



# ST MARY MACKILLOP COLLEGE CANBERRA



7 MARCH 2013

IMPORTANT  
DATES

MAR  
MONDAY  
**11**

• Canberra Day  
Public Holiday

MAR  
WEDNESDAY  
**13**

• Honours  
Assembly  
(Isabella)

MAR  
FRIDAY  
**15**

• College  
Swimming  
Carnival

MAR  
FRIDAY  
**29**

• Good Friday



"Lord, we are blessed to be a Josephite community in the heart of the Nation's Capital. In this year of Canberra's centenary we join with the wider community to celebrate all that is good in the history of our city. We ask for your grace as we face the future with faith and courage together. Amen."

## ACTING PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

Dear families and friends,

### Mr Lee sends best wishes from Washington

Our Principal, Mr Michael Lee, has been away in Washington DC, representing the Catholic Secondary Principals' Association of Australia at the National American Association of Principals' Conference at National Harbor. Mr Lee sends his best wishes from 'freezing' Washington and will be back next week.

### Moderation Day

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to speak with the ACT's senior Maths Teachers who gathered at MacKillop for the Moderation Day yesterday. I spoke to them about the significance of Moderation Day and why it was important and it struck me that it is important that our wider community also have some information about this important day, which takes all students out of all ACT Colleges twice a year.

Moderation Day is a day that is about quality control and confidence in our system. It is about ensuring that the Canberra academic and business communities have faith in the integrity and honesty of our system. It is significant that the Board of Senior Secondary School Studies mandates this day for all senior teachers to attend. The Moderation activity is the most important part of the day, where teachers compare assessment tasks and grades from Colleges across the ACT and ensure that both the activities and the grades are of a consistent standard. Also of interest to the Maths teachers yesterday was a discussion of the incoming grade descriptors for the Australian Curriculum.

### Join us at Assembly!

While there are so many activities of great worth taking place in the College that to single one out seems to marginalise the others, I would encourage those of you with more flexible hours to make some time to attend the College Assemblies which occur fortnightly on a Wednesday at each Campus. The dates are noted in the College Calendar on our website.

I was privileged to attend a beautiful assembly yesterday at Wanniasa where among the informative speakers on upcoming school events and changes to routine we were treated to a couple of real moments of grace. We heard our Campus Head, Ms Sandra Darley, discuss the importance of beauty in the world, via a meditation on Albinoni's *Adagio in G Minor* and the courage of "Cellist of Sarajevo" Vedran Smailović. Her presentation moved many of the audience, young and old, but it was the performance of *Hair* by Lady Gaga by Brandon of Year 9 that reached our hearts on behalf of all those who struggle with their understanding of themselves and where they fit into the world. It was a poignant reminder, not only of the talents of our students, but of our need to truly listen to, care for and be honest with, those young people who are part of our community.

Although I know it is not possible for all of our community to attend assemblies, I hope that some of you will be able to share these moments with us in the future.

Yours in St Mary MacKillop,

MICHELLE DA ROZA  
ACTING PRINCIPAL

## SENIOR STUDIES SPOT



### SO WHAT IS THE AST?

AST stands for ACT Scaling Test and is actually a series of three general skills examinations. It is attempted by all ACT Year 12 students who wish to receive an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank). The results of these tests are used to scale students' course scores at the College they attend.

But what does this actually mean? It means that the results of the AST will change student course scores, which are ultimately used to generate their ATAR. So if students don't prepare and give their best effort in these AST exams, their final ATAR will be impacted.

All Colleges across the ACT engage in practice tests to prepare their students for the AST and traditionally the schools that prepare their students the most, end up with the highest AST results. At MacKillop we have a rigorous schedule of practice tests and workshops with the sole purpose of ensuring our students achieve their best result.

Students in Years 11 and 12 have just finished sitting their first AST-style practice for 2013 and marking has already begun. Our next step is to have students attend workshops where they will learn what the markers expect in these exams as well as some strategies to answer the different style of questions they will encounter. I encourage all students in Years 11 and 12 to engage in this process with fervour...each individual's AST result makes a big difference to the ATARs of the whole cohort!

*Colby Cruwys, Senior Studies Coordinator*

## BRIEF NEWS

### STATUS AWARDS

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

Bronze Status - Ritesh Goundar, Tomeii Lavender, and Myles Sutcliffe.

### STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

On Tuesday 5 March, the St Mary MacKillop College Year 12 SRC members attended the Combined Colleges Leadership Training Day at Marist College. The day involved working with other students leaders from St Clares, St Edmunds, Marist, St Francis Xavier, Trinity Christian School and Daramalan on how they can make the most out of being leaders during Year 12. In the afternoon, each school group gave a 2 minute presentation on their goals as a group for 2013.

## REMINDER: TERM 1 FEES & HOW TO PAY

Term 1 fees have been mailed out. Fees are to be paid by 15 March 2013 unless paying by Direct Debit or other approved payment method.

The following methods of payment are available:

#### CASH OR CHEQUE

Cheque payments may be posted to the College and cash or cheque payments may be paid in person at both Isabella and Wanniasa Campus.

#### DIRECT DEBIT

Payment of School Fees by Direct Debit will require completion of the relevant paperwork. Please contact the Accounts office to set up your Direct Debit which can commence at any time through the year. All Direct Debits continue throughout the year, they do not suspend for the term holidays, unless upon request.

#### CREDIT CARD - MASTERCARD OR VISA

These payments can be made in person, over the telephone, or details can be provided at the bottom of your school fee statement.

#### EFTPOS

Eftpos is also available at the Front Office at both the Isabella and Wanniasa Campuses.

#### BPAY

Bpay is available at the College. Payments can be made through internet and telephone banking by quoting the Biller Code and Reference Number as recorded on your school fee statement. Please ensure you quote the correct Reference Number so payments can be processed to the correct account. For further information please contact the Accounts Office on 6209 0100.

*Michelle Predovan, Fees Manager*

**ST MARY MACKILLOP  
COLLEGE CANBERRA**  
**information nights**

**Year 7 2014**

**Monday 6 May 2013**  
**Wanniasa Campus**  
**@ 6.30pm**

**Year 11 2014**

**Wednesday 15 May**  
**Isabella Campus**  
**@ 6pm**



St Mary Mackillop College has an extensive Performing Arts Program for students interested in performing and learning new skills. We have a variety of great teachers within the Performing Arts Faculty as well as visiting instrumental staff.

### INSTRUMENTAL TUITION

Visiting professional teachers come to the College and provide instrumental tuition on guitar, piano, keyboard, drum kit, vocals, saxophone, trumpet, clarinet, and flute.

### CO-CURRICULAR ENSEMBLES

We have a variety of ensembles for students to participate and perform in assemblies and other College functions throughout the year.

Junior Band - For Beginning Instrumentalists

Stage Band - For students with some band experience (two years or more)

Drumbeat - For students interested in playing drums and African percussion.

### CHOIRS

Junior Choir - For students interested in singing from Years 7 - 9 (Audition required). The choir rehearses one afternoon after school each week.

A Capella Choir - For students in Years 10 -12 (Audition required). This choir rehearses one afternoon after school each week.

### MUSICAL PRODUCTION

Each year students have the opportunity to audition for major, minor and chorus roles in the College Musical Productions which this year will be *Mulan*. The College production showcases the many talents and skills of our College student community. Students who have skills in singing, dancing, acting, production and backstage are urged to audition.

For more information about these Performing Arts activities, please contact me on 6209 5230.

*Tony Lazzarato*  
Performing Arts Coordinator

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### COERVER SOCCER COACHING (HOLIDAYS)

Coerver is running holiday clinics for players aged 4-15 on 15-18 April. Clinics will be held at Monash Primary and the University of Canberra. For more information, visit [www.coerver.com.au/act](http://www.coerver.com.au/act).

### CATHOLIC CARE COURSE

The "Resourceful Adolescent Program for Parents", which we have advertised in the past few weeks commences tonight. Contact Gayle for details on 6162 6122.

### SYNERGY SELF DEFENCE

Synergy Self Defence is running an 'Eyes Wide Open' course in self defence on Sunday 17 March. For information on this course, contact Bronnie Bath on 6260 2813 or visit [www.synergyselfdefence.com.au](http://www.synergyselfdefence.com.au).

## Understanding Change, Loss and Grief

This three hour seminar is an education program which aims to build resilience in adults who are also seeking to deepen their general understanding of the nature and impact of change, loss and grief on their lives.

**When: Sunday 24 March, 2013**

**Time: 2.00pm - 5.00pm**

**Venues &**

**Registration: Holy Spirit Parish Centre, Burdekin Avenue, Amaroo**

To register contact: Anne Gilfelt

Email: [Anne.Gilfelt@cg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:Anne.Gilfelt@cg.catholic.edu.au) or Phone: 0438 767 881

Tuggeranong Community and Function Centre

245 Cowlishaw Street, Greenway, Balcony Room

To register contact: Nathan Wood

Email: [nathan.wood@mackillop.act.edu.au](mailto:nathan.wood@mackillop.act.edu.au) or Phone: 6209 5297

**Cost: \$15**

