

ISSUE 1 | WEEK 6, TERM 1 2016

COLLEGE**Matters**



Starting the year
with celebration

OUR FRESH NEW LOOK

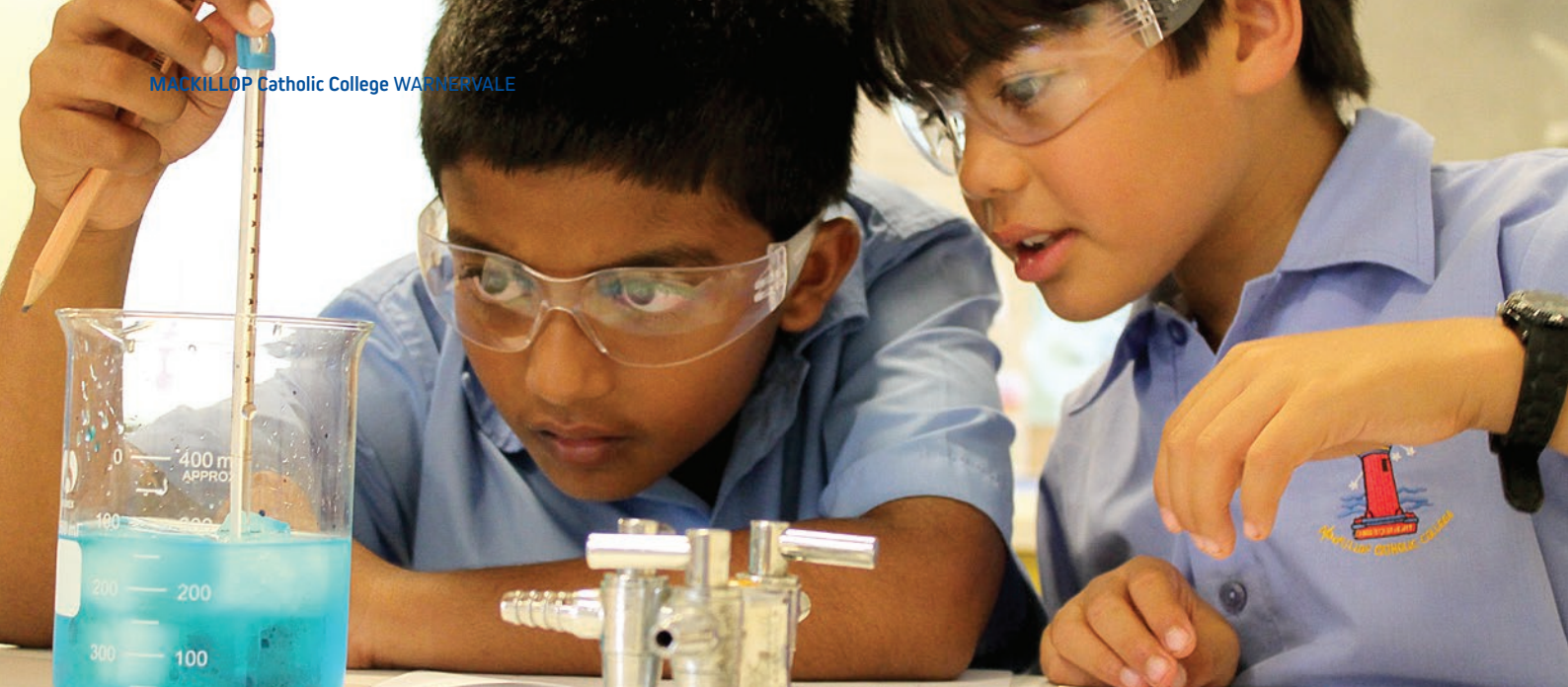
**A SMOOTH TRANSITION
INTO SCHOOL LIFE**

**'CHRIST OUR LIGHT' SENIOR
STUDENT LUNCHEON**

CHRIST OUR LIGHT



MACKILLOP
Catholic College
WARNERVALE



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A fresh new look for the start of 2016

A message from our College Principal, Steve Todd.

THE SCHOOL YEAR has commenced with a terrific bounce in everyone's step and the atmosphere across the College is a very positive one. Some of the reasons behind such a great start to the year include:

- Positive gains in learning across the College in 2015. The recently published Learning Community Report provides great encouragement for all students. Both parents and teachers are proud to see the students working so well in registering improved learning gains.
- A new look for the College with the launch of the new visual identity that celebrates the wonderful culture of the College. The very striking new logo is unique and includes the symbol of the Sisters of St Joseph, as worn by Mary MacKillop on her habit. The new logo will be officially launched at the College's Opening Mass on Friday 18 March. A new banner will be placed in the College Hall and every student will receive a gift bag that includes a new lapel pin featuring the new crest.
- A wonderful welcome to all the new students and staff to the College. The new Kinder students and Year 7 students have taken to the College with great gusto and our new staff bring renewed strength to the College's team
- Events such as the Primary's new Community Time and the Secondary's Tuesday Period 6 Time, as well as a fine celebration of the houses at the Secondary Swimming Carnival, underpin a strong sense of belonging across the College
- The annual Senior Student Mass and Luncheon was also a most memorable event. The Top 10 HSC students returned

to the College with their parents to celebrate their wonderful success in the HSC. The senior students were also privileged to hear the wonderfully inspiring story of ex-student, Ashley Van Leeuwstyn, who spoke so beautifully to the students.

- The Parish Welcome Mass for all new students and staff was well attended and the joy seen on the Kinder students faces when they received their teddy bear gift featuring the new College logo was such a delight. Similarly, the Year 7 students received a very impressive new key ring featuring the College crest so they can keep their locker key safe and secure.
- A new Strategic Plan and School Improvement Plan (SIP) has been launched for 2016. The three-year Strategic Plan offers a thematic approach to build upon the fine reputation of the College. The annual SIP goals carry three important themes with 'Be a light to the world' for Mission, 'Value learning' for Learning Culture and 'Honour each other' for Wellbeing – all of which offer great hope for the future of MacKillop.

The College also has a new leadership structure for 2016 with the addition of a new Secondary Assistant Principal in Mrs Mel McGuinness. We are a very proud community with a three-Principal-team now with Deb Ferguson as Secondary Principal, Sue Dietrich as Primary Principal and myself as the College Principal. In the Secondary, Mrs McGuinness' main role is to be a leader of pedagogy, directing the important programs that support the College's learning community. We warmly welcome Mel and all new staff members to the College.

Best wishes for a most successful 2016.

A warm welcome to 2016

A message from our Primary Principal, Sue Dietrich.

IT CERTAINLY HAS been an amazing start to the 2016 school year for our children, staff and families. We have welcomed several new staff members, students in Years 1-6, and of course, our new Kindergarten children. It is wonderful to feel such a positive 'vibe' around the Primary campus. We began our year on the first Friday with our revised assembly time now named, 'Community Time' that will be held on Fridays at 11:30am in the Hall. During this time we will celebrate the children's achievements in class and around the school, celebrate birthdays and acknowledge our school and country through prayer and the National Anthem. Our Year 6 Leaders lead Community Time and it is wonderful to see them step up so well to the job at hand.

Our Commissioning Liturgy was a special time for our Year 6 Leaders and SRC Leaders from Years 3, 4 and 5. The children received their badges with pride during a lovely liturgy prepared by Mrs Power. The theme of the liturgy centred on the children as leaders in our Primary campus and College, and reminded everyone that we each have a role to play as respectful members of our community – whether it is as teachers, parents or children. The children were so respectful and reverent in the Church during this time, which is such a credit to them.

As we began our journey of the Lenten season with our Ash Wednesday Mass, it was again great to see the mindfulness of the children. It was a longer service and they really managed to retain their focus during the Mass. Ash Wednesday is one of the most important holy days in the liturgical calendar, marking the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting, which prepares us for Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Our Year 3 children, and several other children from across the grades, continued their faith journey as they began their programme for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This program will see the children work with sacramental leaders over four weeks as they develop their understanding of the meaning of forgiveness in their lives.

Our Learning program, with a focus on Numeracy, has begun well with Mrs Jackson and Mrs Huggins working alongside teachers, deepening their skills and understanding of teaching this important area with the children. We have three teachers this year attending EMU specialist training to work with small groups of children in intervention groups. Our Literacy Coaches, Mrs Merrotsy and Mrs Shilling continue their well-developed work with teachers again during this year, building on the successes of this work of the past four years.

Learning for teachers will continue to grow throughout the year. We have a team of teachers from the library and classrooms attending the beginning of a series of workshops on building 'Cultures of Thinking'. Mrs Crowe and Mrs Martin from the library with Mr Sullivan and Mrs Shilling are looking forward to this work throughout the year and to sharing their knowledge with staff.

Our third key area of Wellbeing for the children continues. We will continue building the team spirit through the house systems of the College. With our student leadership team, we will be offering further opportunities for them to take more active roles in the school, beginning with our Community Time. With Mrs Williams and Mrs Denneman leading our Wellbeing team there is a great buzz around for the year ahead.

With the appointment of our Family Liaison Officer, Mrs Natalie Tunstead, we are looking forward to working with the parent community, investigating further ways in which we can enrich the partnership between school and home.

With this first edition of College Matters for 2016, we invite all parents/carers to continue to be involved with all school events as opportunities arise, to keep open and positive communication channels with staff and to share your wisdom and support as we work together developing the children in our care.





A successful start to the year

A message from our Secondary Principal, Debra Ferguson.

TERM 1 IS always very busy and we all begin the school year with our running shoes on. However, it is just such a privilege to work with the wonderful staff and students at this College as we all once again begin the new adventure of another twelve months.

Firstly, I really wish to thank all our parents. The students returned to school so well dressed and groomed and we really do appreciate your efforts in this area. Teenagers do not always wish to follow rules and I can imagine there may have been a number of discussions about this area at home, but when we see them all so smartly decked out, it really sets a positive tone of being ready to learn and to continue the fine reputation of this College.

The teachers and students have all embarked on a real adventure this year with everyone learning about the use of an iPad to enhance learning. The iPad alone will never do this, as it is the way the iPad is utilised that will make a difference. Our staff have enthusiastically taken on the challenge and professional learning opportunities will continue to occur over the next few years to assist all staff in the most effective ways to implement technology in the classroom to improve learning. We understand this is a big commitment by our parents and we are so thankful for your support. By 2018 iPads will be used by all students from Years 7-12.

So far this year we have already experienced some joyful and moving events in the College. On Ash Wednesday, Fr Vince led a beautiful liturgy and all our students received the ashes. Following this, Mrs Price, our REC, launched Project Compassion where all students were challenged to “take up” a way to make this earth a better place by not only donating money to Project Compassion but by doing something loving for others.

Our annual swimming carnival was once again an amazing day. Students truly came to the day with such passion for their houses and everyone contributed to the swimming as well as the singing, dancing and chanting. It was a day of absolute pure fun and pride and it is very apparent that the MacKillop community is alive and well. Our Year 12 and House Leaders were fantastic and the attendance on the day was excellent. I congratulate Mr Black for all his hard work here and to all the staff who made this day so memorable.

The Senior Mass and Luncheon and the Welcome Mass and barbecue have articles written about them further in this issue, but I also need to state that these two events also radiate how the MacKillop community shines its light in this area of the Central Coast.

Finally, I have challenged everyone at MacKillop to be aware of and to know our five important catch phrases for the next three years of our new Strategic Plan:

1. Our College motto – “Christ our Light”.
2. Mother Mary’s catch phrase – “Never see a need without doing something about it”.
3. Our Mission goal – “Be a light to the world”.
4. Our Learning Culture goal – “Value learning”.
5. Our Wellbeing goal – “Honour each other”.

Just imagine if all of us were able to live our lives governed by these five simple phrases how inviting and rich our community and world could be.

God bless everyone and let’s hope this is a blessed year for everyone in this Year of Mercy.

Welcome to Mrs Mel McGuinness

We are very excited over the appointment of our new Assistant Principal in the Secondary College, Mrs Mel McGuinness writes Debra Ferguson.

THIS LAUNCHES A new Leadership Team with Mr Steve Todd as College Principal, Mrs Debra Ferguson and Mrs Sue Dietrich as the Secondary and Primary Principals and Mrs Mel McGuinness and Mrs Ann Jackson as the Assistant Principals.

Mrs McGuinness has been teaching English since 1985 and has taught in a number of countries. She commenced her career in South Africa and then began teaching in Australia in 1990. From 1998 to 2000 she was teaching in Hong Kong and then returned to Australia to take up a position at St Peter's Catholic College, Tuggerah where she was the English Coordinator until 2011. In 2012, she was appointed the Leader of Pedagogy at St Peter's and she has almost completed her Masters in Theology.

Mrs McGuinness has been appointed to assist in leading change and improvement in the learning culture of our College and we truly look forward to working in partnership with her.



New staff in the Secondary school

Debra Ferguson announces a number of new positions and roles for teaching and support staff in the Secondary section of the College for 2016.

WE ARE VERY pleased to welcome a number of new teaching and support staff to Secondary:

- Mr Robert Copas was at MacKillop in 2014 in a temporary position and we are delighted to have him back with us teaching Religious Studies and he has also been appointed our Liturgy Coordinator. Last year, Robert was at Bishop Tyrell Anglican College and he has taught in a number of Catholic schools in Newcastle.
- Mr John Young has also joined us and is teaching Religious Studies and a HSIE class and has come to us from Mt St Benedict's, Pennant Hills. He has also taught at McCarthy College at Emu Plains, St Dominic's, Penrith, St Stanislaus at Bathurst and De La Salle, Caringbah.
- Miss Amanda Machin who is teaching HSIE and a class of Religious Studies. Amanda has joined us from St Peter's, Tuggerah.
- Mr Brian Bowe has joined us and is teaching Mathematics after retiring from St Peter's after a very successful career being both the Mathematics Coordinator and a Pastoral Coordinator during his time at that school.
- Mr Anthony Spinks filled in for Mrs Lisa Scott in Science last year when she had her accident and will continue to support her during Term 1. On her return in Term 2 he will replace Mrs Julie Fryer for the rest of the year while she is on maternity leave.
- Mr Greg Hughes is teaching PDHPE part time this term and will take over Mrs Rachael Elcoate's load when she starts her maternity leave later this term.
- Mrs Joanne Horan and Mrs Janet Duffy are both new to the College and are working as Learning Needs Support Staff.
- Mrs Natalie Lea has been working on a casual basis over a number of years and we now welcome her five days a fortnight.
We wish all these staff members all the best and we feel blessed to have them as part of our community.
We also have some changes in staffing as follows:
- Mr Damian Clair and his family have returned from a 12 month stay in England and we welcome him back as our TAS Coordinator. We thank Mrs Kerrie Pearce for doing a great job in this role last year.
- Mr Chris Kind has been appointed the PDHPE Assistant Coordinator.
- Miss Liz Kovacic has been appointed our Youth Ministry Leader.
- Miss Erin Sullivan has been appointed our eLearning Coordinator.
- Mrs Nicole Abel has been appointed to look after Thursday Sport & Activities.
- Mr Duncan Black is now looking after all the Representative Sport.
- Mr David Moore is in charge of WHS & Teacher Support.
- Mrs Belinda Wells is our Media Officer.
- Ms Megan Phillipson is our Assistant Administration Coordinator.
- Ms Nichole Calleja will become the Year 7 Pastoral Coordinator from Term 2 and Miss Amanda Campbell the Year 7 Transition Coordinator from Term 2 when Mrs Elcoate is on maternity leave.



Welcome to our new Primary staff

Sue Dietrich welcomes all of the new and returning staff to MacKillop Primary.

WELCOME TO NEW staff members: Miss Madeline Martin (KB), Mr John Sullivan (2G), Mrs Juli-Ann Attard (2W), Mrs Leanne Hyland (6G), Mrs Allison Passafaro (Learning Support Teacher), Ms Sandra Wood (Learning Support Assistant) and Mrs Pauline Barron, taking RFF for Years 4, 5 and 6. We also welcome Mrs Alicia Hanson on her return to work from her family leave; Mrs Claudette Radford will work with Mrs Chris Shilling and Mrs Prue Nelson (Galvin) will work with Mrs Simone Merrotsy one day per week when Mrs Shilling and Mrs Merrotsy undertake their Literacy work.

We also welcome our new babies to our 'staff family':

- Mrs Lauren Oliver and her husband, Sam, happily announced the birth of their baby boy, Sonny, on Sunday, 10 January;
- Mrs Danielle Lee and her husband, Chris, and daughter, Isabella, welcomed their baby boy, Hudson on Wednesday, 10 February;
- Mr Tim Snelling and his wife, Michelle, and daughter, Grace, welcomed their baby boy, Thomas on Thursday, 18 February;
- Mrs Sarah Shorter, and her husband, Steve, welcomed their baby boy, Hayden on Monday, 22 February.

It certainly is the year for the boys at the moment!

Farewell to Natalie Ross

Our community appreciates the role our School Counsellor, Natalie Ross has played says Steve Todd.



IT IS WITH sadness that during Term 1, we have farewelled our School Counsellor, Natalie Ross who has been with us for the past four and a half years. Natalie has been a most engaged and supporting School Counsellor, she has championed many students dealing with significant issues in their lives. Throughout this time, Natalie has managed her role with a professional approach that has been greatly appreciated by the College community.

Natalie, who has a young family, is moving to our sister school, St Brigid's Catholic College at Lake Munmorah to work part-time. We know our loss is certainly St Brigid's gain and we wish Natalie every blessing with her new role.



A welcoming celebration

Kerry Power provides an overview of how Sunday, 21 February was an amazing celebration for the new members of our community.

KINDERGARTEN, NEW FAMILIES and Year 7 students gathered at our College Church, St Mary of the Cross, en masse at Mass to celebrate Eucharist together. The church was overflowing with families as the new members joined the existing congregation as a way to say, "Welcome!"

College Parliament and Primary Leaders assumed major ministries for the day as welcomers, readers, choir and collectors as well as a huge effort was put towards the barbecue afterwards. These students are a credit to the College and confirmed them as leaders within our community.

The Kindergarten students performed the Thanksgiving song 'Welcome to God's House' and encouraged the congregation to join in. In such a short time they have already learnt so much, including the special place that is the church. Father Vince and

Father Sabbas concelebrated the Mass that also welcomed Parish children to their first lesson for the sacrament of Reconciliation.

The Mass concluded with a blessing for all new children and gifts to remember this first step into the MacKillop community. Kindergarten students received a teddy bear wearing a t-shirt depicting the new College visual identity and Year 7 students received a keyring also with the logo. New students across other grades received a Mary MacKillop pin to remember the day.

Following Mass, families mingled in the COLA, meeting and making friends and enjoying a sausage sizzle and cake. It was a memorable celebration enjoyed by all.

Promoting justice and dignity

Chrystal Price *discusses the theme for Project Compassion for 2016.*

PROJECT COMPASSION IS Caritas Australia’s annual fundraising and awareness-raising appeal, bringing thousands of Australians together in solidarity with the world’s poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

Running through the six weeks of Lent each year, Project Compassion is an extraordinary, ongoing demonstration of the faith, love and generosity of caring supporters, all in the name of justice and peace.

The theme for Project Compassion 2016 is “Learning more, creating change”.

As Pope Francis says, “Education is an act of hope”, so this year, Project Compassion celebrates the power of learning, and the many ways in which Caritas Australia is working with local partners around the world to provide vital learning and renewed hope to children, women and men most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice.

Here at MacKillop Catholic College we support Project Compassion and Caritas Australia throughout the Lenten season.

We ask that the students and families of MacKillop Catholic College work together to help raise the much needed funds so that we can ensure that justice and dignity is upheld for all.

Already we have had a gold coin collection in which students raised approximately eight hundred dollars. This is a great



start, however, we need to raise much more funds for this cause.

Please think about the various initiatives that your pastoral classes could organise to raise money for Project Compassion. Initiatives may include cake stalls, the selling of cans of drink, ice creams, milkshakes, lolly bags, etc... or you may just wish to donate some money yourself by keeping the loose change you have at home and handing it in towards the end of Lent.

By contributing whatever you can this Lent to Project Compassion, you will be ensuring that those living in extreme poverty will be given opportunities that will assist them to uphold their human dignity.

So please give generously.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF
**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

LEARNING MORE CREATING CHANGE

Donate to Project Compassion to help empower communities to learn more and create change.
www.caritas.org.au
 1800 024 413

Caritas AUSTRALIA The Catholic agency for international aid and development

"My life has been transformed. I am now more knowledgeable on a number of issues and I have a vision."
Doney, with Junior. Malawi

This simple hand-washing facility is improving the sanitation and long-term health of Doney's community.

I Belong. You Belong. We Belong.

Ann Jackson provides an overview of this year's Catholic Schools Week and the College's Open Afternoon.

Catholic Schools Week (CSW) 2016 will be held from 6-12 March and will involve the communities of all Catholic primary and secondary schools across NSW and the ACT. Catholic Schools Week is a time when we acknowledge and celebrate all that makes Catholic schools exceptional and competitive educational establishments and who embody and actively promote Gospel values.

The theme for 2016 is 'I Belong. You Belong. We Belong.' This slogan aligns with the Catholic Church's social teaching on solidarity and supporting refugees and asylum seekers as part of a compassionate global community.

The theme also aligns with the Catholic Church's celebration of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, which centres on pardon, strength and love. In this Year of Mercy, Pope Francis is calling upon all Catholic communities to extend mercy to those in need, particularly refugees fleeing hunger and war.

During this week, MacKillop Catholic College is participating in an Open Schools afternoon on Wednesday, 9 March from 4pm. During this time, our community is invited into the school where many facets of school life will be showcased. We look forward to welcoming new and established members of our school and parish community during this time.

OPEN AFTERNOON
 4-7pm, Wednesday 9 March
EXPLORE AND LEARN ABOUT MACKILLOP CATHOLIC COLLEGE


4:00pm Tours begin with Student Leaders

4:00-6:00pm Primary classrooms & Secondary faculty displays, exhibitions and enrolment information (K-12)

5:00-6:30pm Entertainment from students, free BBQ and café open

ALL CURRENT FAMILIES AND VISITORS ARE WELCOME

A CO-ED K-12 CATHOLIC COLLEGE

CHRIST OUR LIGHT

MACKILLOP
 Catholic College
 WARNERVALE

OPEN AFTERNOON
 4-7pm, Wed 9 March
 All welcome for tours, exhibitions and displays


ENROLLING FOR 2017

Applications for Year 7 2017 open 16 March 2016 and Kindergarten 2017 open 2 May 2016. Limited places available for students in other years.

'Be a light to the world'

91 Sparks Road, Warnervale
 02 4392 9399
www.mccwdbb.catholic.edu.au

KINDER & YR 7 PARENT INFO NIGHT
 7pm, Tue 15 March



Opening College Mass for 2016

Kerry Power *discusses the significance of the Mass to be held on 19 March.*



THIS YEAR OUR Opening College Mass will take place on Friday, 18 March. This Mass is traditionally held earlier in the year but it is for very good reason we have delayed as it is the Feast Day of St Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus. St Joseph was also a saint very close to the heart of our College patron, Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

Mary MacKillop became a religious sister on 19 March 1866 and she named her order the Sisters of Saint Joseph. They became a dynamic congregation of women who worked tirelessly in the field of education and continue today working in Josephite schools across Australia and New Zealand as preservers of justice and equality for all. This year is the Sesquicentenary (150 years) of the Sisters of Saint Joseph and members of the order will gather in Penola, the South Australian home of the first school, as well as other communities around the country.

For our Opening Mass we will invite local sisters, including our own Sister Marea to celebrate this special event. We will meditate on the special role of St Joseph as the dedicated husband of Mary the Mother of Jesus and protector of the dignity of all women. Many other activities are planned for the day that will engage the College community in this special celebration.

Please feel invited to join in this special celebration. Mass begins at 10am in the Steven Aitken Hall.

CULTURE

Honouring the Class of 2015

Steve Todd *acknowledges the achievements of last year's HSC students.*

MACKILLOP CATHOLIC COLLEGE, Warnervale proudly welcomes another strong HSC result from the Class of 2015, that has continued the fine performance of honour listings achieved by the last four HSC cohorts. We extend our congratulations to the entire HSC Class of 2015, as their achievement continues the impressive reputation of the College with the HSC.

HSC Results 2015 – All Courses N=135

	Bands					
	6+E4	5+E3	4+E2	3	2	1
Listings	25	162	280	179	41	4
%	3.6	23.4	40.5	25.9	5.9	0.6

What stands out for this HSC result is the close alignment with the bands over the past three years. The statistics are closely mirrored with the bottom two bands at a very low level. There is much to celebrate with the all-round quality of the HSC performances at the College.

The College proudly acknowledges the top performing students with 18 individual students achieving 25 honour listings with College Captain, Chloe Lovett achieving eight units at honour listing level. The College's English Coordinator, Mrs Anne Lovett is very excited to have two honour listings for the first time in English Advanced and one honour listing in English Extension 1. College Dux, Nathan Goslett (ATAR 96.5), achieved both an honour listing in English Advanced and English

Extension 1 with Chloe Lovett also achieving an honour listing in English Advanced. Maths, TAS and PDHPE faculties have led the way with three or more honour listings across their HSC courses.

It was such a pleasure to present Nathan Goslett with his Dux medal and also the top performing students with certificates at the Senior Student Luncheon on Friday, 12 February at the Wyong Leagues Club.





'Christ Our Light' Senior Luncheon

Debra Ferguson provides an overview of the luncheon and Mass held in honour of the Class of 2015.

ON FRIDAY, 12 February, MacKillop held its annual 'Christ Our Light' Senior Luncheon. This commenced with a Senior Mass where we honoured our seniors as the leaders of the College community as well as developing into young adults. At the Mass, the Year 11 students were presented with their senior badges by the Year 12 College Captains and all the students recited their senior pledge to the community.

Following the Mass, the students and staff travelled to Wyong Leagues Club where we all enjoyed a two course meal as part of our celebration and recognition of our senior students. During this celebration we also recognised our high achieving Year 12 students from the 2015 HSC.

We recognised and honoured the 2015 Dux of the College and the top 10 ATAR students as well as those students who achieved in being placed first in the Diocese in a particular subject and students whose major works have been accepted into HSC showcases during 2016. They were all invited, with their parents, to join us for this meal and to tell our senior students what they will be doing this year. Amongst our achievers we have students becoming doctors, lawyers, engineers, designers, teachers and careers in the armed forces.

Every year the Dux of the College addresses us all and gives advice to the students on how to maximise their learning potential. Our Dux for 2015, Nathan Goslett spoke very well on the day.

We also invite an ex-student back each year to explain what they have been doing since leaving school and also to add some advice. This year, Ashley van Leeuwstyn who was at MacKillop from 2005-2010 gave an inspiring speech about never giving up on your dreams and finding something you are passionate about as a career. Ashley is presently studying medicine and owns her own very successful tutoring business.

This day is always such a great success and our students respond so positively and maturely to this step up into being young adults who now have their futures in their own hands.

College Dux

Nathan Goslett (ATAR 96.5)

Top 9 ATAR students

Michael Dezius, Kayla Drake, Bailey Hibbit, Chloe Lovett, Tayne Mann, Christopher Ross, Alana Seaman, Braedan Smith-Connor, Renee Walker

First in the Diocese of Broken Bay in a subject

Chloe Lovett in SOR II, Alana Seaman in the Hospitality Kitchen Operations Cooking Examination and Robert Ryan in Senior Science

Accepted into a HSC Showcase

Madison Relf and Renee Walker for Design and Technology Major Works.



Claymation workshop with 'Digi Ed'

Jillian Young talks about the Year 10 Photographic and Digital Media incursion.

ON WEDNESDAY, 24 March, Year 10 Photographic and Digital Media students participated in a Claymation workshop with Digi Ed. The students had the opportunity to create and work with people in the field of animation. During the workshop, students wrote, edited and produced their own short animated film. These films were approximately 20-30 seconds long with music and sound included for added effect.

On the day, Digi Ed supplied all equipment needed, such

as, digital SLR cameras, tripods, Apple iBooks and modelling equipment. Students also had the opportunity to experience Apple software such as FrameThief, iMovie and iDVD to create their movie.

This workshop is a part of a larger unit of work studied in Photographic and Digital Media and will form part of students' final portfolio of work. I am pleased to say all enjoyed the workshop and thank you to Mrs Baxter who attended the day.

iPad connections

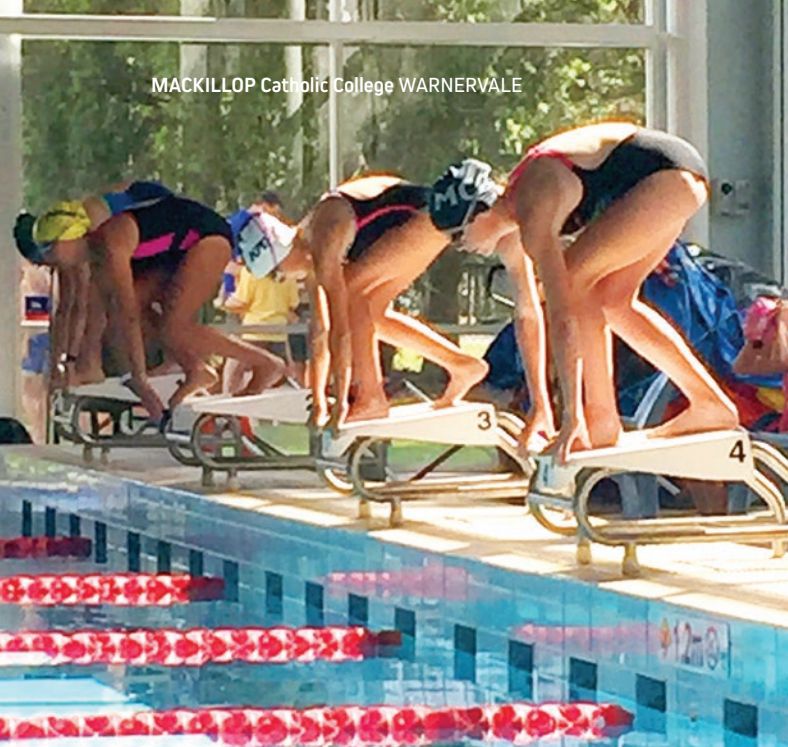
Erin Sullivan explains new ways of learning with digital devices.



THIS YEAR HAS begun with a whirlwind of iPad training, connections and excitement. Staff and students have been trialling new apps and exploring new ways of learning. During Week 2, Years 9 and 10 were enrolled into Lightspeed, our Mobile Device Management system, and trained on the main uses and functions of the iPad. This continued into Week 3 and 4 with each Year 7 class having a full day of training.

This year we have been very fortunate to have two experienced ICLT trainers from the CSO completing this enrolment for us. I would like to thank Miss Acido (who is based here at MacKillop) and Mr Fuller for their work with this process.

The connections and enrolments are just the beginning of this new stage of learning for us here at MacKillop. With mobile devices, students have access to digital media, resources and texts. Teachers are utilising iTunes U and Google Apps to deliver content and students are also able to submit work via these apps. The possibilities are endless.



Primary swimming success

Kellie Denneman gives the results from the Primary Swimming Carnival, Polding Summer Sport Trials and CCC Swimming Carnival.

AT OUR FIRST major Monday morning assembly this year, we were able to announce the results of our 2016 Swimming Carnival held at Wyong Pool late last year.

Congratulations to the following swimmers awarded Age Champion based on their individual performances:

	BOYS	GIRLS
8 Years	Samuel Coppen	Ruby Black
9 Years	Dylan Wightman	Hester Wong
10 Years	William Coppen	Emma Jones
11 Years	Lachlan Bishop	Abbey Ryan
12/13 Years	Tyson Scicluna	Kaitlyn Norris

The overall house results were extremely tight with the 25m events contributing to the joint winners.

PLACE	HOUSE	POINTS
1st	Temuka & Gesu	125
3rd	Fitzroy	89.5
4th	Alma	84
5th	Kincumber	39
6th	Penola	34

Congratulations to the following 30 swimmers who qualified to compete for MacKillop at the Primary Schools Central Coast Swimming Carnival at Mingara on the 22 February: William Coppen, Tyson Scicluna, Lachlan Bishop, Samuel Coppen, Brayden Lees, Dylan Wightman, Ryan Mills, Thomas Vrljic, Phoenix Morley, Flynn Rennie, Benjamin Barrett, Kevin Bee, Benjamin Crick, Jayden Bourke, Emma Jones, Kaitlyn Norris, Taylah Scaife, Ruby Black, Jasmine Fisher, Maya Rennie, Stephanie Kyle, Mackenzie Daley, Abbey Ryan, Daniela Vassallo,

Emily Treddinick, Madison Dunn, Mikaedy Sammut, Emily Sanders, Aaliyah Torres & Ella McKay.

POLDING SUMMER SPORT TRIALS – LISMORE

We had three students represent the Broken Bay Diocese at Polding Team Summer Sport Trials in Lismore in Week 2 this term; Grace Walker- Rolls (Girls Softball), Will Ellis (Boys Tennis) & Bianca McCann (Girls Cricket). It is a very big achievement to be selected to represent the Diocese – well done. Special congratulations to Grace Walker-Rolls who was selected in the Polding Girls Softball team to contest the NSWPSA Carnival in Camden later this year and Bianca McCann on her selection in the Polding Girls Cricket Squad.

CCC PRIMARY SWIMMING – MINGARA

We had 30 eager and energetic swimmers represent MacKillop this year at the CCC Swimming Carnival at Mingara on Monday, 22 February. The standard of swimming this year was exceptional across the Central Coast schools. Whilst we had many personal best times swum by our competitors and ribbons won in heat swims, our times were a way off the best from other schools. Special mention to Tyson Scicluna who placed in five heat swims and shaved a staggering 20 seconds off his personal best in the IM. MacKillop finished 10th on the schools leader board this year. Congratulations to Ella McKay, who has qualified to represent our cluster at the Broken Bay Swimming Carnival next month. Thank you to all the swimmers for the way in which they represented their school at this event. You were 'awesome'. Special thanks to Mrs McKay & Mr Scicluna who assisted as parent helpers at the event, Mrs Jones who ran the computer behind the scenes and all the parents and relatives who acted as chief cheerleaders and support crew. It was a great day as the photos show – we had lots of fun.



A busy start for Secondary sport

Duncan Black provides an overview of swimming and representative sport so far in 2016.

TERM 1 IS a very busy term for students and staff in all facets of sport at the College with Swimming – 11 February, Athletics – 3 March and Cross Country – 11 March.

HOUSE LEADERS 2016

Temuka (Red)	Tyrone Chow and Hannah McNamara
Penola (Gold)	Jasmin Constantinidis and Ben Marks
Gesu (Green)	Brigitte Graham-Hayes and Isabella Sant
Fitzroy (Blue)	Nathan Barnett and Tyler Wood
Alma (Purple)	Beth Le Gay Brereton and Kate McManus
Kincumber (White)	Paris Cooper, Bronte Denniss and Finlay Pyle

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Firstly, I would like to thank the 900 students that attended the College carnival, and for their wonderful behaviour on the day. A big thank you to the staff that assisted in the running of the carnival, without their efforts it would not be possible for events like this to run.

The pool manager was amazed by the way the students behaved and participated throughout the day and how clean and tidy the pool was left.

Age Champions will be revealed in the coming weeks but the House Champion was Temuka. A number of the swim records were broken on the day and they are as follows:

- Nathan Ward (U15) – 100m Freestyle, 50m Breaststroke, Jnr 200m Individual Medley
- Georgia Ray (U15) – 50m Breaststroke

The BBSSSA swimming carnival will be held on 23 March.

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

The Athletics carnival was held at Mingara on the 3 March. We thank all of the students that competed on the day and we will provide the results in the next newsletter.

BBSSSA AND NSW CCC

Touch Football

Well done to the Open Boys and Girls touch teams who competed in the BBSSSA tournament in Manly on the 17 February. The trip down to Sydney was long with Sydney traffic at its best. To the credit of our students they played consistent and simple touch. Our students played back-to-back games as the draw was altered due to a number of Central Coast schools being delayed in the heavy traffic.

Congratulations to Teearna Langbridge and Gabbie Keevill (shadow) who have been selected into the Open Girls Broken Bay team for the NSW CCC championships in Dubbo. The College under 13 and 15 boys and girls teams played on Monday, 29 February.

Basketball

Congratulations to our Open Basketball teams who played on 25 February in the BBSSSA basketball tournament.

NSW CCC

Huge congratulations to Darcy Boyd of Year 12 on receiving a NSW CCC Blues award and to Nathan Doyle of Year 11 on his selection into the NSW CCC under 19 cricket team.

INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATIONS FOR NSWCCC

The NSWCCC sports listed below require an online, individual entry for all Broken Bay students. A Diocesan team is not selected in any of these sports, so if you are of a high, representative standard we encourage you to apply. Please refer to the NSWCCC website at www.csss.nsw.edu.au for further sports specific information including cost, and what to bring.

Once you have successfully registered your 'expression of interest', your sports coordinator will be required to approve the registration. This will be based on the required criteria, their knowledge of you as a sports person and proven evidence that you compete at a high representative level in your nominated sport.

Please note the general information below paying particular attention to closing dates.

SPORT	AGE GROUP / ELIGIBILITY	CLOSING DATE
AFL Girls	15 years or under as at the 31 December.	29 April 2016
AFL Boys	15 years or under as at 31 December.	29 April 2016
Baseball	Open (students in Years 9-12 only).	17 February 2016
Basketball	Open (Under 19 years of age as at the 31 December 2016. Players must turn 15 yrs and over in the year of competition).	19 May 2016
Girls Cricket	Open.	25 February 2016
Boys Cricket U15	Players must be 15 years or under as at 1 September 2016.	24 October 2016
Diving	12,13,14,15,16,17+ years / open platform.	29 March 2016
Golf	Open – Handicap must be 12 or under for boys. Handicap must be 36 or under for girls.	29 February
Boys Hockey	Open (Players must have turned 15 as at 1 January 2016).	10 March 2016
Girls Hockey	16 years and under NSWCCC team (16 years or under as at 31 December 2016) / Open team (Years 11 or 12 and must be turning 17 or 18 years in 2016).	10 March 2016
Netball	15 years (must turn 15 by 31 December 2016). Opens (must not turn 19 in 2016).	27 April 2016
Rugby	Under 18 (Player cannot turn 19 in the year of competition). Under 16 (Player cannot turn 17 in the year of competition).	12 May 2016

SPORT	AGE GROUP / ELIGIBILITY	CLOSING DATE
Tennis	Open to all ages from Year 7 to 12. Players must have an Australian Ranking. This must be provided with entry. A confirmation email will be sent to you via the website should you be accepted into the tournament. Where a large volume of entries are submitted, the top 32 entries will be accepted to play.	29 February 2016
Volleyball	15 years and under in the year of competition.	23 March 2016
Waterpolo	Players must be U/17 at some time during the year of competition. For the 2016 competition born in 1999 or after.	17 November 2016

SPECIAL SPORTS MENTIONS

- Congratulation to Ella Murray and Bianca Blackhall on their selection into the Under 13 Australian Indigenous Netball Team.
- At the end of last year a number of students played in the Oztag World Cup on the Sunshine Coast. Dylan Clark represented the U18 Australian Indigenous team and Madelyne Smith and Kelsey Clark were chosen for the U18 Australian Barbarian Girls Team. A wonderful achievement for Kelsey Clark who was then selected to Represent U20 Australian team for 2016 in New Zealand in March.
- Congratulations to Jade Kroemer on her selection into The Australian Futsal team to take place in Brazil in August.

A MESSAGE TO ALL YEAR 7 STUDENTS, NEW STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS

If your child has sporting talent please inform the College. I will then be able to help them through the correct pathway as this is a little different to primary school pathways with College teams, BBSSEA team, NSW CCC, NSW All Schools, and Australian Teams. The student will need to see Mr Black at the west wing.





Welcome to new children in Primary

Sue Dietrich welcomes all new students and their families to MacKillop.

THIS YEAR WE welcome 28 new children and their families in Years 1-6 and 70 new Kindergarten children in beginning their educational journey in the MacKillop community. It is exciting to share our community with many new families and learn more about them.

We welcomed our children and their families as part of our Parish community at our Mass on Sunday, 21 February,

celebrated by Fr Vince and Fr Sabbas. During the Mass, our Kinder children sang a special song at Thanksgiving, leading us with vocals and actions. At the end of Mass we presented all new children from Years 1-6 with a special MacKillop badge and our Kinder children with the new MacKillop teddy. They were very warmly received... even the bigger children were keen to try to get one!



Year 6 & Kindergarten buddies

Year 6 teachers comment on how the year has started with our buddy program.

YEAR 6 AND their Kindergarten buddies have spent time getting to know each other. Year 6 have taken on the role of leadership in showing their buddies around the school and making sure they are safe. They have taught them about the school routines such as: recess and lunch times, lining up, how

to purchase things at the canteen and where to play.

Year 6 have been learning how to draw portraits and are completing a portrait of their buddy for them to keep. It has been lovely to see their friendships grow and the care and concern they have for each other.

A positive start to Year 7

Rachael Elcoate *reflects on how Year 7 have commenced high school with eagerness.*

YEAR 7 HAVE stepped up to being Secondary students and have settled in very quickly this term. They have established routines, made new friends and have thoroughly enjoyed moving around the 8 subject areas offered to them.

I've been most impressed with the maturity they have shown to be young adults. They have embraced our College houses and this was evident by the way they involved themselves at our College Swimming Carnival. They have established themselves as a year group who want to be involved in all aspects of the College, which is a credit to them.

Students were most impressive with the vaccinations, they have had the opportunity to listen to a guest speaker John Coutis and they have started weekly sport across a range of activities.

Over the past fortnight, they have been involved in iPad training and the feedback from the staff has been sensational. They have been described as good listeners and students who were thoroughly engaged to learn the technology. I look forward to seeing how the students use this device in class.

During pastoral periods, Year 7 have had the opportunity to work with Peer Support leaders from Year 10 who have been mentoring them to ease the change associated with high school. They have started to form good relationships with these leaders that has been beneficial to their success.

In the coming weeks, the students will start to complete assessment tasks which is the next challenge for them as well as involve themselves in College events such as the Athletics Carnival, Cross Country Carnival, Opening College Mass and the RE/HSIE excursions.



A new look parent team is coming

Steve Todd *discusses the new approach for parent and school liaison.*

WE ARE DELIGHTED that our CSO has provided us with the opportunity to appoint a Family Liaison Officer, or FLO as they will be known, this year to lead a new parent team approach.

The P&F has led the way for many years with formal meetings and for supporting the engagement of parents across the College. As many more parents are working these days and the numbers attending P&F meetings has become smaller over the years, it is now important for us to find a new connection between the school and parents. To that purpose, a Parent Engagement Team (PET) will be formed under the leadership of the FLO who will work part-time (3 days per

week) at the College to offer a welcome, some hospitality and provide important information to support the role of parents at the College.

The College is delighted to announce the appointment of Natalie Tunstead as the first FLO for MacKillop. Natalie has extensive experience in working in family services and has experience with the Catholic School system. Natalie has two children who attend other Catholic schools in our Diocese and she is looking forward to commencing her new role towards the end of this term. We welcome Natalie to our College team.



A smooth transition into high school

An overview of how the Peer Support Program has begun the year by Nichole Calleja.

PEER SUPPORT AT MacKillop is a relatively new program that has been included in the Pastoral Program to help Year 7 students make a smooth transition into high school. The Peer Support Program is a peer-led, skills-based, experiential learning program. It encourages connections throughout the school and assists students in developing practical skills to enhance social and emotional wellbeing.

Moving into Secondary school presents a significant change for students as they adjust to a new environment. Year 7 will be provided with opportunities to get to know one another and their Peer Leaders. The activities are designed to assist students in becoming familiar and confident with their school, teachers and new routines. Students also learn how to manage

school life and organise themselves.

This term, Year 7 students have been working in groups of 8-10 with 2 Peer Leaders from Year 10, during each pastoral period with session activities designed around 'transition' and 'values'. The wonderful Year 10 leaders who were accepted to facilitate a series of activities have demonstrated reliability and strong leadership skills as they guide Year 7 through the challenges of high school. Students have participated in a few sessions already and have conducted themselves positively. It shows how important building relationships with others is when beginning a new journey, in a fun and supportive environment.