



PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

Year 7 Camp at Collaroy

Thank you to Mrs Durham and Mr Robertson and their team for a Year 7 Camp that proved to be a great success. Many people would be overwhelmed by the logistics of organising such a camp a day's drive from the school, however with very few incidents to report, staff and students appear to have had an experience rich in fond memory, fellowship, and experience.

Congratulations and thank you to everybody involved, particularly Year 7, whose maturity and preparedness to be engaged was the essence of it all.

Assessment Period

Congratulations to all the students who have strategised, set goals, and worked diligently towards improved outcomes in their learning this semester. I'm currently reading all Year 12 reports and it is a pleasure to see the results of such productive relationships between the teachers and the students on the Senior Campus.

Reports will be mailed home in the next few days and parents and caregivers will have the opportunity to recognise significant achievement.

I would like to thank the staff who have brought to this lengthy and exacting process a professionalism and energy that ensure students and parents get an accurate picture of their child's progress.

The holiday break

Congratulations to the many students who will be engaged in representative sport and other activities over the winter break. It is such a pleasure to hear of such widespread success for our students.

During this break, I will be attending the Catholic Principal's Conference in Darwin and travelling to Washington DC at the expense of the National Principal's Association of the United States to participate as the only Australian at a school leadership summit, an experience I'm really looking forward to. Mr Paul O'Callaghan will be Acting Principal until I return at the beginning of August.

Until the College reassembles, may Almighty God keep us safe in His loving arms.

Yours in St Mary MacKillop,

MICHAEL LEE, PRINCIPAL



PRINCIPAL'S PRAYER

Lord, We give thanks for all the blessings that have been bestowed upon the College this term. Grant to our community a safe and happy holiday. Amen.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUL FRIDAY 04	• Last day of Term 2
JUL MONDAY 21	• Term 3 begins • NAIDOC Week begins
JUL WEDNESDAY 30	• Year 12 Retreat departs
AUG FRIDAY 08	• Variety Night

COLLEGE NEWS

Future Stars!

Jackson Holdway (8F3) will be heading to New Zealand in the next school holidays to compete in the Water Polo Pan Pacific Games. He will play for both the U14 and U16 teams.

Nick Cotric (Year 10) played for the NSW U16 State of Origin side in the curtain raiser to rugby league's Origin I at the end of May. Nick will also play for the ACT Schoolboys side at the National Schoolboys Championships later this year.

Zoe Evans (Year 7) represented the ACT at the QLD Border Challenge in Caloundra late last month.

Kris Cole (Year 12) will travel to Toowoomba in August to represent the ACT at the School Sport Australia Golf Championships.

Josh Henderson (Year 7) has been chosen to represent the ACT in both Rugby League (in Wollongong this August) and Oztag (in Coffs Harbour this October).



Adam Gauntlett (Year 10), **Hannah Smit** (Year 8) and **Lachlan Watt** (Year 11) represented the ACT in squash at Green Shield in Coffs Harbour on 17 and 18 June. Lachlan and Adam competed in the 17 boys team and contributed to a strong ACT win in that age group. Hannah competed in the 15 year old girls team which came second overall. All three players have also been selected to represent the ACT at the Australian Junior Championships in Perth over the Sept/Oct school holidays.

Vocational Student Prize

Congratulations to Mikaela Plessnitzer and William Johnson (both from the Class of 2013), who have both been awarded the 2013 Australian Vocational Student Prize. The Australian Vocational Student Prize recognises the achievements of students who completed their senior studies while undertaking a vocational education program or an Australian School-based Apprenticeship.

Business Directory

As mentioned last newsletter, our new website will feature a directory for MacKillop families to register their businesses. If you have a business you'd like to register, please send an email to media@mackillop.act.edu.au with your business name, all relevant contact details, and a brief blurb.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Unloved Mug Appeal

In the last newsletter, we requested donations of travel mugs to ensure the longevity of our valued Breakfast Club.



In an overwhelmingly generous response, within 40 minutes of the newsletter being distributed, we had reached our Unloved Mug target! Donations continued to flow in during the week and we now even have reserve stock to replace damaged or worn out mugs.

Gary Pickering and I would like to extend our sincere thanks for your support and we are gratefully bringing the Unloved Mug Appeal to an early conclusion! Thank you again for sharing your unloved mugs with us.

Eugene Lehmensich, Sustainability Coordinator

Parent involvement in staffing

If you are a parent with an interest in the processes of staffing the school, you are invited to be a member of the panels which interview potential teachers. These panels usually occur during the day and you will be supported by experienced panellists during the interviews. Your valuable insight as a parent would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Cindy Dean on 6209 0100 if you are interested in becoming involved.

Michelle da Roza, AP Curriculum

Schools Recommendation Scheme

UAC is centralising Schools Recommendation Schemes for current Year 12 students who are UAC applicants for undergraduate admission in 2015 onwards. This system facilitates early offers of admission to current Year 12 students, some of whom might otherwise not be offered a place. In the past, these schemes have been run by individual universities and have been known generically as "Principal's Recommendations". As more information becomes available regarding SRS we will make this known to you.

*Michelle da Roza
AP Curriculum*

School Fees

Thank you to the families who have paid Term 2 fees.

Any outstanding fees should be paid immediately unless paying by Direct Debit or other approved arrangement.

Term 3 fees will be sent out during the holidays. Term 3 fees are due to be paid by 8 August 2014. If you require more information regarding Direct Debit arrangements or other approved payment methods please contact the Fees Office.

Michelle Predovan, Fees Manager

Seasons for Growth Grief Program

Change and loss are issues that affect all of us at some stage in our lives. Changes occur in families through death, separation, divorce or related circumstances and young people can benefit from learning how to manage these changes effectively. In Term 3, the College will be offering the successful education program called Seasons for Growth.

This program is facilitated in small groups and is based on research which highlights the importance of social support and the need to practise new skills to cope effectively with change and loss. The

program focuses on issues such as self-esteem, managing feelings, problem-solving, decision-making, effective communication and support networks.

MacKillop is pleased to be able to offer this important program and we are confident that it will be a valuable learning experience for those who request to be involved. If you think your son or daughter would benefit from participating in the Seasons for Growth program please contact Lachlan McNicol on: Ph) 6209 0100.

e) lachlan.mcnicol@mackillop.act.edu.au

Lachlan McNicol, AP Pastoral Care (Wanni)

CURRICULUM CORNER: VISUAL ARTS

Inspire Art Competition

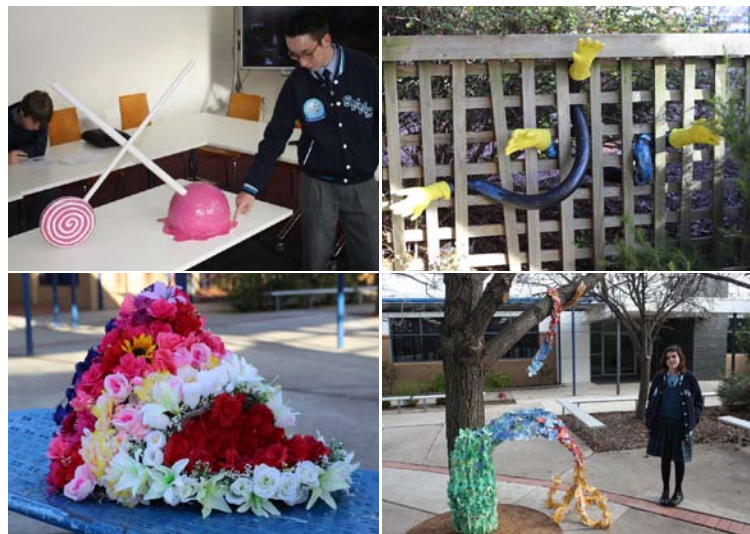
INSPIRE

St Mary MacKillop College Art Competition 2014

Produce one artwork on any theme, using art media of your choice. You might wish to produce a drawing, painting, sculpture, graphic art, photography, mixed media, printmaking or ceramics. You must submit a 100 word statement with your entry, explaining what your work is about. Work must be submitted ready for exhibition ie. framed or card mounted for two dimensional works.

Artworks must be submitted to the Visual Art department by Friday, 5 September.

Artworks will be displayed as part of SMMC Feast Day celebrations. Prizes will be awarded to Yr 7/8, Yr 9/10, Yr 11/12 in the form of Eckersley's gift vouchers. The overall winner will receive a year's membership at the National Gallery of Australia and their work will be kept for permanent display at the College. This year a selection of the best entries will be exhibited at the Tuggeranong Arts Centre.



Art Sculpture at Isabella

Early one misty Thursday morning in June, two classes of Year 12 Art students arrived to Art Bomb the Isabella campus. What is this 'Art Bomb' of which we speak? It involves secretly installing site specific sculpture to be interacted with by students and members of staff for the duration of the day. Students displayed a combination of collaborative or solo pieces in various parts of the school made from a variety of materials and covering a broad range of themes. Students benefited from the viewers' reactions to the pieces and learnt about the importance of taking public access into account prior to making their work. Fun was had. Art was viewed. The end.

Fiona Bolton

COMMUNITY NEWS



hotshots.tennis.com.au




**READY?
PLAY.**

Welcome to tennis played on kids terms

Tennis Holiday Camps
The Pines Tennis Club


Ph: 0432 118 204
E: csot@hotmail.com.au

no one prepared me for this!
What does this mean?
DID THEY SAY
CANCER? Will it be OK?
I CAN'T HANDLE THIS!!!
I FEEL SO ALONE
How do I deal with this?
cancer sux!
WILL IT BE OK??
Will it hurt?
This isn't right!
Will I die?
WHY US?
NO ONE REALLY GETS IT
I can't talk to anyone
I can't handle this
CANCER SUX
Why me?

Is cancer messing with your life?
It's worse when you're alone.

WE GET IT. 1800 345 456 canteen.org.au



Engarde Fencing Club

Fencing is fast growing sport in the ACT and is great for all ages and abilities.

The Engarde@MacKillop Fencing Club is holding a 'come and try' night on 14 July and a beginners' course from 21 July. All you need is Joggers, Trackpants, T-shirt and a drink bottle.

For more information or to book a spot, send an email to engarde.delegate@actfa.org.au.

In the Park arts event

Tuggeranong Arts Centre presents 'In the Park' on 5 July, 11am-2pm at the Tuggeranong Town Park. In the Park is a free interactive arts event for young people in the south of Canberra. Attendees will be invited to:

- get involved in graffiti art
 - learn how to make 'zines'
 - learn a drum rhythm and then perform it on stage
 - leap and bound like stunt doubles with the Australian Parkour Association
 - attempt juggling, diablo, hula hooping and a stack of other circus skills with one of Australia's finest youth circus organisations, Canberra's own Warehouse Circus.
- Just want to kick back and relax? There'll be performances from local bands and Canberra's leading urban dance group, Fresh Funk, not to mention a free sausage sizzle for lunch.

WANNIASSA NEWS

The Year 7 Camp

We left bright and early in the morning ready for an exciting Year 7 Camp ahead of us. At camp everyone conquered or tried something new along the way through ropes, running, climbing, problem solving games or working together. We all learnt to help and encourage each other, using everyone's ideas and strengths to get through.

Between each activity there were delicious meals and snacks that always kept us full. There were popcorn and drinks with movies, cakes and cookies with morning and afternoon tea and huge meals at breakfast, lunch and dinner.



The trip was great fun, and about meeting and getting to know other people better and trying things we've never tried before. It was also great to see our teachers in a different way and all Year 7 were appreciative of Mrs Durham and Mr Robertson who organised and led the camp, as well as all the other teachers who helped out with each of the groups.

Audrey Kent (7A3)

Year 8 Coastlife

On Wednesday and Thursday, Year 8 participated in a teamwork and leadership program called Coastlife. The program was designed to develop trust and encourage cohesive teamwork. A variety of activities were set up on the oval, each requiring different strengths and copious amounts of teamwork to complete the task in the shortest possible amount of time. Although the program was completed in house groups, it provided opportunities for us (as students), to work with different people with different skills and strengths. Activities varied from physically to mentally challenging, each demanding a different strategy, although teamwork was a constant component. The activities showed a creative approach to the main goals of the day, (who'd have known that getting a golf ball into a cup would be so hard!), yet, it was an enjoyable program. Although, there was a slightly competitive element to the activities, teams and individuals rose to the occasion, showing peer leadership and team initiative, achieving the ultimate goals for the day.

Jasmine Fraser (8F2)



Year 9 Careers Session

On the morning of Tuesday 24 June, Year 9 were fortunate enough to attend a careers presentation by Mrs Karen Hundy, our Careers and VET Coordinator. Mrs Hundy, seven MacKillop graduates and Don Rail from MBA shared their experiences of school and work, how they achieved their goals and gave us valuable advice on what we can do, starting now, to secure a career that we excel in and love in the future.

We were also introduced to the MacKillop Careers website, which will help us with our career prospects. Many new opportunities and job options were revealed to us, and Year 9 definitely learnt a lot and benefited greatly from the morning!

Elsa Huber (9EW)

Year 9 Transition Day at the Isabella Campus



On Wednesday 25 June, Year 9 students were taken to the Isabella Campus on a "Transition Day" to prepare for next year and get a taste of what electives they would be able to participate in. After making our way to the campus, we separated into PC classes and went on tours. The students got to see the facilities of the campus and were given demonstrations of the electives they could choose from, the electives were assigned to different areas and Year 9 was given a presentation for each of these areas, they included: Art, I.T, Performing Arts, Hospitality and Physical Education. Each area had various different classes giving the

students an idea of what they could choose for the 2015 school year.

At the end of the day students got to write letters to their future selves for them to read in Year 12, and after they did this a prayer celebration was conducted where Year 9 had to put their letters into a mail box that represented their house group and then place a leaf with their name on it onto a board shaped as a tree that represented all the students of Year 9 and their House groups. As the ceremony went on, the tree became larger and larger until all of Year 9's names were on it.

Jack Pilkington (9W2)

Year 9 yLead Workshop

On Thursday 26 June, Year 9 participated in the interactive workshop, yLead. The program included inspiring stories of successful young leaders, some of which were delivered personally to the year group.

The day consisted of engaging group activities, where students developed key skills in becoming a good leader. Some of these skills included teamwork,

communication, relationships and developing a positive attitude.

The three main activities focused on different aspects of cohesive leadership. The first activity was based on creating a positive environment in order to achieve positive results, and considered the impact that attitude and behaviour have on results. The second activity centred on voicing our opinions

and respecting the opinions of others. This exercise enhanced our ability to understand the reasons behind an idea. The third activity focused on choices and significant factors that should be considered when making decisions. We discovered the importance of collaborating and respecting the choices of our peers.

The yLead experience helped

us to understand leadership, improved our self-confidence, strengthened our relationships with peers, and took a fun and exciting approach to preparation for the future. We learned that nothing is impossible and, with an open mind and a positive attitude, we have the power to create a bright future.

Ingrid Francis (9W1)

Parenting *ideas* INSIGHTS

Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

Reading your child's report

Reports can mean anxious times for children. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children.

Could try harder . . . always does her best . . . lacks concentration . . . easily distracted . . . a pleasure to teach . . . Do these comments, taken from a batch of student reports sound familiar?

Student reports bring mixed feelings for parents. Pleasure and pride if they are performing well but considerable angst when children are not progressing as you hoped.

Reports can mean anxious times for children too. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children. Kids of all ages take their cues from their parents, so your reaction to their school report can affect the way they see themselves as learners and as people.

Before you rip open the sealed envelope containing the report do a little self-check to see if you are in the right frame of mind:

1 Are your expectations for your son or daughter realistic and in line with their ability?

Expectations are tricky. If they are too high then kids can be turned off learning. Too low and there is nothing to strive for. Pitch your expectations in line with your child's abilities. A quick check of your child's last report cards may provide you with a good yardstick.

2 Do you believe that children learn at different rates?

There are slow bloomers, late developers and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom, so avoid comparing your child to siblings, your friends' children and even yourself when you were a child. Instead look for individual progress.

3 Are you willing to safeguard your child's self-esteem rather than deflate it?

Self-confidence is a pre-requisite for learning, so be prepared to be as positive and encouraging as possible. School reports come in different formats. Some are prescriptive while some use grading systems such as A, B, C, etc. with room for teacher comments. Regardless of the format school reports should provide you with an idea of your child's progress in all subject areas, their attitude and social development.

Here are some ideas to consider when you open your child's report:

Focus on strengths Do you look for strengths or weaknesses first? The challenge is to focus on strengths even if they are not in the traditional 3Rs or core subjects.

Take into account your child's effort and attitude to learning. If the report indicates that effort is below standard, then you have something to work on. If your child is putting

in the required effort, then you cannot ask any more than that, regardless of the grading.

Broaden your focus away from academic performance to form a picture of your child's progress as a member of a social setting. How your child gets along with his or her peers will influence his happiness and well-being, as well as give an indicator to his future. The skills of independence and co-operation are highly valued by employers so don't dismiss these as unimportant.

Take note of student self-assessment

Kids are generally very honest and will give a realistic assessment of their progress. They are generally very perceptive so take note of their opinions.

Discuss the report with your son or daughter talking about strengths first before looking at areas that need improvement. Ask for their opinion about how they performed and discuss their concerns.

After reports are read and discussed celebrate your child's efforts with a special activity or treat. In this way you will recognise progress and remind them that the holidays are just around the corner when they can forget about assessment, tests and reports for a while.



Stay one step ahead of your kids with great ideas & expert advice from Michael Grose. Join Michael's **NEW Parentingideas Club** today at parentingideasclub.com.au. You'll be so glad you did.



parentingideas.com.au

