

Important Dates & Events

DEC. FRIDAY 07

- Year 12 Graduation Mass
- Year 12 Formal

DEC. MONDAY 10

- Year 10 Mass & Presentation

DEC. TUESDAY 11

- Year 6 Induction Day
- Year 10 2013 Transition Day

DEC. WEDNESDAY 12

- Year 6 Induction Day
- Year 10 2013 Transition Day

DEC. THURSDAY 13

- Years 7-9 Picnic Day

DEC. FRIDAY 14

- Years 7-9 Mass & Awards
- Last day of Term 4

DEC. WEDNESDAY 19

- Year 12 Certificate collection

DEC. THURSDAY 20

- College closes for business until 2013

See College Calendar for more dates

St Mary MacKillop College

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“Lord, we give thanks for the Class of 2012. May they have full and rich lives, using their talents and skills in the service of others. Amen”

Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

Farewell to the Class of 2012

In a dignified, moving, and spiritual assembly, Year 12 were farewelled by the Isabella Campus last Tuesday. One of the largest year groups to pass through MacKillop, this group of young women and men have, in many ways, devoted much of their time, energy, and talents to each other and to their school and wider community.

Able led by captains Ashlee Evans and Tyler Friend, Year 12 have spent many hours mentoring students at the junior campus, helping new students integrate into the year group, planning, organising, and being part of many major events, as well as providing good humour, high academic standards, and leading full and busy lives beyond the school.

A real feature of the Assembly was the recurring themes of community and relationships with teachers. Rarely have I seen such a remarkable example of gratitude to teachers expressed by a graduating class.

I would like to express my thanks to Mr Jonathan Chandra who splendidly led the students as Year 12 Coordinator. This is an extraordinarily demanding role in any school but especially at a large school like ours. In his second year as a coordinator, Jon has discharged his responsibilities magnificently. His precise organization, humour, sincere compassion, even temper, and empathy for late adolescent students has earned him endearing affection and respect. Nobody could have done it better.

Farewell Year 12! May Almighty God bless you and keep you, and hold you in His loving arms, always.

“Life is no mere flickering candle for me. Rather, it is a kind of blazing torch, and I want to make it blaze more brightly before I have to give it up.”

-George Bernard Shaw, *Man and Superman*

Congratulations to Victoria Pfitz (Year 10)

Earlier this semester, students in Years 8 and 10 participated in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) English Competition. ICAS are developed annually for primary and secondary school students in the subject areas of Computer Skills, English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling and Writing. Over one million student entries are accepted from over 6,300 schools in Australia and New Zealand annually.

Students read a variety of texts which narrate, describe, explain, argue, persuade and review. The types of texts include extracts from picture books, novels, poems, play scripts, transcripts of interviews, letters, diary entries, advertisements, webpages, feature articles, opinion pieces and comics. These texts cover a range of topics and may include tables, diagrams, maps and other visual information.

This year the College received a number of distinction and credit awards, however, Victoria Pfitz achieved 99% on the English paper which places her in the top 1% of students in Year 10 in the ACT and NSW. Victoria received her high distinction certificate at a Ceremony held at the University of NSW on Friday 23 November. I was happy to attend the ceremony with Victoria's parents.

Congratulations Victoria!

Yours in St Mary MacKillop,



Mr Michael Lee
College Principal

School Fees

End of year details

It is now time to review all existing Direct Debit payments for 2013. If you currently pay fees by Direct Debit please contact the Accounts Office for a new calculation of payments. Please note that Direct Debit arrangements will continue over the holidays unless you have contacted the Fees Office to suspend or cancel the arrangement. The 2013 fee schedule has been placed on the College website and can be accessed at www.mackillop.act.edu.au.

Fees for 2012 should now be finalised. Any outstanding fees should be paid immediately. If you require more information regarding Direct Debit arrangements or other approved payment methods please contact the Fees Office.

ACT Bursary Scheme

The ACT Government's Secondary Bursary Scheme provides assistance to low-income earners in the ACT with dependent full-time students in Years 7-10.

Eligibility requirements and application forms are available online at <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 9300.

Michelle Predovan, Fees Manager

Future Stars

Congratulations!

Jasmine Dinning (Year 8) won a Bronze Medal in the Junior Female Open Kumite in the Australian and New Zealand Karate Championships earlier this month. She will compete in the World Championships next year.

The following students left today for the National Schools Athletics Championships in Hobart: Kelsey Barsley (Year 8), Taylah Grady (Year 9), Hayley Ngametua, Kayla Hervert (both Year 10), and Meghann Griffin (Year 11).

Merit Certificates

GURABANG: Matthew MacDonald (7E3), Brooke Simpson x3 (7E3), Hayley Simpson x2 (7E3), Cara Lehr x3 (7E3), Amberley Elliott x2 (7E3), Brendan Blakers x4 (7E3), Breanna Andrew x2 (7E3).

MEUP MEUP: Ben Schmidt x3 (7F2).

MINDYGARI: Cameron Gawler (7A2), Lily Taylor (8A5), Zach Cossettini (7A3), Thomas Cameron (7A3).

NGADYUNG: Connor Wende (7W2), Ryan Daly (7W2), Corban Connell (7F2), Jayden Cartledge x2 (7F2), Lara Bizjak x2 (7F2), Rachael Dean x2 (7F2), Rebecca Robinson x2 (7F2), Monique Kane x2 (7F2), Jazmin Lam x3 (7F2), Tara Maybin x4 (7F2), Sarah Cunneen x3 (7F2), Tyler McKenzie x2 (7F2), Veronica Prostimo (7F2), Brittany Millar x2 (7F2).

Pastoral News

Mackillop receives MindMatters Award

Thirteen schools from around the country were officially recognised for their work in promoting mental health in the classroom and schoolyard at a recent MindMatters National Recognition Event.

Year 11 Leaders Morgan Rosin, Nathan Backer and Daniel Dwyer and member of St Mary MacKillop MindMatters Core Team Planning Group, Romina Mamone, received the Recognition Award at the ceremony held at Rydges Lakeside.

Peter Garrett, Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth, opened the awards ceremony and presented the awards. The event also had the support of Minister for Education, Mark Butler.

"MindMatters does some incredibly important work with schools and we now have over 80% of high schools across Australia undertaking the program," said Mr Butler. "They are all doing extraordinary work showing innovation in the area of mental health."

MindMatters helps schools to promote and protect the mental health, resilience and social and emotional wellbeing of all the members of school communities. Statistics from surveys completed at MacKillop in July reflected the following:

Students:

- 78% agree or strongly agree that positive communications and relationships exist.
- 77% are encouraged to do their best and have high expectations of themselves
- 72% know where to find help for themselves or a friend at school
- 77% are encouraged to welcome and help new students.

Parents and Caregivers:

- 81% of parents agree the physical environment is conducive to positive health and wellbeing
- 82% agree their students have staff they can go to for help
- 91% feel welcome to visit the school
- 94% think their students feel safe at school
- 94% feel the school has clear expectations for student behaviour.

As part of our review of Pastoral programs from years 7-12, all teachers participated in a survey at Campus Meetings last week. Monthly Planning meetings of the Core Team Planning Group use all data to inform planning and progress. Parents and students are welcome to email their suggestions and insights. Our aim is to ensure an engaging and relevant pastoral program for our students.

*L. White and L. McNicol
Assistant Principals – Pastoral Care*

General News

Wanniassa Library reminder

It is coming to the end of the year so now is the time to start returning library books to the library. Text books need to be cleaned and checked for graffiti before they are handed in. Students will need to pay for any books they are unable to find or that are in an unacceptable condition. All students who bring back books will go into the draw to win a prize. As in previous years, books must be returned or be paid for in order to receive the Yearbook on the final day.

Operation Christmas Child

A big thank you to the many students on both campuses, their families and staff that supported this very worthwhile endeavour. We delivered 95 boxes, with the shipping fee for each box, plus a few sundry items to be used at the processing centre in Watson, last week. The organizers were delighted and very impressed by the quality of the boxes.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

This weekend marks the beginning of Advent, a new church year, and a time to recall the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. To celebrate this joyful season we will be collecting food items and toys (up to and including teenagers) to donate to the various Chapters of St Vincent de Paul in the Tuggeranong Valley - items can be left at the Wanniassa Campus near the library. Ideas for items include: Tea, pasta, coffee, cordial, biscuits, tinned food, fruit juice, soft drinks, shortbread, jelly, pasta sauce, long-life milk, plum puddings, Christmas Cake, or chips. Thank you for your support!

School Route 858 change for 2013

The morning school bus 858 that picks up in Warramanga, Fisher, Gleneagles, Kambah, Wanniassa, and Monash before finishing at the Isabella Campus has altered its route for the 2013 school year and will now set down at Monash Primary. For details, visit the ACTION website.

Padua Class of '83 Reunion

There is a Reunion planned for the Class of '83 in November 2013. The organising committee is trying to locate ex-students who would have completed Year 10 at Padua Catholic High School in 1983. This includes students who may have left a little earlier as well as any teachers who would have had the pleasure of educating us!

Please contact Kerrin Hardie (Prout) on 0404 462 292 or at kerrin.hardie@fahcsia.gov.au.

College Board Report

The College Board posts reports from its meetings on the College Website. To access these, visit mackillop.act.edu.au/website/thecollegeboard/boardnews.php.

Community News

Christmas Mass times at Corpus Christi Parish

Corpus Christi will hold a Mass on Christmas Eve (Monday 24 December) outside the Sacred Heart Church in Calwell from 6pm. Bring something to sit on and a hat/umbrella.

All other Christmas Masses will be held at Holy Family Church, Gowrie.

Christmas Eve (Monday 24 December): 9pm & Midnight (including carols from 11.30pm)

Christmas Day (Tuesday 25 December): 8am and 10am

Canberra School of Tennis

Holiday programs will be run over the following dates:

Week 1: Monday 17 - Friday 21 December 2012

Week 2: Monday 14 - Friday 18 January 2013

Week 3: Monday 21 - Friday 25 January 2013

North and southside locations available.

Contact 62413705 or email csot@grapevine.com.au for more information.

Free Self-Defence Seminar

GKR Karate presents free community classes. Learn safety awareness, responsible use of self-defence, skills, and improve your personal confidence and self-esteem.

The class takes place this Sunday 2 December at St Monica's Primary School, Evatt, between 2pm-4pm.

Outward Bound Courses

Outward Bound Australia invites participants to challenge and improve themselves with adventurous land and water based activities and leadership development opportunities.

The NAVIGATOR course is 12 days of adventure for youth aged 15-17 (inclusive). The ACT Australian Alps Navigator starts January 6, 2013

The FAMILY course is a 7 day wilderness experience for youth aged 13-16 with an accompanying parent or caregiver. The ACT Australian Alps Family starts January 11, 2013

To discuss the program further, please contact:
Eleanor Senyard, Public Enrolments on 1800 267 999
Email: EleanorS@outwardbound.org.au
Website: www.outwardbound.org.au

Australian Sports Camps

Australian Sports Camps are offering camps in cricket and netball in the school holidays (14-16 January). They will be held at Canberra Grammar. Call 1300 914 368 for information.