

ISSUE 10 | WEEK 10, TERM 2 2017

COLLEGE**Matters**

Out and about in Term Two



MACKILLOP
Catholic College
WARNERVALE

CELEBRATING CONFIRMATION

**SELECTING NEW STUDENT
LEADERS**

WALKING SAFELY TO SCHOOL



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Term 2 happenings

A message from our College Principal, Steve Todd.

I HOPE THIS final week of Term 2 marks the completion of a good term for each student, family and staff member. Many events and happenings have shaped our Term and I offer my thanks to one and all for the good spirit of cooperation that is so evident across this College community. It is always a most pleasant experience to be out and about with our students.

There are a few topics that I need to mention to all families and for this reason, I have recently forwarded a letter to all parents. This letter covers some big picture matters for the College: A new Parent Partnership Charter; An update on Sparks Rd, Support for School Fees, a new College Master Plan and an upgrade to the College's website. I hope this letter provides you with some insights into the thinking and planning around these matters.

After the June long weekend, the Secondary School held their annual Parent/Teacher Interviews that ran from 8.30am through to 8.30pm on 13 June. The 12 hours of interviews was a massive day for the staff, students and parents and I thank all our teaching staff for their dedication with supporting learning at the College. I also thank our parents and students for attending over 3800 interviews. The positive and supportive atmosphere in the Hall across the day was very impressive.

On Friday 9 June, the College hosted a visit from all the Josephite Secondary Schools from across Australia and New Zealand. The visit was part of the annual AJASS Conference and the delegates thoroughly enjoyed their visit to MacKillop. Our visitors commented on the very friendly, warm and welcoming nature of our students. The visiting Principals took away some insights into how we live out our Josephite charism and this in turn offers them a reflection on their own school's Josephite

ministry.

It is with much pride around our Josephite spirit that the Sisters have asked us to support a young Josephite novice for joining our College community in Term 3 as part of her formation ministry. Her name is Jane Maisey and she is from New Zealand. Jane will be residing with Sr Marea as she supports our College and Parish over the term. We are hopeful of introducing Jane to the students at our Feast of Mary MacKillop Mass on Tuesday 8 August. It seems a very fitting day to commence at MacKillop Warnervale.

There has been much debate across the media and with our Catholic Schools community about the changes to Schools Funding by the Australian Government. This issue has raised a great deal of concern for the leaders of the Catholic School system in Australia. Both, our Bishop, Peter Comensoli and our Director of Schools, Peter Hamill have been very proactive and vocal on this issue. The commitment of the Catholic School sector is to continue to provide a quality education for every student in a Catholic school. Both Bishop Peter and Peter Hamill wish me to pass on their thanks to parents for your understanding and ongoing support. They also wish me to reassure parents that the Catholic School system will be managing the outcomes of the new legislation and that there remains a commitment to the availability of Catholic School education for every family. The story of why Catholic Schools exists and the associated ministry for the education of young people remains the prime motivation of our system of Catholic schools.

I wish one and all the very best for Term 3.

The gifts we give our students

A message from our Primary Principal, Sue Dietrich.

DURING TERM 2, our children celebrated receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, and it is opportune to reflect on the meaning of this Sacrament in our lives. Growth is vital to human life; the body and mind must grow to stay alive. As Catholics, we believe that the soul also needs to grow to maturity in the life of grace, just as the human body must grow through childhood, adolescence, and adulthood. We believe the Sacrament of Confirmation is the supernatural equivalent of this growth process. It builds on what began with Baptism and was then nourished in Holy Eucharist. It completes the process of initiation into the Christian community, and it matures the soul for the work ahead. The sacrament is called Confirmation because the faith given in Baptism is now confirmed and made strong. Confirmation means accepting responsibility for your faith and destiny. Childhood is a time when you are told 'what to do', and you react positively to reward and negatively to punishment. Adulthood, even young adulthood, means that you must do what is right on your own, not for the recognition or reward but merely because it is the right thing to do. Congratulations to these children and their families.

During the second half of this term, we have enjoyed many achievements and activities. Many of our children received the Sacrament of Confirmation; teachers have written reports for the children reviewing their achievements and setting goals for the remainder of this year; the Life Education Van arrived for the Healthy Harold sessions; we danced through the term with Footsteps lessons and the disco to culminate this program; several excursions have taken place; our Year 6

children headed off on their major excursion to Canberra and the children have taken part in a variety of sporting events. All in all, we have already experienced an eventful Term 2, filled with much excitement and learning, experienced by all in our Primary campus.

As we continue our work of educating the children in our MacKillop community, these views of the education of the child spring to mind:

- Each student is actively engaged in learning and is connected to the school and broader community.
- Each student has access to quality learning and is supported by qualified, caring adults.
- Each student is challenged academically and prepared for success in further study and for employment and participation in a global environment.
- Each student learns about and practices a healthy lifestyle
- Each student learns in an environment that is physically and emotionally safe for students and adults.

It is not easy as teachers and parents to be a model for another human being, but it is a big part of our role. There is a saying that, "Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been". Hopefully that will be the explanation for our wrinkles as our turn of role model gives way to our children making their own grown-up choices and, perhaps, taking upon themselves the mantle of role model.

Thank you for your support of our staff and community. I wish you all a wonderful, relaxing holiday break and look forward to reconnecting with all our families in Term 4.



Reflecting on the first semester

A message from our Secondary Principal, Deb Ferguson.

AT THE END of Term 2 it is fitting to reflect on the first semester of 2017. Schools are always busy places with so much happening in sport, cultural events, competitions and leadership but the work of the teacher and student in the classroom day to day is the core work of any school and it must be highly valued by all staff, students and parents.

We are very pleased with the progress being made in the College in the area of critical thinking and the use of technology as an engagement tool. We view this as a long term project as we all learn more together about how to best implement the latest research into practical daily tasks to allow our students to be prepared for a life in the 21st century. Our teachers are attending conferences, participating in webinars and working together to analyse results and to continually amend and improve units of work and assessment tasks and their teaching practice. We are talking to the students in class and at assemblies to educate them about the processes and their need to pursue their dreams by being fully attentive and engaged and completing all their work to the best of their ability.

This term our students have completed a number of formal assessments and our Year 7-11 students have sat half-yearly exams in some subjects. Year 7 and 9 also sat their NAPLAN exams. These are important and have a place in the education

process but students need to realise that every lesson is just as important. The daily learning, the learning preparation at night and the classroom activities are the building blocks for success. Being at school every day ensures continuity of learning and the building of confidence in their learning.

We were very thankful and impressed by the large number of parents who attended Parent/Teacher interviews this year and the strong interest shown in their children's learning and how they can best support and encourage them to reach their true potential. We are grateful for the support of our parents and their trust in us to do our very best with guiding them to becoming great citizens with an academic background to be able to fulfil their dreams and goals.

Yes, much has occurred this Semester and all these events and successes can be found in the published College Matters from this year as well as on our website and Facebook pages but so much more has occurred in our classrooms by dedicated teachers and hope-filled students. I can only agree with the statement below by Abraham Lincoln in the 1800's that is still so true for today,

"Upon the subject of education ... I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people may be engaged in."

National Walk Safely to School Day

Debra Ferguson *tells us about the support for this event.*

NOW IN ITS 19th year, National Walk Safely to School Day (WSTSD) is an annual event where all Primary School children are encouraged to walk and commute safely to school. It is a Community Event seeking to promote Road Safety, Health, Public Transport and the Environment.

The event was held throughout Australia on Friday, 18 May, 2018.

The objectives of WSTSD are:

- To encourage parents and carers to walk to school with primary school age children and reinforce safe pedestrian behaviour.
- To promote the health benefits of walking and help create regular walking habits at an early age.
- To ensure that children up to 10 years old hold an adult's hand when crossing the road.
- To help children develop the vital road-crossing skills they will need as they become mature pedestrians.
- To reduce the car dependency habits that are being created at an early age and which will be difficult to change as children become adults.
- To promote the use of Public Transport.
- To reduce the level of air pollution created by motor

vehicles.

- To reduce the level of traffic congestion.

At MacKillop we added to this day by including the secondary students and a further goal of alerting everyone to the fact the crossing at the lights at the entrance to our College is still a 70km zone, not a 40km school zone. This crossing is extremely dangerous when we consider it has 6 lanes and we have 5 year olds to 18 year olds crossing it daily as well as members of the community.

We were very grateful for the support of both our Federal MP, Emma McBride, and our State Member, David Harris, both of whom walked with the 250 students, teachers and parents on the day.

Emma has been promoting in parliament a need for an overhead bridge to be built across Sparks Road and has been actively supporting this on various radio stations and in our local paper.

Mr Todd and the Student Parliament will continue to lobby for this bridge to be built and we are very proud of everyone who walked on the day. We also wish to thank the Breakfast Club who catered for everyone at the end of the walk and also thank Emma McBride for supplying promotional signs, stickers, fresh fruit and water for the morning.





Senior Student Leadership

John McNamara *talks about the selection of our newest Senior Student Leaders.*

EACH AND EVERY year our Year 12 Leaders make a significant contribution to the College. From taking charge of Port Folio's, to encouraging student parliament members, our Year 12 Leaders play an integral role in supporting the operation of the College in many ways. Mackillop always retires the current Year 12 Leaders at the end of Term 2, so they can begin to focus fully on their pending HSC Trials and final HSC Examinations. To make this possible, our Year 11 students need to begin a process of Leadership Nomination and Meritorious Selection. I am delighted to inform the College Community that 30 inspirational Year 11 students put themselves forward this year and had their nomination endorsed by a fellow student and staff member. They each prepared an extensive nomination form, outlining their personal strengths and their visions for the College into the future. These nomination forms were published collectively in a single document so our staff could study them closely. This publication was an inspirational document in itself, emphasising the tremendous talent pool amongst our Year 11 students this year.

In week 7, each of the 30 nominees presented a speech to the Secondary students and staff. Most adults would find making a presentation to an audience of over 1000 people confronting. All of our nominees were nervous, but decorated themselves in glory by making outstanding presentations. I was delighted with their ideas, their presence and their humility. Following these presentations, our Year 10, Year 11, Year 12 students and staff voted for the students they believed would best form a leadership group. The final list of students who will now form the Senior Student Leadership

positions is:

Monique Gilbert	Nicholas Hervas	Teearnah Langbridge
Kate Fullbrook	Joshua Lovett	Joshua Hedges
Gabrielle Baus	Kynan Currey	Maddison Potter-Evans
Seth Cowie	Dena De Chellis	Tiarnagh Montague
Sean Clair	Edric Alejo	Dakya Massey
Alex Toomey	India Kay	

Following their successful election, these students will now travel to our Senior Leadership Camp at the St Joseph's Spirituality and Education Centre at Kincumber. Here they spend two days working with key staff and exploring various aspects of leadership and the responsibilities of their leadership role. At the end of the two day camp, the leaders will vote for who they feel will best serve as College Captains. I am confident that these young men and women will make the best choice possible regarding our College Captains for 2017/2018.

For me personally, I was very comfortable with all of the 30 nominees who put themselves forward. The quality of this field was as strong as any other in the history of the College. Out of it has come a wonderful group of young men and women who will now bond together and unite strongly as a team. With their individual talents, a desire to work effectively with others and a passion for forward thinking initiatives, this group will no doubt serve the College well. I look forward to journeying with them over the remainder of 2017 and 2018. I congratulate and commend them to the College Community.



The Sacrament of Confirmation

Kerry Power *shares this special time.*

ONE THING WE ask, Lord:

to live in the beauty of your Word

and to be transformed by its wisdom and wonder.

Send your Spirit that we might abide within your presence

and live in the house of the Lord all the days of our lives. Amen.

The sacrament of Confirmation completes the sacrament of Baptism. Confirmation is a Sacrament of Initiation; it establishes young people as fully fledged members of the faith. The sacrament's name Confirmation comes about because the faith given in Baptism by parents is now being confirmed and made stronger. During Confirmation, the focus is on the Holy Spirit, who confirmed the apostles at Pentecost and gave them courage to spread the Good News to all and practice their faith without fear.

The celebration of Confirmation was held at St Mary of the Cross Mackillop Church on 20 May. Two ceremonies presented approximately 45 children each with Bishop Peter Comensoli attending and presiding. Bishop Peter talked about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and the significance of a special saint to inspire and guide us throughout our life. Children were blessed and presented their significant saint as their Confirmation names. Sponsors promised to be a 'spiritual friend' who would continue to assist and guide the children with love and care, on their journey of faith. The students had prepared for the sacrament by participating in four Parish-based lessons with volunteers as teachers of faith. The children received a blessing and a Holy Spirit pin as a gift and memento of the day.

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



Never Miss a Chance to Dance

Kylie Huggins *shares the Footsteps dance experience in Primary.*



FOR THE PAST 10 weeks, every Thursday, the COLA area has come alive with the sound of music and the pitter patter of dancing feet! The primary classes have been treated to a weekly dance lesson from the dance company, Footsteps. The company specialises in curriculum based movement programs that use dance as a vehicle to develop students' interpersonal skills and increase fitness levels.

From hip hop to barn dancing and everything in between, the Primary students have experienced all types of dance. The structured lessons introduce new dance steps in a fun and engaging way and encourage all students to strut their stuff. Many teachers have been seen joining in the fun as they take a trip down memory lane with the nostalgic tunes.

The lessons culminate in a disco run by the very talented instructor, Georgia. It is at this disco where the students have the opportunity to share their Footsteps experience with family and friends and show off their polished dance moves. The disco is always a fun evening and would not be complete without the resurrection of old favourites such as the Macarena and the Nut bush! We look forward to sharing some highlights from the disco and reporting on the dance moves from both the students and teachers.

Lots happening in Primary sport

Kellie Denneman *shares the primary sport results.*

BROKEN BAY CROSS COUNTRY

CONGRATULATIONS TO ZOE Henderson, Connor Hibbard, Keely Swaysland, Elise Arthur (absent in photo), Zack Goddard, Brandon Whitmore, Josh Hyland & Emma Jones who represented the school and the Central Coast Cluster at the Broken Bay Cross Country at Fagan Park, Galston on Tuesday 23 May.

5 of our runners placed within the top 25 athletes in the Diocese for their age group which is a wonderful effort:

- Emma Jones – 14th place
- Keely Swaysland – 16th place
- Joshua Hyland – 21st place
- Connor Hibbard 24th place
- Brandon Whitmore – 25th place

PAUL KELLY CUP AFL

On Thursday, 25 May the Primary students from Years 5 and 6 participated in the AFL Paul Kelly Cup competition at Gosford. Our school was proudly represented by a boys and girls team, along with 22 other schools who competed on the day. Both teams competed hard, winning a few games and having a lot of fun. Thank you to Mr Sadler who was the head coach of the girl's team.

CATHOLIC & INDEPENDENT CUP RUGBY LEAGUE

The Catholic Schools Rugby League Knockout was held on Friday 22 June at Berkeley Vale Oval. This tournament is organised by Country Rugby League and played in regional areas throughout NSW. MacKillop entered an under 10's and opens team to compete against a number of Central Coast schools. Each team played 4 games each.

The under 10's team played exceptionally well and were undefeated for the day. They played some great football and had a great time. As under 10's is a non-competitive competition there were no finals. Well done boys!

The opens team did well to field a team due to Year 6 being away at Canberra. The boys that played faced some tough competition but put in a great effort. It was very pleasing to see how hard they tried and never gave up. Awesome effort!

A huge thank you to Duncan Black (who coached the under 10's) and to Mr Scott (who coached the opens).

Overall, the day was a huge success with every team playing with fantastic sportsmanship and generally just having a great deal of fun. Everyone involved represented our school in a way that we should all be very proud.

CCC SOCCER GALA DAY

On Thursday, 22 June 45 boys and girls from Year 5 represented the College at the CCC Soccer Gala Day. We had 5 teams across a number of divisions displaying wonderful soccer skills and an even greater sense of pride for MacKillop. We had some tough fought games across the day, but the boys and girls never gave up and represented the College with strength, determination, sportsmanship and enthusiasm. The day could not have been successful without the wonderful parent helpers who coached, managed and cheered on our teams – thank you! It was a wonderful result for our College, with our Division 2 Girls team finishing the day undefeated and the Division 1 Boys team finishing runners up by 1 point. All other teams had some wonderful wins and were also very graceful in defeat. Congratulations to all our amazing soccer superstars on such a wonderful day!



Giving opportunities to represent

Duncan Black *writes about the achievements of our students in sport.*

THIS TERM HAS showcased many talented individuals and team sports for MacKillop Catholic College.

A number of students have been selected or have been nominated to represent the College in various sports. This term we saw 33 team events from Futsal, Rugby League, Soccer, AFL and Netball. I would like to thank the teachers who have selected teams, prepared lessons and organised training sessions in their own time to provide these students with an opportunity to represent the College in their chosen sport.

SOCCER - BILL TURNER CUP (BOYS)

The U15's boys' soccer team entered into the Bill Turner Cup with a lot of promise. In round 1, the boys played Gorokan High and won convincingly 8-2. In round 2 they played Brisbane Water Secondary College posting another big win with 7 goals to 1. The boys came up against Kincumber High but went down 4-2.

SOCCER - BILL TURNER TROPHY (GIRLS)

The U15 girls' soccer team entered the Bill Turner Trophy this year with a young team. They played Gorokan High School scoring a late goal to 3-2. On moving on to the next round against Tumby Umbi, the girls were defeated 3 goals to nil.

Both the Boys and Girls U15 soccer teams will now focus their attention to the BBSSA tournament.

AFL - (GIRLS OPENS)

Both teams had exceptional performances in the Open A and Open B teams. The girls trained together each week and on the day were split across the two teams. Both teams had a win and a loss, however demonstrated improved skill throughout the tournament. These two teams then combined and they competed in the Giants Cup in Sydney. Unfortunately they played against some very strong teams and were defeated on the day. All the girls enjoyed the experience.

AFL - UNDER 15

The College fielded 2 teams that participated in the Central Coast region of the Swans Cup. This year a Year 7/8 team were competitive all day and had one win in their pool division.

The Under 15 (Year 9) team were undefeated all day, going

through to the Grand Final which they won 68-1. They will progress through to the Northern NSW Region finals in Medowie which will be played next term.

RUGBY LEAGUE

The U16 boys' team had a successful Central Coast Roosters gala day which was held earlier this term at Northern Lakes. The boys had 2 wins and a draw in the pool rounds and played against a tough opposition in the semi-final against Wadalba High. The boys will now play St Edwards College in the final.

The Opens boys' team came together exceptionally well. On the day they had 2 wins, 1 loss and a draw. Unfortunately they missed a semi-final berth.

GIRLS RUGBY LEAGUE - 9S

Each Thursday during activities afternoon, forty Year 7-10 girls train each week to develop and learn the skills of Rugby League. These girls have demonstrated commitment and dedication each week. They have now had the opportunity to represent the College in competitions.

The U14 girls' were split across two teams, Red and Black. At the gala day, the Red team went through undefeated in the pool and they now progress to the Central Coast Roosters Final to be played in the coming weeks against Gorokan High (this has been postponed due to wet weather). The Black team mostly comprised of new players who also did exceptionally well and they had 1 win and 2 losses in the pool.

The U16 girls' had very similar results as the under 14 team. They had some very tough competition on the day. The girls had 2 wins and 2 losses.

The Open girls came up against some formidable opponents on the day. Gorokan High and The Entrance High were too strong for our girls. The Open team remained committed however and kept competing strongly throughout the day.

NETBALL

The Yr7/8 and Yr8 Netball teams played at the NSW Schools Cup in Gosford. All teams competed well, finishing top of their pool. Both teams will now progress to the next level of this competition to be held in Maitland.





Year 10 Visual arts

Jillian Young *showcases our talented students.*

CERAMIC VESSELS BASED on fire, air, wind and water.



Escape from Pompeii

Erin Sullivan *and Year 11 students share their excursion experiences.*

ON SATURDAY 27 May 2017 Miss Sullivan took a group of Year 11 and 12 Ancient history students on an excursion to the Australian National Maritime Museum to see the exhibition called 'Escape from Pompeii the Untold Roman Rescue'. On the excursion we watched a detailed video on the volcanic explosion and how it affected the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum. As we continued through the exhibition we were greeted by small artefacts and more short clips about Pompeii. We continued to walk through and started to see statues and pots from the time of the volcanic eruption that buried Pompeii and Herculaneum; in the centre of the room laid a large chest that fascinated many of the students in Ancient History. Miss Sullivan explained that the well-educated, which were also known as the upper class, owned the chest and saved valuables like gold and treasured items in a safe place. As we continued to walk we ended up looking at carbonized bread, statues and plaster casts of people huddling together for shelter, along with the cast of a pig. Our small class of Year 11 and 12 students were also extremely fascinated by the golden necklaces, bracelets and beautiful jewellery, as they were very gorgeous and very catching to the eye. After the extremely fascinating exhibit, we were all tired from the early rise and a lot of walking around, it was finally time to head out for lunch and then back home.

By Shaylin Gough, Ebony Godwin and Mackenzie Kennedy-Rowles



Year 1 is learning about life!

Christine Owen *summarises the term.*



YEAR 1 HAS had an enjoyable start to the year with excursions, visiting speakers, grandparents' day, church celebrations and much, much more!

We started the year in Term 1 together exploring the weird and wonderful world of insects with walks around the school and experiments in class. The students discovered a range of interesting facts about the features of insects, their lifecycles, habitats, movement patterns and diets; all of which they were able to write about in detailed information reports.

Then in Term 2 we have explored the past and discovered how things have changed throughout time. We celebrated this discovery by inviting Grandparents to school to talk about when they were young and how things have changed in their lifetime. This was an eventful day and very well attended by all Grandparents.

In Term 2 we also went on an excursion to Tocal Homestead where we experienced life from the past. We washed clothes using a washing board, played old fashioned games such as knuckles and also saw a blacksmith moulding metal. This was a fabulous day even though it was a little wet underfoot as a consequence of the recent rain.

Retreat to Collaroy

Maisie Tenev *discusses what it means for Year 10 to 'Retreat' for the first time.*

IN WEEK EIGHT, Year 10 students were provided with the opportunity to leave their everyday life behind and experience their first Retreat at Collaroy in Sydney. The students boarded the buses early Thursday morning for a full day of activities and sessions together as a group and returned Friday afternoon, exhausted but in high spirits.

The theme of the Retreat was 'Positive Relationships' and there were a range of sessions that challenged students to reflect on the importance of having positive relationships with themselves, with others and with God. Over the course of the two days the students had time to spend with their friends playing soccer, basketball and participate in a range of outdoor activities. The outdoor activities included the drop pole, the giant swing and the flying fox.

We were fortunate enough to have some reflective time in the evening through a liturgy and the prayer stations that followed. Thank you to Mrs Price, Miss Kovacic and Mr Wallis and the students who assisted with the evening. The readings, the music and the way in which the students participated, meant that students were able to engage in the prayer stations in a meaningful way.

A heartfelt thanks must be made to the staff that left their own families and loved ones at home so that the Year 10 students were able to enjoy their first Retreat. Mrs Price, Miss Kovacic, Miss Williamson, Mrs Crowe, Mr Wallis, Mr Hughes, Mr Gasparotto and Mr Heffernan, thank you for your time and effort. We are so blessed to work in such a supportive community.



