ISSUE 7 | WEEK 3 TERM 1 2017

# **COLLEGE**Matters

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WELCOMING ALL NEW STUDENTS **CELEBRATING SENIOR LUNCHEON OUTSTANDING 2016 HSC RESULTS** WARNERVALE



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### A successful start to 2017

Steve Todd welcomes the College community for the new School Year.

**OUR NEW SCHOOL** year has commenced well despite the challenge of very hot weather. I thank all the students, the parents and staff for embracing the year with much enthusiasm and spirit. We look forward to all that will shape 2017 here at MacKillop.

To all new students, families and staff we warmly welcome you to the MacKillop Catholic College community here at Warnervale. We hope and pray that each person feels the sense of connectedness that is a feature of this Catholic College. The College's motto of 'Christ Our Light' strengthens our resolve to strive for our 'personal best' in all the areas of MISSION, LEARNING, CULTURE and WELLBEING.

The 2016 school year has been beautifully commemorated in the College's Yearbook of 2016 that was distributed to students and families in the last week of the school year. I hope families have enjoyed the publication and celebrated the extraordinary stories of 2016.

This publication of College Matters celebrates the wonderful success of the HSC Class of 2016 with their outstanding achievement of 34 honour listings and for celebrating our top ten students with Kayla Christensen being our Dux for 2016. Kayla was also our first all-rounder achieving ten or more units of study at Band 6 level. We were so delighted to present Kayla with her Dux medal and the Stephen Aitken "Personal Best' Trophy at our recent Senior Student Luncheon. It was a great celebration of recognition and inspiration to share this day with the senior students, the top HSC students with their parents, special guests and with the staff of the College and Parish.

The end of 2016 was a sad time with the loss of our Founding Principal, Stephen Aitken and it was a real pleasure to see Stephen's memory honoured with the naming of the new Dux Trophy presented this year to Kayla Christensen by Stephen Aitken's wife Kerry at the Senior Students Luncheon.

A big feature of the beginning of every year is the special welcome offered to Kindy and Year 7 students and families. We are delighted to welcome the new Kinder students and Year 7 students to the College. In this publication, the teachers of Kinder and the Year 7 Pastoral Coordinator, Michael Rickards have extended a special welcome to the students.

I offer everyone across our MacKillop community encouragement to greet each other with a smile, talk to each other with care, walk in the light of embracing opportunities and to share any struggles with the people who care for us, parents, teachers and friends.

Blessings for 2017.



### A Warm Welcome to 2017

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

**IT CERTAINLY HAS** been a wonderful, if extremely hot, start to the 2017 school year for our children staff and families. We have welcomed new staff members, new students in Years 1-6 and of course our new Kindergarten children. It is wonderful to feel such a positive 'vibe' around the Primary Campus.

You will notice in classrooms and around the school some new signs to support our children in their role of being a Respectful part of our community. The signs acknowledge our 3 School Values – Respect for Self and Others, Respect for Learning and Respect for our Environment. We also have highlighted our overall College Goals which follow our School Improvement Plan. In the area of Mission "Be a Light to the World"; for Learning "Value Learning" and for Wellbeing "Honour Each Other". We envisage that the children, staff and families will remember these as they go about their day.

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

This year, we trialled a different approach to our annual Meet the Teacher evening. The aim was to make our afternoon more of an open session, enabling parents the opportunity to move around classrooms, meeting staff, obtaining information and having the opportunity to meet each other.

On 28 February we will begin Lenten Season with Shrove Tuesday, which will be followed by our K-12 Ash Wednesday Mass the next day. Ash Wednesday is one of the most important holy days in the liturgical calendar marking the beginning of the Season of Lent, our season of penance, reflection, and fasting, which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Our Learning Programme for 2017 will continue the EMU Framework in Numeracy. EMU is an acronym for Enhancing Mathematical Understanding. By completing individual assessments of children's understanding of mathematical concepts, teachers are then able to address their needs and the gaps in their understanding. The focus of this work is on the processes involved using the operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, before the written algorithm, but not ignoring this component.

As technology continues to grow in our society, our learning does too. All classroom teachers use the interactive whiteboard, smart TVs and iPads in their lessons. Last year, we began the gradual implementation of the BYODD iPad programme ready for Years 5 and 6 this year. This programme will continue to grow and develop incorporating co-teaching and supporting staff in classrooms and providing learning opportunities for parents throughout the year.

Learning for teachers will continue to grow throughout the year. We will continue our work building a 'Cultures' of Thinking' environment.

We will continue building the team spirit through the House systems of the College. With our Student Leadership Team we will be opening further experiences for them to take more active roles in the school, beginning with our Community Time.

With this first edition of College Matters for 2017, we invite all parents and carers to continue to be involved with all school events as opportunities arise, to keep open and positive communication channels with staff and to share your wisdom and support as we work together developing the children in our care.



### Commencing another exciting year A message from our Secondary Principal, Debra Ferguson.

"YOU CAN TEACH students a lesson for a day; but if you can teach them to learn by creating curiosity, they will continue the learning process as long as they live." Clay P. Bedford

Welcome back to Term 1, 2017 and to another exciting and busy year. As always I am really looking forward to see how the year unfolds. However, I would like to first reflect on the end of 2016.

Once again our HSC results were very pleasing and encouraging. There is a more comprehensive report on this in this edition of College Matters but I must add my congratulations to all our students for having the persistence and courage to complete their HSC year and we wish them all well with whatever endeavours they select. We are extremely proud of all our ex-students.

Our final Mass and Awards of High Distinction last year were very impressive and we thank all those families who supported the school by insisting their children learn about reliability and responsibility by ensuring they attend these two events. The teachers spend a great deal of time and effort to organise these so that students have the opportunity to thank God for their year and to be rewarded for their efforts throughout the year.

This Term has started with many events already occurring. We reminded all our students about the importance of our three goals for last year and again this year: to 'Be a Light to the World', to 'value learning' and to 'honour each other'. If we achieve these 3 simple statements we would have a truly safe and supportive community.

Our Year 7 students and over 30 new students from Years 8-11 commenced at MCC on Tuesday January 31st. I need to

thank our Year 12 Cabinet students and all our Year 10 Peer Support students who came in to assist us on the day and to make the new students feel very welcome.

Years 8-11 commenced the following day with all students facing a few busy days with learning new timetables and teachers as well as having the many notes signed, selecting sport for the term and reacquainting themselves with the rest of their form.

Since then Year 7 have had their vaccinations, our Seniors had their Senior Mass and Luncheon where our top 2016 HSC ATAR students were honoured. Our Kinders, Year 7 and all new families and Staff were welcomed to MacKillop at our Welcome Mass on 19 March where all students were blessed, received a welcome gift and attended a barbeque with their families and the Parish.

Parents are invited to view the Term Calendar on our webpage and to attend the upcoming events such as the Open Mass, the Swimming Carnival and the Athletics Carnival. We particularly invite you and your family and friends to attend our Open Afternoon on 8 March and the Kinder, Year 7 and new students Information Night on 14 March.

We are also hosting a very important Information Night for ALL Year 7, 8 and 9 parents about the changes to NAPLAN and the impact on their HSC and university acceptance. A note is following by email with more information about this night on 21 March.

Finally, I wish you all a great year where we all move a little closer to reaching our personal bests in this safe, happy and colourful school.

### VALE KATH EVANS

#### Steve Todd remembers a wonderful life.

**THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY** mourns the loss of our special Josephite friend in Kath Evans who passed away just before Christmas last year. Kath lost her battle with cancer accepting that she had been blessed with a longer life than one could have expected due to her miraculous cure some ten or more years ago.

I had the privilege of attending Kath's funeral at Holy Spirit, Kincumber on 28 December where there was a wonderful outpouring of affection for an amazing woman from her family, the Sisters of St. Joseph, the Catholic Church and from many people from all over Australia. We offer our condolences to Kath's husband Barry and to their family on the loss of Kath. Her influence on people has been extraordinary and her connection to Australia's first saint, Mary MacKillop has inspired so many people over the past six years.

We all first met Kath Evans through the inspiring story of her healing of incurable lung cancer through the intercession of Mary MacKillop that supported the case for Mary's canonisation in Rome in October 2010. Kath was now a wellknown figure in Australia and her humility for sharing her story with so many people was nothing short of inspiring. Her book is a wonderful read of an unshakeable faith in God and one she said was among many blessings found in similar stories to hers all over Australia. She was a pilgrim in life with a proud Josephite heart.

The wisdom and humility of the heart that Kath shared so openly with people will long live in all our hearts. Here at MacKillop Warnervale we shared a special relationship with Kath. She supported our senior students' leadership program, spoke to Yr 7 students when they visited MacKillop Place and St Joseph's Kincumber and her support with special novenas for seriously ill students such as Lauren Taylor, April Hart and Cameron Mauro showed so deeply of her wonderful heart, prayerfulness and connection to God through the intercession of Mary MacKillop.

Kath's youngest son, Luke is a teacher at St. Brigid's, Lake Munmorah.

When I think of losing such people as Kath Evans, I recall the comforting words of Fr John Hodgson CsSR, our former Parish Priest who would often invite us to pray our friends and family members home. So we along with so many people pray Kath home and thank God for having been blessed to have met her.

Vale Kath Evans.



### Welcome to our new staff

### **Deb Ferguson and Sue Dietrich** *welcome all of the new and returning staff to MacKillop.*

**WE ARE VERY** fortunate at MacKillop to have a very stable staff with very little turnover of teachers. However, it is also beneficial to incorporate new blood and fresh ideas by employing some new staff each year. We are very fortunate to have found excellent teachers for 2017 and beyond.

#### SECONDARY

This year we welcome a number of new staff to the Secondary section of our College as follows;

- Mrs Susan Briggs is teaching Mathematics. Susan has been teaching at St Edward's College at East Gosford.
- Mr David Dawson is also teaching Mathematics. He is new in his teaching career but had taught at MacKillop last year.
- Mr Simon Donohoe is teaching Religious Education and English. Simon has come to us from Mount Carmel Catholic College at Varroville.
- Mr Rob Hanley who was working as a Casual at MCC last year and is filling in for Mr Russell Jones while he is caring for his wife. Robert is teaching in the TAS KLA.
- Mrs Nicole Jolly who is teaching English. Nicole was at Singleton High School last year but she has worked at MacKillop in the past.

• Mrs Paula King who will be working one day a week as a Lab Assistant.

We really do wish all these staff members the very best and we are sure they will truly enjoy teaching here at MCC.

We also welcome back to the College Mrs Rachael Elcoate, Mrs Julie Fryer and Mrs Marina Wills who have returned from maternity leave.

There are many changes this year in teacher responsibility and all this can be found on our Website and in the Student Planner so please refer to this if you need to contact particular staff.

#### PRIMARY

We welcome the new and all the returning staff to MacKillop Primary. Welcome to our new staff members, Mr Andrew Vandergraaf in 3G and Mrs Kate James taking Music for Years 4, 5 and 6.

We also welcome Mrs Lauren Oliver, Mrs Ashlee Garling and Mrs Sarah Shorter on their return to work from family leave. Mrs Juli-Anne Attard will work with Mrs Chris Shilling as she undertakes her Literacy Coach work.



### "Christ Our Light" Senior Luncheon

#### Deb Ferguson talks about celebrating our Senior Mass and Luncheon.

**ON FRIDAY 10** February, MacKillop held its annual "Christ Our Light" Senior Luncheon. This commenced with a Senior Mass where we honoured our seniors as the leaders of the College community as well as developing into young adults. At the Mass the Year 11 students were presented with their senior badges by the Year 12 College Captains, Will O'Keefe and Samantha Vella, and all the students recited their senior pledge to the community.

Following the Mass the students and staff travelled to Wyong Leagues Club where we all enjoyed a 2 course meal as part of our celebration and recognition of our senior students. During this celebration we also recognised our high achieving Year 12 students from the 2016 HSC.

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

Every year the Dux of the College addresses us all and gives advice to the students on how to maximise their learning potential. Our dux for 2016, Kayla Christensen, spoke very well on the day.

We also invite an ex-student back each year to explain what they have been doing since leaving school and also to add some advice. This year Peter Ives, who was at MacKillop from 2005-2010, gave an inspiring speech about striving for your personal best and finding a career you are passionate about. Peter is presently the Foreman at North Constructions.

This day is always such a great success and our students respond so positively and maturely to this step up into being young adults who now have their futures in their own hands. We congratulate them on participating so well on the day and we wish them all well with their studies over the next 12 months.





### Celebrating the Class of 2016

Mel McGuinness shares the outstanding HSC results.

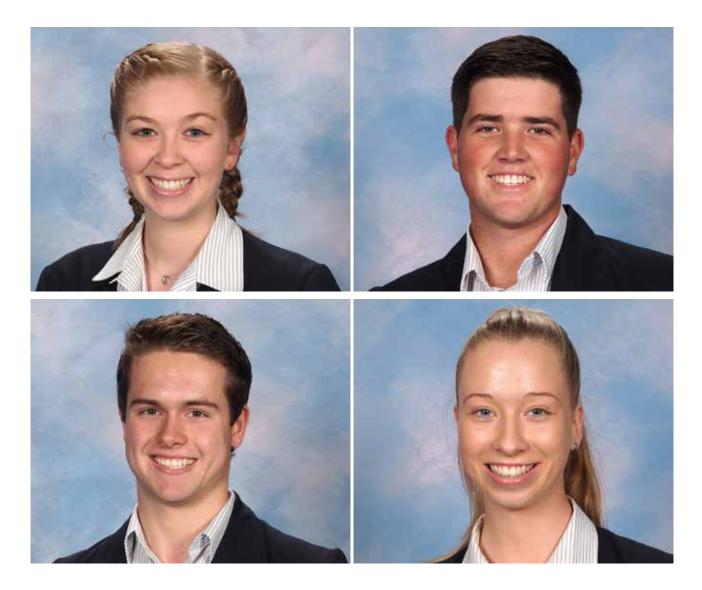
#### **OUR COMMUNITY IS** very proud to celebrate the

achievements of the HSC Class of 2016. This is evidence of the fine educational standards valued, nurtured and upheld at MacKillop Catholic College. We take this opportunity to congratulate the Class of 2016 and to wish them well as they begin a new phase of life's journey. They have contributed greatly to College life and to the ongoing impressive reputation of our community.

BANDS	6+E4	5+E3	4+E2	3	2	1
LISTINGS	34	177	275	178	72	8
%	4.6%	23.8%	37%	23.9%	9.7%	1.1%
VARIATION						
FROM	1.0%	0.4%	-3.5%	-2.0%	3.8%	0.5%
2015						

It is significant to note that there has been an increase in the number of Bands 5 and 6. As indicated by the table above, 65.4 % of achieved grades are drawn from the top three bands. We are proud to report that 21 individual students achieved a total of 34 honour listings. Moreover, Kayla Christensen is the first MacKillop student to achieve "All Rounder" status, with a total of 12 units at honours listing level. Kayla attained an ATAR of 98.8. She will be presented with the "Stephen Aitken Shield for Personal Best HSC Award". This is a remarkable achievement.

There is much to celebrate when considering the Class of 2016 and their achievements, some achieving First in the Diocese; Darcy Boyd achieved in Design and Technology, Kayla Christensen in both SOR1 and Legal Studies, Jasmin Constantinidis in Dance, Angelique Goss in Japanese Continuers, Monique Ryan in Senior Science, Bonnie Ryan in Community and Family Studies and Mitchell Thomas for Construction Exam. The College community is immensely proud of our students and their achievements. We wish them every blessing for the future and hope that they continue to uphold the values of the College wherever they go.



### Welcome to New Kinders

#### Kindergarten Teachers speak about the first days of 'big school' for Kinders.

**CAMERAS WERE CLICKING** and tears were flowing (from children and parents alike) as the 8.45am bell rung on the 2 February 2017. It was the first day of 'big school' and the start of 13 years of schooling for the 78 Kinder students.

We all gathered together to share two days before classes were finalised. On Friday each child knew if they were a Wattle, Grevillea or Banksia student ready to learn after a restful weekend.

Kindergarten children have made an enthusiastic and happy beginning to 'big school'. It has been a busy and hot few weeks learning all the new routines and rules, bell times and how to be a 'bucket filler'! Friendships were formed, names were learnt and fruit break was enjoyed. Some children even got to do special jobs such as take the office bag to the office.

We have enjoyed meeting our Year 6 buddies, borrowing books from the library and having fun with Mrs Denneman during sports lessons. It has also been an exciting time to make new friends and discover new places to play. All of the 'new' things have been tiring to learn but it has been amazing to see their resilience and positive attitude shining through.

The Kindergarten teachers are very proud and blessed to teach such a wonderful group of children. The kindergarten journey has just begun and there are exciting times ahead for growing and learning.









### Primary sporting success

#### Kellie Denneman reviews our latest sports.

**AT OUR FIRST** Community Time assembly this year, we were able to announce the results of our 2017 Swimming Carnival held at Wyong Pool late last year.

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

	GIRLS	BOYS
7/8 YRS	Cora Logan	Patrick Kyle
9 YRS	Ruby Black	Kyle Northey
10 YRS	Jasmin Fisher	Dylan Wightman
11 YRS	Emma Jones	William Coppen
12/13 YRS	Abbey Ryan	Ben Barrett

A Special mention of Dylan Wightman who broke 2 records on the day in an outstanding individual performance.

We had one colour house dominate the Swimming Carnival this year winning by over 50 points. Congratulations to TEMUKA. Results were as follows

1.	Temuka
2.	Gesu
3.	Fitzroy
4.	Kincumber

5. Alma

6. Penola

Congratulations to the following 32 swimmers who have qualified to compete for MacKillop at the Primary Schools Central Coast Swimming Carnival at Mingara on Monday 27th February:

Dylan Wightman, Sam Coppen, Jasmin Fischer, Ben Barrett, William Coppen, Emma Jones, Patrick Kyle, Toby Clark, Cora Logan, Mya Fuller, Kye Northey, Samuel Barrett, Ruby Black, Blaire Shaw, Ryan Mills, Millie Timp, Oren Stone, Stephanie Kyle, Travis Northey, William Morton, Abbey Ryan, Piper Berry, Brayden McDonald, Mikaedy Sammut, Madison Dunn, Benjamin Crick, Bree Travers, Zoe Henderson, Joshua Hyland, Kai Rennie, Maya Rennie & Emily Sanders. We wish them all the very best of luck.

#### POLDING SUMMER SPORT TRIALS - NEWCASTLE

In sweltering conditions many students from the northern Catholic Dioceses travelled to Newcastle to participate in the 2017 Polding Summer SportTrials. Mikaedy Sammut (Yr 6) proudly represented Broken Bay in the Polding Girls Cricket Trials. We congratulate Mikaedy on being selected in the Polding team. She will now participate in the NSWPSSA Cricket Carnival in Maitland in November this year.



### Secondary Sports Leaders

Duncan Black reviews our sports for this term.

**TERM 1 IS** always very busy for students and staff in all facets of the college. Sport this term will see our three carnivals, Swimming on 2 March, Athletics on 17 March and Cross Country on 30 March.

The following students from Year 12 have been selected to be the College House Leaders. These students were elected by their peers from their pastoral class and the students then filled out an application. The College congratulates the following students and wishes them all the very best.

- Temuka Matilda Gittins
- Penola Bianca Alexiou, Curtis Lang and Abbie MacDonald
- Gesu Ryan Brockwell
- Fitzroy Carmine Barone
- Alma Oregan Mann
- Kincumber Tom Devlin and Jordyn Toms-Wedge



### Primary embark on leadership

#### Ann Jackson welcomes Primary leaders for 2017.

**ON MONDAY 13TH** February, the Primary school celebrated the inauguration of our Primary School Leaders and SRC (Student Representative Council) members at a Liturgy, led by our new leaders, in the church. Our School Captains for 2017 are Amelia Depasquale and Leo Biju who will be fine ambassadors for our school. We wish them well in their leadership roles this year.

The Year 6 Leaders in Mission, Culture and Wellbeing, as well as our House Leaders, are as follows:

- Mission: Paige Sadler, Damon Lowe
- Culture: Kristine Bito-On, Bella Pearce
- Wellbeing: Amber-Jade Hain, Abbey Ryan
- Alma: Georgia Fellowes, Jack Killalea
- Fitzroy: Piper Berry, Will Barr
- Gesu: Sienna Caulfield, Ryan Travers
- Kincumber: Brieanna King, Rex Maleszka

- Penola: Thomas Taylor, Lilly Wooden
- Temuka: William Morton

The SRC members for 2017 are:

- 3 Banksia: Zali Knight, Michael Vrljic
- 3 Grevillea: Joshua Allison, Hannah Borg
- 3 Wattle: Sam Sulkowski, Phoebe Meers
- 4 Banksia: Cooper Caulfield, Claudia Portolesi
- 4 Grevillea: Grace Farmer, Jack Benson
- 4 Wattle: Kalan Lowe, Violet Rodenbaugh
- 5 Banksia: Madison Dunn, Louis Davis
- 5 Grevillea: Matthew Allison, Keeley Swaysland
- 5 Wattle: Manuel Ampoma-Gyamfi, Zoe Henderson Congratulations to all these students as they embark on their leadership journey for our school community for 2017.





### Year 7 transition to high school

#### Kathleen Black speaks about the Peer Support Program.

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

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

This Term, Year 7 students have been working in groups of 8-10 with 2 or 3 Peer Leaders from Year 10, during each Pastoral Period with session activities designed around Transition and Values. The wonderful Year 10 Leaders who were accepted to facilitate a series of activities have demonstrated reliability and strong leadership skills as they guide Year 7 through the challenges of high school. Students have participated in a few sessions already and have conducted themselves positively. It shows how important building relationships with others are when beginning a new journey, in a fun and supportive environment.



### Year 7 commence with eagerness

#### Michael Rickards reflects on a positive start for Year 7.

**ON TUESDAY 31ST** January our Year 7 cohort gathered on a very hot day down in the hall to be welcomed and to start a new chapter in their lives.

Students then went to their pastoral classes to get familiar with their planners and timetables. Year 7 where then organised into their peer support groups and worked with our Year 10 students on activities designed to help them feel comfortable and get to know one another. I would like to thank Mrs Black and all of our Year 10 students who gave up their time to train last year and to run the workshops.

The pastoral teachers for Year 7 are Fitzroy- Mr Francica, Penola - Mrs Symons, Gesu - Mr Hughes, Alma - Mrs Scott, Temuka - Mrs Martin and Kincumber - Mrs Abel. You child's pastoral teacher should be your first contact if your child is having any issues settling into high school.

A couple of events we have coming up include the excursion to MacKillop Place and Kincumber on 22 and 23 of March. A note has been sent home with information regarding this. The Year 7 Camp at The Great Aussie Bush Camp at Tea Gardens will be in first week back next term. A note will be coming home regarding this in the next couple of weeks.

This Sunday 19 February we look forward to seeing our Year 7 students at the Parish Welcome Mass. Families and students will be welcomed with a barbeque lunch and students will be presented with a small gift. Year 7 is going so quickly already and the group are to be commended on the way they have settled into the demands of high school.





### 2017 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

### MISSION 'Be a light to the world'

#### GOAL

To be immersed in a Catholic school culture that embraces God's love and mercy.

#### PLAN

- To realign the structure of the Mission team for its role.
- To establish a Mission Outreach Program for social justice and service with clearly defined parameters.
- Identify, invite and support students to engage in the sacramental life through the RCIC program.
- To foster greater connection and participation of students, staff and families within their Parish.
- Launch the new visual identity embodying the Josephite charism.

faith

discipleship

hope

### LEARNING CULTURE 'Value learning'

#### GOAL

To engage with models of learning to improve student outcomes.

#### PLAN

- Appoint additional leaders of learning in both Primary and Secondary to coordinate learning initiatives.
- Offer combined KLA PL sessions.
- Introduce and expand on the inquiry learning model K-12.
- Continue the next phase in the Window of Excellence.
- Introduce cross-campus specialist teaching opportunities.
- Continue the liaising and support relationship between Primary and Secondary Literacy and Numeracy Coaches.
- Further develop iPads as a resource for learning.



#### GOAL

To enhance the wellbeing of our dynamic, connected College community.

#### PLAN

- Engage further speakers/presenters for parent workshops based on identified needs especially in the area of mental health to support student wellbeing.
- Engage the community with the tenth year celebration of our sister school visit in 2016.
- Appoint a Family Liaison Officer to work with our community in support of families
- Introduce a before and after school care facility to support Primary families
- Strengthen the parent network concept nitlated in 2015
- Review and monitor the College calendar to overcome event crowding
- Develop the new Secondary PD 6 program to support student wellbeing
- Develop a process for debriefing leading stall for major events
- Continue and add to staff wellbeing program.
- Build a fundratising program to support College-based projects.

compassion

integrity



