

## Important Dates & Events

SEPT.  
FRIDAY  
**14**

- MacKillop Day Mass & Celebrations

SEPT.  
FRIDAY  
**21**

- Year 10 Spring Zing

SEPT.  
TUESDAY  
**25**

- 4-7pm: Parent/Teacher Interviews (Wanniassa)

SEPT.  
THURSDAY  
**27**

- 4-7pm: Parent/Teacher Interviews (Isabella)

SEPT.  
FRIDAY  
**28**

- Last day of Term 3

OCT.  
MONDAY  
**15**

- Term 4 begins

NOV.  
THURSDAY  
**15**

- Year 10 Exams

NOV.  
TUESDAY  
**20**

- Year 12 Breakfast and Farewell Assembly

See College Calendar for more dates

### St Mary MacKillop College

PO Box 1211  
Tuggeranong ACT 2901

[T] (02) 6209 0100  
[F] (02) 6296 2383 (W)  
[F] (02) 6292 8632 (I)

www.mackillop.act.edu.au

"Lord, Help us to be clam and full of hope. Amen."

Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

#### Assistant Principal Curriculum

I am delighted to announce that Mrs Michelle da Roza has been appointed Assistant Principal Curriculum Years 7 – 12 from 2013. This position has become vacant with the retirement of Mrs Michelle Marks who has held this position for four years and who has given distinguished service to the College for much of her professional life.

Michelle da Roza came to MacKillop at the beginning of this year as Teaching Learning Coordinator on the Wanniasa Campus. Prior to her engagement at MacKillop, Michelle was leader of Numeracy and Literacy of St Edmund's College, a previous Head of English at Eddies and Head of English at Marist College, Pearce. Michelle commenced her teaching career at St Stanislaus College, Bathurst. Michelle holds a variety of University Degrees from Charles Sturt, Australian Catholic University and Deakin. She is currently pursuing her Doctorate in External Testing and Secondary Schools from ACU.

Michelle has been appointed to this position from a large and talented field of applicants which reflect well on the professional interest curriculum leaders are showing in MacKillop. I congratulate Michelle and know that her appointment will be warmly welcomed by staff, students and parents.

#### Coordinator of Sustainability in the Curriculum

I am delighted to announce that Mr Eugene Lehmensich will commence in this new position of responsibility for the College from the beginning of 2013. The role will be to work with teachers, to embrace the curriculum challenges in this important area of learning that are being driven by Church teaching and the incoming Australian Curriculum.

Eugene is a past student of the College, a Graduate in Education from ACU and has held leadership positions in Curriculum at St Francis of Assisi Primary School and more recently Sts Peter and Paul Primary School, Garran. Eugene's exceptional work in developing the Environmental Science facility at Garran has been recognised in a variety of awards from organisations such as Landcare and NoWaste.

Eugene is an engaging and talented teacher who will add further energy, imagination and edge to the already talented staff at MacKillop. I am sure his appointment will be warmly welcomed by the MacKillop Community.

#### ACT Election News

There has been some discussion in the media about Catholic Schools issuing election information to parents via students. Readers of this newsletter will be aware that MacKillop electronically mailed information from the Catholic Education Commission to all families regarding the funding policies of the Canberra Liberals.

This Principal is happy to communicate to families the policies of any politician that are relevant to Catholic education, funding, and resourcing. The school is also happy for Politicians to visit MacKillop to talk to members from the School Board, myself and teachers and to tour our facilities. This is a healthy thing to educate Politicians about our needs. St Mary MacKillop College will not be endorsing any Politician, political party or point of view with a view to influence parents and students who are voting in the Election. It is my view that parents, students and teachers at MacKillop are quite capable of making up their own mind without being influenced by the school.

Should parents have any concerns in this regard please email me and I will take up concerns with the School Board.

Yours in St Mary MacKillop,



Mr Michael Lee, College Principal

Admin

# School Fees

## Fees are now overdue

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 on 6209 0147.

*Michelle Predovan, Fees Manager*

# Future Stars

## Congratulations!

Ryan Moxon (Year 8) has been selected for the U13s ACT Soccer Skilleroos Team to play at the Nationals in the first week of school holidays in Coffs Harbour.

Millie Dunn and Nicola Bowell (Year 7) will represent the ACT at the National Softball Championships here in Canberra in November.

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# Debating

## Year 10 Interschool Parliamentary Debating

On Friday 31 August, five of our Year 10 students had their first experience of Parliamentary debating at the Legislative Assembly in Civic. Anthony Sysengthong, Claudia Holland, Benjamin Murphy, James West and Georgia Hall were seated at the Chief Minister's desk in the Assembly and presented their case on whether organ donation should be the responsibility of the family or the individual. Going against the status quo and taking the position that it is the responsibility of the individual, the team faced a frenzy of questions from the other schools present- the most seen in the morning session debates. The students handled the questions very well and defended their position admirably. The Speaker of the House, Shane Rattenbury MLA, congratulated the team on their ability to take a number of difficult questions, the consistent team stance they presented and the high standard of their presentation. Despite all the opposing questions, the team managed to collect the majority of votes in their favour.

The debate was watched by Velda Hunter, a representative from Donate Life ACT. She too was impressed by the performance of the students. She spoke highly of the debate and was gratified to see students talking about the issue of donation. In talking to the students after they debate Mrs Hunter pointed out that donors do need to discuss the decision of donation with family members because even if a person is on the donor register, donations do not go ahead without family consent.

If anyone is interested in dispelling myths about organ donation or wishing to register their intentions visit [www.donatelife.gov.au](http://www.donatelife.gov.au) or email [Organ.Donation@act.gov.au](mailto:Organ.Donation@act.gov.au) for further information and advice.

*Kath Piper*

News

# Billet Assistance

## Thank you from St Joseph's, Port Lincoln

In late August a group of 78 staff and students visited Canberra from St Joseph's School in Port Lincoln. For many of the students it was a trip of firsts: first time away from home, first time on a plane, first time to Canberra and first time staying with a unknown famil. Bbut it was trip which will stay with these students for a lifetime. The success of this excursion was assisted greatly by the generosity of our parent and student community who took these young men and women into their homes and shared their lives with their new found friends. Thank you to all the families who hosted these students and made my job a little easier during the week the St Joseph's students and staff visited Canberra.

I will leave the last word to Richard Horgan:

*A huge thank you to the many families who accommodated our students for the week, and for the wonderful welcome and care that they took of our students. The spirit of St Mary MacKillop is genuinely alive in your school and the welcome and care we received for the week was incredible!*

*- regards Richard Horgan, Deputy Principal.*

*Barbara Morris*

*Year 10 Coordinator*

# Community News

## Calwell Community Day

Calwell Shopping Centre welcomes you to come and celebrate South Tuggeranong's annual Calwell Community Day on 15 September, 9am-2pm. Events include: Face Painting, ACT Brumbies, Jumping Castle, Kenny Koala, Fresh Funk, D.C. Crew, Elvis live, WIN TV's Rob Pazevanos Fishing Show, cake and cupcake stalls, sausage sizzles, mini markets, clothing stalls, ACT Fire Brigade and ACT Police cars on display, ACT Vietnam Veterans Harley Davidson's show, ACT mobile Library, Lifeline mini book fair, Art Show, ACT Scouts, quilt stalls, and many charity stalls.

## APFACTS Parent Forum

You are invited to a forum for parents with ACT Education Minister Dr Chris Bourke, Mr Steve Doszpot MLA, and Ms Meredith Hunter MLA next Monday 17 September. The forum will provide an opportunity for interested parents to hear school education policies from each party and to ask questions of the panel members. If you follow this link to the APFACTS Website election page, you will find each political party's pledges on education for the upcoming election.

[http://www.apfacts.org.au/site/act\\_election\\_2012.php](http://www.apfacts.org.au/site/act_election_2012.php)