utilised to deliver Presentations to particular cohorts.

PARENT-TEACHER RELATIONSHIPS

Thank you to the many parents and carers who have taken the time to attend the parent information evenings in the last two weeks and connect with PC Teachers. If you could not make it and wish to make contact, please feel free to do so. We understand the importance of forming strong relationships between the home and school and the benefits that open communication has for students to be safe and to succeed at school.

Parents and carers are encouraged to make contact with PC Teachers, or other relevant staff, such as subject teachers, to ensure that we can all work in the best interests of our students. Depending on the circumstances, the best forms of communication may be via a phone call, email or a meeting in person. The format for staff email addresses is: `firstname.surname@mackillop.act.edu.au`. Should contact of an urgent nature be required, it is recommended that a telephone call be made to the College reception on 6209 0100.

This week's *parentingideas* article outlines five relationship building steps for parents to build strong bonds with teachers.

Lachlan McNicol

Assistant Principal Pastoral Care



TURNITIN ASSESSMENT SUBMISSION SYSTEM

Our students are commonly referred to as 'digital natives'. They have grown up with unlimited access to information. Learning to use this information ethically and acknowledge the work of others is an essential 21st century learning skill. To support students in developing these skills the College has purchased a schoolwide license for Turnitin. Turnitin is a digital tool that assists student to avoid plagiarism and improve the quality of their written work. Over the 2018 school year all students will be taught how to use this tool.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Students will be directed to submit assessment work via Canvas through a Turnitin pathway. Turnitin then compares the student work to an extensive database of sources and produces a similarity report for the student work. This similarity report indicates where plagiarism has occurred. This feedback is available to students and teachers.

WHAT ARE THE KEY ADVANTAGES OF TURNITIN?

Turnitin allows students to check their work for plagiarism before final submission to their teacher. Students can see where they have plagiarised source materials and can make corrections before the task is submitted for grading by their teacher. Students are also able to access the grammar and spelling tools (through Turnitin) to improve the quality of their written work.

WHEN WILL MY CHILD HAVE TO USE TURNITIN?

Turnitin will be schoolwide endorsed practice by 2019. Over the course of 2018 staff and students will be taught how to use the design features of the tool. Some teachers will begin using the Turnitin over the next few weeks and others will trial it over semester 2. Students will be directed by their classroom teacher about the use of Turnitin and Task Assessment Sheets will clearly outline individual class expectations for its use.

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT TURNITIN?

The College will be offer parent information sessions about Turnitin. The dates will be advertised via the College Newsletter.

Mazia O'Donnell + Clare Fletcher

Assistant Principals Curriculum (Acting)



JUNIOR CONCERT BAND

Friday 23 February was the start of our Junior Band program (Years 7-9). If your son or daughter is interested in continuing or beginning their instrumental journey, they are encouraged to come along to practise in the Wanniasa Music rooms at 8:30am on Friday. The College has an instrumental loan system which is available to all families wanting to borrow an instrument. If they have their own, they should bring them to each practice. We look forward to making music together!

Petrina Mansfield

Director of Performance

SCHOOL FEES

Term 1 fee statements have been sent out. Fees are to be paid by 2 March 2018 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 about 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 the 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 by emailing her at 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.

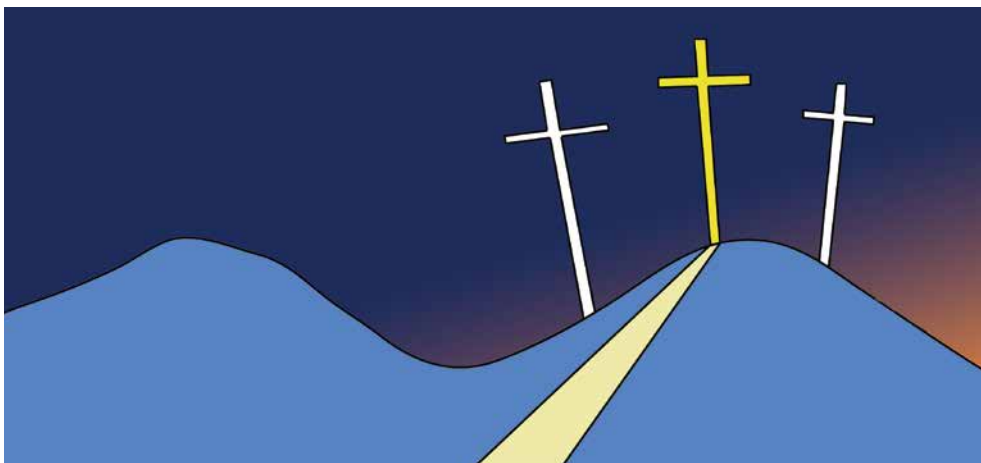
All Direct Debits are to be altered in December for the following year's School Fees.

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 Predoran

Fees Manager



LENT: INWARD REFLECTION AND OUTWARD SACRIFICE

Lent is a time of reflection and renewal. This time therefore necessitates an inward journey of self-awareness and acceptance; that we are fallible, make mistakes, do wrong, but also have the chance to right those wrongs and transform ourselves into better people. That is the precious gift of being human; that we are sinful yet graced.

The idea of 'sin' can sound antiquated, and that associating it with ourselves means there's no capacity for change, or there's something deeply wrong with us. That is far from the truth. If we just think about the Greek translation for sin to mean "miss the mark" it can suddenly take on a whole new meaning. We can often miss the mark but learn from that, and by admitting that we have, we make a conscious effort not to miss the mark again. This can be a challenge and takes faith and courage, just like the 40 days leading to Easter, culminating in the Cross and overcoming sin.

The Lent is as much an outward journey of giving as well. By accepting our own fallibilities, we must also accept them in others; our giving is in our capacity to forgive. And giving during Lent does not stop here. Lent emphasises our need to look outwardly towards those who need our help. Sometimes we discuss (and rightly so) what we will be giving up during the weeks of Lent. While it carries its own positive meaning, its primary focus is the self. Our challenge during Lent is to *give more* as well. This is punctuated clearly through organisations like Caritas and the launch of Project Compassion or the St Vincent de Paul Doorknock Appeal. Giving not just from our purses but also giving of our time brings into sharp focus the meaning of sacrifice and offering oneself for the betterment of another. This was the continual message Christ taught us, most profoundly through His Passion.

Jonathan Moyle

Director of Performance



COMMUNITY NEWS

CORPUS CHRISTI WELCOMES FR JAMES

On Sunday 25 February, during the 10am Mass, Archbishop Christopher Prowse will install Fr James as Parish Priest of Corpus Christi Parish. All parishioners are warmly invited to the Mass and to stay for a cuppa and a chat with Fr James and Archbishop Christopher afterwards.

PARENTLINE ACT

Parentline ACT is a confidential and free telephone and face-to-face counselling and information service. Phone Parentline if you would you like:

- To talk with someone about those parenting issues.
- Help with some ideas on raising children.
- Support in the important job you are doing.
- To know what is available for parents, teenagers and children.
- To build better relationships in your family.
- Help to understand your child or teenager's behaviour.
- Make an appointment for a counselling session.

Call Parentline on 6287 3833 on Monday-Friday from 9am-5pm.

BRAZILIAN JIU JITSU (BJJ)

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu (BJJ) for kids and teens runs on Fridays from 5:30 - 6:30pm at Elite Physique Phillip, corner of Townshend and Botany streets. Brazilian Jiu Jitsu is a martial art where students use submission grappling techniques to overcome larger or stronger opponents. No special equipment or clothing is required, there are no locked in term fees and the first lesson is free!

BUFFALOES RUGBY LEAGUE

The Registration Day for Tuggeranong Buffaloes takes place on 3 March from 10am - 1pm at Kambah Playing Fields, Chirnside Circuit, Kambah. All players welcome from U6 -U16, U17 Girls and Open Womens. Contact Bernie Traynor at buffs.registrar@gmail.com.

TUGGERANONG LIONS

Tuggeranong Lions are hosting a Greater Western Sydney (GWS) AFL Players Community Camp, open to girls and boys aged 5 to 16. This takes place on Friday 2 March from 4-6.30pm at Kambah Oval 1 (Chirnside St, Kambah). Come down and meet the players and join in some of the activities. There will opportunities for photos with players and a Q & A session. The canteen will be open for the purchase of food and drinks.

CANBERRA ACADEMY OF DRAMATIC ART

After school drama classes are available for ages 4-17. To find your closest class and for enrolment details visit www.cada.net.au.

CANBERRA SCHOOL OF TENNIS CARNIVALE

The Ronald McDonald House Tennis Carnivale takes place on Saturday 24 February from 1.30-4.30 at the Pines Tennis Club, Chisholm. For information about the event, visit www.csot.com.au.

TENNIS CANBERRA

Tennis Canberra runs multiple sessions for varying playing levels after school or on the weekend at the southside venue of Erindale. Visit www.tenniscanberra.com.au or contact Robbie by email at play@tenniscanberra.com.au.

insights

Working closely with your child's teacher this year

by Michael Grose



In my work as a presenter and educator I've visited hundreds of schools, spoken with hundreds of school leaders and worked with many educational innovators and researchers at the forefront of modern education. These people and experiences have given me valuable insights into what makes great schools tick.

Strong parent–teacher relationships are one of the hallmarks of all great schools. They're a major contributor to student success. The research into schooling across the Western world reveals that positive parent–teacher partnerships are a more significant factor in student success than parent income levels or social status.

However, parent–teacher relationships require effort and energy from both parties if they are going to really benefit children and young people.

Here are five elements to guide you as a parent in forming strong bonds with your child's teachers this year:

1. Knowing (building affinity)

Know – the first element – requires you to be both proactive and patient. *Proactive because you need to be willing to meet and work at maintaining relationships. Patient because it may take some time to build a working relationship.* For your partnership to be meaningful and successful you need to meet with your children's teacher(s) with the goal of forming a respectful professional relationship. Share your aspirations for your child and be willing to build the teacher's knowledge about your family.



Get to know your child's teachers' aspirations and gain an understanding of their approach and the focus they have for this particular year group.

Also commit to continuing to know what's going on in the life of your child's classrooms as well as the life of the school on an ongoing basis.

2. Supporting (building trust)

Children need to know that you are fully behind what their teachers are trying to achieve if they are going to commit fully to learning. The best way to support your child's teacher is to trust their knowledge, professionalism and experience. Avoid the temptation to question the expertise of teachers in front of students, particularly when the teachers use methods that you are unfamiliar with. Initiate conversations with teachers around methodology to give them the chance to explain the approach they are taking.

3. Participating (building links to student learning)

Participation – the third element – takes into account the level of parent engagement in student learning. There’s a huge body of research that points to the correlation between parent engagement in student learning and their educational success. If you want your child to improve his learning, take an interest in what he is doing. Follow school and teacher guidelines about helping at home and attend as many conferences, meetings and events involving your child as possible. This simple strategy has a significant, long-term impact.

4. Communicating (building relationships)

Life’s not always smooth sailing for kids of any age. Family circumstances change. Friends move away. Illness happens. Mental health challenges can hit anyone at any time. These changes affect learning. Keep teachers up to date with significant changes or difficulties that your child or young person experiences so they can accommodate your child’s emotional and learning needs at school.

5. Advocating (building loyalty)

Advocacy – the last element – means that you talk teachers and your school up rather than tear them down among children and the wider community. Teachers hold very public positions and generally work hard to build good reputations both within their school and their wider education community. Consider a teacher’s reputation among the community and also with children when you discuss educational matters with others.

Building parent–teacher relationships doesn’t just happen. They take good will from both sides, a commitment to setting aside the time necessary to support the home-based learning tasks that are expected, and a willingness to communicate both concerns and commendations through the correct channels.

Parent–teacher relationships – long may they prosper!



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 Spoonfed Generation: How to raise independent children.