

ISSUE 3 | WEEK 5, TERM 2 2016

# COLLEGE**Matters**



Enjoying all  
Term Two offers

**OUR ANZAC CELEBRATIONS**

**HIGHLY COMMENDED AWARDS**

**BATTLE OF THE CHEFS**



**MACKILLOP**  
Catholic College  
WARNERVALE





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# Valuing education at MacKillop

*A message from our College Principal, Steve Todd.*

**AS THE WINTER** months are now approaching (although we have enjoyed the amazing Autumn weather of late), we look to the warmth and security from family for many things. I pass on a particular thanks to all parents for attending to the students needs for appropriate winter uniform. I realise this is a big expense for parents and to have students wearing their uniform well promotes a positive approach for valuing education at this College. I must say the Secondary students wearing blazers look very impressive. Thank you parents and students for ensuring that the College uniform has been well attended to this term.

When out and about the College or visiting students at camps, retreats, sports, assemblies, liturgies, cultural events or at an excursion, I am always impressed by the warmth of the students' welcome and for their good spirits. The goodness of our MacKillop students is quite heartening and always impressive. This was most evident at the recent Primary Mother's Day Mass, at the Yr 7 Camp and at the Yr 10 Retreat. Well done MCC students!

Our students have been very busy with their learning this term with mid-year testing, and for Yrs 3, 5, 7 & 9 with the annual NAPLAN testing for literacy and numeracy. Teachers are thoroughly engaged with marking and reporting and this critical aspect of learning calls upon the skills and competencies of our professional teachers. I thank the teachers for ensuring that our students' learning is such a high priority. Reporting is a long process and this area takes up a great deal of personal time for teachers and I thank them for giving this area of their profession much of their time beyond the school day.

On Monday 16th May, the entire teaching staff took part

in a staff development day around 'Teamness as Cultures of Thinking'. This day has provided a starting point for how learning can be approached and delivered across the College from Kinder through to Yr 12. Teachers spent time listening to, questioning and learning about the dispositions that support learning and then sharing with each other how to apply this 'Culture of Thinking' to our three areas of Mission, Learning and Wellbeing. I thank the Executive and the Lead Teams for coordinating the day, as it is our intention that we build upon these capacities across our learning community.

I am delighted to see that a new style of parent engagement has been launched at the College through our newly appointed Family Liaison Officer, Natalie Tunstead. A special meeting of parents was held on Monday 23rd May to discuss how this engagement can be offered to all parents. Our thanks to Natalie for her important leadership in this area of parent voice at MacKillop. I thank the parents who have supported this initiative and we hope parents find the new style of networking gives them encouragement for connecting with the College, as the parents' voice can assist the College find solid direction.

Parents, students and staff will be pleased to see that the Yr 3 and 4 Wattle Classrooms are finally fully restored after the fire in 2015, and that also the new play-court areas of the Oval will be up and running in the very near future. We thank our Business Manager, Mick Bowman who manages all these areas of improvements around the College. The fundraising by MacKillop families in 2015 has assisted us in bringing such improved facilities at this College.

Best wishes for the remainder of Term 2.





# A busy start to Term 2

*A message from our Primary Principal, Sue Dietrich.*

**AS WE COME** to this midpoint of Term 2 and the end of May, we realise how quickly the weeks go past and how many things can occur in a month.

We began the term with a wonderful group attending the Toukley community Anzac Day March. It is always rewarding to see our children take part in these special days. It was great to be with them and their reverence and interest during the ceremony is genuine and heartfelt.

We celebrated Mother's Day with our annual K-6 Mass and morning tea, which was so well attended by mums, grandmothers, aunts, neighbours, dads and other special people in the lives of our children. Our thanks go to everyone who made this day a great success. Thanks also go to the many parents who helped with the Mother's Day Stall on the Thursday and the preparations for the stall.

Our Year 2 children began their Confirmation Sacramental Programme which culminated in their receiving of the sacrament on 28th May with Bishop Peter Comensoli. As we know receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation is one of the cornerstones of our faith development and the children were well prepared by our Parish Sacramental Team and their own families. The Year 6 Parish Mass on Sunday 22nd at 5pm was wonderful with more than three-quarters of the Year 6 children attending. My thanks go to our Year 6 teachers and to all those families for being able to share this Parish Mass.

The many activities of school life continue including sports programs such as Cross Country events, Footsteps Dance Program, AFL and League events and the Library Reading activities. Our Year 3 and 5 children completed the Naplan series of national assessments and we look forward to seeing the results they have achieved later in Term 3.

During this term, we introduced a concept to the children called "You Can Sit With Me". Our Year 6 Leaders and SRC children from Year 3, 4, and 5 will be wearing yellow wristbands to identify themselves as leaders in the primary. "You Can Sit

With Me" is an anti-bullying campaign. "You Can Sit With Me" is a highly visible wrist band worn by children to show that they welcome anyone to sit with them and that they are inclusive. Our leaders are trained what to do and say if someone comes to sit with them by asking "Are you ok?" We look forward to the positive connections this programme can make between the children and the opportunities it offers those children in leadership.

Our Staff Development Day gave the opportunity for all staff K-12 to discuss some important issues around how children learn, as we reviewed some reading material and talked through our understanding of these concepts from a primary perspective and a secondary perspective.

We are very happy to have our 2 classrooms - 3W and 4W - completed after the fire damage at the end of last year. We are grateful of the support of our secondary campus as we were able to situate these classes in two of the Creative Arts rooms during the months of the refurbishment. The children moved back in to their rooms at the end of May and I know they are excited to be back here enjoying their fresh rooms.

At this time of the year, we are well into the process of interviews for our 2017 Kindergarten cohort. It is amazing to think that we have just had our current Kinders getting settled in to school life in Term 1 and we are now meeting the newest members for the years ahead. Once again, it has been lovely to meet the new future faces of our school community. It has been great to hear the positive experiences of new families looking to join our school community. This process will be completed by the end of this term with the more detailed orientation sessions to be held in the Term 4.

The month of June ahead will provide more opportunities for our children to engage in their learning, in sports events, in community events and in achieving personal bests in all they do. We look forward to sharing these in the end of term reports.





# Wishes for a successful Term

*A message from our Secondary Principal, Debra Ferguson.*

**I TRUST EVERYONE** enjoyed the School Holiday break and the beautiful weather we have been experiencing for autumn this year.

Term 2 has commenced with the same fast pace as Term 1. Year 11 came back to their Half-Yearly exams which are a good opportunity for them to test their understanding and knowledge so far. It is a time to examine what skills they have acquired and in what areas they need to seek help or revise more thoroughly. The secret to Stage 6 is to remain positive, just keep up-to-date and to seek out help in the areas or learning where each of the students is having difficulties.

Year 7 attended camp at 'The Great Aussie Bush Camp' and Year 10 experienced their first Retreat at Collaroy. Both year groups displayed all the fine qualities that our parents and the school support with the students being extremely cooperative and supportive of each other and by working towards creating close relationships between the students and between the students and the teachers. I really wish to thank all our parents for supporting these activities and all the Staff who leave their friends and families to spend time with our students.

Stage 4 and 5 will commence their Half-Yearly exams in the next few weeks and it is very important that they are supported at home and at school for these. The week before their exams is called a Frozen Week and this means that all students and all their teachers are expected to be in every class to prepare for the tests with exam briefs being given as well as revision of topics studied. We wish all our students the best of luck with these and they need to ensure they are well prepared.

On May 16th the College held a Professional Learning Day for its Staff. These days are extremely important to ensure our teachers are able to continue their learning and to study the latest research on teaching and learning. We are presently embarking on a project to create a vibrant culture of thinking

here at MacKillop where the students are inspired to ask meaningful and rich questions and to work collaboratively to fully understand what they are being taught. Our PL day saw the research of Ron Ritchhart, who is the author of "Creating Cultures of Thinking", introduced to the teaching staff. The 3 staff teams of the College; Mission, Learning Culture and Wellbeing, also spent some time developing the School Improvement Plan for 2016 in their areas.

By now every family should have received notification of the upcoming Parent/Teacher Interviews on Tuesday, June 14th. Please ensure you make a booking for each of your children with all of their teachers. All research indicates that the more the parents are engaged in their children's learning, the better the results for the child. The interviews run from 8.45 in the morning until 8.30 at night in the Aitken Hall.

This term also sees the elections of our new Student Parliament members. Year 11 was addressed by Mr Todd, Mrs Camilleri and I and the nomination forms for leadership are now available from the Office. Year 7 – 10 were addressed by Yr 12 students and myself about their leadership opportunities. They need to nominate their interest via their Pastoral Teacher to represent their Pastoral Class for 2016/17. Year 11 nominees will address the school at an assembly and the Juniors address just their House members in their Stage towards the end of term. We thank all those students who will nominate for supporting their Houses, their Pastoral Class and for wanting to continue to build a community and a safe and happy school.

I wish everyone a successful term. I thank the parents for all your support, especially with the winter uniform and the great success of the introduction of the new blazers for the Juniors and I especially thank our Staff who work well beyond their role statements to make this school the dynamic place it is. God bless!





# Commemorating Anzac Day

**Monica Boyd** *honours our Anzacs.*

**ON FRIDAY 8TH** April the College commemorated Anzac Day. 2016 marked the second year in the centenary of commemoration of Australia's contributions to World War One. This year the primary students were the focus of our service and they did an outstanding job leading us on the day. In particular, the primary captains who set a fine example to all students both primary and secondary.

Our theme was 'Remembering the Western Front' and focused on the experiences of the Australian servicemen in the trenches of France during 1916. We were particularly lucky to have Loic Verni, a French exchange student (Year 11) with us. He was able to contribute to the day with a personal reflection of his nation and the impact the war had on his homeland. Loic told us about the geography and culture of France as well as the climate, which would have been a harsh contrast for the diggers after their experiences at Gallipoli. He was also able to explain the impact of the war on his homeland and how the work of the allies helped France. The visual images of the military cemeteries gave all present a sombre reminder of the extent of the devastation which was the battle of the Western Front. We thank Loic for his contribution to our service.

The primary students prepared posters and stained glass windows in the tradition of the French 'thankyou messages'

which were created by the children of France after the war for the Allied troops who had fought for their nation. These were laid as part of the service. We also took time out to reflect on the servicemen that had shown extraordinary valour during their service. A selection of students from the Infant classes through to our seniors, lead a reflection of Australian Victoria Cross recipients. Each was also commemorated with a replica Victoria Cross which was added to our commemoration.

We were fortunate to once again have members of the Toukley RSL sub-branch join us for the service. They made two presentations on the day. Firstly to Mia Thomas (Year 8), Mia is a descendent of Alfred Shout, Alfred was one of Australia's first Victoria Cross recipients at Gallipoli. Mia was presented with a replica of his VC medal. This was a special occasion for Mia and her family. The College was also presented with a special commemorative statute which will be kept on display in the library for the duration of the centenary.

I would like to thank the student leaders, the primary choir and the staff who assisted in the preparation of the service. All members of the College were respectful and considerate during the service, which helps us to 'never forget'.

Lest We Forget.









# Remembering our Anzacs

*Kerry Power talks about our traditional Anzac Day March.*

**MACKILLOP JOINED THE** traditional Anzac Day March in our region. Around 40 students from both primary and secondary gathered at the Ron Alt Lane Reserve, Toukley for the beginning of the march. Local schools and organisations formed the parade that stretched from Canton Beach Road, along Main Street, up to the Toukley RSL. It was beautiful weather to commemorate this important day in our country's national calendar. It was wonderful to see the different generations of Australians represented within our community. Many other MacKillop students represented groups within the larger community, such as Surf Lifesaving, Scouts and

Guides and other activities. Several students wore medals that were significant to their family and many could share in some detail the story that went with them. The large parade gathered around the cenotaph and participated in the reverent ceremony. Thanks and remembrance were the focus of prayers for wars passed and the fighter jets overhead reminded us of the continuing role of the defence forces in our contemporary world.

A big thank you to the students, staff and parents who took time on this National holiday to represent MacKillop Catholic College.



# High Commendation Assembly

Alan Evanson *showcases students with a positive attitude.*

**ON TUESDAY 3RD** May we held our first Academic Assembly for 2016. This was our High Commendation Assembly where each teacher nominated one student from their class to receive a certificate recognising their hard work, perseverance and positive attitude towards their work. It was amazing to see the number and range of students who were presented with an award, many of whom felt they would never achieve an academic award. Many of the teachers have commented how difficult it was, at times, to select just one student as there was often more than one student who was deserving of this award.

We had over two hundred individual students who received a certificate of High Commendation and over fifty students who received two or more certificates. It was fantastic to see the number of parents who were at this assembly. Congratulations to all the students who received an award.

At the start of Term 3 we will have our Semester 1 Academic Awards Assembly where students will receive an academic award for being placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in each course. These awards will be based on their performances across all of their assessment tasks in each course throughout Semester 2.





# NAPLAN examinations

Alan Evanson *talks about NAPLAN.*

**THE NATIONAL ASSESSMENT** Program – Literacy and Numeracy ( NAPLAN ) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. All students in these levels are expected to participate in tests in language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation), writing, reading and numeracy (calculator and non-calculator).

All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials. This year all Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participated in the NAPLAN tests from Tuesday 10th May to Thursday 12th May with some students, who were absent on one or more days of the test, catching up on Friday 13th May.

All students are to be congratulated on the way they conducted themselves throughout the NAPLAN testing. I look forward to seeing the results later in the year.



## iBELiEVE Program

Marilyn Fraser *discusses how students engage in the iBELiEVE program.*



**DOMINIC DATES (INDIGENOUS** Prospective Student Advisor) from the Wollotuka Institute at the University of Newcastle invited MacKillop Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to participate in an interactive program called iBELiEVE. The program is culturally designed to empower Year 7 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to make educated choices about their future aspirations and pathways.

Students engage with cultural rich knowledge and practical activities which helps to shape their unique identities and develop their personal skills to deal with challenges. Essentially iBELiEVE reinforces the importance of schooling and motivates students to set high standards and realistic goals for themselves. The program was fully funded and facilitated by Wollotuka Institute at MacKillop Catholic College.



# English students connect with author

Anne Lovett welcomes PJ Byer to Year 10.

**IN THE FINAL** weeks of Term 1, Year 10 had the opportunity to work with a local author, PJ Byer. Her first novel, *Collision*, was published in 2015 and our students engaged with the author to question, explore and understand some areas of relevance in their own lives such as dealing with obstacles and challenges in familial relationships and peer friendships.

Students commented that the book gave them an opportunity to discover how sometimes tricky situations can be handled in ways that uphold the dignity of all, and that warmth and genuine care can help us to overcome conflict with others. Through scenarios within the novel, students saw that emotional safety provided a foundation for all to grow together.

With class teachers, students read the text and completed activities to strengthen their creative writing skills. A particular focus on structure highlighted the novel's dual narrative and development of character provided experiences for enrichment. We are very grateful to the author for working closely with our students and staff.

The following students shared their thoughts about the opportunity:

*Collision, by PJ Byer, was a book that you cannot put down. It did take me a few pages to become engaged but after Stella met*

*Darcy, I was increasingly involved. In particular, the romance between these two characters sparked my interest. However, after reading about Gustav's experiences in World War 1, the novel became more intriguing as I turned each page. The ending was clever. For me, it finished the book perfectly and made it a winner in my eyes. I did feel for Stella, who was on her own for a period of time, but I do understand the necessity for this plot component. The book really was one of my favourites and 'hats off' to the author.*

By Gabrielle Baus

*I really enjoyed the book, *Collision*. The dual storyline was at first a little challenging, but as the plot and connections developed, it was impossible for me to put the book down. The characters were also very interesting, and I thought it was great that they were relatable to those who come from a broken home, but not to the extent that those who had a more fortunate upbringing could not relate. I also liked the appearance of diverse characters and the problems they faced. As long as PJ Byer can provide a comprehensible and exciting plot, captivating dialogue, and unique characters, I look forward to reading her next book.*

By Shari Towns







# Broken Bay 'Battle of the Chefs' 2016

*Kath Arden talks about our talented Hospitality students.*

**ON FRIDAY 6TH** May, three Year 12 Hospitality students, Taliesin Lees-Kent, William O'Keefe (Year 11) and Brannen Derry (Year 11) competed at St Peter's Catholic College Tuggerah in the second Diocesan Battle of the Chefs competition.

Participating schools included Mackillop, St Peter's, St Joseph's, St Paul's, St Leo's, Mt St Benedict and Mater Maria.

All schools had the same menu to prepare, which needed to be completed within the three-hour time allocation. The menu comprised of Entrée - Orange and Avocado salad; Main Course - Poached Chicken Breast in Tarragon Sauce (accompanied with Potato, Carrots and Broccoli); and Dessert - Profiteroles filled with Chantilly Cream, topped with Chocolate Ganache. Two portions of each course were to be presented, one to the judges and the second to the attending guests. The judges for the competition were from TAFE and a local reputable establishment.

In order for the students to be successful, workflows & standard recipe cards needed to be developed, knowing that the judges would be checking that the work flows/ recipe cards were being followed on the day. Teamwork, organisational skills, workplace hygiene, safe work practices and correct methods of cookery, as well as final product were all assessed. The students found time before the day to practice their time management and develop some creative plating.

Mackillop students were highly professional in their application of the menu. Upon judging, they were announced equal third place, behind Mt St Benedict (second place) and St Leo's (first place). The day was extremely well organised with positive feedback given to all student participants. It is envisaged that this competition will be an annual event and we are looking forward to entering again in 2017.







# Artist of the Month

Jillian Young showcases Year 10 Visual Arts students.

BELOW ARE A collection of ceramic vessels made by Year 10 students in Visual Arts.







# Performing Arts on Tour

Fiona Milkins *reflects on an amazing trip to Wollongong.*

**ON THE LAST** day of Term 1, 43 Students embarked on an amazing weekend on our inaugural Performing Arts Trip. The students travelled to Wollongong to compete in the Vocal and Dance sections of the Illawarra Eisteddfod.

The fun filled weekend began with a day at Wet N' Wild, before heading to our accommodation in Wollongong. After a very early start, the students spent the day at the Bundanoon Highland Festival where they experienced all things Scottish from pipe bands, to Scottish dancing and even participating in traditional Highland Games. On our return to Wollongong it was time for our Dance Troupes to compete in their eisteddfod. All three troupes were fantastic and again tough competition, they were awarded a Highly Commended in each section. Once again our boys dance troupe performed to the screams of their fans and were highly entertaining.

After a lazy morning, all students said goodbye to their fantastic accommodation and headed to St Francis Xavier Cathedral for Sunday Mass. The day was then filled with a visit to the Nan Tien Buddhist Temple before a relaxing lunch at Kiama Blowhole. It was then time for the choir to compete in our eisteddfod. After an outstanding performance, the choir was placed 2nd!

This trip would not have been possible without the dedicated staff of MacKillop. A particular mention to our extraordinary Dance teacher Miss Rochelle Williamson and the super

talented Choir teacher, Mrs Iolanda Caruana. Thanks must also go to Helen Beech, Debra Ferguson, Shane LeBreton, Geoff Boyd, Timothy Milkins and we cannot forget Simon Caruana who was our wonderful bus driver who made the trip run so smoothly for us.

Below are some comments from students who attended the weekend:

*I would like to say a big thank you for taking us to the Illawarra camp as we had an awesome time and we loved having the experience of the entire trip. I know we all had many highlights and I know we will have many memories to cherish. My highlight of the whole weekend would have to have been that at the end of the day we all came together as a group and were there for each other. Thank you again.*

Holly Gajdos (Year 7)

*Some highlights of the trip for me was definitely the new experiences we gained such as going to Bundanoon, visiting the Temple, seeing the boys dance, seeing many people enjoy what was their first eisteddfod, and all the scattered awesome memories and inside jokes formed throughout the trip. The teachers were really great the entire time in making sure we all were taken care of and had the best time possible. I am sad that due to graduation I will be unable to have this experience again.*

Natalie McLeod (Year 12)



# Celebrating reading at the Library!

The Library Staff *host Family Reading and Pizza Night.*

**MAY WAS NATIONAL** Family Reading Month and to keep with tradition from the last four years, the Library celebrated by hosting our annual Family Reading and Pizza Night on Wednesday 18th May. The evening was a great success with over 40 families in attendance. After sitting down to enjoy a pizza dinner, everyone found some books and settled down to read together. The Library had several lucky door prizes with happy recipients winning free books. It was lovely to see so many children reading to and with their families and the Library staff would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who attended.

National Simultaneous Storytime is also celebrated in May, where an Australian picture book is read simultaneously in libraries all around the country every year. This year we read 'I Got This Hat' by Jol & Kate Temple. Library staff and students in K-2 participated in the day by wearing all sorts of hats while listening to the story.



## Mother's Day, What a Day!

Kerry Power *tells us about this wonderful celebration of mothers.*



**MACKILLOP'S TRADITIONAL MOTHER'S** Day Mass is always a wonderful celebration of community. Significant women and men joined with the primary students to recognise the important role of mothers and carers as a nurturing force in our lives. Our St Mary of the Cross Church was bustling with the large number in the congregation. Each grade took a significant ministry in the mass celebrated by Father Sabbas. Our primary Mission Leaders, Madeline Van Den Broek and Ella McKay introduced the liturgy by describing the importance of mothers and all people in the development of caring and loving people. They also highlighted the role of Mary as the mother of Jesus who is mother to us all.

Kindergarten prepared a beautiful sacred space filled with flowers and candles as well as reminders of the varied roles mothers fulfil in modern life. Students and their mothers participated as readers and students were wonderful contributors to a whole school choir. After Mass a large group stayed to join in morning tea provided by the College and served by the Year 6 leaders.



# Primary sports success

Kellie Denneman *gives the Primary results for sports.*

## 2016 PRIMARY ATHLETICS

### AGE CHAMPION

	GIRLS	BOYS
7/8 YRS	Jasmine Amos	Enda Connolly (7)
9 YRS	Maya Rennie	Kai Rennie
10 YRS	Annabelle Ross	Isaac Zappala
11 YRS	Abbey Ryan	Will Barr
12/13 YRS	Kaitlyn Norris	Sam Wolscher

### OVERALL RESULTS

GESU	224
ALMA	220
KINCUMBER	184
PENOLA	179
FITZROY	146
TEMUKA	136

## NSWCPS SWIMMING

Thursday 31 March

Ella McKay:

- Open AWD Backstroke – Silver Medal
- Open AWD Freestyle – Bronze Medal

## NSWPSSA SWIMMING

Wednesday 6 & Thursday 7 April

Ella McKay:

- Open AWD Freestyle – won heat and 11th overall
- 3.5 secs off PB
- Open AWD Backstroke – 6th overall PB

## POLDING WINTER TEAM SPORT TRIALS

3 students represented the Diocese of Broken Bay at Polding Winter Team Sport Trials in Bathurst at the end of Week 1 this term: Lachlan Bishop (Open Rugby League), Montana Rose Currey (Girls Soccer) & Kaitlyn Norris (Netball)

Congratulations to Montana Rose Currey who was selected in the Polding Girls Soccer team to contest the NSWPSSA Championships in Albury in Week 7 this term. We wish her all the very best!

## CCC CROSS COUNTRY

Over 100 students proudly represented MacKillop in the CCC Cross Country at Mt Penang on Wednesday 4th May. Congratulations to the following 11 runners who qualified to progress to the Broken Bay Cross Country at Fagan Park on 24th May:

Kaitlyn Norris (2nd place), Emma Jones & Sebastian Varndell (4th Place), William Enraght-Moony (5th place) Connor Hibbard, Brandon Whitmore, Keely Swaysland, Jasmin Fisher, Tyson Scicluna, Riley Knight, & Zoe Henderson. We wish them all the very best of luck.









# Selection to Representative Teams

**Duncan Black** *provides an overview of sports for Term 2.*

**OVER THE PAST** four weeks we have had some outstanding results across the College in sport.

## BBSSA SPORT

Soccer – Our Open Boys and Girls teams travelled to Sydney on Tuesday 10th May to play in the Opens Soccer Gala Day – this is also a selection trial for the BBSSA Opens Soccer team. The boys team finished 4th. While the girls finished runners up to St Joseph's College in the final. Congratulations to the following students that were selected into the Opens boys and girls team.

Open Boys – Jack Ormsby

Open Girls – Jade Kroemer

Both these students have now played in the NSW CCC Soccer Tournament in Sydney. The Open girls' team winning the tournament.

## AFL

Also on Tuesday 10th May our 15 Boys AFL team travelled to Gosford to play in the Swans Cup. Our boys played St Edwards College in the final and won by 3 goals. This was an outstanding effort considering most of the boys have never played AFL. The boys will now travel to Sydney for the next stage of the tournament in August. Well done to Mrs Werchon who was the coach for the day.

Over the last four weeks of Term 2 and through the holidays a number of students have been selected in representative teams.

- Demi Evans – selected into the Australian U17 Netball team and was selected to be Captain for this team, this is the second year Demi has been selected
- Wyatt Gavan – selected into the U17 Australian Indigenous Team that recently toured New Zealand
- Brennan Derry – selected into the Australian Water Skiing team to tour the US
- Samara Ross – runner up in the Bridge to Bridge water skiing – junior class
- Billy Hart – represented NSW in Boxing in the Australian titles and has been crowned the Australian Champion for his weight division
- Nathan Doyle – selected into the NSW ALL SCHOOLS u19 Cricket team
- Brinley Gallagher – selected into the NSW CCC hockey team
- Annika Boyd – selected in the NSW CCC golf team
- Georgia Ray – selected into NSW CCC U15 Netball Team
- Jack Ormsby – selected into the Opens Boys Broken Bay soccer team
- Jade Kroemer – selected into the Opens Girls Soccer team





# A wonderful Transition Day

**Amanda Campbell** *prepares students for the move to secondary school.*

**THE FIRST TRANSITION** day of the year took place in Term One on 6th April. It was a very hot 30 degree autumn day but the Year 6 students were very well behaved and cooperative. The students came from over 15 different primary schools and were all a mixture of nervousness, curiosity and excitement.

The students met our College Principals and other key staff along with our school captain Renae Kellie. After the meet and greet students participated in 'ice-breaker' activities and were then given the opportunity to ask current Year 7 students "what is school like at MacKillop" during a question and answer segment.

The focus of the day then turned to providing Year 6 with the opportunity to gain a feel of the Catholic ethos of our College. The students were put into groups where they completed activities and learnt about our patron St Mary MacKillop, St Joseph, Pope Francis and the Broken Bay Diocese. These sessions were led by a team of our Year 10 students who did a remarkable job.

The day ended nicely with a group reflection led by our Religion Coordinator Mrs Price and a prayer through song, sung by our talented Youth Ministry Coordinator Elizabeth Kovacic and guitar played by Scott Wallis. It was a successful day where new friendships were made, comfort zones were challenged and the first step into secondary school was taken.



## An overview from the FLO

**Natalie Tunstead** *reports on family engagement within MacKillop.*

**FOLLOWING SUCH A** warm welcome from everyone it has been an enjoyable process settling into the role of Family Liaison Officer at MacKillop Catholic College. A primary aspect of my role includes being an advocate for parents. Much like the school counsellor is there for the children and issues relating to them, sometimes there are supports that parents or other family members may require. Although my position is not a counselling one I am able to link families with supports. Having worked with families on the Central Coast for more than twenty years I have established a good knowledge of local support services. Feel free to contact me by phone or email and I will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.

Another aspect of my role is to coordinate the establishment of our Parent Engagement Team. The initial part of this process was to hold a Parent Engagement Gathering on Monday 23rd May and explore "what is parent engagement?" and "what it might look like at MacKillop Catholic College?" It was great to see a mix of some old and new faces generating lots of discussion and ideas. We plan to hold another Parent Engagement Gathering before the end of term to build on this initial step and hopefully see some more new faces. A special thanks to those parents who were able to attend the evening your participation is invaluable. Thank you to the Year 11 students who provided the child care, Nick Cronin for setting up the audio equipment and the MacKillop executive for providing a delicious supper.

We had a great turn out for the Mother's Day mass and morning tea. Special thanks to the dads who helped with the set up and serving of morning tea.

The Mother's Day stall was a great success with lots of items for the children to choose. It was evident how well the children know the special people in their lives as they carefully considered what they might like. A special thanks to Lisa Killalea and her team of helpers who helped purchase, wrap and run the stall on the day, your assistance was greatly appreciated.

A MacKillop Parent Reflection morning is on Wednesday 15th June from 9am to 11am in the school theatre with childcare provided. Please see flyer on the MacKillop website.



# An enjoyable experience for all

Nichole Calleja *talks about the success of Year 7 camp.*

**ON WEDNESDAY 24TH** April, Year 7 set out for their first ever Secondary school camp to The Great Aussie Bush Camp at Tea Gardens. Students were buzzing with excitement as they packed onto the three buses, with many buses singing the whole way there.

We were very fortunate to have such amazing weather over the three days, which meant that all activities were able to go ahead. It was unbelievable to see how brave many students were, facing their fear of heights and participating in all the activities programed for us. Activities included: The Giant Swing, Abseiling, Team Challenge, Leap of Faith, Crate Challenge and Archery. Students were bused to Jimmy's Beach at Hawkes Nest to participate in Sea Kayaking and Raft Building activities. I would like to commend those students who really pushed themselves to participate in these scary activities, especially Mr Spinks and Mr Wallis who completed the Leap of Faith!

Throughout the camp and these activities, students were encouraged to challenge themselves, to give it a go and to work together as a team. It was very encouraging to see how all of Year 7 responded to this and to see how much fun, support and respect they had with their peers in their Pastoral classes. Year 7 were able to come together as a group to show off their dance moves at the disco we had on the first night, and to compete in a challenge night where it was boys vs girls. I would like to commend Year 7 on how well they behaved for the duration at camp and for making it such an enjoyable experience for all.

This camp would not have been as successful if it wasn't for the amazing staff who gave up their time to attend. I wish to thank Mrs Mel McGuinness, Miss Amanda Campbell, Mrs Kathleen Black, Miss Rochelle Williamson, Mr Anthony Spinks, Mr Robert Copas, Mr Scott Wallis, and Mrs Maryellen Lowe for all their help and support in making the Year 7 Camp such an enjoyable experience.









# Creating positive relationships

**Chrystal Price** *talks about the positive attitude at Year 10 Retreat.*

**THE YEAR 10** Retreat is an essential part of the Catholic life at MacKillop. All of Year 10 along with 11 staff members went down to the Collaroy Centre, Collaroy on 5th and 6th May 2016. By going on retreat we make it a priority to take time out of the students' daily schedules to allow them time to focus wholeheartedly on their spirituality.

The theme for this retreat was 'Creating positive relationships'. On the Thursday the students participated in various input sessions led by the College Youth Ministry Leader; Miss Elizabeth Kovacic and the Year 10 Coordinator Mr Damien Tomsett. During these sessions the students reflected on their use of digital media and the positive as well as negative effect social media can have on their relationships with one another. Students also had a chance to lead their own input session, where they shared their perspectives on the place of God in a digital world. On the Friday students listened to the testimonies of Mr Dennis Gasparotto and Mrs Jasmine Hutchinson on their experience of relationships throughout their lives. Students were encouraged to take on the advice from all the sessions over the two days and reflect on where this fits within their own life experience.

During the retreat the Year 10 students also participated

in ice breaker activities led by two pastoral teachers and had plenty of free time, as well as a chance to complete various physical activities led by the Collaroy centre. All of these opportunities allowed for the year group to foster the positive relationships they share with one another and also gave some students the chance to step outside their comfort zones.

On the Thursday evening students were joined by Fr Sabbas (assistant Parish priest Warnervale) and Fr Andrew (Parish priest Wyoming) to celebrate Eucharist. The Mass focused on the importance of God's love in our lives and how we can extend that love to others. The music in the Mass was led by Miss Kovacic, Mr Scott Wallis and Mr Robert Copas which heightened the student involvement during the celebration. A few Year 10 students then led a reflection after Eucharist which began the prayer stations that students could participate in. This was a real highlight of the retreat, as the students were actively involved in the rituals and had a chance to strengthen their faith in Christ as well as each other.

The retreat was a great success due to the hard work of all the staff who attended, as well as, the amazing Year 10 cohort and the positive way in which they engaged in the two days.









