27 August, 2014

Dear Parents

Each year the College outlines a School Strategic Plan, identifying where we are and where we would like to be in three years’ time. One of the College’s overarching goals over the next three years is to develop independent creative learners who are motivated to achieve their potential. To do this we realise that students need to mature into valuable contributors to the world around them and become active collaborators in their own learning. Technology and the way it is used is an important tool in our students’ education and their future. We use a number of separate web-based platforms in order to assist us in our goal. Each is designed for specific purposes; teachers, parents and students have access to all.

College Website

The purpose of the College website is to provide current families as well as the wider community with general information about the College. It also contains policies and procedures, important forms, parent and student information, Term and Weekly calendars of events and assessment schedules and links and information associated with MacKillop Catholic College. MacKillop Matters has replaced the weekly newsletter and is also on the website. It is vitally important that all our families visit this website at least once a week and stay abreast of the events at the College. The website is at http://www.mccwdbb.catholic.edu.au/ and also has an App that can be loaded onto iphones, ipads etc.

College Website App

The College App provides parents with instant access to notifications, news, Term and Weekly Calendars and other activities and events that appear on our website. The College will be using the App to send out alerts and messages .eg: arrival time for excursion buses and sporting events, changes to school routine, cancellation of events for various reasons such as rain etc. The App can be downloaded for Apple and Android devices from the MacKillop College website.

Lighthouse Sites

The DBB GAFE (Google Apps for Education) Suite, now known as Lighthouse offers an online learning community for both staff and students. Among the Google Apps for Education available to students at MacKillop, are Google Docs which provides online word processing and storage, as well as Google Sites which can be created by both teachers and students as a way to revisit areas of learning or extend their learning by exploring the numerous links on each page. The learning opportunities available through Lighthouse will allow students to enrich their knowledge and skills through 21st Century educational strategies.

Edumate – Student and Parent Portals

Students themselves can play an important function in presenting a holistic picture as they journey through the educational system. Edumate Student Portal invites students to input their life and learning experiences; their learning goals for each year and manage their organisation. Edumate Parent Portal allows parents to have peace of mind; having instant access to pertinent information allowing for the ability to respond quickly to the needs of the student. Regular reports about a student’s learning potential or problem areas give parents a direction for ‘out of school’ learning and social activities.