



MACKILLOP NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 14 2015, 4 SEPTEMBER

PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

Dear families, students and friends,

Parent satisfaction survey and strategic planning

Thank you to the 380 families who were able to respond to the very lengthy survey that closed last Monday. A wide variety of questions were asked and the results of the survey have been shown to the College Board and to the Executive. I will take the staff through many of the responses at a General Staff Meeting later this term. The issues that will be focused on at the staff meeting will be parent attitudes towards student safety and wellbeing, reporting and communication, student satisfaction with classes, elective choices, co and extra-curricular activities, and the Catholic foundation of the school.

Generally, parent satisfaction with all aspects of the school is stratospherically high and overwhelmingly constructive and positive. This is deeply affirming for the MacKillop community and points to an underlying reason why the College is held in such high regard around the city. Readers are able to explore selected responses at: <http://www.mackillop.act.edu.au/images/publications/PSSP2015.pdf>. A small selection of responses may be of interest at this stage, however:

- **I approve of the aim of the College to be a Catholic school for all:** 87% agreed or strongly agreed with nearly 10% neutral.
- **Teachers at MacKillop are committed to quality teaching:** 86% agreed or strongly agreed with nearly 11% neutral.
- **My child gets every chance to achieve their best at MacKillop:** 74% agreed or strongly agreed, with 15% neutral.
- **My child generally enjoys going to class at MacKillop:** 85% agreed or strongly agreed, with 8% neutral.
- **My child feels safe at school:** 87% agree or strongly agreed, with 9% neutral.
- **Generally there is a very positive relationship between my child and the teachers:** 85% agreed or strongly agreed, with 11% neutral.

Two areas of interest to readers: 85% of respondents would like to be better informed of their child's progress, and 68% would like the feedback to students and parents about their child's performance, in particular assessment tasks, to be more meaningful.

The College has undertaken a task-by-task review of all individual assessment tasks, called the Assessment Review Committee, which has led to greater clarity, streamlining, and structure across faculties for assessment tasks. The staff are also working towards clearer outcome-based advice on assessment tasks to better inform student achievement and to give students a more structured opportunity to approach improvement.

In general, there was a lot of constructive advice for the College to incorporate into our planning and a clear emphasis from many respondents that the College's emphasis should continue to be co-educational, Catholic, welcoming of all, with a clear emphasis on quality teaching and learning, providing prompt and clear advice to parents, and a place of safety and wellbeing as adolescents move from being young children to 18 year olds preparing for life beyond school. From my point of view, and I hope from yours, this has been a most constructive exercise and should lead to improvements in including parents in their children's education and in building further confidence in the leadership of the College around our core business. Student satisfaction surveys will be completed later in the term.

MacKillop Day: Friday 11 September 2015

All are welcome to attend our MacKillop Day Mass next Friday 11 September. Mass will begin at 9.30am at the Tuggeranong Basketball Stadium. We enjoy seeing past students, parents, friends, and families at our Mass and we warmly welcome you to share with us this special event in the College calendar.

Yours in St Mary MacKillop,

MICHAEL LEE
PRINCIPAL

PRINCIPAL'S PRAYER

Lord, we pray for the success of Year 12 in their AST and in the major assignments for which they are preparing. Amen.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEP MONDAY 07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 7 Electives change over • Parent/Teacher Interviews (I)
SEP TUESDAY 08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/Teacher Interviews (W) • ASBA Info Night
SEP WEDNESDAY 09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/Teacher Interviews (I)
SEP THURSDAY 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/Teacher Interviews (W)
SEP FRIDAY 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MacKillop Day Mass and Celebrations

COLLEGE NEWS

NAPLAN

Recently, the 2015 NAPLAN data was released by ACARA, and families will have received a hard copy of their children's results. While the full analysis of the school data takes place over many weeks and becomes a reference point for teaching and learning across the school, some initial analysis has been completed. This analysis shows some areas of success and some areas which will become the focus of teaching and learning practices in the coming year.

Successes for MacKillop this year has been in Numeracy and in Writing. School Growth (which indicates the value added by the school) is strong and almost exclusively above the territory mean, and there has been strong Student Growth in Writing and Numeracy. While traditionally MacKillop has shown strength in the middle bands of achievement, this year's data reveals improvement towards the upper bands in most domains. This year's focus on raising expectations among students is well timed, aimed as it is at moving students who are comfortably achieving into the higher bands by challenging them, and we are starting to see the success of our interventions in literacy and numeracy in Years 7 - 9. Areas for more growth for MacKillop are in Reading, where we are already implementing shared teaching strategies and professional learning for teachers to create a whole school focus on improvement.

*Michelle da Roza
Assistant Principal Curriculum*

Maths Projects at Wanniasa

Maths teachers are quite familiar with the 'when are we ever going to use this?' question from students. To maintain and enhance student engagement, teachers are constantly on the lookout for ways to promote relevancy of our subject for the teenage mindset.

In order to demonstrate the far-reaching uses of mathematics in the 'real world', three classes on the Wanniasa Campus have embarked upon a statistical project. Students working in teams of 2 - 3 are creating an informative poster presentation based on the collection and interpretation of data, addressing a practical research question of their team's choosing. These posters will then be entered into the National Secondary Schools Poster Competition, organised by the Statistical Society of Australia. This project has evolved as part of the International Statistical Literacy Project and serves as a preliminary round for teams wishing to enter the International Competition.

Building upon study already undertaken in the area of data analysis in Semester 1, these two Year 9 classes and one Year 8 class are well placed to extend their curriculum-based learning with an enriching student-centred application. To excite student imagination and introduce the various real-world applications of statistics, Dr Rachel Barker from the Australian Bureau of Statistics has been working in partnership with St Mary MacKillop College, assisting students with formulating their research questions and collecting and analysing their data in class. Some examples of team projects include: correlating AFL individual disposal rate and Brownlow Medal recipients; determining whether listening to pop music enhances mental mathematics ability; researching what era has the most quickly recognisable music and comparing the taste of different water types and some reasons for differing preferences.

Students are already well on their way to completing their projects. We can't wait to see the finished products, and how they will fare in the competition.

Mrs Beth Bright, Mathematics Teacher

School Fees

Fees for Term 3 should now be finalised unless paying by Direct Debit or other approved arrangement. Any outstanding fees should be paid immediately.

If you require more information regarding Direct Debit arrangements or other approved payment methods or are experiencing difficulty paying the fees please contact the Fees Office.

Michelle Predovan, Fees Manager



English News - Isabella

On Friday 28 August Mrs Millicent Henry accompanied five students to the Legislative Assembly for ACT debating. Olivia Ehlers, Thanh Nguyen, Betina Calderon, Nicole Sermenio, and Jade Ewart represented the College in a day of Parliamentary Debates between secondary schools on a range of topics. Our topic was, "Negative gearing is an impediment to first home buyers," and feedback on the team's presentation was outstanding, with the Speaker himself personally congratulating the team not only on their speaking talents but for the manner in which they conducted themselves. Congratulations on your tremendous performance, a huge thank you for spending your lunch times and recesses with Mrs Henry to prepare. Mrs Henry, as always, you are a superstar for volunteering to take the team at such short notice!

Just a reminder to you all that English tutorials are every Tuesday afternoon in the IRC from 3.20-4.20pm.

Finally, the English Faculty is gathering a collection of poems, stories and essays for the school magazine. Should any of you wish to send me any work you are particularly proud of please email to nicola.mclennan@mackillop.act.edu.au.

Nicola McLennan, English Coordinator (Isabella)

RoboCup

On Friday 21 August four students travelled to the ANU to compete in the RoboCup Junior Australia regional competition. Schools from throughout Canberra and surrounding areas competed in three different categories, showcasing their robotic designs and programming abilities. All students were well prepared and ready for the competition. The team participating in Soccer managed to fend off all comers throughout the day with only a few goals scored by the opposing teams. The two Rescue teams soon found themselves in a competition with each other, each student finding success in a different part of the challenge. At the end of the day all teams had reached the finals, taking place on Saturday. The final rounds saw more competition and closer matches, Brock Ginman and Deon Hickey (Year 11) finished on top of their division in Soccer while Grace Barclay (Year 12) and James Lonie (Year 11) finished first and second respectively in their Rescue division. All four students look forward to competing at the national round at the start of the holidays. Congratulations all!

Chris Offner, IT Teacher

Mock Trial

Throughout August students from Colleges across the ACT were selected to attend a series of Mock Trials at Dickson College. The Capital Region Mock Trial Competition is designed to provide an opportunity for students in Years 11 and 12 with an opportunity to explore the way in which real trials occur in the Australian legal system. MacKillop was represented by: Jessica Apolinar, Keanu Alchin, Sean Miller, Grace Barbic, Kyle Reuter-Rantanen, and Nathan Slingsby.

Once again the students from St Mary MacKillop College shone in application, exemplary conduct, interest and participation in the five weeks of competitions and three mock trials. From the thirty-two teams at the start of the competition MacKillop finished in the final twelve. Unfortunately, we were not successful in winning through to the Grand Final. Congratulations to all of the students who participated in the Mock Trial. They are outstanding ambassadors and leaders in the College Community. Well done.

Michael Batten, SOSE Coordinator (Isabella)

Future Stars/Student Achievement

We've received lots of news of students winning their grand finals to be ACT Champions. There are probably too many to name, but congratulations to all students, as well as any parent coaches, on your sporting success!

WANNIASSA NEWS

Year 7 Presentation - The Hurting Game

The Hurting Game, a presentation by two actors, was an entertaining and humorous way to show us how bullying affects people's lives. In the play the two characters presented a variety of situations in the form of a video game. They were acting out the many ways young people try just to fit in.

They started going through their school lives and it turned out they had been hanging around people who were actually bullying them. The play was a smart way to get young people to listen and think about how bullying can make us act.

Throughout the play we watched Sam and Jimmy going through many problems we face in our own lives like peer pressure, name calling and rumours, playing the fool and dumbing down, body image and media pressure, under-age drinking, homophobia, harassment and cyber bullying.

Overall I would highly recommend this play to anyone who hears about it. It is a funny, inspirational and entertaining anti-bullying play that reminded all students in Year 7 first-hand the effects of bullying.

Ben Hume (7A3)

Status Awards

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

Bronze Status - Mackenzie Alcock (7E2), Isabella Allende (7A3), Alex Amon (7AF), Dylan Arena (7A2), Marina Brozio (7AF), Charlotte Breen (7A3), Ali Bruce (8W1), Sophie Ceraolo (7E1), Anna Connolly (7F1), Kiralee Eppelstun (7W3), Danielle Hewitt (7E3), Nour Issa (7F3), Matthew King (7A3), Jessica Lee (7E3), Aiden Maher (7W3), Devaney Marshall (7F1), Zac Marsicano (7F2), Ryan McCaughan (7E1), Mikaela McGrath (7E3), Tara McInnes (7E1), Abby McKenzie (9W2), Emily Mousley (7A3), Diego Noveras (7W3), Lily Papandrea (7W3), Dillon Perera (7E2), Tamsyn Price (7A3), Liam Purss (7F2), Jayden Riley (7W1), Ellen Squire (7E2).



Changes to ACTION School Bus Services

On Monday 12 October 2015, ACTION will be implementing a new timetable for the weekday bus network. This includes some timing changes to the ACTION schools network.

There have been changes that will affect services to the Wanniasa Campus. These are all morning services:

544	commencing 5 minutes earlier at 7:50am.
660	commencing 4 minutes later at 8:05am.
671	commencing 3 minutes later at 8:01am.
856	commencing 3 minutes later at 8:14am.

You are encouraged to view this information on the ACTION Website. Many regular route services have also changed and students using these services will be also affected. This new timetable information will be available on the ACTION website from Monday 7 September.

ThinkUKnow - Parent Presentation

Parents and carers are warmly invited to attend the ThinkUKnow Internet Safety Presentation being hosted at St Mary MacKillop College. The presentation, aimed at an adult audience, is taking place at our Wanniasa Campus on Tuesday 15 September, 2015 at 6.00pm.

The presentation will be delivered by a member of the AFP and cover topics such as how young people are using technology, online grooming, cyber-bullying, inappropriate content and e-security.

Further information is contained in the one page flyer within this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you at the presentation.

Lachlan McNicol

Assistant Principal Pastoral Care, Wanniasa

COMMUNITY NEWS

Boyce Business Admin

Boyce Cooma is offering an enthusiastic and motivated person the opportunity to undertake a Business Administration Traineeship commencing in January 2016. Students who are interested can find out more at <http://www.boycecareers.com/current-opportunities>.

Tuggeranong Valley Cricket Club

TVCC is currently taking player registrations for the 2015/16 season. Visit www.tvccjuniors.org.au for more information.

Weston Creek Molonglo Cricket

The 2014/15 Junior Club Champions are welcoming registrations for the upcoming Cricket Season. Pre-season training begins on 6 September at Stirling Oval from 9-11am. For more information, visit <http://www.westoncreekmolonglojuniors.act.cricket.com.au>.

Master of Teaching UOW

The Bateman's Bay Campus of the University of Wollongong now offers a Master of Teaching for Primary and Secondary. Information can be found at bbay.uow.edu.au.

Little Athletics Tuggeranong

Tuggeranong Little Athletics invites new and returning families to register for the upcoming Little Athletics summer season, which begins on 17 October. Registration days are at Kambah No 3 Oval from 9am - 12pm, on Saturday 12 and 19 September. More information available at www.tlaa.org.au.

Canberra School of Tennis

The Canberra School of Tennis Open Day takes place on 12 September at the Pines Tennis Club, Chisholm, from 1.30-4.30pm. Try the latest Tennis Australia Programs, meet the friendly and experienced team, and receive free adult and junior coaching clinics. Book your spot via email to robert@csot.com.au or visit csot.com.au.

Engarde FENCINGMOB 2015

MacKillop's Engarde Fencing Club is taking part in FENCINGMOB 2015, a worldwide fencing exhibition. The event will take place in the Assembly Area in front of Parliament House between 3.30-4pm on Sunday 6 September.



Community Presentation



St Mary MacKillop College invites you to the

ThinkUKnow

Internet Safety Presentation

Event: ThinkUKnow: Internet Safety Presentation
Date: Tuesday 15 September
Time: 6:00PM
Venue: Wanniasa Campus Theatrette
RSVP: Please confirm your attendance via email to Mrs Pauline Hannon
Pauline.Hannon@mackillop.act.edu.au

Attendance is free of charge.

The presentation is tailored for the adult audience and we ask that young people are not present.

ThinkUKnow is an internet safety initiative which aims to raise awareness of the issues which young people face online and whilst using mobile phones. It is a partnership between the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and Microsoft Australia, and is now proudly supported by ninemsn and Datacom.

The presentation will cover topics such as how young people are using technology to have fun, online grooming, cyber-bullying, inappropriate content and e-security.

This is a fantastic opportunity for you to learn more about how young people have fun online, how you can help them to stay in control on the net, and how to report a problem.

For more information, you can visit the ThinkUKnow Australia website:
www.thinkuknow.org.au

Parenting *ideas* INSIGHTS

Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

Maintain a strong relationship with your teen

How do you maintain a good relationship with a teenager? Here are two simple strategies to help parents hit the right parenting mark through this sometimes-challenging stage.

One of the biggest challenges parents of teenagers face is how to maintain a good relationship with a young person while managing also their sometimes tricky and anti-social behaviour. The balance between good guy and bad guy is precarious indeed.

There are two simple strategies, when used in tandem, can really help parents straddle this great divide. They are - following through and following up.

When used wisely and consistently they can help parents manage teenagers even during their more difficult stages while maintaining a respectful relationship.

Following through to teach responsibility

'Following through' means doing what you say you'll do. If you say "You're grounded" yet then let a young person off the hook when they came home from an outing later than agreed, you are merely issuing a meaningless threat. Most young people know a meaningless threat when they hear one.

'Following through' is about taking parent action and the most appropriate action is the use of behavioural consequences. When young people behave poorly, irresponsibly, transgress family rules or someone's

individual rights, then the experience of a negative consequence teaches them that there is a link between their behaviour and outcomes. If this sounds high-handed then relax. It's how a civil society operates. Drive too fast and you'll receive a fine. Harm someone and hopefully you'll be issued with a suitable punishment that matches the offence. 'Cross a line and something happens' is the accepted wisdom in our community, in school and in family-life.

It's important that the consequence issued matches the misdemeanour. When we go too far - "you're grounded for the term" - then we generally get resentment. Not strong enough - "you should apologise" and they become ineffective. It also helps when consequences are related to the misdemeanour. Taking away a teenager's regular pocket money to remind him to come home on time defies teenage logic and will generally lead to resentment. Be mindful that a rational, logical approach is a parent's best defence against teen emotion.

The key to the successful use of consequences rests with how you implement them. If you issue them in anger (even though that's how you feel) then you are inviting a young person to challenge you. Implement consequences dispassionately

and calmly and you'll increase the likelihood of them being mad at themselves rather than mad at you. Nonchalance is a parent's best friend when it comes to managing the behaviour of highly-charged teens.

Following up to reconnect

It's easy to lock a young person out emotionally following a behaviour meltdown or disagreement, particularly when they've said or done hurtful things. Once the dust has settled after discipline or a dispute then it's time to follow-up with a kind word, an enjoyable activity or even just a sincere smile. It generally takes the adult in the relationship - parents or teachers - to make the first move to put the relationship back on an even keel. It's smart to choose a time when you are both more relaxed to reconnect rather than rush to make up before either person is ready, which can make matters worse.

Following through and following up are a dynamic discipline duo when they are used together as they help parents straddle the good guy, bad guy line that seems to appear on almost a daily basis. Use one without the other and you'll come across as either too soft or too harsh. Use them in tandem and you're more than likely hit the right parenting mark.



Want more ideas to help you raise confident kids and resilient young people? Subscribe to Happy Kids newsletter, my **FREE** weekly email parenting guide at parentingideas.com.au. You'll be so glad you did.



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