



**PRINCIPAL'S LETTER**

**Happy Easter!**

As Lent draws to a close, many of us hope that our time of reflection and sacrifice has strengthened our preparedness to meet Christ this Easter. His Passion, sacrifice on the cross, and resurrection are the cornerstone of our hope and trust in Him and the gift of His Salvation.

I hope this Easter is a time of deep thanksgiving and joyfulness with your family and friends and a time of safekeeping in this busy and challenging time.

**Australian Citizenship and Civics**

The Australian and the ACT Curriculum has promoted the teaching of citizenship and civics for many years. Students have been learning about Australian parliament, our courts, laws, and the responsibilities and benefits of Australian Citizenship.

This is a good thing! At Wednesday's assembly on the Wanniasa Campus, Betina Calderon of Year 9 spoke of her recent gift of Australian Citizenship. She movingly explained her emigration from the Philippines, her affection for the country and culture of her birth, and her gratitude to Australia for all the blessings and opportunities this country has bestowed upon her and her family.

Beautifully, she described her preparedness and enthusiasm for making a contribution to Australian life.

The story of immigration to Australia is one of the richest pages of courage in the Australian story. This young girl's testament was a ringing endorsement of the second verse of our National Anthem "for those who've come across the seas, we've boundless plains to share, with courage let us all combine, to advance Australia fair!"

May the blessings of Easter be upon your families and friends this holiday!

Yours in St Mary MacKillop,

MICHAEL LEE  
PRINCIPAL



**PRINCIPAL'S PRAYER**

Lord, please know that the community of St Mary MacKillop College prays for the community of St Carmel School, Yass, in these challenging times for them. We pray that Your love will continue to strengthen their community. Amen.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- APR FRIDAY 11** • Final Day of Term 1  
• Easter Liturgies
- APR MONDAY 28** • Term 2 begins
- APR TUESDAY 29** • Parent/Teacher Interviews (Wanniasa)
- APR WEDNESDAY 30** • Parent/Teacher Interviews (Isabella)

# COLLEGE NEWS

## NEWS+INFORMATION

### Future Stars!

**Hunter Dinning (Year 8)** competed for and won the title of ACT State Champion for Karate in both kata and kumite for his age division. His team also won gold in the junior team kata - three gold medals and the title of State Champion!

**Renae Coffey (Year 7)** and **Lachlan Seidel (Year 9)** have both been selected to represent the ACT in baseball. Renae will play in a School Sport Australia tournament in Wollongong from 18-22 April, while Lachlan will compete in early May.

Some news relating to Engarde at MacKillop: **Aisling Kinsella (Year 8)** won the silver medal in the novice foil event at the Canberra Day Fencing tournament.



### Relay for Life

Congratulations to the Year 12 students who represented the College at the Cancer Council's Relay for Life. Thank you to a number of teachers who helped to supervise the students as they raised funds and awareness for Cancer Research. Students from other year groups also participated in their own teams. Well done!

### Writing Scholarship

This term, all Year 9-10 students in the ACT were invited to apply to the Canberra Writing School for scholarships to participate in the Elite Young Writers Development Program (ten-week online course). Samantha Hobman (Year 10) sent in the required email application outlining her reasons for applying for the scholarship and was advised last week that she had won it. A delighted Samantha will begin her program in the next few weeks.

Suzanne Kiraly from the Writing School advised that more scholarships may be offered in Semester 2 and noted that if any student has missed out, they can re-apply next semester or have their parents enrol them as a fee paying student. The contact email is: [info@canberrawritingschol.com.au](mailto:info@canberrawritingschol.com.au)

*Lois White*

## HOUSEKEEPING

### Fees will be sent in holidays

Thank you to the families who have paid Term 1 fees. Any outstanding fees should be paid immediately unless paying by Direct Debit or other approved arrangement.

Term 2 fees will be sent out during the holidays. Term 2 fees are due to be paid by 16 May 2014. If you require more information regarding Direct Debit arrangements or other approved payment methods please contact the Fees Office.

*Michelle Predovan, Fees Manager*

### Leavers at the end of Term

If your son or daughter is leaving MacKillop at the end of Term 1, please inform the College in writing prior to the end of Week 10.

*Vivienne Joice, Enrolment Secretary*

### Enrolment Sessions and Info

The College will hold Enrolment Sessions on the following dates:

- 5 MAY **Year 7 2015 Information Night**  
6.30pm, Wanniasa
- 9 MAY **Try Year 7 at MacKillop Day**  
9am-2.30pm, Wanniasa
- 14 MAY **Year 11 2015 Information Night**  
6pm, Isabella  
(and Careers Expo: 4.30-7.30 pm)

The Enrolment Period runs between 5 May-23 May. It is important that families submit their enrolment applications during this period. Late applications will automatically go onto our waiting list - even for families who already have students at MacKillop.

Please remember that Year 10 students must also submit an application form to commence at MacKillop for Year 11 2015.

*Vivienne Joice, Enrolment Secretary*

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Canberra School of Tennis

Holiday Camps for Tennis are being run in the holidays at the Weston Creek Tennis Club and the Pines Tennis Club. Half-day and full-day programs are available. Email [csot@grapevine.com.au](mailto:csot@grapevine.com.au) or call 62413705 for details.

### Corpus Christi Parish Holy Week

Corpus Christi Parish invites members of the College community to join them for Holy Week and Easter liturgies. For Mass times, visit <http://www.ccparrish.org.au/node/85>

**NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK EXPO 2014**  
Friday 4 April  
Garema Place  
Canberra City  
free entry  
4-8pm.



# CURRICULUM NEWS

## SENIOR STUDIES



Although the actual AST examinations are not until September, now is the time to start workshops in order to understand these important examinations more thoroughly.

We will be trialling a new structure for workshops this year. Instead of running them before school and during lunch, they will instead be run during study lines. This provides greater accessibility to the workshops for every Year 12 student intending to receive an ATAR.

During the workshops we will cover each of the three examinations in detail and provide example questions to help students understand some possible approaches to the different style of questions that appear. We will also look at areas in trial examinations that proved difficult so as to target our weaknesses.

As each workshop is going to be run on six occasions, and given that most students will have multiple opportunities to attend each workshop, they are considered compulsory. How the cohort perform as a group in the AST is critical for each students ATAR and these workshops are the best way to develop the collective understanding necessary for best results.

If you have a son or daughter in Year 12 intending to sit the AST, encourage them to talk about these workshops with you, and to ensure they come along to all of them.

As always, if you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me.

P: 6209 0173

E: colby.cruwys@mackillop.act.edu.au

*Colby Cruwys,  
Senior Studies Coordinator*

## NAPLAN

### NAPLAN Research

Last week all parents and carers of Year 7 students were sent an email about the Year 7 NAPLAN Research Study, which looks into students' perceptions about NAPLAN. Parents and carers are asked to respond to the email which requires consent for students to take part in the study.

If parents have not received an email please contact Margaret Fenotti on 6209 5225 or by emailing Marg.Fenotti@mackillop.act.edu.au.

*Maria O'Donnell and Clare Fletcher  
Teaching and Learning Coordinators*

### NAPLAN Timetable

Students will receive a NAPLAN Information for Parents brochure this week in their Pastoral Care class. Spare copies will be available from the Teaching and Learning Coordinators (Clare Fletcher and Maria O'Donnell).

2014 NAPLAN Timetable		
Tuesday 13 May	Wednesday 14 May	Thursday 15 May
Language Conventions Year 7: 45 min Year 9: 45 min	Reading Year 7: 65 min Year 9: 65 min	Numeracy (calculator) Year 7 : 40 min Year 9 : 40 min
Writing Year 7: 40 min Year 9: 40 min		Numeracy (non-calculator) Year 7 : 40 min Year 9 : 40 min

If you have any questions about NAPLAN please call Maria O'Donnell or Clare Fletcher (62095298).

*Maria O'Donnell and Clare Fletcher  
Teaching and Learning Coordinators*

## VISUAL ARTS

On Friday 28 March, Year 11 and 12 Visual Arts students travelled to Sydney to spend the day exploring the 19th Biennale of Sydney. The morning was spent with educators at the Museum of Contemporary Art, experiencing and viewing a range of video works, mixed media, collages, sculptures and, very importantly, the MCA Shop! We then caught the Biennale ferry to Cockatoo Island. The island is an amazing venue for contemporary installation artworks which are found alongside old ship-building machinery and in massive underground sheds, old prison buildings and run-down official prison residences. It provided students with an experience very different to the more traditional galleries they had been used to. Students were able, on the day, to engage with artworks physically, aurally, visually and emotionally. It was a long day but the weather held and it was a unique, challenging and enlightening experience for all.



*Tamara Murdoch,  
Visual Arts Coordinator*

# CURRICULUM NEWS

## VISIT FROM OKI HIGH



In March, St Mary MacKillop College hosted our first visit from Oki High School in Japan. Oki High School is located on Dogo the largest of the 4 Oki Islands in the Sea of Japan about 50 km's from Honshu, Japan's main island. The Oki Islands are part of the UNESCO Geopark Network and are home to many unique geological features, ecosystems and cultural traditions. The island of Dogo has a population of 16000 people. In the hope of broadening the international outlook of the students of their school, Oki High School has entered into a sister school relationship with St Mary MacKillop College. The College enjoyed the visit of 6 students, their English teacher Ikuko Orisaka, their Assistant Principal Katsuyuki Onda and a representative from the Oki Geopark, Teresa Sadkowsky. The students shared information about their lives, school and the beautiful islands that they come from with a number of Year 9 Science

classes and many of the Japanese classes at the College. 6 MacKillop families kindly opened their homes to these students and showed them much of their life in Canberra. The Oki High School students were able to visit Parliament House, the National Gallery of Australia and Questacon. They also participated in an excursion to Cowra, NSW to visit the Japanese garden and war cemetery with the Year 9 and 10 Japanese students.

In order to build the relationship between our schools, the Oki no shima Town Council and Oki High School have generously funded a return visit for 10 MacKillop Japanese students from Year 10-12. These students were selected through a vigorous process that involved application letters and interviews. The successful applicants were: Jade Boyle (Yr 12), Laina Wright, Laura Rankin, Joshua Flaherty, Andre Long, Jesus Gonzalez-Gurero (Yr 11), Matthew Dredge, Haydon

Downes, Lara Clarke and Claire Rowland (Yr 10). The students will be accompanied by Mrs Petrina Masfield, Mr Paul O'Callaghan and myself. These students will depart for the Oki Islands in Week 10 of Term 2 and look forward to sharing their experiences with the College community on their return.

Over the coming years, we hope that many MacKillop students will be able to experience the unique environment and culture of the Oki Islands as we organize regular exchanges to Oki High School for not only Japanese students, but others who have interest in this unique part of the world. If you have interest in hosting a student from Oki High School in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Andrew Mitchell  
Languages*

## Host families wanted

Once again this year, St Mary MacKillop College is working with the exchange organization Students of the World, to bring a number of French and Italian exchange students into the College. The details for

these exchanges are:

- Italian (15-18 years old): Arriving 21 June and departing 20 August or 13 September 2014
- French (14-18 years old): Arriving 6 July or 19 July and departing 29 August.

Students of the World makes a donation

of \$300 to contribute towards the cost of hosting the students in your home.

If you are interested in participating in this program, please email me at [andrew.mitchell@mackillop.act.edu.au](mailto:andrew.mitchell@mackillop.act.edu.au) or phone me at the College.

*Andrew Mitchell, Languages*

## NEW ZEALAND TRIP

A fantastic new travel opportunity for students in Year 10 and 11 (2013) of St Mary MacKillop College: The Spectacular South Island - New Zealand 12 day tour for SOSE and Science Students!

Who is this for?

The information Night is for SOSE and Science students, from Years 10-12 (2015), and parents to join an extra-curricular tour in April 2015.

What will you be doing?

You will be:

- Travelling to the south Island of New Zealand
- Visiting Te Anau, where you can marvel at the Glowworm Grotto.
- Driving to Taupo to view the Huka Falls and one of two huge Geothermal power stations.
- Seeing the world's largest crater lake and travelling up into New Zealand's most volcanically active area, Tongariro National Park

- Touring Christchurch, Dunedin and Queenstown.
- Visiting the locations used for filming The Lord of the Rings.
- Crossing New Zealand's greatest mountain range, the Southern Alps, and travelling through lush beech forests and serene lakes.
- Seeing Franz Josef Glacier, the largest West Coast glacier.
- Fox Glacier- a solid tongue of ice 13 kilometres long, higher than your average 5 storey building
- Travelling by Gondola cableway up 450 meters over Queenstown.
- Viewing the incredible sights of Milford Sound, Mitre Peak, Mount Cook and Bowen Falls.
- Be a part of the centenary ANZAC Day Dawn service in Christchurch.

An information evening for all students and their parents who are interested in attending an extra-curricular SOSE and Science trip to the South Island of New Zealand in 2015 will be held on Monday, 7 April at 5.30pm in F



Block

at the Isabella Campus. The trip is designed to extend the learning of SOSE and Science students. The information session is designed to explain the trip details, including contacts, timings and activities. If you are unable to attend, please email the Science Coordinator Mike Brennan [mike.brennan@mackillop.act.edu.au](mailto:mike.brennan@mackillop.act.edu.au) or Michael Batten at [michael.batten@mackillop.act.edu.au](mailto:michael.batten@mackillop.act.edu.au) prior to the evening.

Students will be selected by application and a deposit will be required to secure your place on the trip.

*Michael Batten, SOSE Coordinator*



# PASTORAL NEWS: WANNIASSA

## Pastoral events

Last week students in Year 7 had their Year 7 Community Day, while Year 8 students travelled in two groups to Sydney for the annual trip to St Mary MacKillop Place and St Mary's Cathedral. Student reports on each of these events are below.

## Year 8 Pilgrimage to Mary MacKillop Place



Over the last week, Year 8 classes had an early start from MacKillop to make the long bus ride to Sydney to visit Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney and St Mary's Cathedral in the centre of the city. At Mary MacKillop Place we had a tour of the Museum. This included learning about Mary's life as a child, the forming of the Sisters of St Joseph in Penola, working with Julian Tenison Woods, her ex-communication from the Church and then her canonisation in 2010. We also saw the room that Mary MacKillop died in as well as her tomb in the chapel. This centre is a very quiet and peaceful place in the middle of a busy city, even with a big bunch of noisy Year 8's wandering around. Throughout the centre, there was the constant theme of Mary's of, "Never see a need without doing something about it" and we learned that everything she did was for God.

At St Mary's Cathedral we had some time to reflect and pray. We also learnt some interesting things. Did you know the cathedral has 6 altars and its life size Stations of the Cross were commissioned in 1885? The group on Thursday were unable to visit the crypt because of the farewell Mass for Cardinal Pell. We all had a great day away from school and learnt a lot from both parts of the trip.

By Aisling Kinsella (8F2)

## Year 7 Community Day



Last week on Wednesday 26 March, all of Year 7 were involved in a Community Day where we learned about St Mary MacKillop, her life and the work she did. We then enjoyed playing games and working cooperatively with other House mates to get to know each other. The idea was for students in each of the four Houses to work together in group activities and to develop leadership skills. We worked in House groups to achieve tasks whilst using creativity and team work.

It was a successful day that ran smoothly with outstanding efforts from the Year 7's throughout the activities. Following the day, around 40 students collected information about running for House SRC positions, making speeches and maybe becoming MacKillop's Year 7 leaders.

The Community Day was definitely a successful day for all year 7s and staff that participated. We just like to say a thank you to all those people who participated, cooperated and showed great leadership during the events on the day.

By Charlette Polmanteer (7F3)

## Status Awards

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

Bronze Status: Kate Caruana (7W1), Tamara Darwich (7F1), Caitlin Keen (7W2), Kiele Manderson (7W2), Harrison Palic (7F3), Eliza Sharman (7EW), Caitlin Smith (7F1), Cara Wilson (8A2).

## Parentingideas

Next Week parents will receive information about the upcoming Semester 1 Progress Interviews and how to make bookings with teachers. These short three way conversations between parents, student and teacher will be held at:

- the Wanniasa Campus for students in Year 7 - 9 on Tuesday 29 April and Thursday 1 May (4.00pm to 7.00pm)
- the Isabella Campus for students in Year 10 - 12 on Wednesday 30 April (4.00pm to 7.00pm)

The parentingideas article below, "Making the most of your Parent & Teacher interview", outlines some simple tips for parents to ensure that progress interviews are as effective as possible in the limited time available and that the time is used efficiently to discuss how your son or daughter is progressing in their classes.

Lachlan McNicol, AP Pastoral Care (Wanniasa)

# INSIGHTS

by Michael Grose – No. 1 parenting educator

parentingideas.com.au

parentingideas.co.uk

parentingideas.co.nz



## Making the most of your parent-teacher interview

It makes sense for you as a parent to be prepared and ready to make the most of the brief time you have with teachers.



Parent-teacher interviews provide a great opportunity for you as a parent to find out how your child is progressing at school.

Many parent-teacher interviews are tightly scheduled and can seem a little rushed. Teachers are generally highly organised so they can make the most of the time you have together.

It makes sense also for you as a parent to be prepared and ready to make the most of the brief time you have with teachers.

Here are some guidelines to make the most of these interviews:

- 1. Prepare well.** Before the interview, list any questions that you want to raise. Keep questions short and to the point.
- 2. Attend with a partner or friend** particularly if you are nervous or unsure. It is easy to miss a point and often difficult to relay information to a partner.
- 3. Give the teacher a chance** to make an assessment of your child's progress. This may seem obvious but some interviews never get off the ground because enthusiastic parents take over.
- 4. Take notes and clarify information that you don't understand.** "What do you mean by 'he needs to spend more time reading'...?" Make sure you have a good understanding of the messages your child's teacher is giving.
- 5. Be prepared to give an assessment of your child's performance.** You may be asked how you think your child is performing so give an honest, but realistic assessment.

**6. Ask how you can help your child if there are any areas that need to be strengthened.** No doubt your child's teacher will have some strategies for you to assist your child, so make sure you have a clear understanding before you leave.

If there are unresolved issues or you wish to discuss your child's difficulties in greater detail, consider asking for another interview. This is being respectful of the teacher's time and of those parents who are to follow.

**Once the interview is over consider how you will discuss it with your child.**

Avoid giving generalisations or simplistic appraisals such as: "The teacher says you are a good girl."

Discuss areas that need work in positive terms. Talk about strengths or successes first before discussing areas that may need more work.

A clear message such as, "We talked about your reading and the teacher suggested that we should try..." is far more helpful.

Involve your child in discussing any plans for improvement. Avoid making big plans for your child to improve in a subject area without consulting him or her. By involving children and taking notice of their ideas plans are more likely to be successful.

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