



## PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

### Senior Hospitality Dinner

Congratulations to Mrs Jolly, Mrs Maas, and Mrs Halton and to their 75 Hospitality students who worked splendidly to produce an outstanding three-course meal at the Hospitality Dinner on Wednesday night. It was a pleasure to enjoy the fine food, each other's company, and the confidence that was so evident in the students.

The growth of interest in our hospitality courses points to a further strengthening of the range of curriculum opportunities that this 'Catholic school for all' is providing our students.

Thank you to all the families who attended, particularly those from Cooma who were represented for the first time and who travelled a considerable distance.

### ACT Children's Week Award & ACT Training Excellence Award

Congratulations to Elise Paull and Emma Clarke who received an Endeavour Award at the Opening of ACT Children's Week at the National Museum last week. These Year 11 students do a lot for both the MacKillop community and the wider Canberra community and they are truly deserving of the recognition this award brings to their extraordinary contribution.

I was also delighted to see ex-student Mark den Hartog (Class of 2008) win the ACT Apprentice (Trainee) of the Year at the ACT Training Excellence Awards last month. It is difficult to keep up with what is going on in the lives of past MacKillop students but it was great to learn of his success and hear his humble remarks at the microphone.

### Campus Captain elections

Best wishes and good luck to the Year 8 students who have nominated for student leadership on the junior campus for 2015. It takes real courage to allow your name to appear on a ballot paper and to make a speech in front of your teachers and peers. This kind of courage and its attendant virtue of community service is abundantly represented in Year 2014. The elections for the Campus Captain positions take place on Wednesday 5 November.

### Remembrance Day 2014

MacKillop will observe Remembrance Day with two ceremonies - one at the Isabella Campus from 9.15am and one at the Wanniasa Campus from 10.40am. All welcome. Lest we forget.

Yours in St Mary MacKillop,

MICHAEL LEE  
PRINCIPAL

## PRINCIPAL'S THOUGHT

Lord we give thanks for the legacy of Edward Gough Whitlam (1916-2014). "It's time" to recall his lasting contribution to education. May his memory be blessed. Amen.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

NOV  
WEDNESDAY

**05**

- Wanniasa Captain Elections (W)

NOV  
WEDNESDAY

**12**

- Year 10 Exams begin

NOV  
THURSDAY

**13**

- ISART Exhibition Opening

NOV  
TUESDAY

**18**

- Year 12 Breakfast and Assembly

# COLLEGE NEWS

## Year 10 and 12 Laptop return

We would ask that all students in Year 10 and Year 12 return their laptops to IT Support before they leave the College at the end of Term 4. Year 12 students are required to return laptops on or before Tues 25th November; Year 10 students are required to return laptops on or before Thurs 27th November.

A receipt will be provided indicating the equipment has been returned and identifying any repairs that may be required. Laptops should not be handed to any other member of the College staff (teacher, coordinator, front office staff) other than IT Support. Students who have not returned their laptop in good condition with a charger and bag by this date will be charged accordingly, the IT Support receipt is the only proof of return we will accept.

*Ruth Walton & Jessica Stokman, ICT Managers*

## Student leavers at the end of 2014

If families are leaving the College at the end of this year, early advice would be appreciated as we have a number of families wishing to enrol for 2015. Please contact the Enrolment Officer, Vivienne Joice, by emailing [vivienne.joice@mackillop.act.edu.au](mailto:vivienne.joice@mackillop.act.edu.au) or by calling 6209 5217.

*Vivienne Joice, Enrolment Officer*

## Status Awards

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

Bronze Status - Seth East 7W2, Ashley Gillett 7A1, Jenna Moss 7EW, Olivia Pereira 7A3, Hannah Redlarski, 7F1

Silver Status - Callum Wardell 7A2

*Mr Lachlan McNicol  
AP Pastoral Care, Wanniasa*



## Titration Stakes finals

Early in Term 3, three senior chemistry students participated in the ACT Titration Stakes. In this competition, they competed against other ACT Colleges and tested their chemistry, scientific and mathematical skills. Our team achieved a top 10 result and qualified for the national finals.

The finals team, consisting of Ashleigh Brayshaw, Sarah Mayo and Rory Mackett committed their study classes and time after school this term to prepare for this competition. After a lot of hard work and dedication, the finals occurred this week where Ashleigh, Sarah and Rory achieved a Silver award. Congratulations to all involved.

*Kathryn Black*

## Fencing Club

The Engarde at MacKillop fencing club has been running at maximum capacity and a number of the MacKillop fencers have been winning medals and becoming state champions. At the end of last term, Year 8 student Ashy Kinsella won a Novice Foil competition (less than two years fencing). The winner was allowed to donate the entry fees to the charity of their choice, for which she chose Doctors Without Borders.

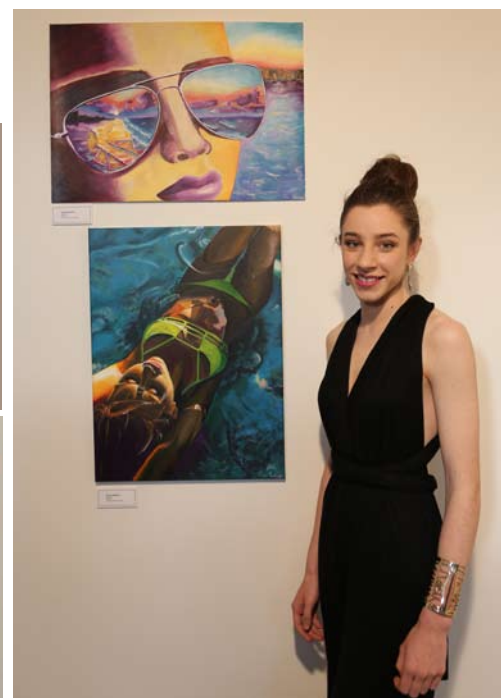
## School Fees

Term 4 Fees are due to be paid by this Friday 31 October unless paying by Direct Debit or other approved method. If you would like more information regarding Direct Debit payments or have any queries regarding your fees, please contact the Fees Office.

*Michelle Predovan, Fees Manager*

# INSPIRE ART EXHIBITION

The INSPIRE Art Competition was run in the lead up to MacKillop Day in Term 3. Last Week, a selection of the best entries was exhibited at the Tuggeranong Arts Centre. Congratulations to all who participated!





# WANNIASSA NEWS

## Young Carers

Young carers are children or young people up to 25 years of age, who provide care in families where someone has an illness, a disability, a mental health issue or who has an alcohol or other drug problem.

A young carers bursary programme, an initiative of the Australian Government, assist young carers in greatest need to continue to study and to relieve the financial pressure for them to undertake part-time work while studying and caring.

Applications for 2015 bursaries close on Sunday 9 November 2014. For further information and to access the online application form go to [www.youngcarers.net.au](http://www.youngcarers.net.au) or telephone 1800 756 238.

On the Wanniassa Campus, a Young Carers Program is established to support students who meet the above criteria. The group is facilitated by Mrs Donna Anderson and meet once a week, participate in numerous workshops, learning more about their significant roles as young carers and assisting with the demands of school.



## 2015 SRC Elections

The Election Process for the 2015 Student Representative Council commenced last week with students in each year group receiving various leadership presentations during the Pastoral Program. A large amount of interest has been shown by students with many nominations received this week.

An outstanding field of 13 Year 8 students will make Campus Captain Speeches on Wednesday 5 November prior to elections taking place.

Elections for Year 9 House Captains and Year 8 and 10 SRC positions will take place on Wednesday 19 November.

*Lachlan McNicol,  
AP Pastoral Care, Wanniassa*

# ASSESSMENT & REPORTING

The academic focus for professional learning for staff in 2014 has been "Assessment and Reporting". It has been an opportunity to introduce new staff to the principles of UbD (Understanding by Design) with its priorities on the big ideas and important performance tasks of the chosen topic. All curriculum programs have been written to reflect UbD principles and many assessments have been designed as performance tasks. Performance tasks are complex challenges that mirror the issues and problems that are faced by adults in the real world. They form part of a raft of evidence types to assess student learning.

Moderation Day was an occasion to showcase the work of several faculties in the area of assessment. The Science, Maths and PE staff collaborated to produce an integrated task for Year 8 around the circulatory system, collection of data and development of a healthy life style. The Integrated Humanities faculty displayed elaborate models of sustainable cities and the SOSE faculty shared with us their work on promoting inquiry tasks. We also looked at the principles for designing rubrics to provide effective feedback to improve student learning.

Formative assessment is an essential part of good assessment practices. Formative assessment is sometimes known as "assessment for learning" as opposed to summative assessment which is

"assessment of learning". This type of assessment involves short activities to quickly gauge students understanding of new concepts before moving on to new teaching. Several staff members were able to attend a two day workshop at the beginning of the year run by Hawker Brownlow and featuring the work of Dylan Wiliam in this area. They then ran a well-supported workshop back at school. Many teachers have adopted practices that encourage students to "opt into" lessons rather than "opt out".

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



## COMMUNITY NEWS

### St Peter's Class of '94 Reunion

The St Peter's Class of 1994 is holding its 20-year reunion over Saturday 29 November and Sunday 30 November. As it stands, Saturday will include a private cocktail party in the evening while Sunday will involve a picnic and, hopefully, a special surprise! Former staff and students are invited to join the St Peter's Alumni Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1461052654160798/> or email Rachael Mackie (nee Baker) at [frogonlilypad@bigpond.com](mailto:frogonlilypad@bigpond.com).

### Padua Class of '94 Reunion

If you were a student or a teacher at Padua Catholic School from 1991-1994 then we would like to invite you to our 20 year reunion. Yes it has been 20 years! We will be celebrating at Rose Cottage Gilmore, Canberra on Saturday 1st of November at 6.00 pm. It will be a great evening full of fun and memories, we hope to see you there! Thank you from the class of 1994.

### Fundraising event

The U12 Vikings are fundraising for their rugby tour of Europe. The Zambezi Sounds African Drum Disco will take place at Vikings Auditorium, Erindale, at 7-9pm on 14 November. Tickets available at the door or email [secretary\\_U12tour@hotmail.com](mailto:secretary_U12tour@hotmail.com). Costs is \$10 per head or \$25 for a family pass (2 adults, 2 kids, extra kids \$2).

# ISABELLA CAMPUS EXAM TIMETABLE

Y10 Exams S2 2014		
Wednesday 12 November	Period 1-2	Y10 Mathematics (All Levels)
Wednesday 12 November	Period 3-4	Y10 RE
Thursday 13 November	Period 1-2	Y10 Science (All Levels)

- Students are to attend normal scheduled Y10 classes for all other periods.
- All other Y10 Exams will be scheduled in normal class time.

Senior Exams S2 2014		
	Year 11	Year 12
Wed 19 November Morning (9.00am)	English A/T	Psychology A/T Economics
Wed 19 November Afternoon (1.15pm)	RE T	Independent Study - History Physics Social and Community Work
Thu 20 November Morning (9.00am)	Physics RE A	Biology Earth Science RE A
Thu 20 November Afternoon (1.15pm)	Psychology A/T Geography A/T Business A/T	Geography A/T Business A/T
Fri 21 November Morning (9.00am)	Biology Earth Science Specialist Maths Ext DM	RE T English A Specialist Maths Ext DM
Fri 21 November Afternoon (1.15pm)	Maths Applications Maths Methods Maths Specialists	IT A/T Hospitality T Sociology A/T Exercise Science
Mon 24 November Morning (9.00am)	History A/T – Modern History A/T – Ancient Exercise Science Dance A/T	Maths Applications Maths Methods Maths Specialists Dance A/T
Mon 24 November Afternoon (1.15pm)	IT DM Hospitality T Legal A/T Chemistry	IT DM Chemistry
Tue 25 November Morning (9.00am)	Economics Sociology A/T Tech Drawing T	Tech Drawing A/T History A/T – Ancient
Tue 25 November Afternoon (1.15pm)	IT A/T Social and Community Work Holistic Music A/T	History A/T – Modern Legal A/T Holistic Music A/T

**Please Note:**

- Some courses do not have a final semester exam
- All students will receive a personalised examination timetable indicating session start and finish times and locations.
- Students who have a 2 hour exam in the afternoon may need to make alternative arrangements if catching buses as exams will not finish before 3.30pm.

Enquiries regarding exams should be directed to Janine Hickson, Student Records in the first instance on 62090129.

# SIBLING DISCOUNT FORM

## SIBLING DISCOUNT

The Catholic Education Office offers a discount on Tuition fees to siblings who are attending St Mary MacKillop College and one or more of the following schools:

- ☐ Merici College
- ☐ St Clare's College
- ☐ St Francis Xavier College
- ☐ John Paul College

If you have a student attending any of the above Colleges, as well as having a student at St Mary MacKillop College, please complete the section below and return it to the Accounts Office for the sibling discount to be applied to your account in 2015.

Please note that you do not need to fill in the form below if all siblings are attending St Mary MacKillop College as they automatically receive the sibling discount.

If you have any concerns regarding this matter, please contact the Fees Manager on 6209 0147.

\_\_\_\_\_

FAMILY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT'S FULL NAME	SCHOOL ATTENDING IN 2015	Year Group 2015

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE ACCOUNTS OFFICE BY 10 December 2014



# Parenting *ideas* INSIGHTS

## *Building parent-school partnerships*

WORDS Michael Grose

### Is it normal? Dealing with sexual behaviours in children and young people.



Every parent wants their children to grow up with a healthy and open attitude to their sexuality. You can support this by being able to identify, understand and respond to your children's sexual behaviours.

Displays of any form of sexual behaviour in a child or young person can be highly confronting for a parent. Most parents struggle with having the basic 'birds and bees' conversation with their children, let alone trying to work out which behaviours are 'normal' and which are something to worry about.

It's important to understand that some level of sexual behaviour – which includes everything from questions about sexuality and relationships to touching and fondling – is quite normal, even from quite young ages. Most sexual behaviours are simply expressions of a natural interest in sexuality.

However, that doesn't mean that all of these behaviours are normal or healthy. Parents, teachers and others who care for children and young people need to be able to recognise the signs of potentially harmful sexual behaviours – and they need to know how to respond to these.

Family Planning Queensland (FPQ) has put together a clear guide to managing sexual behaviours in children and young people.

#### There are three steps involved in management of these behaviours:

##### 1 Identify

Many factors can affect the behaviours exhibited by a particular child, so it's important to consider the child's context, including their social and family situation and the culture in which they have been brought up. It's also important, where some form of sexual behaviour is recognised, to avoid jumping to conclusions or a knee-jerk response.

The FPQ guide includes examples of behaviours regarded as 'green' (normal, age appropriate and spontaneous), 'orange' (outside normal, especially if overly persistent or frequent) and 'red' (problematic or harmful) sexual behaviours at different age levels. Despite the taboo about such things in our society, most sexual behaviours fall into the 'green' category of normal and healthy.

##### 2 Understand

The same applies to a sexual behaviour as any other behaviour in a child or young person: it is a reflection of their needs or

wants. Often, when language and social skills are still nascent, 'acting out' is the only way a child can express themselves.

Understanding a sexual behaviour means trying to get behind what is driving that behaviour. Is it an unsatisfied curiosity, boredom, challenging relationships? Could it be something more serious, such as an indication of abuse or neglect?

The only way to make sure you respond in the most appropriate way is to ensure that you understand before you act.

##### 3 Respond

All sexual behaviours exhibited by a child or young person deserve some sort of action and support – ignoring is not a response.

'Normal' (green) behaviours provide an opening to talk, to explain and to provide support if needed. This might include providing facts (and destroying a myth or two) and assisting with social skills development.

more on page 2 >>



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... Is it normal? Dealing with sexual behaviours in children and young people ...

### SEXUAL BEHAVIOURS

#### RED

Sexual behaviours that maybe harmful, secretive or coercive

Need for adult protection and support

#### ORANGE

Sexual behaviours that may cause concern due to age, activity or health risk

Need for adult monitoring and extra support

#### GREEN

Normal, healthy sexual behaviours appropriate to a child's age and developmental stage

Need for adult explanation and education

Traffic lights adapted from Child At Risk Assessment Unit. Age Appropriate Sexual Play ACT

'Beyond normal' (orange) behaviours will often need more intervention, including ongoing monitoring. This could include supervision during times of risk, making stricter rules or removing the child from a potentially harmful situation.

'Harmful' (red) behaviours require an immediate and proactive response that protects the child and any others who may be in danger. Where a law is broken, or where you become aware of, or suspicious of, sexual abuse or the risk of such abuse, reporting to a child protection service or the police is essential.

A pre-emptive response to sexual behavioural problems is education. This is the best way to promote healthy development and open communication. It can take place at any age, and can be one-on-one with a parent or in a classroom situation. Again, topics covered can be much broader than the obvious. They can include 'mechanical' issues including anatomy, practical issues such as handling puberty and managing periods, and serious issues like sexual abuse and safe sex.

Every child and young person has the right to be safe. As a parent, building your awareness of what's normal and what's not when it comes to sexual behaviours – and knowing how to respond appropriately – will help you play a more proactive role in making sure that your children's sexual development is healthy and they are protected from harm or abuse.

Michael Grose



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](http://parentingideasclub.com.au). You'll be so glad you did.

