

ISSUE 6 | WEEK 6, TERM 4 2016

COLLEGE**Matters**



Enjoying all
Term Four offers

OUR YEAR 12 FORMAL

HIGHLY COMMENDED AWARDS

AN HONORARY DOCTORATE

CHRIST OUR LIGHT



MACKILLOP
Catholic College
WARNERVALE



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Celebrating achievements of 2016

A message from our College Principal, Steve Todd.

TERM 4 ALLOWS us the opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge the achievements of 2016'

Getting to this point of the year, there is a strong focus on celebrating the successes and achievements of our students and the College community. There are many memorable events that allow us to do this as a College community, and I encourage everyone across our K-12 Catholic College to embrace the final events of the year with much satisfaction and pride.

On Monday, 7 November we celebrated with our Yr 12 HSC Class of 2016 their Formal. The final event of their school journey and now these students become ex-students. This moment is celebrated with each graduate receiving a key ring engraved with their individual ex-student number that they keep for the all years ahead. The Formal was a wonderful celebration for the conclusion of the thirteen-year journey through school for our HSC Class of 2016. It was an historical moment as this graduating class included 24 'Original' students from the first Kindergarten at MacKillop in 2004. What a grand occasion it was as the Auditorium at Mingara was beaming with the collective pride of us all recognising these wonderful young men and women ready to take the next step in their lives. Congratulations to the HSC Class of 2016.

This year has been the 150th Year of celebrating our Josephite heritage in Australia for the Sisters of St. Joseph and for all of us connected with the Sisters. At MacKillop, we have celebrated our Josephite heritage from the very beginning of the year right through to the end of year Mass of Thanksgiving. Recently, an added blessing for this 150th celebration had a small and special twist when a well-regarded Australian artist, Jan Williamson rang the College to offer a copy of her much celebrated painting of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods called 'The Vision', which was launched at Penola SA on 19 March this year. Jan has generously offered us a print of her painting for the College as her grandson, Finn Williamson, is in Year One here at MacKillop. What a lovely way to continue celebrating our Josephite heart for this most memorable anniversary year. On behalf of MacKillop College I would like to extend a very big thank you to Jan and her family. St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.

Being part of this Catholic community also brings to us the need to pray for people at various times and, we do this with

humble hearts when we know of the health challenges and tragedies that befall staff, parents, families and students. We have rallied to pray Novenas at various times and we have witnessed a number of miraculous recoveries and also for responding to great losses for families and for our staff. At present, we are praying for Stephen Aitken our Foundation Principal who is dealing with quite debilitating outcomes with his battle with cancer. Your prayers for Stephen, his wife Kerrie and their family means a great deal to them. An extraordinary acknowledge of Stephen Aitken took place recently with him being awarded an honorary doctorate from the Australian Catholic University. It was indeed a proud moment for Stephen, his family and for so many people connected to Stephen's career. We congratulate Stephen on this fitting tribute to his career.

We are also praying for one of our Learning Support teachers, Penny Flint who has suffered two strokes recently. Penny is determined to recover with her rehabilitation and with the love and support of her husband, Russell and their two children. We know there are so many families with members who are dealing with very big health challenges at present and we offer our continued prayerful support to these families.

The end of the year brings us changes with the staff for 2017, and we have a number of long serving staff members who are moving to new places and roles for 2017. We farewell Steve Burns last term and this term, we farewell Martine Williams in the Primary and Fiona Milkens our Performing Arts Coordinator in the Secondary, who are both moving to Sydney schools after being such influential members of this Colleges' staff for so many years. We are so grateful to these staff members for giving so generously of their gifts. Many students are so grateful to these staff members as they have benefitted greatly from their passion and skills as educators. We know, each one of these staff members will take a fair bit of MacKillop with them in their hearts as they move forward into the next stage of their professional journey. We are so grateful to them and we wish them every blessing.

The College Yearbook is close at hand and when students and parents receive their copy in December, we hope the year in retrospect holds so many happy memories of this special year. Blessings for Christmas and the New Year.



A fulfilling year in Primary

A message from our Primary Principal, Sue Dietrich.

AS WE APPROACH the middle of Term 4 2016 and the end of this wonderful school year, we look back on many exciting weeks since our last College Matters magazine.

The Year 5 children enjoyed the major excursion to Bathurst Goldfields as part of their History Study of early Australia. Their stay at Bathurst Goldfields saw them take part in many activities reminiscent of life in the goldfields in the 1850's - gold panning, cooking and eating damper, enjoying some folk songs around the campfire and some good old bush dancing. Bathurst Goldfields provides a fantastic hands-on experience for the children. Other components of the excursion included stopping at Katoomba enjoying the scenic ride at the Three Sisters, historic Hartley Village and this year included a stop at Jenolan Caves and the great excitement of a cave experience. But one of the most memorable times for the children is the trip out to Perthville, where they are able to truly connect with the life of our Patron Saint, Mary MacKillop.

The end of September was a truly special time for our children in Year 3 and other grades as they made their First Holy Communion. The time of receiving this sacrament enables the children to now fully participate in the Mass and completes their sacramental faith journey while at school. Our congratulations go to all the children who received the Blessed Sacrament this year.

Term 4 has started well with many events scheduled for these weeks. Many children in Years 4, 5, 6 began the iPad BYODD Program and are excitedly adding a 21st century dimension to their learning. We began the program during Term 4 this year in preparation for 2017. Mrs Jones and Mrs Acido (ICLT Support in our College) have been working hard to ensure that the iPads are established on the Diocesan system and in supporting teachers in classrooms. We would like to thank the parents who were able to begin the program this term and look forward to adding more devices to the program in 2017. As time goes on, the BYODD program will become an ordinary part of the children's education in Year 5 and 6.

During the last weeks of Term 4, there are so many activities to complete. Teachers are steadily completing the Semester 2 reports, classes are arranged for 2017, the MCC Festival is ahead, our Christmas Concert and Swimming Carnival are to be enjoyed, our Year 5 children take part in the 2017 Leadership process, our awards assemblies acknowledge the children's efforts and work during 2016, and we spend time with our current Year 6 children celebrating their completion of Primary School. This will be celebrated with the K-6 community at a special Mass on Tuesday, 6 December and then with families at dinner. We look forward to all of these events with the children, staff and families of our MacKillop Primary community.



Events of Term 4

A message from our Secondary Principal, Debra Ferguson.

IT APPEARS THAT I commence these reports each time with the same comment about how busy the College has been, and so it has been again this term. We commenced Term 4 with the Stage 4 Spelling Bee Final and the High Commendation Assembly. Both these showcased students who are prepared to work very hard to reach their personal best. Mr Todd spoke to the students at the assembly about how important that victory walk was for all our students who achieved certificates on this day. They each deserved to be honoured and it was wonderful to see the support of the other students as they participated in this ceremony. The students collected their certificates with pride and smiles.

Our Year 12 students commenced their HSC exams at the end of the first week and completed their last step of being at school. They all completed these with little fuss and then celebrated with a beautiful and joyful Formal on Monday, 7 November. The students looked so elegant and proud of their achievements and we enjoyed a beautiful night together with their parents to celebrate the end of 13 years of schooling. The night was very special as this class of 2016 was our first group to contain students who travelled though MCC from Kindergarten to Year 12. We were very honoured to share this occasion with our primary staff members who had taught this cohort.

Term 4 is a very hectic time for our 2016 Year 11 class who now commence their HSC year and become our 2017 Year 12.

Whilst the rest of the school is preparing for end of year exams and then starting to relax into the Christmas season, our Year 12 are facing a large number of assessment tasks and trying to achieve their very best in preparing for their HSC. One way we assist these students to start thinking about their futures and what is really important in life is by sharing a three day Retreat with them at Collaroy. I spent Thursday at the Retreat with the students and I have to say this is a remarkable group of young adults. They impressed everyone who attended and we feel very privileged to have this group as our school leaders.

For Years 7 to 10 this term is mainly about preparing for exams and sitting these. We have challenged the students to do their very best and the need for them all to think about becoming the best version of themselves that they can. Hard work and persistence will pay dividends.

So we have had another fantastic year at MacKillop. Yes, we have had hardships, challenges and sadness but we have also had so much fun, success and growth. Our annual Year Book will reminisce 2016 and will be available in the last week of term.

Please remember that all family members are invited to all our end of year award ceremonies and the final Mass. The times and dates are in the letter I emailed home as well as on our website. Please ensure all students are at school right up to the last day of the term and I hope your time leading up to Christmas is a joyous one.



Stephen Aitken's Honorary Doctorate

Deb Ferguson acknowledges our Inaugural Principal.

ON THURSDAY, 6 October our inaugural Principal, Mr Stephen Aitken, was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the Australian Catholic University for his contribution to education.

This was a wonderful night starting with a VIP cocktail function where the Vice Chancellor of ACU greeted Stephen, his family and friends and spoke briefly about the accomplishments of Stephen and why he was being honoured that day.

At the ceremony Stephen gave the Occasional Address at the beginning of the night and was presented with his Honorary Doctorate in front of hundreds of graduates as well as all his guests which also included a number of Patrician Brothers.

The following is taken from the presentation about Stephen given on the night during the ceremony:

"Stephen Aitken has made a significant contribution to Catholic education in NSW as a teacher, a Patrician Brother, a lay principal, an adult educator and a parish leader.

Born in Sydney in 1943, Stephen was a teacher for 43 years in nine Catholic diocesan schools. For 32 of those years, he was principal in four schools.

Above all, Stephen's passion for education and his capacity to communicate a lived and realistic faith for young adults was apparent in all he did."

Stephen's other achievements included:

- A Masters in Pastoral Studies, a Masters of Educational Administration, a Diploma of Education and a Bachelor of Science
- 1988 - Blacktown City Council awarded him the Bicentennial Medal for his commitment to education
- 2008 - appointed a Fellow of the Australian College of Education
- A NSW finalist for Australian Father of the Year
- Since retiring in 2010 – Stephen has been involved in educational consultancy, Executive Officer of the Association of Catholic Principals, Board member for the Newcastle CSO, a member of the Australian Council of Educational Administration and many others.

This recognition of Stephen was well earned and we congratulate him on this honour.

Stephen is still experiencing ill-health and we ask you to continue to keep him in your prayers.

Farewell to Fiona Milkins

Deb Ferguson *says a very sad farewell to another original.*

IN 2002 STEPHEN Aitken wanted to ensure we had an energetic and inspiring Music Teacher to commence in 2003 with the very first cohort to enter MacKillop Catholic College. Stephen was well known for his love of sport but few knew he was also quite passionate about the performing arts. He wanted to ensure that every student had a reason to want to come to school each day be it to learn, be with friends, to play sport or to be part of the performing arts.

A number of teachers applied for the music position but one applied who stood out with excellent referees from Mater Maria, Warriewood. She was only young in her career but had already demonstrated her talent, passion, flexibility and dedication to the performing arts and her conviction to support beautiful Masses and liturgies through music.

Fiona Milkins made an impression from day 1 of her employment. Not only was she a talented musician playing the flute and piano and an inspiring teacher she was determined to ensure that all students had the opportunity to participate in the performing arts wherever their interests may lie. A College choir, a band and instrumental lessons by outside providers commenced immediately. By the end of the first year there were concerts being held outside in the courtyard for parents and friends.

This tradition of choirs, music ensembles and music lessons has continued but so much more has been added. Fiona was promoted to the Performing Arts Coordinator and now looked after music, drama and dance. The students were now able to be involved, through Fiona and her talented faculty, in dance troupes, theatresports, Rock Eisteddfods, choral eisteddfods, College musicals for K-12, MCC Festivals, tuition nights, HSC performance nights, talent quests and the list goes on and on.

Fiona was also passionate that excellent music lessons as well as opportunities to learn instruments were to be a K-12 initiative. Each year Fiona negotiated to ensure there were some of her faculty teaching in the Primary school and, over

the years, she was involved with the Primary choirs as well as including them in so many K-12 musical opportunities.

Fiona also has a huge desire to ensure that all our Masses and liturgies have live music and she has worked tirelessly to try and encourage all students to participate in singing at these events. Fiona is innovative and creative in this area and she encourages everyone to participate never turning away any student who wishes to be involved.

Even after listing all the activities and events that Fiona has fostered and organised it does not even start to describe her contribution to the College. Fiona's energy and generosity is boundless and one of the most respected and admired aspect of her is the fact that the students wellbeing and development are always more important than winning a competition. She has high expectations of all but her pastoral care of her students and her true belief in their abilities has resulted in so many of our students discovering a love for the performing arts and reaching for their personal best. She even volunteered to coordinate the Language teachers for a period of time when there was a need.

Fiona had some time away from the College after having two beautiful little girls as well as taking two years leave from MCC to take up a teaching position in England where she continued to develop and hone her teaching skills as well as learning how to play the bagpipes. Fiona has an insatiable drive to always improve both her and her faculties teaching and learning. She embraces innovation and change.

After 14 years Fiona now wishes to work closer to home and to continue her personal and professional learning by experiencing new challenges. Sadly for us but so exciting for her, Fiona will commence at St Luke's Anglican College, Dee Why at the beginning of 2017.

How do we thank someone who has given us all so much? She will be truly missed and we are so grateful to have been part of her life journey.



We remember Jesus in the Eucharist

Kerry Power reflects on our Holy Communion.

Every day reminds us of your love and care.

In Jesus, your Son, we have food from heaven, our daily bread.

Bless us as we prepare to receive Jesus in Holy Communion.

May we come closer to Jesus and to each other. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF Holy Communion or Eucharist completes the Sacraments of Initiation. Together with Baptism and Confirmation, First Holy Communion establishes young people as fully fledged members of the faith. Catholic children around the age of 8 all over the world participate in this beautiful sacrament. Traditionally the candidates wear white to symbolise their innocence and the key symbols are bread and wine. For many of us our First Holy Communion was a truly significant day, when our family and parish gathered together to celebrate this milestone in faith. When we participate in the sacraments of our children we renew our own faith journey.

The celebration of First Holy Communion was held at St Mary of the Cross Mackillop Church on 11 September with two groups at 10am and 12pm. Each ceremony presented approximately 45 children over two services with Father Vince Casey presiding. The day was a lovely family and community event with the church at full capacity for both services. The Readings of the day recounted the story of The Last Supper when Jesus first shared the true meaning of the Eucharistic celebration. Children attended and listened as Father Vince talked about his experience of First Holy Communion and even shared his own Communion certificate. The students had prepared for the sacrament by participating in four Parish-based lessons with volunteers as teachers of faith. The children received a Eucharist medallion as a gift and shared a wonderful cake after the ceremony.

A big thank you goes to all who helped with the organisation, planning and running of this special sacrament.





Primary Staff Spirituality Day

A message from our Primary REC, Kerry Power.

ST MARY OF the Cross MacKillop was an extraordinary person who understood that education would provide the necessary skills and learning to develop young people to their full potential. She was called to be a teacher and she continues to inspire teachers, especially those teachers who teach in schools with a charism or formation in St Joseph or St Mary of the Cross, these schools are called Josephite schools. Learning more about the life and charism of Mary MacKillop helps us to be better MacKillop people. Each year Staff from Catholic schools in our Diocese of Broken Bay, participate in a Spirituality Day. This day provides spiritual formation and meditation on our faith. This year the Primary and some of our Administration Staff travelled to St. Joseph's Spirituality Centre at Kincumber. The original buildings of this centre were used by the Sisters of St. Joseph as an orphanage and school for nearly 100 years. The Spirit of St. Mary is very strong and the staff spent time in prayer and reflection about belief. An important prayer for our Catholic Church is the Apostle's Creed and using some 'Cultures of Thinking' routines we studied the meaning of the creed and how it supports our belief. Taking the time to stop and develop our faith is so important. As staff in Catholic schools we are very privileged to work in an environment that fosters and supports our spiritual growth. "I can feel the spirit of St. Mary. I felt calm and truly at peace in the beautiful surroundings at Kincumber."(Year 5 teacher).



Secondary Staff Spirituality Day

A message from our Secondary REC, Chrystal Price.



ON 10 OCTOBER 2016, the Secondary Staff as well as the auxiliary staff of the College travelled to Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney for their Staff Spirituality Day.

Considering this sesquicentenary year for the Sisters of St Joseph, it was a wonderful opportunity to explore such an integral place in the life of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, as well as, take time to pray at the Australian saint's resting place. The day began with a keynote address from Sr Colleen, the director of MacKillop Place North Sydney. Sr Colleen invited staff to reflect upon the importance of carrying out the legacy of Mary MacKillop and how we could consider developing our own 'Josephite hearts' in the way we serve the College. Staff also participated in various workshops that embraced the theme 'Developing a Josephite heart', with many staff completing a tour of the Museum that explores Mary MacKillop's life story. The day ended with an engaging liturgy in the chapel which contains the tomb of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Here the staff came together as a connected College community to give thanks to God for the many blessings of the day and to ask for Mary MacKillop's intercession.

Thank you to the staff for their positive spirit and engagement demonstrated throughout the day and a huge thank you to all those who were involved in the organisation of the day.

Many blessings.

MacKillop students help Ghana

Eleanor Hannan tells us about the Ghana appeal.

IN TERM 2 2016 I got together with a family friend of mine, Mavis Gyamfi, who had recently been to Ghana through her charity 'Channel of Blessings', delivering donated goods to communities in Ghana. I was so inspired and thought that perhaps in some way the school could help. So along with Kayla Christensen and with the assistance of the rest of the Parliament team we organised that each year would bring in certain items that we could donate to this wonderful cause, ranging from stationary, books, toiletries, clothes and shoes.

Every donation earned house points and all the students were so generous. Together we collected enough donations to fill one of the music rooms. Then during the holidays a group of students along with the Gyamfi family came in to sort and organise the donations. These students were Corinne Turner, Natalie McLeod, Bryson Cotton, Hannah McNamara, Paris Cooper and I. In a few hours we organised the items to make

it easier for shipping, including separating into categories and sizes for the clothes. After this the Gyamfi family took all the donations home, and packed them in large barrels to be shipped over to Ghana, ready for Mavis' arrival. These barrels or containers are left there to hold water in the village.

A few months ago Mavis went over to Ghana to distribute the donations to schools, orphanages and communities. The donations were greatly appreciated and really made a difference. I would like to thank all the teachers and students who donated or helped in any way, the music teachers for allowing me to fill one of their rooms with donations, Mrs Ferguson for helping organise and promote the collection and most of all the Gyamfi family for the inspiring work they do for others, and for the impact they have had on the lives of the people they assist, but also myself!



Rural Fire Service Training

Matthew Lovasz showcases Year 9 students.



Year 12 celebrate their final year

Michael Rickards says *farewell to our Year 12 students.*

YEAR 12 HAVE had some very significant events which have concluded the end of their schooling. It was with a sense of nostalgia we gathered for these events. I think that there is still much disbelief that your time here at MacKillop has come to an end. Your time at the College seemed to go so quickly but each of you have made a positive impact on our school culture.

The final Year 12 final school week celebrations included the charity day where students raised funds for cancer research and Bear Cottage, focusing their celebrations of completing the HSC back to the community. We then shared Mass with the rest of the school to say farewell before the traditional procession out of the school lead by bagpipers in respect of Mary MacKillop's Scottish heritage. With many a tear and hugs the College would like to wish Year 12 all the best in the future that lies ahead. We look forward to hearing about the MacKillop influence you now take with you into your adult lives.

On Monday, 7 November Year 12 gathered to celebrate the completion of their HSC at Mingara Recreational Centre. The Year 12 Formal was a dazzling event with students, parents and staff gathering to acknowledge the groups completion of 13 years of schooling. Again the group responded in their usual way with a sense of fun and occasion. Students were individually presented to the room, walking down the red carpet to acknowledge this important achievement in their lives. The group looked absolutely stunning and sophisticated. The overall feeling in the room and feedback from parents and loved ones was of great pride in the group's achievements and personal growth throughout their schooling.

Well done Year 12 you have made a wonderful contribution to our MacKillop Community. The very best of luck for your future.







MCC gather to farewell Year 12

Chrystal Price *reflects on the celebration of Eucharist for Year 12 Class of 2016.*

ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2016 the MCC community came together to farewell the Year 12 class of 2016. Students from Years 5 through to Year 11 along with staff and many parents gathered in the Aitken Hall to honour this year's graduating class for a celebration of the Eucharist presided by Fr Vince Casey.

Miss Elizabeth Kovacic led the procession of the students into the Hall by singing a beautiful rendition of the song 'Oceans, Where Feet May Fail' (Hillsong unlimited). As they processed into the hall at the start of the Mass, students held onto a small candle, a gift from the College connecting to our school motto; 'Christ our Light'. These candles along with the song were to remind students of Christ's constant light in their lives and how He is always there to guide them along their journey.

Fr Vince gave a thought provoking homily on the reading from Matthew's Gospel 'Jesus walks on Water' (Mt.14: 22-29). Here Fr Vince reminded the congregation in particular Year 12, to trust in a God who is always there for them. To never doubt, but to always trust and have faith in Christ that He that will always be there to guide them. There were many highlights but it was particularly special to have Year 12 students distribute Eucharist to their peers, as they had trained with Fr Vince

prior to this occasion. We also were privileged to listen to the talented Year 10 students; Monique Gilbert, Kate Fullbrook and Gabby Baus who performed a hymn whilst a photo presentation featured in the background dedicated to the class of 2016. The spirit was definitely alive and well throughout the Mass, especially at the end with the singing of the school song.

This Year 12 group is particularly special as it is the first cohort who have journeyed with the College from Kindergarten to Year 12 and it was great to see many ex-teaching staff who had journeyed with this group present at this Mass.

A special Mass such as this just doesn't happen without the support and assistance of many staff and the Year 12 parliament leaders of 2016 were also involved in the planning as well. However, a huge thank you must be given for the staff band who performed all the hymns and parts of the Mass. It has become a bit of a tradition to have staff as part of the band for this Mass and the students always request the staff to perform due to their exceptional abilities, passion and professionalism of which they always provide, it was just outstanding.

God bless,







New Year 12 enjoy their final Retreat

Lia Camilleri reflects on a special senior retreat.

THE YEAR 12 cohort attended their Senior Retreat at the Collaroy Centre at the end of October. The weather was kind, the program organised by the wonderful RE staff was excellent and evidence of the Spirit working through our students was everywhere.

The Retreat this year was centred around shifting our focus – towards others and within ourselves – and the three day program was a mixture of workshops and activities designed around reflecting on ways we can do this. Guest speakers came from Mary MacKillop International and St. Leo's College, Wahroonga. Additionally, our own Mrs Deb Ferguson and Mrs Mel McGuinness presented a fantastic session centred on their experiences of South Africa.

Students enjoyed some of the usual outdoor challenges they've come to enjoy at camps, and a fantastic night of fun activities in the auditorium on the first night. The second night concluded with a beautiful mass celebrated by our own Father Vince, followed by some very moving 'stations' for the students to participate in.

This Retreat was particularly special for two reasons. First, it was the final time that this group will spend away together. Second (and most importantly), it was special because the students made it so in the way they conducted themselves as beautiful young adults which made the three days delightful for everyone.

New Year 12 enjoy their Retreat

Lia Camilleri showcases Year 12 having fun.



Our annual Book Week

Jackie Crowe *talks about the fun in book week.*

EACH YEAR THE Children's Book Council of Australia brings children and books together celebrating Children's Book Week. The aim is to promote the best of Australian literature for children and young people. The theme for Book Week this year was, "Australia! Story Country".

Book Week was held at MCC in August and to celebrate this year's theme, Australia: Story Country, the Library invited Dave 'Prousty' Proust (bush poet), Katrina McKelvey (author), Kirrili Loneragan (illustrator) and Felicity Pulman (author) to speak about their influences and inspiration. 'Prousty' gave a demonstration of his whip-cracking and didgeridoo-playing abilities; Katrina and Kirrili took the students through the process of writing and illustrating a picture book; and Felicity highlighted the importance of the research and editing processes when developing a story.

We also held a Book Trivia competition for all of Year 10 and we were impressed with the high level of literary knowledge our students have! Our winning team, Gabbidor, with an impressive 28 out of 30, won a Wonka ticket/canteen voucher each.

As is tradition, we finished Book Week in style with our fun-filled Book Parade where Kinder to Year 6 were able to show

off their costumes while some of our true blue Australian tunes played in the background. This year Library staff dressed as characters from a classic Australian picture book called 'Possum Magic' by Mem Fox. The entire MCC Staff excelled once again this year with their exceptional, creative costuming including the iconic Opera House, Tiddalick the Frog and poet Banjo Patterson.

Years 7-12 were also invited to come to school dressed as their favourite character on our Book Parade day and to get their photos taken. Prizes for Best Dressed Individual and Best Group were awarded.

At 12 o'clock the whole school stopped for The Reading Hour when ALL staff and students read quietly for 20 minutes.

Our Primary classes participated in a 'Reading around Australia' story time session. All children, from Kinder to Year 6, were treated to stories by Australian authors about our wonderful country, read by teachers and our enthusiastic Year 11 Exploring Early Childhood students. Stories read included Koala Lou, Emily and the Big Bad Bunyip and Wombat Divine.

This was definitely a week that celebrated MCC's love of books and reading!







Great effort at our Spelling Bee

Debra Ferguson *talks about outstanding spelling by our students.*

THIS COMPETITION HAS been designed to assist the students in Years 7 and 8 with just one aspect of their literacy development. This year every subject area nominated 20 words with their definitions which they would expect each student would be able to spell and define by the end of Year 8. These words were then collated and a booklet was published entitled, "My Little Book of Vocabulary". This book is to be kept by each student to use as a reference when working on assessments or learning preparation to assist them in comprehending the tasks.

In Term 3 every student in every Pastoral class in Years 7 and 8 participated in a spelling bee which was based on the vocabulary words in their booklet. From this the two best spellers from each class competed in the Spelling Bee Final in Week 1 of this term. The finalists were:

Year 7

HOUSE	NAMES
Fitzroy	Mason Fitzgerald and Lachlan Smith
Penola	Abby Falzon and Bianca Blackhall
Gesu	Jaise Fulton and Takira Kippaya
Alma	Joshua Pratt and Timothy San Pedro/Luca Piltz

Temuka	Paris Jenkins and Elle Martin
Kincumber	Hayden McCarthy and Minh Trieu

Year 8

HOUSE	NAMES
Fitzroy	Taylor Stirton and Abbey Fitzgerald
Penola	Alexa Walker and Megan Trigg
Gesu	Jan (JM) Priscilla and Luke Stilo/Breana Rogers
Alma	Christian Wait and Thomas Prouse.
Temuka	Darcy Heffernan/ Charlie Martin and Maddison Montgomery
Kincumber	Benjamin Fleming and Eliza Ellis

The Final was closely fought with outstanding spelling occurring. The winners were:

- 1st – Megan Trigg
- 2nd – Taylor Stirton
- 3rd – Benjamin Fleming

This is also a House competition. The Gesu House had won for the past 3 years but Penola House took the glory for 2016.



Highly Commended Awards Term 4

Anne Lovett *presents Year 7-12 Awards.*



Kindergarten Orientation for 2017

Ann Jackson talks about preparing our new Kindergarten children.

AS WE COME to the conclusion of a year and reflect on a journey well-travelled, we also embark upon new beginnings with our Kindergarten Orientation Programme for our little ones commencing Kindergarten in 2017. The circle of life continues; one thing ends as another begins!

Our Kindergarten Orientation Programme took place over four weeks with parents attending an information session each week whilst their children were given time to mix with their peers and complete some fun activities. During this time our parents were welcomed into our community and provided with information on our Catholic values and what it means to attend a Catholic school, how to ensure the social and emotional wellbeing of their children once they commence school, the educational philosophy of our school, and the day to day practices of lunches, buses, uniforms and supplies that need to be brought to school. These parent sessions were largely driven by the parents through an input session

on the areas of concern or things they felt they needed more information about. These issues then featured throughout the programme so that parental concerns were acknowledged and addressed.

Whilst the parents were engaging with their sessions, the children spent their time completing some fun activities, listening to stories and learning some songs. They also got to interact with those children who will accompany them on their entire learning journey here at MacKillop over the next thirteen years! If the smiles, laughter and chatter are anything to go by, the children are already well and truly ready to embark on this new stage of their learning journey.

In all, these days are valuable times and experiences for both the parents and the children where each becomes accustomed to the way things are done here at big school. 2017, here we come!



Theatresports is proving popular

Sharon Baird *talks about learning the skills of improvisation.*

2016 SAW THE introduction of Theatresports as a sport option on Thursday afternoons. It has been immensely popular as students learn the skills of improvisation, gain confidence in public speaking and have loads of fun playing the games. In a Theatresports Schools Competition, teams of 3-5 students from each school create 1, 2 and 3 minute improvised scenes live on stage, judged and scored by professional improvisers from Impro Australia.

We were privileged to host the Intermediate heats (made up of Year 9 and 10 students) here in The Sr. Irene McCormack Theatre whilst the senior team (Year 11 and 12) competed at Barker College, Hornsby. This year also, for the first time, we entered a junior team (Year 7 and 8) who competed in the heats and finals at Monte St Angelo College, North Sydney. The junior team performed really well and came fourth out of nine teams in the finals. In true MacKillop Catholic College spirit, the

teams were supported by their peers at all events. On behalf of the teams, I, Miss Williamson and Mrs Scoines would like to extend a massive thanks to our supporters.

At the time of writing this article, MacKillop student teams are preparing to take on the teachers in a daring Theatresports competition to be held in the Theatre at the MCC Festival. We hope that you will come along and cheer on your favourite team.

Teams:

Juniors - Ryley Small, Jorja Sadler, Courtney Archer, Emily Lees, Monique Kohen

Intermediate - India Kay, Kayla Earle, Lucinda Goodwin, Alexander Coutts, Tiarnagh Montague

Senior - Cassandra Reed, Lucy Noble, Jaren Harper, Curtis Lang, Kyah Timp



Stars of the future

Sharon Baird *talks about the Junior Drama Production, Stories in the Dark.*

IN TERM THREE this year, students in Years 8-10, who selected Drama Production as a sport option, performed in a contemporary Australian play by Debra Oswald called *Stories in the Dark*. Set in a war torn country, *Stories in the Dark* explores the power of storytelling to comfort and educate in a violent world in which young people struggle to survive.

In the play, a terrified 12-year-old boy, finds himself separated from his family. He takes refuge in a bombed-out house where he meets Anna. Anna is older and more street smart but is also searching for her family amongst the ruins. At night, when the lights go out, the boy's bravado gives way to

tears. As a way of shutting the boy up, Anna starts to tell him a story that she vaguely remembers from her own childhood. And so begins a journey into the shifting, shimmering world of ogres, princes, princesses and foolish lads.

I am very proud of all the performers who tackled the content of the play in a very mature fashion. The chorus of students who played the fairy tale characters did so with a great sense of fun and comic timing.

I would like to commend all of the students – cast and crew – for their tremendous work on this production.



HSC Visual Arts Exhibition

Jillian Young showcases the HSC Bodies of Work.

IN TERM 3, Year 12 students completed their Bodies of Work, the practical component of Visual Arts. The Bodies of Work are worth 50% of their overall mark.

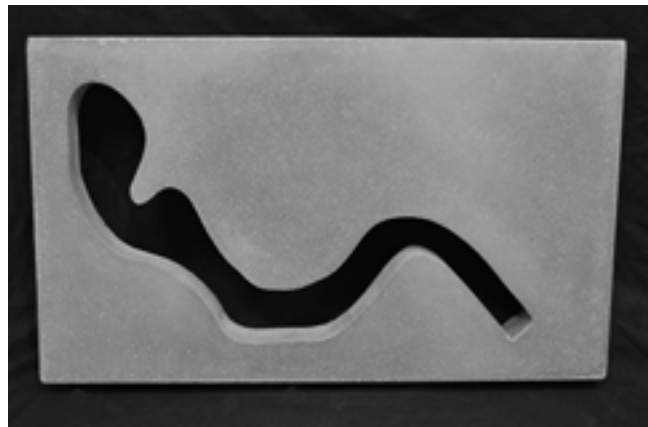
To create a Body of Work, students spend the year on exploration of techniques, skill building, materials experimentation as well as researching artists and artworks, which inspire them.

To celebrate the completion of their works, an Art Exhibition was held in the gallery of the Art Centre. Family, friends, students, ex-students and staff of the College attended the opening night. On display were works in drawing, painting, wearable art, sculpture, photography, film and graphic art. Throughout the night, students spoke about their works and received many compliments about the high standard of work displayed.



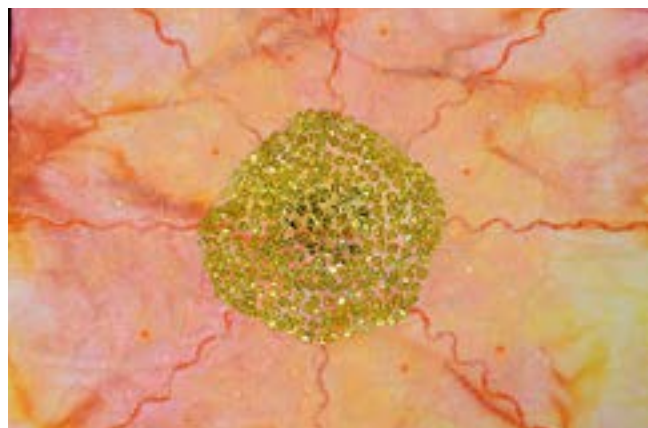
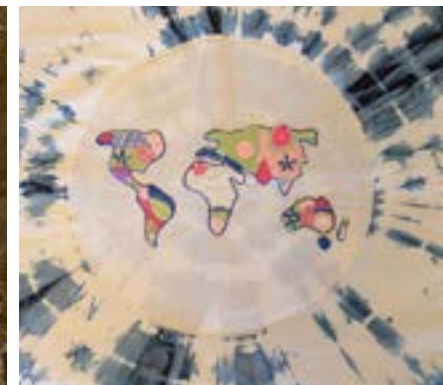
Artist of the Month

Jillian Young showcases Year 11 Sculptures.



Textiles of the Month

Kath Ardern showcases Year 10 Textiles.



HSC Design & Technology

Damian Clair showcases Year 12 Design & Technology Major Works.



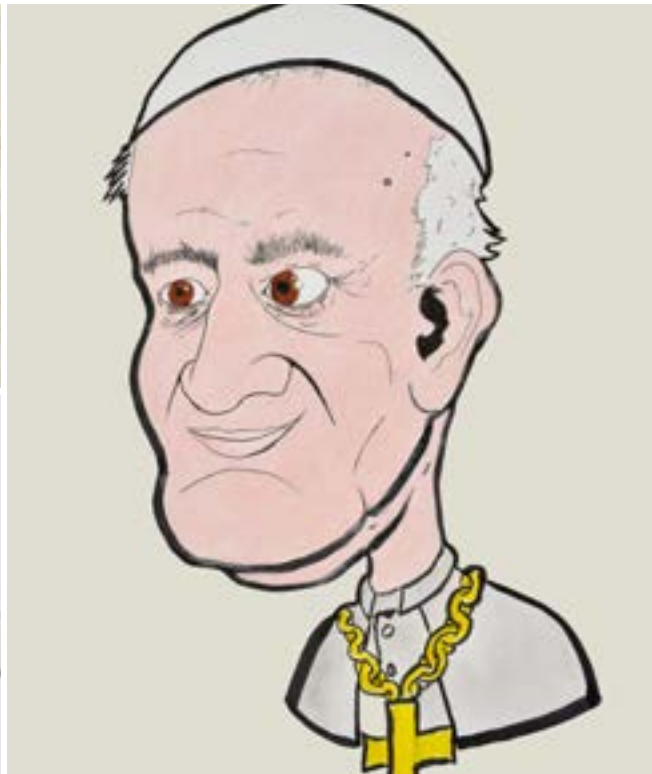
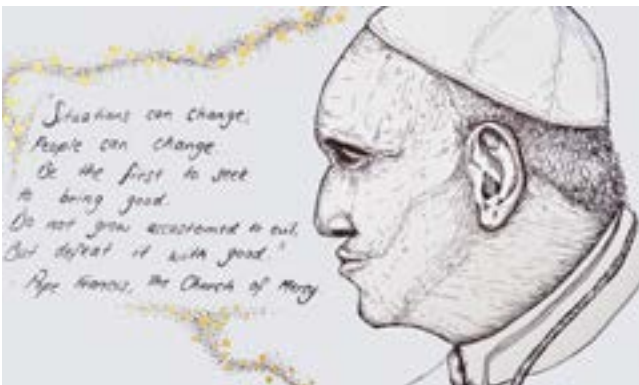
HSC Industrial Arts

Dennis Gasparotto showcases Year 12 Industrial Arts Major works.



Bishop David Art Prize- Pope Francis

Jillian Young showcases Year 7-11 Portraits.



Primary enjoy their sports

Kellie Denneman gives an overview of the Primary sports.

BROKEN BAY ATHLETICS

FOURTEEN STUDENTS REPRESENTED MacKillop and the Central Coast at the Broken Bay Athletics on 29 August at Narrabeen. Congratulations to Kaitlyn Norris, Isaac Zappala, Tyson Scicluna, Fynn Sadler, Thomas Scicluna, Giancarlo Trimarchi, Manuel Ampoma-Gyamfi, Annabelle Ross, Samuel Wolscher, Ella McKay, Luke Bragg, Jack Albanese, Gerald Ampoma-Gyamfi & Thomas Vrljic on their achievements. Eight of our students including our Senior Boys relay team qualified to progress to the Polding Athletics at Glendale in September.

Kaitlyn Norris – 200m (1st Place), Long Jump (1st Place), 800m & Discus

Thomas Scicluna – 100m & 200m (Qualifying 1st & setting a BB record in both events)

Giancarlo Trimarchi – Jnr Boys High Jump (1st Place setting a BB Record)

Manuel Ampoma-Gyamfi – Jnr Boys 200m

Ella McKay – AWD 100m & Long Jump

Senior Boys Relay Team – Thomas Scicluna, Luke Bragg, Jack Albanese & Gerald Ampoma-Gyamfi

Special mention to Kaitlyn Norris who accumulated the highest individual points score and was awarded 'Athlete of the Meet' – a FANTASTIC achievement

OZTAG

The school were represented by 1 boys and 1 girls Oztag team at the recent Central Coast All Schools Gala Day. Up against very talented representative players in the respective teams from their pools they found the going tough but played with wonderful sportsmanship. Special thanks to Mr Snelling for his expert coaching on the day.

CCC NETBALL GALA DAY

We had 17 teams across Years 3-6 represent the school at the CCC Netball Gala Day at Baker Park in Week 9 last term. In what is a HUGE day, we thank the respective teachers who prepared and organised each age group:

Year 3 Miss Higson

Year 4 Mr Snelling

Year 5 Mrs Power

Year 6 Mrs Hyland

So too we would like to thank the large number of parents who assisted as scorers, coaches and managers for the day. We could not have run and enjoyed the day without the support of our Secondary Colleagues & students who helped in various roles – administration, umpiring, coaching, canteen. A big thank you also to them.

Most importantly however, our students participated with such enthusiasm and enjoyment. The boys particularly celebrated their improvement across the course of the day and EVERY goal scored. Whilst the day is not about winning we do need to congratulate the teams who enjoyed some success:

10 Year Boys – Winners

10A Girls – Runners Up

10B Girls – Runners Up

12B Girls – Runners Up

POLDING ATHLETICS

We had outstanding individual and team results at the Polding Athletics Carnival at Glendale late last term resulting in 5 athletes qualifying to represent the Polding Region at the NSWPSA Carnival at Homebush in October.

Congratulations & good luck to:

Thomas Scicluna set 2 Polding Records to win both the 100m & 200m events

Giancarlo Trimarchi finished 3rd in the Junior Boys High Jump

The Senior Boys Relay team (Thomas Scicluna, Luke Bragg, Jack Albanese & Gerald Ampoma-Gyamfi) ran a blistering time to finish 2nd.

Special mention to Manuel Ampoma-Gyamfi who was beaten in a photo finish for 3rd in the Jnr Boys 200m, Ella McKay & Kaitlyn Norris who also performed well in multiple events.

This was the first ever MacKillop Relay Team to represent at this event, so we are thrilled their hard work has paid off and they now create history by running at State.

NSWPSSA GIRLS SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to Grace Walker-Rolls (Year 6) who represented the Polding Team along with Mrs Denneman as the coach at the recent NSWPSSA Softball Championships in Camden. This was Grace's second year representing this team.

NSWPSSA ATHLETICS

We were very excited to have 5 Polding Representatives from MacKillop compete at NSWPSSA Athletics on Wed 19 & Thursday 20 October at Homebush. We celebrated the success of Thomas Scicluna winning a GOLD Medal in the 13 Yr Boys 100m and a BRONZE Medal in the 12/13Yr Boys 200m – an awesome achievement! As a NSWPSSA Medallist, Thomas has now qualified to be presented with an Outstanding Achievement Award by the Broken Bay Sports Council in 2016. Our Senior Boys Relay team of Thomas Scicluna, Luke Bragg, Jack Albanese & Gerald Ampoma-Gyamfi created history by being our first ever relay team to run at this event. They progressed through to the Semi Final falling short by a mere % of a second to qualify to run in the Final. Giancarlo Trimarchi also competed in the Junior Boys High Jump. We congratulate all these boys on their fine efforts.

CCC TOUCH FOOTBALL

MacKillop Catholic College had 9 teams participate in the annual CCC Touch Football Gala Day at both EDSACC and Pat Morley Ovals. Thanks to the teachers for their coaching and managing expertise – Mr Sullivan, Mrs Gainsford, Mrs Thomas & Mrs Banfield. Congratulations to all participants on their behaviour and sportsmanship on the day. It was commented on by other staff and schools. The following team tasted success:

- Div 2A Boys – Warnervale 2 Runners Up
- Div 3B Boys – Warnervale 5 Runners Up
- Div 1 Girls – Warnervale 7 Equal Runners Up
- Div 3 Girls – Warnervale 9 Winners



Secondary sporting success

Duncan Blacks *provides an overview of secondary sports.*

COMING INTO THE last term of 2016, College representative sport has started off with a flurry. I would like to thank all the students that have participated in representing their College in a sport or sports over 2016. All students did this with great pride and fairness across all arenas. I would also like to thank the teachers that put up their hand to take teams to allow these students to participate. Thank you again.

BBSSSA SPORT

The Broken Bay Secondary Schools Sports Association has a new web address where students and parents can register online for individual sports. Please have a look and if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me (Mr Black) at the College.

<https://www.brokenbaysport.org.au/secondary>

Softball

Any student that wishes to trial for the BBSSSA Softball team can now register online.

Waterpolo

Both teams played extremely well, unfortunately neither team won a game but all had rewarding day. Both teams will play in the Central Coast 'Wombat' Cup at Wyong pool on 18 November. We wish them well.

Final placings are below,

BOYS		GIRLS	
1ST	St Augustine's	1ST	Stella Maris
2ND	St Peter's	2ND	St Joseph's
3RD	St Edward's	3RD/4TH	Brigidine/St Peter's
4TH	St Paul's	5TH	MacKillop
5TH	Mater Maria	6TH	Mt St Benedict

BOYS		GIRLS	
6TH	MacKillop	7TH	Mater Maria

Volleyball

Well done to all the students who attended the Volleyball . There were some outstanding results from individuals on the day.

Both teams played exceptionally well on a hot windy day and made it through to the semi-finals. Mater Maria were the stronger team and MacKillop went down in the 3rd set. Well done to all.

NSW CCC

Cricket

The College entered two teams into the Berg (7-9) and Downie (10-12) Shield Knockout cricket. This is a state wide competition involving catholic schools.

The results so far are

Berg (7-9) boys

Round 1 - Loss to St Edwards College

Downie Shield (10 -12),

Round 1 – Win against All Saints Maitland,

Round 2 – Win against St Edwards College, Gosford.

Their next round will be against St Augustine's, Brookvale.

Special Mentions

Isaac Blackhall (Year 9) selected into the U16 NSW Indigenous Rugby League team.

Darcy Heffernan (Year 8) achieved placings in Sporting, Hacking, Jumping, Dressage and Working Horse Challenge.

Lucah Sturgeon (Year 7) came 1st and 8th in Dressage, giving her 3rd overall against a very high standard of competition.

