

ISSUE 11 | WEEK 5, TERM 3 2017

COLLEGE **Matters**

CHRIST OUR LIGHT



Great Spirit on show *in Term Three*

**WELCOMING THE NEW STUDENT
LEADERS**

**CELEBRATING OUR FEAST DAY IN
STYLE**

OUR JAPANESE SISTER SCHOOL VISIT



MACKILLOP
Catholic College
WARNERVALE



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With thanks and gratitude

A message from our College Principal, Steve Todd.

I TAKE GREAT pride in how this College community celebrates the Feast Day of St Mary MacKillop (8 August), as there is a really positive spirit in the College for what this feast means to us as a Josephite community. Once again we celebrated a full College Mass with 1500 students, 150 staff along with a good group of parents and Parishioners. This year had a wonderful additional blessing for our Josephite heritage with the Sisters placing a young novice, Jane Maissey with us for 3 months. It is a very exciting time for us and we hope Jane thoroughly enjoys her time of ministry here at Warnervale.

At this point of Term 3 many valued events and tasks have taken place for our students. At our beginning of the week staff briefings we often highlight events and groups of students and staff for how proudly they have represented themselves, their families and the College. A recent example of this was our annual Japanese Sister School visit that always leaves us with happy memories. A big thank you to the staff, students and families that made this year's visit such a positive experience.

Our Primary School Principal, Sue Dietrich is on leave this term and the Primary are managing well under the acting leadership of Ann Jackson, Kerry Power and Kylie Huggins. I know Mrs Dietrich will be very pleased to see the positive support of her staff along with the energetic efforts of all the students. There are so many areas of Primary life that need the

support of parents and we thank our Primary families for their continued goodwill and support. A wonderful example was the big number of grandparents that attended the Grandparents day here at the College on Friday 28 July.

Secondary parents will have received a letter from our Secondary Principal, Deb Ferguson acknowledging so many students for a wide range of activities and events. We often hear many compliments for how our Secondary students approach their sports and cultural commitments, engagement with the public on excursions and camps, and for just how they respond off their own bats out in the community. It is with much pride that we share the good news of this feedback with our community.

Finally, I do want to acknowledge the commissioning of the new student leadership team with the appointment of two new College Captains, Gabrielle Baus and Joshua Lovett. Gabbi and Josh follow in the capable footsteps of our outgoing College Captains, Samantha Vella and William O'Keefe. It was a most enjoyable experience to move through all the different components of the selection of new student leaders. The College community looks forward to the new student leadership's team's contribution to life here at MacKillop.

Blessings.



A fast paced Term 3

A message from our Acting Primary Principal, Ann Jackson.

TERM 3 HAS commenced, as our terms usually do, full throttle. During this term, I have the honour of stepping up into the role of Acting Principal whilst Mrs Dietrich takes some well-deserved Long Service Leave. I thank sincerely, Mrs Kerry Power and Mrs Kylie Huggins who have stepped up into new roles also as Acting Assistant Principal and Acting REC respectively. We are enjoying working together as a team and being there to support each other as needed. I am grateful too for the good people who work both with us and your children on a day to day basis and who make our jobs that much easier.

Heraclitis is quoted as saying that 'the only constant is change' and the end of Term 2 certainly ratified that statement. We had a few people leave us at that time with Mrs Angela Dunn securing a teaching position in Broken Hill where her husband had been stationed with NSW Fire and Rescue. Although we were sad to see her go, we were happy to welcome to our Year 2 team, Mr Brendan Lewis. The end of last term also saw Miss Wittman leaving 1W as Mrs Merrotsy re-joined us following her maternity leave in a job share situation with Mrs Danielle Lee.

Our Japanese students from our sister school Nihon Daiichi High have visited us and provided some great experiences for our primary students. The students really enjoy these interactions with our friends from Japan.

Grandparents were celebrated at a special Mass and morning tea on 28 July which fell within a few days of the feast

of Sts Anne and Joachim who were the grandparents of Jesus. Our grandparents visited their grandchildren's classrooms and enjoyed spending this time with them. It was lovely to see these interactions between the generations.

On Tuesday 8 August our College celebrated the feast of our College and Parish's Patron – Saint Mary of the Cross, MacKillop. We began our celebrations by connecting spiritually with Mary MacKillop through the celebration of Mass in the Aitkin Hall. We were joined by our Sisters of St Joseph; Sr Marea, Sr Anne, Sr Sylvia and Sr Jane, a young novice here on placement. We listened as each of them told their story of calling to vocation. Following on from the Mass, we had a whole school picnic on the oval and then a rousing house challenge where our six house teams challenged each other to a dance off with Kincumber emerging as the victors for 2017. Congratulations to them!

First Holy Communion takes place this term and our students have commenced their formation programme at Sunday Mass. This is the last of the sacraments our students will receive in primary school and we pray that their encounter with Jesus through this sacrament is a special one.

There are many people to thank for all they do to ensure the events we have at school are highly successful ones and we all appreciate their efforts. We look forward to the rest of what Term 3 has to offer and thank God for all the opportunities that the spirit will provide.



Teaching for the 21st Century

A message from our Secondary Principal, Deb Ferguson.

OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM at MacKillop discuss often what we need to ensure we are teaching our students to enable them to be successful in the 21st century global economy. There are so many reports and research projects into what our students will need.

But what, exactly, are 21st century skills? Are we just talking about computer and technology skills and who decides which skills make the list? A recent Hanover Research report, A Crosswalk of 21st Century Skills, sheds some light on the subject. This report looked at a number of reports and while each has a slightly different list of critical 21st century skills, all agree on four critical areas for development

- Collaboration and teamwork
- Creativity and imagination
- Critical thinking
- Problem solving

It is these four areas that MacKillop is also trying to develop with our students by using the research of Ron Richart and his

'Creating Culture of Thinking' (CoT). We have mentioned this to parents on a number of occasions this year and our staff are working very hard to participate in Professional Learning about CoT and are implementing routines and concepts this research recommends. The overall idea is to make the teacher more a facilitator and they work with the students to learn, question, research, and to gain the 4 points above.

We invite our parents to discuss with their children about how they learn and the importance of gaining these skills by being engaged in lessons and realising they need to step outside their comfort zone to gain these skills.

In this edition of College Matters there are so many articles of the achievements of our students, and I recently emailed home to you a letter stating how proud we all are of the MCC students. We are achieving so much at MacKillop but all the staff are committed to further improving our students skills and results so that they can easily move into the 21st century workforce.

Find happiness making others happy

Chrystal Price and Kerry Power *share a very special day for our College.*

TUESDAY 8 AUGUST was a very important day for the entire College community as we gathered to celebrate the Feast Day of our patron saint St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. The day began with a liturgical celebration as a K-12 community. Here we reflected upon the spirit of Mary MacKillop who chose to live as a servant of Christ.

We were very blessed to celebrate this important occasion with Sr Marea and the Sisters of Saint Joseph. During the reflection on the Gospel Sr Marea graciously welcomed Sr Anne and a Josephite novice; Jane Maisey into MCC. We were delighted to listen to Jane's testimony of faith and she will be joining us for the next couple of months working with the Mission Team in various areas of the College.

"Find happiness in making others happy"

Sister Jane Maisey used this quote from Mary MacKillop in her response to the gospel today and it summed up the feeling of our MacKillop Feast Day.

This was a delightful celebration of prayer in our community and we are so grateful to all those who assisted in the preparations for this liturgy, including our readers, servers and choir and talented musicians.

Throughout the day many of the activities revolved around the house spirit that is deeply connected to the life of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. The students sat in their houses during the liturgy, they celebrated the Feast Day with their peers in a picnic lunch but the spirit was definitely heightened during the House Challenge in the second part of the day.

The comradery amongst the K-12 community as each house performed with cheer and joy was a reminder of Christ's light burning brightly over this College and was a great end to a very important day in our Catholic life of the College. The energy and enthusiasm of our students throughout would certainly bring a smile to Mary MacKillop. The sense of community and happiness was clear on the faces of all from the beginning of the day until the final pack up.





Student Leaders Step-Up

Elizabeth Kovacic *talks about fun and hard work raising funds.*

INVITING PEOPLE TO form a team can often be a nerve-wracking experience. Students worry they will be the only one to show up and teachers worry there will only be one student who does show up. However, when it came to inviting a new batch of Year 10 students to form a Youth Ministry team, there was no cause for concern. Terms 2 and 3 have seen over 25 Year 10 students meet together fortnightly to discuss their hopes, prayers and plans for our College.

This Term has seen both Year 10 and 11 Youth Ministry student volunteers work together to plan the Year 8 Spirituality Day. As a team, they will facilitate and run the entire day for all of Year 8, leading games, talks and breakout sessions for their younger peers. There is excitement in the air in the lead-up to this event, so be sure to read following College Matters to see how much fun was had!

Speaking of fun, we are currently well under way in our fundraising efforts for students to represent the College at the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in December. Our first endeavour, being a sausage sizzle on MacKillop Day, was a great success! The team of students attending are hoping to raise as much of their registration fee as possible and will be running plenty of exciting events this term. If you have a student in Year 9, 10 or 11, who would like to encounter our Catholic culture in a real, engaging and relevant way, then encourage them to join us! It's an event you don't want to miss!



Celebrating Grandparents Day

Kylie Huggins *shares a fun event for young and old.*



ON FRIDAY 28 August there was much excitement in Primary as we welcomed many grandparents to the school. The day began with a beautiful Mass in the hall where we celebrated our spiritual grandparents, Saints Anne and Joachim.

Light refreshments followed Mass while the very talented Mrs Kate James prepared the hall for a musical extravaganza! We were entertained by musical pieces performed by the Year 4 students and the primary school band. This year we are fortunate enough to have 2 primary choirs who shared their talent and love of singing with the audience. Special mention must go to the Year 11 students who performed solo pieces.

The day concluded with visits to the primary classrooms where the grandparents enjoyed helping to create art pieces and had the opportunity to view their grandchild's samples of work.

We thank all the grandparents who were able to attend on the day and appreciate the positive feedback regarding the various activities. We look forward to welcoming the grandparents next year. A special thank you must go to the team who assisted to make the day a memorable experience for the primary community.



Together we applaud success

Anne Lovett *shares the celebration of our Academic Awards.*

IT WAS WITH pride that the Secondary College came together in Week 2 to acknowledge and congratulate students who were placed in first, second and third position in each subject area in each year group for Semester 1.

The calculation of these awards is based on the order of merit for each subject. The award recipients consistently and repeatedly applied themselves to their learning activities and tasks, and demonstrated responsibility and ownership for their own thinking and learning. We commend their academic success.

250 students received one or two certificates across the year groups and 46 students received our Academic Excellence Awards. These awards are given to students who achieved three or more Academic Certificates across the Key Learning Areas. Some recipients earned the highest mark or grade in more than one subject. They are keen and persistent students who show a mature attitude and willingness to improve their understanding of ideas, topics and concepts.

At MacKillop, we think it is important to acknowledge the different ways that students demonstrate success. It is time to celebrate academic success for Semester 1 and congratulate the merit of sustained application because in turn, this fosters key strengths and skills for life beyond the boundaries of MacKillop. We want our students to share their gifts and blessings, and thoughtfully contribute to the wider community. We look forward to more students walking across the stage as proud recipients of a certificate for academic achievement at the end of the year.

During the assembly, the student body acknowledged and honoured each award recipient. This reflected the communal spirit of good will, pride and generosity that we aim to foster and continue to grow. It was a pleasure to be a part of this celebration. To the parents and carers who attended our assembly, we say thank you.



Technology Updates for Term 3

Erin Sullivan *keeps us informed on new technology.*



IT HAS BEEN a busy start to Term 3 with regards to technology. Over the school holidays, the entire school was refitted with new Wireless Points as the diocese switched network providers. As a result of this, all staff and student BYO iPads were required to be reconnected to the network with new profiles. This was a significant task and I thank Mr Fuller and Mr Newell for their work in ensuring students and staff had internet access within the first week of term. Everyone was very patient with this process and now all iPads are reconnected to the network and students are again able to access their digital classwork.

As of this term staff and students in Secondary will be using Apple Classroom as part of the management and best practice for the use of iPads in class. This app allows students to join their teacher's class and then allows teachers to guide learning and share work. For example, a teacher will be able to launch a specific app, website, or textbook page on any device in the class, share documents between themselves and students, or share student work on a TV or projector using Apple TV, all with the initial permission of the student.

At times students do not make the best choices when using their iPads in the classroom. With Apple Classroom, teachers can utilise features that allow them to see which apps students are working in, and if necessary lock students' iPads to a required app, a particularly useful feature when using the iPads for class tests. Apple Classroom automatically disconnects from their teacher's iPad when they finish the lesson, leave the classroom or turn off their iPad.



Going from strength to strength

Helen Beech *shares our Sister Schools visit.*

WE ARE VERY fortunate at MacKillop Catholic College Warnervale to have an amazing sister school relationship with Nihon Daiichi Junior High School in Tokyo. Our visitors this year were Mr Takeshi Hatoyama, Assistant Principal, Ms Megu Kasuya, English Language teacher, and 25 students. Their tour conductors Ms Mika Kageyoshi and Mr Futoshi Kitajima also accompanied them.

Our visiting Nihon Daiichi students had some amazing experiences during their MacKillop visit. They attended English classes daily with Mrs Georgina Martin, Renae Kellie and Sara Butterworth. They attended a music class learning 'Home Among the Gumtrees' with Mr Shane LeBreton. They also had a dance class with Miss Rochelle Williamson and Year 10 Dance students. Ms Megan Phillipson taught the students how to make scones and let them try Australian teas and jams. They also undertook Aboriginal activities and really enjoyed it.

Exploring the Australian Reptile Park is one of the highlights of our sister school visit. The Japanese students and their host

student spent some time there together and there were many laughs. All the students had fun feeding the kangaroos and having their photo taken with a koala.

Our Year 2 and Year 3 students who are learning Japanese this year also had opportunities for cultural exchange during our sister school visit. Groups of students came together with our Japanese visitors to play games and learn calligraphy.

We would like to thank all the MacKillop host students and families for welcoming the Japanese students into their homes, allowing them to experience Australian life, and for giving them such wonderful experiences. This valued friendship between our two schools could not continue to thrive without the generosity of our amazing host families, the support of the school executive, the Japanese committee members, and the many staff who help year after to year to ensure the visit runs smoothly.

Arigatou Gozaimashita.

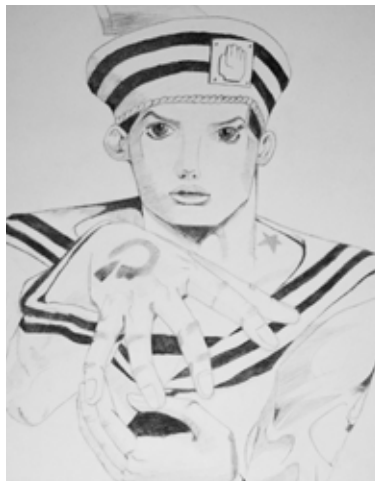




Year 11 Visual Arts

Jillian Young showcases our talented students.

PORTRAIT PAINTINGS AND drawings based on self portraits.



Celebrating 100 days of Kindy

Cath Paholski *shares all the happenings in Kindy.*

ON MONDAY 24 July the Kindergarten classes celebrated 100 days at school. They have been counting the days since their very first day in February and so it was a much anticipated day. The children had a few giggles seeing their classroom teachers dressing a little more 'elderly' than usual, especially Ms Martin! All the children brought in a very special '100 day project' which they had created at home. The task was to collect 100 items, for 100 days of school, and to display them creatively. We had a 'gallery walk' and visited each classroom to admire all of the amazing and eye popping artworks.

We spent the day doing lots of '100 themed' activities including, 100 day crowns, listening to a story about a caterpillar and his 100 shoes, and playing a race to 100 game in Maths. In the afternoon we had a fun grade party with a twist. Each student brought in a packet of party food to share and had to build groups of 10 yummy snacks to equal 100. There were lots of bulging brown paper bags filled with all sorts of treats taken home at the end of the day!

In 100 days our Kindergarten students have learnt so many words, numbers, rules, songs, made special friends and now catch buses and go to kiss and drop confidently. We are very proud of all they have achieved in just 100 days and look forward to seeing what they will do in the next 100!



Fantastic effort in Primary Sport

Kellie Denneman *shares the Primary sports results with us.*



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 60 students that represented MacKillop at CCC Athletics at Mingara on Friday 4 August. Their efforts were amazing!

Congratulations to Issac Zappala – Runner Up MALE ATHLETE OF THE MEET

11 Students qualified for Broken Bay Athletics at Narrabeen on Tues 29 August,

Isaac Zappala - 11Yr Boys 200m 1st - 11Yr Boys 100m 2nd and
11Yr Boys Long Jump 1st

Manuel Ampoma-Gyamfi - 11Yr Boys 200m 4th

Fynn Sadler - 9 Yr Boys 100m 3rd

Markus Wolscher - Jnr Boys High Jump 1st - Jnr Boys Long Jump 1st

Kai Rennie - Jnr Boys High Jump 2nd

Regan Beaver - 11Yr Girls Shot Put 4th

Travis Northey - 12Yr Boys Discus 3rd - 12 Yr Boys Shot Put 2nd

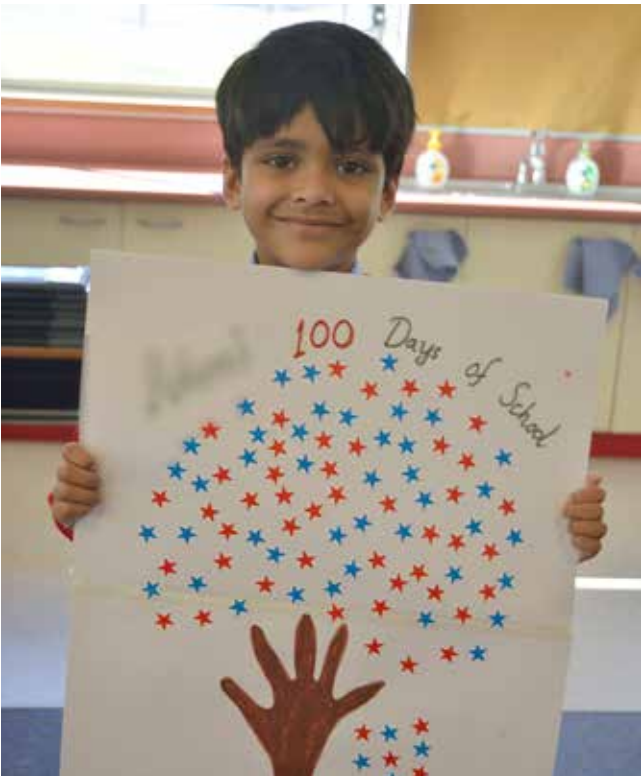
Anabelle Ross - 11Yr Girls High Jump 3rd

Brayden McDonald - 11Yr Boys High Jump 1st

Fa'alagilagi Brown - Jnr Girls Shot Put 1st

Samuel Amino - Jnr Boys Shot Put 3rd

Our Junior Boys Relay Team (Markus Wolscher, Kai Rennie, Fynn Sadler & Elija Guest) came 3rd and a special mention to the Senior Boys Relay team who came 4th.







Excelling on the Courts and Fields

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

THIS TERM HAS showcased many talented individuals and sport teams 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 20 team events from Futsal, Rugby League (Girls and Boys), Soccer (Boys and Girls), AFL (Boys and Girls) Netball, Surfing and Golf. 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.

Netball

Nine schools were in attendance with competition across four year divisions and 35 teams. The Junior/Intermediate and Senior divisions saw a very close competition, particularly between the top 4 sides. The convenor of the tournament utilised the indoor court for the second consecutive year. This will be maintained for all future years as it is a nice opportunity for our girls to play in such a venue and minimises the stress on the bodies of our elite senior athletes.

This year five schools contested the final divisional games with Mount St Benedict College featuring in all four finals. Congratulation to the three schools who eventually took home titles.

Year 7 - Mount St Benedict beat Mercy College – MacKillop 3rd

Junior (7/8) – MacKillop beat Mount Saint Benedict

Intermediate (9/10) – St Peters Catholic College beat Mount Saint Benedict – MacKillop 3rd

Seniors (11/12) – Mount Saint Benedict beat St Joseph's College – MacKillop 3rd

The College has two, 7 and 8 netball teams traveling to Maitland to play in the NSW Schools Cup after winning the Central Coast region final and later this term the year 7/8, 9/10 and 11/ 12 netball teams will travel to Penrith to play in the NSW CCC Netball Championships. We wish these teams and coaches involved the best luck.

Rugby League

The U16 boys' team had a successful Central Coast Roosters gala day which was held last 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 travelled to Brendan Franklin Oval to play in the Central Coast Final against St Edwards College. The under 16 boys went down to the St Edwards College 22 – 6. St Edwards went on to the NSW All Schools finals and were crowned the Under 16 NSW All Schools Champions.

Girls Rugby League – 9's

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 then 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. On the first day back at school this term the girls travelled to MacDonald Jones Stadium, Newcastle the home of the Newcastle Knights to play in the Central Coast /Newcastle / Hunter Region final. The girls played extremely well but unfortunately lost to Hunter Sports High School 26 – 16.

The girls have been given an opportunity to play in the NSW ALL Schools Championship held in Sydney in the coming weeks.

Under 13 Boys

The BBSSEA Rugby League Gala day is a non-competitive day. The idea of the gala day is to give students more opportunity to play sport for their schools. The day was fantastic and the students' behaviour and conduct on and off the field was exemplary.

I would like to make special mention of 3 boys from our College – Ashton Lovis, Flynn Dixon-Ross and Obi Millington for volunteering to play for St Brigid's Lake Munmorah as they had some injuries throughout the day. Your sportsmanship was noted, well done and thank you again.

Mackillop won 4 games and lost 2.



Celebrating our Feast Day

Debra Ferguson *shares the fun of the House Challenge.*

AT MCC THE Feast day of Mary MacKillop is extremely important and we wish to celebrate the day as a true K-12 community.

This term on 8 August we started the day with a beautiful Mass for all K-11. Year 12 could not join us due to their CSSA Trial exams.

After Mass and the handing out of the traditional M&Ms (we have claimed them as the Mary MacKillop sweets) the students enjoyed a picnic on the oval. With the Mass and picnic alone it is already a lovely community day.

However, in the afternoon, the students participate in a further event which they also truly enjoy – the House Challenge.

Each House has to create a mashing of a number of well-known songs and change their words to describe and suit their House. The Year 11 House Leaders work together with their House Teachers to create these great and entertaining songs. However, now the real fun begins. The students from K-11 meet over a period of three weeks to rehearse their songs, choreograph movement for the entire House, provide suitable costuming and props and to be as loud and musical as they

possibly can be.

The Year 11 House Leaders must be congratulated for all their hard work and enthusiasm. It must also be acknowledged that although the primary are very excited and enthusiastic some of the Secondary students are very difficult to enthuse and do not always participate with any real passion. The Leaders persevere and on the day and the performances are truly entertaining, amusing, skilful and a true community event with all students getting into the spirit of the afternoon.

We thank Mr Hughes and Ms Kovacic who were splendid MCs for the afternoon, we thank the parents who attended, all the teachers for their sense of good fun and all our judges made up of our Office ladies and Support staff.

We need to congratulate every House for their hard work this year and the 3 places went to:

3rd place – Temuka

2nd place – Gesu

1st place and Champion House – Kincumber

WELL DONE EVERYONE!!!!!!





Senior Student Leadership

John McNamara *talks about the Senior Leadership Camp.*

AS MENTIONED IN a previous College Matters article, Mackillop Catholic College 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 allow this to occur, our Year 11 students are asked to nominate for a possible position on the College Parliament. From the 30 students in Year 11 who nominated for a senior leadership position this year, 17 of them were successfully elected. These students travelled with Mrs Kovacic and I to the Senior Leadership Camp at St Joseph's Spirituality Centre Kincumber on 26 and 27 June.

With such a positive group of young men and women, Mrs Kovacic and I knew we were in for a very rewarding couple of days. The group certainly did not let us down and learned much about themselves as a unit and about themselves individually. Over the course of two days, the group worked through various workshops and presentations. Mr Todd joined us to present to the students on Leadership and the Josephite Heart. Mrs Ferguson joined us to present a session on the Mission and Vision of the College and in Leadership. Mrs McGuinness discussed the need to set and prioritise goals as leaders. While Mrs Kovacic and myself worked with the students on what it means to work as a team of leaders, standards of leadership and who inspires the students as

leaders. In addition, an important session was also presented on balancing leadership with other commitments and stress management techniques. Over the course of the two days at camp, it became clear that these young men and women are of the highest integrity and have talents and maturity well beyond their years.

On the final day of the camp, the students had a time for personal reflection and for voting for the College Captains for 2017/2018. At MacKillop, the newly elected leaders have direct input to the election of the College Captains, but their input only supplements the information that has already been collected via student and staff voting at earlier stages in the meritorious selection process. In addition to this, all students who wish to be considered for the position of College Captain must also attend an interview with the College Executive. These interviews took place on the 19 July and again the students presented themselves superbly. Following this extensive selection process, the Executive retires to consider all applicants and appoint the two College Captains to their positions with confidence. As their Year Co-ordinator, I am looking forward to working with the entire leadership group next year as their contribution to the College will be substantial.



Our new College Leaders

John McNamara *talks about the newly appointed Senior Parliament and College Captains.*

THE COLLEGE CAPTAINS for the 2017/2018 period are Gabrielle Baus and Joshua Lovett. The College warmly congratulates them for their accomplishment and we look forward to working with them more closely over the next 12 months. Both Gabrielle and Joshua will be supported by Leaders of Wellbeing, Culture and Mission, as well as students appointed to House Leadership positions. The parliament is only strong and effective if all members work together as a unit. All leaders are considered to be House Leaders in the first instance, to help foster positive house spirit and to support the students from K-12 who belong to their house.

On Tuesday 8 August our new leaders had their first opportunity to lead the students and staff in the House Challenge for 2017. To say the newly commissioned leaders stepped up would be a gross understatement. Each and every one of them applied themselves to the task of developing house chants, determining suitable choreography, and polishing it all over various rehearsals which they themselves organised and ran. The leaders managed to engage all students K-12 in the house presentations and performance items. Every Year 11 leader contributed to what was again a wonderful and inspiring day for the entire College community. From fostering a passion amongst other house members, to being out there in front and leading the tribe, the leaders saw

a need and did something about it! The College is certainly in very good hands with the newly elected senior leaders. No doubt they will make substantial contributions to the College over the next 12 months and I very much look forward to working closely with them.

Congratulations to the following students for your inclusion in the Senior Leadership team and College Parliament. Gabrielle Baus, Joshua Lovett, Kate Fullbrook, Dakya Massey, Nicolas Hervas, Tiarnagh Montague, Seth Cowie, Dena De Chellis, Edric Alejo, Sean Clair, Kynan Currey, Monique Gilbert, Maddison Potter-Evans, India Kay, Joshua Hedges, Teearna Langbridge and Alex Toomey. Your applications for leadership were inspiring, your speeches to staff and students were outstanding, and your character building on camp leaves me with much confidence in you as individuals and as a collaborative team. You have already had a very significant impact on the College community and will without doubt have many more in the future. I am particularly pleased with the level of genuine support that has been afforded you from the rest of your peers in the Year 11 group. As elected leaders, you have been strongly endorsed by staff and students. You will now be judged on your performance and without doubt this will be significant.



House Point challenge and winner!

Debra Ferguson *explains the system for our wonderful House Point Challenge.*

HARRY POTTER AND the House system of Hogwarts - Godric Gryffindor, Salazar Slytherin, Rowena Ravenclaw and Helga Hufflepuff - have nothing on the competitive Houses of MacKillop Catholic College. Each year, from the beginning of Term 3 until the end of Term 2 the following year, our 6 Houses of Fitzroy, Penola, Gesu, Alma, Temuka and Kincumber fight it out for the title of House Champion.

Everything in the College is worth points, such as: awards, representing the College in any field, the class with the least absences on a community day, Carnival days where points are given for any number of things such as overall point winners, picking up litter, cheering, sportsmanship, wearing costumes etc. We have had competitions at school for fund-raising, being involved in school events such as Book Week and for being seen doing charitable acts for other students.

Each assembly the students are given an update of the point score, informed of where points were gained and coming events in which they can be involved.

We have been running this for the past 4 years and we have had 4 different Houses win the title.

The first House to win was Alma in 2014, Gesu in 2015, Temuka in 2016 and this year led by the House Leaders of Katie Barr and a very devoted Carmine Barone was the Fitzroy House

Well done to all the House Leaders and now another House year begins. Who will be triumphant for 2018?



A rewarding Year 9 Camp

Kath Ardern *elaborates on a great three days.*



YEAR 9 HAVE just returned from the most rewarding three day camp at Outdoor Education, Morisset. We were blessed with magnificent, sunny weather for the three days. The activities and availability of some free time enabled the students to strengthen their relationships within the cohort as well as broaden their friendships.

Some of the activities such as Survivor Challenge, Canoeing and Giant Swing required elements of teamwork for success, while other activities such as Abseiling, Challenge Ropes and Leap of Faith tested some students within their personal capabilities and challenged them outside their comfort zone. The participation was exceptional and the camp staff credited the MacKillop students as being highly respectful, cooperative and one of the best groups they have hosted for a while.

The teachers who also accompanied the students included the Pastoral Teachers of Year 9: Miss Kovacic, Mrs Werchon, Mrs Thompson, Mr Haines, Mr Mace, Mr Kowalski as well as Mrs Clark. These teachers also enjoyed the opportunity to mix with their class outside a normal school setting and were appreciative of the students' maturity and behaviour demonstrated during the camp.



Year 6 have fun in Canberra

Leanne Hyland *shares the fun at the Year 6 trip.*

STUDENTS FROM OUR school have recently undertaken an education tour of the National Capital. Students were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy. The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the National Capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of \$20 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion and is used towards the cost of the Year 6 Graduation at the end of this year.

In Week 9 of Term 2, the students from Year 6 went on a superb excursion to our Nation's Capital, Canberra, for three action packed days of fun and learning. After an early start we were on our way at 6am on Wednesday 21 June. One of our first official stops was the Australian War Memorial. We were able to explore the history of Australia's involvement globally

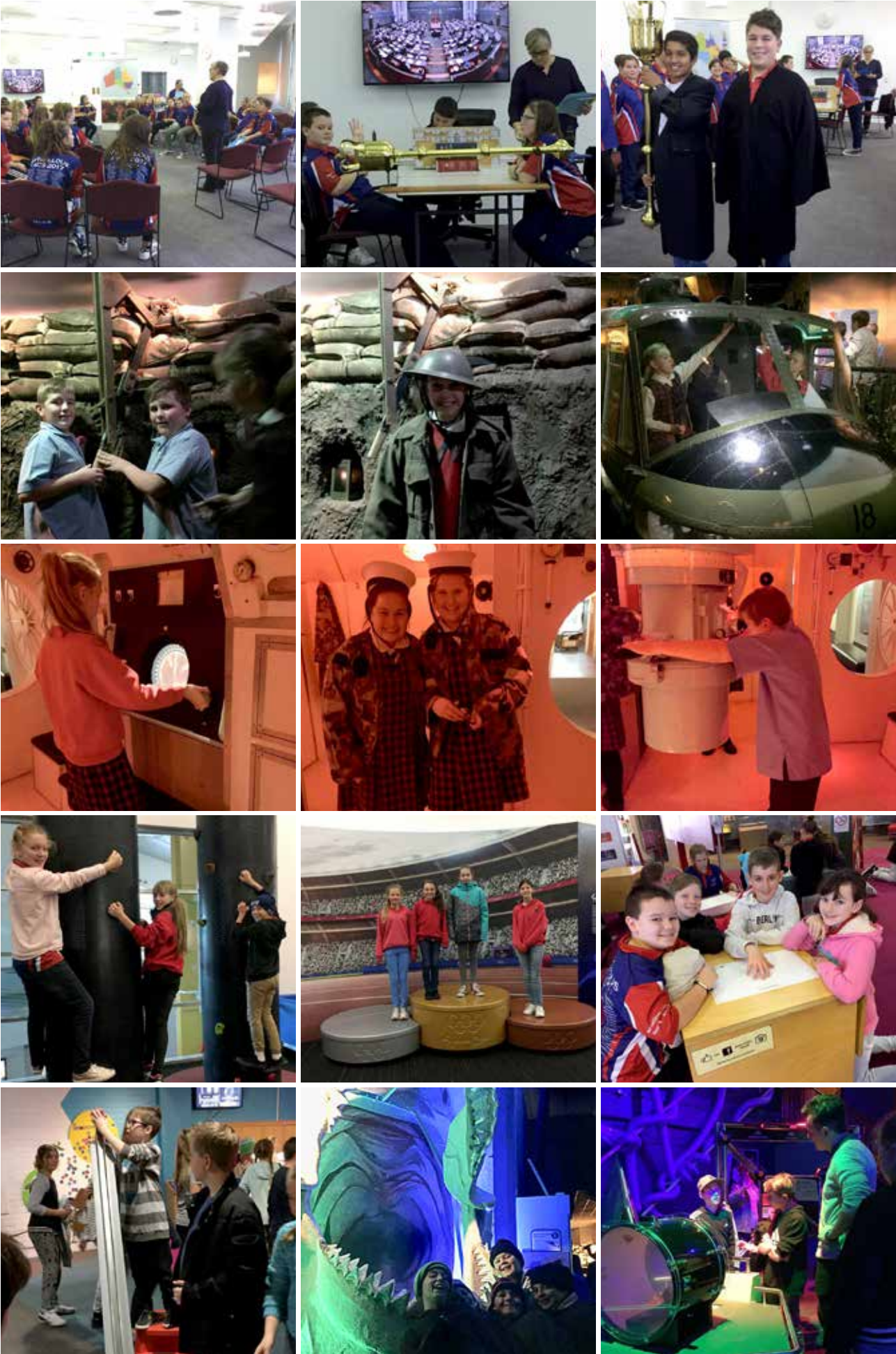
in different conflicts. The school captains, Amelia and Leo, were privileged enough to participate in laying a wreath at the Last Post closing ceremony. Once we had our accommodation sorted it was time to hit the Dinosaur Museum and enjoy the many hands on activities before getting some well-earned rest.

The following day included visits to the Australian Institute of Sport, National Capital Exhibition, and Parliament House, which gave us an insight into Australia's parliamentary system. We heard about the workings of the House of Representatives and Senate by a knowledgeable guide.

Our last day included a visit to the National Electoral Education Centre where we learnt all about the preferential voting system. Our last stop was the Museum of Australian Democracy which included a tour of Old Parliament House.

The students had a wonderful experience on this excursion. Thank you to the teachers for keeping us all safe and showing us around our Nation's Capital: Mrs Dietrich, Mrs Hyland, Mrs Gainsford, Mrs Timp, Mrs Banfield, Mrs Passafaro, Mr Vandergraaf, Mr Sullivan, and our awesome bus drivers Phil and Peter.







Parent/Carer involvement at MCC

Keeping up to date with Natalie Tunstead.

PARENT PARTNERSHIP CHARTER

THE DEVELOPMENT OF the Parent Partnership Charter is steadily progressing. Drafts were developed following initial parent consultation in term 1. This draft was then presented to interested parents who attended the meeting at the end of term 2 and made further comment. Moving forward we are considering the recommendations and making some more changes before we present to the parent community for any final comments. It is important that families are involved in the development of this Charter as it will represent who we are as a school, how we operate, our expectations and our goals and values within our community. The Charter has been separated into the college houses to further represent the values of the College.

GRANDPARENTS DAY

We had a wonderful turnout of Grandparents to share this special day. A special thank you to Rachel Donohue-Farmer, Karen Stanford, Shellie Woodham and her mother for stepping in at the last minute to help with morning tea.

MacKillop Feast Day and House Challenge

What a wonderful day to celebrate our College Community. The day was a huge success with positive comments from students, parents and teachers. Such a beautiful day for a whole school picnic on the top oval and then the excitement and cheers of the house challenge. Congratulations to Kincumber on winning the house challenge.

YEAR 6 GRADUATION

We have formed a committee which is made up of Year 6 class parents, Year 6 teachers, Ann Jackson, Kerry Power and myself to plan fundraising, decorations, speakers, menu etc for the Year 6 Graduation 2017.

FACEBOOK PAGES

These pages seem to be working well and being used appropriately. I have received positive feedback from the parent community that the pages are helping improve communication and parents are feeling more informed. I have had several inappropriate requests to join the pages and therefore I need to be very careful in approving requests to join the pages. A number of parents have a Facebook alias that is different to their name on our school records and this can sometimes hold up approval. There is still time to join the Facebook pages at MCC Year (your child's year) 2017.

PARENT WORKSHOPS

I have been posting a number of articles or web videos on various parenting topics. If you are seeking further information please feel free to contact me.

If you would like further information on the Parent Partnership Charter or any of the above topics please email myself at natalie.tunstead@dbb.catholic.edu.au