

# COLLEGE Matters



## Celebrations in Term Three

**MARY MACKILLOP FEAST DAY**

**ENJOYING OUR SISTER  
SCHOOL VISIT**

**OUR NEW LEADERS**

CHRIST OUR LIGHT



**MACKILLOP**  
Catholic College  
WARNERVALE



# Contents

## COLLEGE

- 3 A term of celebration**  
A message from our College Principal, **Steve Todd**.
- 4 Celebrating our MacKillop Culture**  
A message from our Primary Principal, **Sue Dietrich**.
- 5 Term 3 hosts many important events**  
A message from our Secondary Principal, **Debra Ferguson**.
- 6 Farewell Mr Burns!**  
**Deb Ferguson** speaks about Mr Burns time at the College.

## MISSION

- 7 Feast of Mary MacKillop**  
**Kerry Power** reflects on our Feast Day celebrations.
- 9 A special community day**  
**Deb Ferguson** shares the spirit of House challenge.
- 11 The new Parliament 2016/17**  
**Deb Ferguson** introduces our new leaders.

## CULTURE

- 12 Our 10th sister school visit**  
**Helen Beech** celebrates the visit

from our Japanese sister school.

- 15 HSC Trials and Academic Excellence**  
**Alan Evanson** reports on our HSC trial examinations and our Academic Assembly.
- 16 Literacy Testing for Stage 4 students**  
**Lisa Milner** gives an insight into literacy testing.
- 17 Sorting the figures from NAPLAN**  
**John Hepworth** talks about the numeracy perspective of NAPLAN.
- 18 How the New HSC will look**  
**Mel McGuinness** gives an overview on the new higher school certificate.
- 19 Multi purpose courts for the Oval**  
**Steve Burns** tells us about our new courts for sports.
- 20 Year 11 Visual Arts Excursion**  
**Jillian Young** talks about the trip to the Museum of Contemporary Art.
- 21 Artist of the Month**  
**Jillian Young** showcases Year 11 Self Portraits.
- 22 Primary enjoy their sports**  
**Kellie Denneman** give an overview

of CCC athletics and Olympic Day.

- 23 MacKillop Olympic Day**  
**Kellie Denneman** showcases the Primary students at the Olympics
  - 24 Secondary sporting success**  
**Duncan Blacks** provides an overview of secondary sports.
- ## WELLBEING
- 25 A superb tour to Mangrove Mts**  
**Maisie Tenev** reflects on an amazing educational trip for Year 9
  - 27 A successful Leadership camp**  
**Lia Camilleri** talks about overnight camp in the leadership process.



# A term of celebration

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

**AS TERM 3** progresses, we have seen and been part of some key events that continue to shape our year. Students from Primary and Secondary have been very busy with a variety of programs and events.

Among the events this term has been the Yr 8 and Yr 10 students participating in a very well attended subject market. Yr 10 students also attended an information meeting with their parents followed by an interview with school leaders before completing an online selection process for assisting with the determining of senior subjects for 2017. A word of thanks to our students, the staff and the parents for supporting this process.

Year 3 students have commenced their 1st Eucharist Program and they are eagerly awaiting their First Communion Day on Sunday 11 September. With the Rio Olympics being held this term, our Primary students have also held their own Olympics competition on Thursday 18 August. Participation and colour was the order of the day.

Yr 12 students have completed their trials and they now turn their attention to the final weeks of formal schooling before breaking for their final preparations for the HSC exams in October/November. The final weeks of the term are important ones for Yr 12 with practical exams and major projects. It is a demanding time and we thank the students for continuing to meet the expectations of the College and Board and we look forward to their Graduation Mass, farewell and Awards events held in the final week of the term.

With our Yr 12 students now focused on the HSC we welcome the next group of Secondary leaders who were commissioned for their important roles in Week 2 of this term. Congratulations to all new student leaders with a special congratulations to the new College Captains, Samantha Vella and William O'Keefe.

This year, we welcomed our Sister School from Japan, Nihon Daiichi Junior High School, Tokyo for the 10th Anniversary

visit to the College from 25 July to 5 August. It was with joy that we welcomed Mr Kumagai, the Principal of Daichii and his staff and students to MacKillop. The anniversary visit was indeed a very special time for both schools with the installation of a special 10th Anniversary plaque along with two Cherry Blossom trees in a new garden near the front of the Administration Block. Both Primary and Secondary students and staff participated in the two-week program and we especially thank Helen Beech, Andrew Kilham and our Sister School Committee for making this time extra special.

The events that we celebrate on the Feast of Mary MacKillop on 8 August are always a moving and a special occasion for the College. This year's Kinder to Yr 11 College Mass held in the Aitken Hall on Monday 8 August was a very spirited and prayerful occasion. We thank all the students for engaging in the liturgy, along with musicians, singers, readers and to everyone who celebrated belonging to our community with clapping and actions to the hymns. Our thanks to Fr Vince, Parish Priest, for celebrating this Mass with us and to Sr Marea for relaying her journey as a Sister of St Joseph. It was a thrill to hear Sr Marea's journey in this 150 Year for the Sisters. In the spirit of Mary MacKillop every student received some M & M's to celebrate our Feast Day. Our thanks also to our RECs, Kerry Power and Chrystal Price for coordinating this special day for the College.

Our annual House Challenge was another wonderful occasion of colour, spirit and performance. The spirit of one-in-all-in for each House always leaves a lasting impression of the goodness and fun-loving nature of young people. The day is not possible without our talented and happy students, the proud House Leaders encouragement and also from the Primary and Secondary staff. Congratulations to the PENOLA House on taking out the overall House Shield and well done again to Deb Ferguson for her amazing attention to detail and commitment to promoting House Spirit. MacKillop's heart and spirit is beating strong – well done one and all!



# Celebrating our MacKillop Culture

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

**TERM 3 BEGAN** with an opportunity for our K-12 staff to engage in professional discussions and activities which centres on our work developing our understanding of how children learn. As a College community we have been using the book "Creating Cultures of Thinking" as the starting point for our conversations. The book is written by leading Harvard University researcher Ron Ritchhart, and he builds the case for "enculturation" as the key to deep learning and the development of the habits of mind and dispositions needed in a changing world. He challenges teachers by stating "Let's build dynamic learning communities that engage students, promote deep understanding, and sustain a lifetime of inquiry. Culture matters not only to realize curricular goals, but also as a shaper of students' development as powerful thinkers and learners." Our discussions throughout this year are enabling our teachers from Kindergarten through to Year 12 to share their work to embed an understanding of how we support the learning of our students. This work is exciting and invigorating and will be continued through the remainder of the year and in to the future.

At the beginning of term the children were fortunate to have the opportunity to meet and have activities with our Japanese Sister School. With our Year 3 and 4 children experiencing the Japanese lessons this year with Mrs Beech and Mr Kilham, it was wonderful to see them enjoy their time with Nihon Daiichi Junior High School Junior High School students and teachers. Our 10th Anniversary recognition of the Sister

School relationship was a wonderful time for all involved and our Kindergarten children were so vibrant and engaging of everyone in their performance of the song "Red, Black and Yellow" at the farewell Community Time assembly.

St Mary MacKillop Feast Day Mass and House Challenge again proved to be a wonderful reflection of our College community. Fr Vince led us in prayer through the Mass and Sr Marea spoke to us all about her life as a Sister of St Joseph following in the footsteps of Mary MacKillop and what that means to her. It was inspiring to hear Sr Marea's reflections, enabling us to try to understand the commitment to children by Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph throughout the decades of Australian history. The House Challenge was an exhilarating afternoon of song in our House Teams and again the children and staff were so supportive of the day.

The Olympics Day held on 18 August was a great community day full of fun, positive spirit and engagement by all students and staff. The centre point of the day focussed on the three Olympic values – Friendship, Respect and Excellence – along with the four Paralympic values – Determination, Inspiration, Courage and Equality. The values underpin the Olympic Games as a set of universal principles, but they can be applied to education and our lives, as well as to sport itself; and the goal of the day was to engage the children in a variety of modified Olympics events as each class represented a country. Our thanks go to Mrs Denneman supported by all class teachers for her efforts in putting the day together.



## Term 3 hosts many important events

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

**EVERY TERM IS** exciting, busy and challenging and this sentiment would not only be felt by our teachers but also by our students and even our parents. Term 3 hosts so many important events and I would like to make mention of these even though others may write about them in more detail.

We commenced the term with the Commissioning of our new Student Parliament Leaders and the Semester 1 Academic Awards. Both these events were so inspiring. I have written more about the commissioning in this edition of *College Matters* so I will comment on the Award Ceremony here. I have been in a number of schools and I have never seen students as proud as the MCC students to receive these awards. They truly appreciate the fact that these recognise their hard work and that they deserve to receive our congratulations. Many students strive hard at school but cannot achieve a 1st, 2nd or 3rd placing, however, all students who work hard should also be so proud of their tenacity and motivation and these skills will eventually help them reach their goals and be such wonderful employees or employers. For those who do gain this level of achievement they need to keep working hard and be so proud of their continued efforts and persistence. I thank all our teachers and especially our KLACs and Mr Evanson for all the encouragement they give to our students and for organising these awards.

Our Year 12 students are now so close to the end of their 13 years of education. Term 3 is very stressful for them all as they sit their year 12 Trial exams which, for most, is their last assessment of their knowledge before sitting the HSC in October. At the same time many are also submitting major

works in many subjects and students are also deciding upon and applying for their courses for 2017. I thank all our teachers who spend so many extra hours assisting our Year 12 students and especially to Mr Evanson (Curriculum Coordinator) and Mr Jones (Careers Advisor) who are always available to give guidance and advice. I also thank our parents who nurture their children throughout this time. We need to remember that this is just one pathway that students may take to attain their dreams and to assist our young adults to realise this in case things do not go to plan.

This term is also our wonderful celebrations for the Mary MacKillop Feast Day Mass and the College House Challenge. This was a very special day on Monday, 8 August, with the students so engaged and the entire atmosphere of the day was one that uplifted the staff and again demonstrated what a special place MacKillop is and how wonderful our students are. The students truly shone in how they respect their faith and each other.

Year 11 face their end of Preliminary Stage Exams in September and will then embark on their HSC year at the beginning of Term 4. Also at the end of term we will be having our annual Charity Day where Year 12 do something positive for others on their last official day of school and then the Year 12 Farewell Mass and Awards Night. So another very busy term and I have not mentioned so many other things that have occurred so far this term such as the sport, debating, Science Week, Book Week and so many other activities that will be mentioned in this edition of *College Matters*. What a great school!

# Farewell Mr Burns!

**Deb Ferguson** *speaks about Mr Burns time at the College.*

**IN 2002 THE** Founding Principal, Stephen Aitken, set out to find the best Staff he could to commence a brand new Catholic school at Warnervale. Mr Aitken did not know a great deal about the Central Coast but he knew it was an area that excelled in many areas and especially in sport. He also understood that to excel at sport you needed to have all the moral fortitude and dedication to not only excel at a sport but to also excel as a person. He was adamant that the teacher that would be employed as the PDHPE teacher needed to be both an excellent teacher in their subject area but also someone who would inspire their students to demonstrate great sportsmanship as well as positivity, reliability and persistence.

Mr Aitken had taught a young, talented footballer when he was teaching in Sydney and he was absolutely delighted when he, Mr Stephen Burns, applied for the job at Warnervale. Steve Burns was everything that Mr Aitken was looking for and over the last 14 years he has proven this over and over again. Steve started as a PDHPE teacher and eventually became the PDHPE Coordinator.

Over the past 14 years he has, along with a very talented and dedicated PDHPE staff, developed this faculty into a very successful unit developing relevant and challenging programs within the College and achieving fine results in the HSC.

Steve has also coached and managed so many sporting

teams with his special love for rugby league. He is so respected by his students with his no-nonsense approach to any sport and his very high expectations of all his students. Most admirable, Steve cares less about the wins but much more that the students become the best they can be and that their attitudes are those that reflect the Catholic ethos of our College and our faith.

We now have to say a very sad farewell to Steve as he has accepted a position as the PDHPE Coordinator at St Mary's, Gateshead in Newcastle. This school is growing from a Year 7-10 school to a Year 7-12 College and Steve will again be leading a team to develop curriculum and sporting teams. St Mary's are so very lucky to have a leader who has already achieved this and knows exactly what needs to be done. This position is also much closer to Steve's home and we are so pleased for him.

Mr Stephen Burns will take Long Service Leave at the end of Term 3 and take up his new position at St Mary's at the beginning of next year. We wish him all the success and happiness in both his new job and in life in general and so many of the MCC staff, students and parents will hold wonderful memories and thoughts of gratitude for Steve in our hearts.

Mr Stephen Burns – a gifted teacher and a role model for all! We will miss you!!



# Feast of Mary MacKillop

*Kerry Power reflects on our Feast Day celebrations.*

**ONE OF THE** highlights of our College year is the Feast Day celebration of our Patron Saint, St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop. This year our celebration took place on the Feast Day of August 8. The feast day of a saint is celebrated on the day they died. To us, this may seem like a strange custom but of course for a saint the ultimate celebration of faith was the day they entered into heaven and this is the reason for the feast. The woman, Mary MacKillop died in her humble room in Alma Cottage, North Sydney on 8 August 1909. She became St. Mary of the Cross on 18 October 2010.

Mary MacKillop was an ordinary woman of great integrity who was called by God to serve her community with compassion. In fulfilling this call to action she became extraordinary, giving hope to the poor, by providing education as a means of justice. In doing so, she is also an inspiration to teachers, especially those in Josephite schools. History does not really explain why Mary chose the name St. Mary of the Cross but it was possibly to acknowledge the sacrifice of Christ and to highlight that true discipleship required by us to accept the crosses or challenges of life each day. Our sacred space

included the Penola Cross, beautifully designed to cradle a small wooden cross taken from Mary's school in Penola, South Australia. Also present on the sacred space was the image of St. Mary, called 'Gratitude', painted by our College Principal, Mr Todd. It illuminates the thanks we give to Mary MacKillop and all the Sisters of St. Joseph who chose a consecrated life and were of constant service to their communities. Sister Marea reflected on her life as a Sister of St. Joseph, her call to vocation and her journey as an educator, following in the footsteps of Mary MacKillop. She gave thanks to Mary MacKillop and Father Julian Tenison Woods who founded the Sisters of St. Joseph 150 years ago. She asked us to discover the gifts we can bring in service to our community at MacKillop Catholic College, our local area and the world. The Readings of the day highlighted the core values of our College Houses and you may find them hidden in this article, if you can't locate them you can ask your child for help.

The Mass was a beautiful way to begin our feast day celebrations.

Peace









## A special community day

**Deb Ferguson** *shares the spirit of House challenge.*

**THE FEAST OF** Mary MacKillop was on 8 August and on this day we celebrated with a beautiful College Mass. Following the Mass we had a very special community day. We all stopped to reflect on how remarkable this pioneering woman was and how lucky we are to be in a Catholic community that bears her name, especially this year that celebrates the 150 year anniversary since the Sisters of St Joseph were founded.

Year 12 was not able to participate in this day due to the CSSA trial exams. The day was declared a Study Day for them so that the College could be filled with noise and celebration.

Thus we had our third House Challenge in the afternoon of the 8th that was based on each House, K – 11, preparing three musical items that included a Primary small group entry, a Secondary small group entry and then a whole House performance.

We need to commend our new Parliament who admirably organised all of this during the end of Term 2 and the beginning of Term 3. They used lunch times and assembly time to hold rehearsals that involved K-11, teaching songs, movement, organising costumes and creating special effects.

We held this Challenge in the afternoon and there was a huge display of competitive spirit and fun. The afternoon started with the six Houses arriving at the Hall, with the Primary, in particular, in full voice supporting their Houses. Loud music and dancing with six giant beach balls in the six

House colours helped put everyone in the mood for a fun afternoon.

Our three Primary MC's, Mrs Angela Dunn, Mrs Nicole Wittman and Mr Tim Snelling were hilarious and kept the afternoon rolling. Our four guest judges: Mr Chris King (actor and Performing and Creative Arts Director for the Central Coast Council), Ms Jessica Vickers (singer/actor just returned from the lead in the Sydney musical "Fiddler on the Roof"), Mr Xander Cross (ex-student of MCC and lead male dancer in Riverdance touring the world) and Mrs Sarah Salisbury-Baker (ex-teacher from St Peter's involved in dancing and musicals) were very impressed with the energy and enthusiasm of the crowd that just continued to grow as the afternoon progressed.

As the judges considered their verdict there was more dancing and giant beach balls with everyone truly enjoying a community afternoon.

The Primary small group was won by Gesu, the Secondary small group was a tie between Fitzroy and Kinumber and the House performance was won by Kinumber. After adding all the points together, the overall winner was Penola.

We thank all the House Leaders, Parliament, House Patrons and Staff for making this a wonderful afternoon worthy of such a fantastic Feast Day.



# The new Parliament 2016/17

**Deb Ferguson** *introduces our new leaders.*

**OUR COLLEGE LEADERS** have now been announced and were commissioned at our College Assembly in Week 2 of this term where Fr Vince blessed their badges and the students. They will all now stay in Office until the end of Term 2, 2017. This allows the Year 12 students to then relinquish their positions and concentrate solely on their Year 12 HSC Trials, major works and the Term 4 HSC exams.

This Parliament has already started to work very hard with their leadership and they are to be commended for their role in the House Challenge in Week 4 where each House was vying for points and the overall MacKillop House Challenge Shield. This has been a large undertaking for a new Parliament and the House Leaders but we are very proud and impressed with their enthusiasm and skills.

They were also present at Mary MacKillop Parish Mass on 6 August and have commenced leading the College Assemblies. We are all looking forward to working with this talented group who have all volunteered to assist MCC in becoming the best school it can be by working with the teachers and their peers as both an advisory group and as leaders of events.

The elected members of the 2016/17 Parliament are as follows and we congratulate them all.

**College Captains:** William O’Keefe (Temuka) & Samantha Vella (Alma)

**College Leaders:** Mission – Katie Barr (Fitzroy) & Jaren Harper (Fitzroy)

Culture – Lachlan Drake (Gesu) & Caitlyn Martland (Kincumber)

Wellbeing – Alexander Clark (Alma) & Zoe Holgate (Kincumber)

## HOUSE LEADERS

House	Year 11	Year 10	Year 9	Year 8	Year 7
Fitzroy	Carmine Barone	Kate Fullbrook	Ysabel Heathcote	Benjamin Doyle	Pania Paea
Penola	Bianca Alexiou, Curtis Lang & Abbie McDonald	Jordan Tindall	Isabella DeVita	Danikka Vassallo	Maddison Laing
Gesu	Ryan Brockwell	Sophie Evans	Nathan Ward	Thomas Drake	James Connolly
Alma	Oregan Mann	Monique Gilbert	Sarah Baresic	Jessica Wasley	Charlie Baresic
Temuka	Matilda Gittins	Joel Morris	Lillith Jones	Charlie Martin	Anita Brown
Kincumber	Thomas Devlin & Jordyn Toms-Wedge	Heather Duffy	Connor Logan	William Denniss	Hayden McCarthy

This ceremony is always very special but was touched with a tinge of sadness this year. Barry and Kath Evans were to join us and present the badges. Kath is a grandmother whose recovery from terminal illness became central to the declaration of Australia’s first saint. Kath Evans was diagnosed with lung cancer that had spread to her brain and given only weeks to live over 10 years ago. She attributes her sudden, extraordinary recovery to the then Blessed Mary MacKillop and the event was accepted by the Vatican as a miracle. Sadly, the cancer has now returned to her other lung and again to the brain, so was not well enough to be with us. The school is presently saying a Novena for Kath and we ask that you all hold her and her family in your prayers.



# Our 10th sister school visit

Helen Beech *celebrates the visit from our Japanese sister school.*

**WE ARE VERY** fortunate at MacKillop Catholic College to have an amazing sister school relationship with Nihon Daiichi Junior High School in Tokyo. This year was a special year as we celebrate our 10th Sister School visit from Nihon Daiichi Junior High School. We were visited by Mr Kumagai, School Principal, Ms Megu Kasuya, English Language teacher, Mr Seiya Kasajima, Mathematics teacher, and 25 students. They were also accompanied by their tour conductor, Mr Makoto Uesugi and Mr Futoshi Kitajima. Mr Kumagai unfortunately only visited for three days as he had to return to the school for school business.

To commemorate our 10 year sister school friendship between MacKillop Catholic College and Nihon Daiichi Junior High School, a cherry blossom ceremony was held. This friendship has blossomed like a tree, starting small with annual visits from our sister school and then in 2012 grew stronger with our first visit to our sister school in Japan.

Finding the right place to position this commemorative cherry tree was very important to the staff of MacKillop Catholic College. As it is our 10 year anniversary we wanted it to be a prominent place where we can be reminded each day of our friendship with Nihon Daiichi High School. Planting it at the front of the College, where all may see and pass it each day: our staff, students, parents, parishioners and visitors. However, it is much more than just being visible, this area of the College is considered sacred ground and it is a real honour to place the two cherry trees to honour our friendship in the same area.

When we look at this cherry tree – when it is in bloom or not – please think of the friendship between Japan and Australia, between MacKillop Catholic College and Nihon Daiichi Junior High School.

We also celebrated the 10th visit with a unique Aboriginal smoke ceremony and exchanging of friendship certificates between the two schools.

This friendship could not have continued to grow strong without the support of the school community, through our amazing families who host our visiting students, the school executive and the many staff who have helped the visits run smoothly year after year.

Nihon Daiichi students attended a music class learning Waltzing Matilda with Mr Shane Le Breton and the Year 10 Japanese class with a guest appearance from Mrs Fiona Milkins playing the bagpipes. They also had a dance class with Miss Rochelle Williamson and Year 10 Dance. Mrs Kerrie Pearce taught the students how to make wattle seed scones and let them try Australian teas and jams. They also learnt some Aboriginal games with some of our students and really enjoyed it.

The annual visit to the Reptile Park where both the Japanese students and their host student were able to spend some time exploring the Reptile Park together, is always a highlight for the

students. There were many laughs with the students feeding the kangaroos and having their photo taken with a koala and enjoy the afternoon together.

Japanese cultural exchange with Year 3's and Year 4's who are learning Japanese this year. They had two opportunities one where they played games with all the students in groups and another opportunity where they learnt how to do calligraphy.

*For the past two weeks having a Japanese student was very delightful.*

*The Japanese students were very polite and kind to everyone. My Japanese student was always happy, having fun, and so was I.*

*She would always ask if you needed help and her English was always getting better and better each day she was here. My Japanese was getting better too. She was not very keen on vegemite but I got her to take a jar to Japan anyway.*

*We had very funny moments and memories together. My Japanese student loved the trampoline a lot. She liked my cat and my dog and playing with them, having an enjoyable time together. Going shopping and going to Manly was so much fun with her.*

*I would love to go to Japan next to see and meet her again! In the past two weeks my Japanese student and I got so close and now we are best friends. We text each other and Skype each other, we miss each other a lot.*

*I've had the best and enjoyable time with my Japanese student and I would like to do it again! I've also made other friends from Nihon Daiichi junior high school.*

by Soren Willemse, Year 8

*Being a host student was a great experience. I got to learn about another culture whilst teaching my student about mine. I got to do many fun things with my exchange student like exploring the coast and going to the Reptile Park, we spent hours around the dinner table learning each other's languages and playing board games like Jenga and Yahtzee. We spent the time after dinner watching a ton of anime and having an all-around great time. We formed a great friendship that will last a lifetime, and memories that will last just as long, being a host student was truly the best experience of high school so far.*

*Sadly, they left on Saturday 6 August to return to Japan and arrived safely back home. We would like to thank all the MacKillop host students and families for welcoming the Japanese students into their homes and allowing them to experience Australian life and gave them such wonderful experiences.*

*I would also like to thank the Japanese Committee members who assist in organising and preparing for the visit.*

by Connor Liston, Year 8

Arigatou Gozaimashita.





# HSC Trials and Academic Excellence

Alan Evanson reports on our HSC trial examinations and our Academic Assembly.

## HSC TRIAL EXAMINATIONS

**ALL OF YEAR 12** have just finished their Trial HSC Examinations. These examinations commenced on Monday 1 August and finished on Wednesday 17 August. In order to best prepare the students for their upcoming HSC examinations the College organised for Mrs Annette Garvey, our HSC presiding officer, to supervise the complete running of the Trial examinations. This allowed the student to see exactly how the HSC would be organised and run. I would like to thank Mrs Garvey for the professional way in which these examinations were run. I would also like to congratulate the Year 12 students in the way that they approached these examinations. It is important that once they receive their examination papers back that they use the feedback provided by teachers to fine tune their preparation for the upcoming HSC examinations.

**Academic Assembly** - On Wednesday 27 July we held our

Academic Assembly where students were awarded 1st, 2nd or 3rd place in each course. These awards are calculated based on the student's results in each of the formal assessment tasks for each course throughout Semester 1.

At these awards we had over two hundred and seventy students who received an award across all courses with forty three students who received an Academic Excellence award for achieving 1st, 2nd or 3rd in three or more courses. I would like to congratulate all of these students who received an award and to thank the many parents and guardians who were present to see their child receive an award. The Academic Excellence award winners and their parents and guardians were then invited to join us for a morning tea. Thank you to all the staff and Coordinators who work tirelessly to present quality lessons to all of our students enabling them to shine and show their true ability.



# Literacy Testing for Stage 4 students

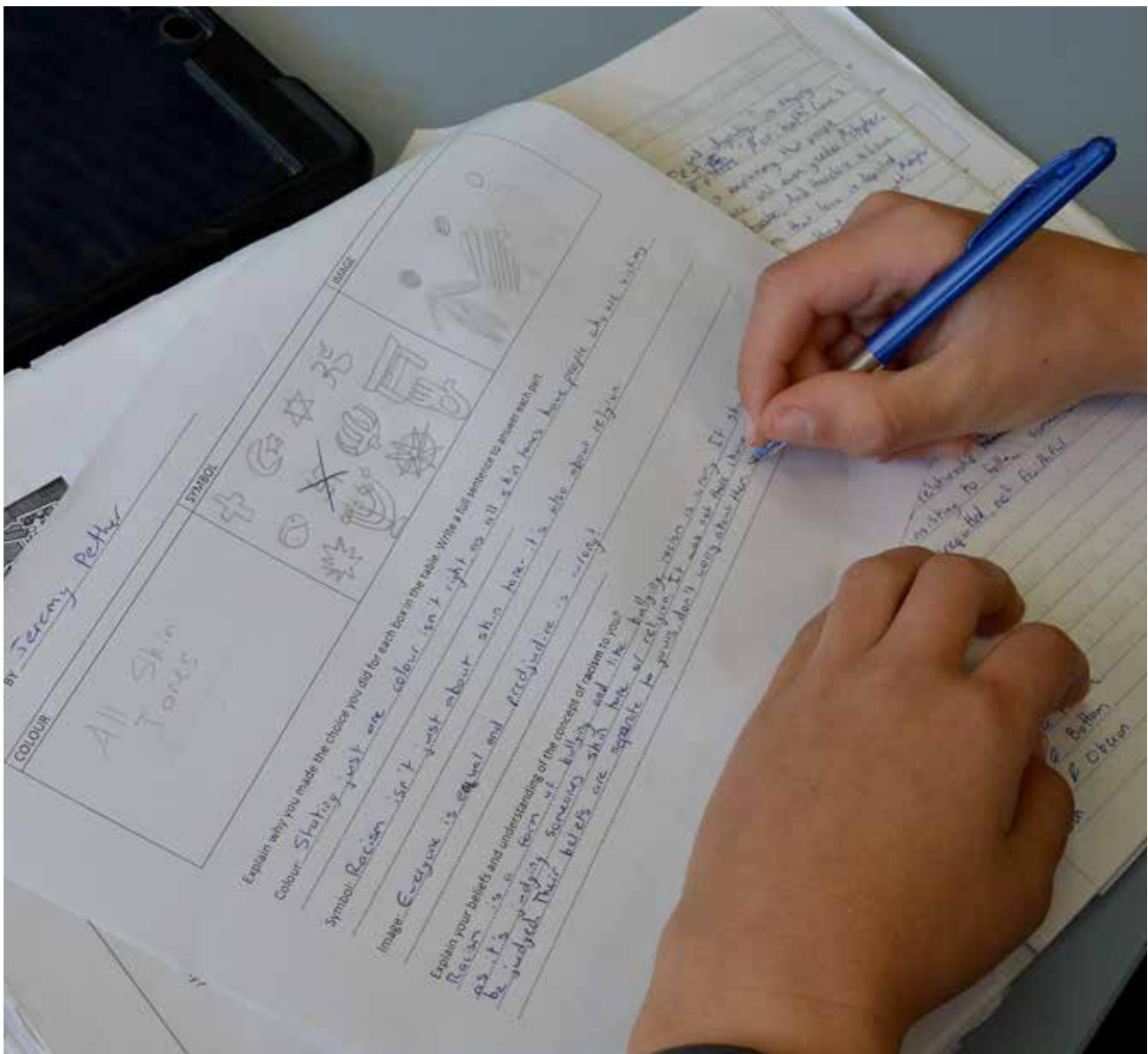
Lisa Milner gives an insight into literacy testing.

**EARLY IN TERM 4** this year, students in Years 7 and 8 will be tested on their Reading Comprehension skills using the Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT). This test provides us with information on students' skills and understanding in a range of key areas. The test is ideal for understanding students' current strengths and weaknesses, informing teaching and learning, and monitoring progress over time. The skills tested include interpreting explicit information, retrieving directly stated information, interpreting by making inferences and reflecting on texts. Catch-up testing will take place once the initial round of testing is completed.

Students are tested once a year at MCCW to measure student growth and to provide useful information that is disseminated to the relevant Stage 4 teachers as to the skills and abilities of students entering their classrooms each year. In addition to this, NAPLAN data (yet to be made available

at the time of this report) is another source of data used to determine how we, as educators, might support the specific Key Learning Area literacy demands for students in Stage 4, via our teaching and learning programs. Given that minimum literacy (and numeracy) standards for the 2020 Higher School Certificate are about to be introduced in all NSW schools, the testing that we do, and the data it provides, gives us a broader picture of our students and assists us in identifying areas where students might need additional support.

We would encourage you to have a conversation with your child about their NAPLAN results when they are made available to you, and to reinforce with your child the importance of the PAT testing in Term 4 so that the results are an accurate reflection of what your son or daughter knows, understands and can do at this particular point of their academic development.





# Sorting the figures from NAPLAN

John Hepworth *talks about the numeracy perspective of NAPLAN.*

**THERE IS A** lot of Mathematics and Numeracy that can be derived from all physical experiences in life, 'swings and roundabouts' are no exception. This year's Numeracy results demonstrate features of the idiom 'swings and roundabouts' as some areas of concern from last year have seen improvement, while some data has highlighted new areas that will require attention.

The Year 9 cohort has bridged the gap between themselves and the state average, over the past two years, which is a positive result. The overall result of the cohort in Numeracy in 2014 as Year 7 students was 13.1 marks from state average. Numeracy in 2016 as Year 9 students that gap has been reduced to 10.3 marks from state average. Congratulations to the cohort and their teachers for their improvement over the past two years.

When we talk about improvement from Year 7 to Year 9 the term that is used is 'Student Growth'. MacKillop Catholic College has always been highly successful in Student Growth in our students who are challenged by Numeracy concepts. Last year an area of focus was improving Student Growth of the

highest performing Girls. The results achieved by the top 20 girls in Numeracy this year was a significant improvement on those of last year,

It is nice to celebrate the gains on the 'roundabouts', however 'swings' also occurred in Year 9. Students in the middle bands did not achieve as much Student Growth as previous years. Although our top end students are achieving more Student Growth, they are still very challenged by questions that allow them to achieve top performances in the assessment. This will continue to be a focus for 2017.

In Year 7 a significant number of students in Bands 4, 5, 6 and 7 achieved growth well above the expected level from Year 5 through to Year 7 for which they and their teachers should be congratulated. One student in the cohort achieved a truly remarkable result, answering only four of the sixty four questions incorrectly, incredible.

This year's cohort demonstrates similar features as past Year 7 cohorts and consequently we will continue to work on areas of concern throughout Year 8 and further in to their High School learning.





# How the New HSC will look

Mel McGuinness *gives an overview on the new Higher School Certificate.*

**THE BOARD OF** Studies recently released information regarding changes to the requirements for the Higher School Certificate. There are three areas of change, of which students and parents should be aware. The three areas are; minimum standard, curriculum and assessment.

'Minimum standard' refers to a requirement that all students will need to reach a minimum literacy and numeracy standard in order to be eligible for the award of the Higher School Certificate. This minimum standard is a functional level of literacy and numeracy that is necessary for everyday life and therefore does NOT represent the standard needed for further academic study. In order to reach this minimum standard the following must be achieved:

A Band 8 in NAPLAN reading, writing and numeracy tests in Year 9 or a pass in the online literacy and numeracy tests in Years 10, 11 or 12. These changes are based on a range of evidence that indicates the need for basic literacy and numeracy skills for success in life post-school. This will apply to the current Year 8 students who will sit Year 9 NAPLAN in 2017. These students will be the HSC class of 2020.

The change to curriculum refers to a review cycle-which will be adopted by the BOSTES- and will occur every five years in order to keep the syllabuses current and relevant. In addition there will be new courses on offer, one of which is Science Extension. The new syllabuses will be implemented in Year 11 at the start of 2018. This will apply to the current Year 9 students who will be the HSC class of 2019. In Mathematics courses will be marked on a common scale so that students do not have an incentive to study courses that are below their ability levels. Dates for implementation pertaining to this, will

be advised at a later stage.

Changes to assessments will be significant in the new HSC. There will be a cap on the number of school-based assessment tasks; 3 per course in Year 11 and 4 per course in Year 12. The idea is to reduce stress caused by over-assessment. In addition to this, "the guidelines around school-based assessment will be tougher to prevent plagiarism and cheating" (BOSTES, 2016). There will also be a change to the design of HSC examinations in order to assess the application of skills and depth of knowledge rather than simple recall of information, which is a lower order skill which does not serve to develop students' thinking skills and cognitive abilities. The focus will be on in-depth analysis and problem-solving skills.

We see these changes as a positive initiative which will give our students a greater sense of purpose for coming to school and this should lead to a greater sense of achievement for them. Through these 'desirable difficulties' students develop resilience and resilience allows them to flourish in the world, despite the challenges they may encounter in life. The minimum standards will also provide parents with a clearer sense of the level of their child's literacy skills and numeracy skills in relation to their ability to function in the world as literate and numerate citizens. For this to occur students will of necessity need to attend school regularly and be diligent in all lessons. Regular attendance enhances a child's sense of connectedness to community and this is good for mental health and social development as well as academic development.

We look forward to supporting our community as we navigate this transition and will continue to keep you informed.

# Multi purpose courts for the Oval

Steve Burns *tells us about our new courts for sports.*

**EARLIER THIS TERM** the construction of the outdoor multi-purpose courts was completed. This is a massive facility that incorporates three multi-purpose courts that cater for a number of sporting and recreational activities including basketball, netball, tennis and volleyball.

This facility caters for the activity needs of our students allowing them the opportunity to move, learn and participate. The courts have already been used extensively during PDHPE practical lessons. The courts allow the teachers to deliver

contemporary curriculum content that encourages active participation.

The courts have also already been used for both netball and basketball College team trials and training. During lunch and recess breaks many students are enjoying playing social games with their friends.

The playing fields, the Aitken Hall and now the multi-purpose courts all are excellent sporting and recreation facilities.



# Year 11 Visual Arts Excursion

Jillian Young *talks about the trip to the Museum of Contemporary Art.*

'NEW ROMANCE' AND 'Telling Tales' are current exhibitions showing at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney. Year 11 Visual Arts students had the opportunity to experience viewing artworks in the gallery setting and participating in guided workshops with museum educators. The practical experience of interacting and engaging with contemporary works in order

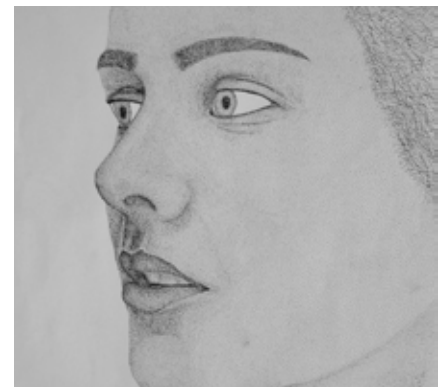
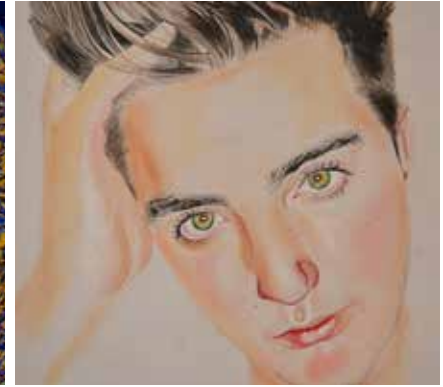
to gain deep understandings of subject matter and material practice was invaluable for all who attended.

On the day, students were given tools to use in examination situations to build on their own visual literacy skills. Both students and staff enjoyed the day and I would like to thank Mrs Belinda Wells for her support.



# Artist of the Month

Jillian Young showcases Year 11 Self Portraits.



# Primary enjoy their sports

**Kellie Denneman** give an overview of CCC athletics and Olympic Day.

## CCC ATHLETICS

**IN LESS THAN** ideal weather conditions we had a large number of children represent the College in Combined Central Coast Primary School Athletics at Mingara on Friday 5 August

Consistent performances across the board resulted in MacKillop finishing in 5th place on the combined points tally which is a great effort. Special Mention to Kaitlyn Norris on a superb individual effort winning Age Champion in the 12 Year Girls & both our boys Relay Teams who won ribbons and now progress to the Diocesan Carnival.

We congratulate and wish well all students who have qualified for Broken Bay on Monday 29 August at Narrabeen:

- Kaitlyn Norris (12 YR Long Jump, 200m, 100m, 800m, High Jump, Shot, Discus)
- Isaac Zappala (JNR 200m & Long Jump, 10Yr 100m)
- Tyson Scicluna (SNR 800m)
- Fynn Sadler (8YR 100m)
- Thomas Scicluna (13Yr 100m, 12-13Yr 200m)
- Giancarlo Trimarchi (10YR 100m, JNR Shot Put, High Jump)
- Manuel Gyamfi-Ampoma (Jnr 200m)
- Annabelle Ross (JNR High Jump)
- Sam Wolscher (12-13Yr Long Jump)
- Ella McKay (AWD 12Yr 100m & Long Jump)
- Thomas Vrljic (10Yr 100m)

- Senior Boys Relay Team: Thomas Scicluna, Luke Bragg, Jack Albanese & Gerald Ampoma-Gymafi
- Junior Boys Relay Team: Isaac Zappala, Giancarlo Trimarchi, Thomas Vrljic & Manuel Ampoma-Gyamfi

## MACKILLOP OLYMPIC DAY

Last week we celebrated the Rio Olympics by running our very own Olympic Day here at MacKillop in the Primary. Each class represented a country of their choice preparing by learning fun facts about their country and background information about the history of the Olympics and their Values. Looking splendid in their country's colours we joined together on Thursday morning for an Opening ceremony, complete with a performance from Brazil, raising of the Olympic Flag, a torch relay & lighting of the Cauldron.

After recess the children had so much fun participating in our themed events of Fencing, Rowing, Wrestling, Soccer, Swimming, Volleyball and Archery.

During the Medal Ceremony & Closing Ceremony after lunch we congratulated the medal winners from each country who displayed the Olympic Values of Fairness, Respect, Responsibility and Safety throughout the day. Japan provided us with some entertainment and a sneak peak of what the 2020 Olympics may have in store. We lowered the Olympic Flag, extinguished the Olympic Flame and thanked everyone for their contribution to what was a fantastic K-6 Community Event.



# Mackillop Olympic Day

Kellie Denneman showcases the Primary students at the Olympics

OUR PRIMARY SUPERSTARS of the future share their Olympic talents and have an awesome MacKillop Olympic Day celebration with their teachers.



# Secondary sporting success

**Duncan Blacks** *provides an overview of secondary sports.*

**FIRST OF ALL** I would like to thank Miss Sarah Moulton for filling in to the role of sport coordinator for first 3 weeks of Term 3, while I was away at World Youth Day (Krakow).

BBSSSA Sport

## Soccer

The 13 and 15 Boys and Girls teams travelled to Sydney on Thursday 11 & 12 August to play in the Soccer Gala Day and thankfully for the first time in a long time the gala day was not washed out.

All teams played extremely well with our under 13 year old boys winning on the day seeing them crowned as the BBSSSA Champions.

## Netball

Our netballers have had a great year. Towards the end of last term the girls played in all year divisions and the results are as follows

Year 11/12 – Runners Up

Year 9/10 – Semi finalist

Year 7/8 – Runners Up

Year 7 – Champions of Broken Bay

## Athletics

Well done to all the students that attended the day. There were some outstanding results from various individual players.

The following students have qualified to represent BBSSSA

at the NSW CCC athletics tournament.

Ethan Jeffery – Shot and Discus Throws

Kaleb Daley – Shot and Discus Throws

Jarryd Walter – 110 Hurdles, Javelin and Discus Throws

The following students are BBSSSA athletics age Champions

12 years age champion – Ethan Jeffery

16 years age champion - Jarryd Walter

## NSW CCC

Congratulations to all our Netball players. All played extremely well in the Championships in Penrith.

The Year 7/8 netball team won the Championship by 2 points and now are the NSW CCC Champions.

Year 9/10 teams crashed out in the semi-finals. The Year 11/12 teams playing well all day winning and losing by a point or two in their games.

## Special Mentions

The following

Darcy Piltz - will represent NSW in the Australian Surf titles in Victoria

Nathan Doyle - selected into the NSW ALL SCHOOLS u19 Cricket team

Brinley Gallagher - selected into the NSW CCC hockey team and NSW ALL SCHOOLS MERIT team.





# A superb tour to Mangrove Mts

*Maisie Tenev reflects on an amazing educational trip for Year 9.*

**THE YEAR 9** students were eager to attend their second high school camp at the Outdoor Education NSW site at Mangrove Mountain. The students gathered on the morning of Wednesday 3rd to return on Friday 5th August. Despite the occasional bursts of rain in the morning, the high energy levels and excitement could not be dampened.

Over the course of three days, the students participated in the following activities: abseiling, rock climbing, giant swing, pioneering, fencing, challenge ropes, bushwalking and the flying fox. Many people were pushed outside of their comfort zones during the activities but there was a lot of support from our teachers and Pastoral class. The night activities included a

Challenge Night, a disco and a movie.

Thank you to Mr McNamara, Mrs McGuinness and Mr Todd for taking time out of their busy schedules to visit. Thank you also to the staff who attended: Mrs Payens, Mr Wallis, Mr Taragel, Mrs Yates, Mr Kurj, Mr Gasparotto and Mr Francica.

The Year 9 camp provided a unique opportunity for students to challenge themselves, get to know each other better and spend time together outside of the school environment. Many students will no doubt have learnt new skills, learnt some life lessons and created some lasting memories that will be treasured for many years to come.







## A successful Leadership camp

Lia Camilleri *talks about overnight camp in the leadership process.*

**AN INTEGRAL PART** of the process of selecting the College leaders each year is an overnight camp, held this year at Point Wollstonecroft at the end of June.

At the camp, the seventeen Year 11 students who had already been selected as leaders by the votes cast by staff, and by students from Years 10-12 attended with the purpose of deciding which roles would be taken on by particular students.

The candidates were led through a series of activities over the two days, which culminated in the seventeen casting their votes for the two School Captains, and indicating preferences

for Portfolio Leaders.

While the importance of the task at hand was taken very seriously by all candidates, there was still time for some fun: the team-building ropes challenge, the fashion parade group activity and relaxing around the roaring campfire at night after a meaningful liturgy come to mind.

It was a privilege for the three staff members – John McNamara, Liz Kovacic and Lia Camilleri, to attend with such a fine group of young adults who are clearly ready to be student leaders.

