

ISSUE 12 | WEEK 7, TERM 4 2017

# COLLEGE**Matters**

**Great Spirit on show**  
*in Term Four*



**MACKILLOP**  
Catholic College  
WARNERVALE

**FAREWELL HSC CLASS 2017**

**YEAR 7 JUMP INTO IT**

**PRIMARY SCOOTERTHON**





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# A reflection on the year

*College Principal, Steve Todd introduces the MacKillop flavour for ending the year well.*

**ONE OF THE** most treasured memoirs of the year is the publishing of the annual Year Book and this year's production has now gone to print so that each and every family and staff member has this memento for ending the year. I find the experience of proof reading the Year Book most enjoyable for having such a wonderful encapsulation of what has shaped the 2017 school year. The stories and photographic tributes are something to savour and we are blessed to have such a beautiful publication to record the year that was. When your copy arrives, I hope you are able to enjoy reading all that made 2017 such a good year for MacKillop.

This last edition of College Matters provides something special for many students, staff and family members especially around our graduating HSC Class of 2017. This year's HSC Class are one of the most positively connected groups I have seen and their final week of school before sitting their HSC exams was a real delight to be part of. The annual Charity Day was a good day of fun with the raising of funds for two fitting charities. The Graduation Mass and Guard of Honour left us with such a good feeling that so many parents commented to us, 'This is why our kids went to MacKillop!' The Yr 12 Awards night was just something you went home from with a huge smile on your face – such a talented, gifted and beautifully connected group. Well done Yr 12 your journey has been a tribute to your goodness. We now eagerly await hearing of the rewards of the HSC exams and where your journey takes you

next.

At the same time, there is a tinge of sadness in the College with an era coming to an end with many wonderful teachers finishing their time with us. A number are heading towards retirement while others are stepping up to new positions of responsibility having been shaped by their time here at MacKillop. We are indeed very grateful to the teachers who have given so many years to us here at MacKillop. May God continue to bless them and may the memories of MacKillop continue to offer them joy.

The College's leadership team has completed a school self-review process with the CSO this year around the National School Improvement Tool domain of pedagogy. It is with much pride that I can offer the feedback that MacKillop is a quality school looking for new ways to embrace learning. There are processes in place that should transform learning at the College. It is our hope that our teachers continue to embrace the culture of thinking that allows our students to build on their learning capacities. Our thanks is extended to our leadership team and to all our teachers who remain steadfastly motivated for providing the necessary commitment for the improvement learning outcomes.

As the year heads to a conclusion may each student, staff member and family find a sense of reward for what took place in all areas of school life.





# Term 4 activities

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

**THE MIDPOINT OF** Term 4 2017 is upon us and as we head towards the end of this wonderful school year, we look back on many exciting weeks since our last College Matters magazine. Term 4 has started well, with many events scheduled for these weeks.

On the first day of Term 4, all College staff worked together through a wonderful experience of personal reflection looking at our story as faith people. It was wonderful to hear our three presenters speak of their 'own faith story' during the day. As each of us becomes more attentive to our spirituality, and for the way we assist students in this conversation, this will be a powerful influence that can make a real difference for the students.

On Tuesday, 24 October, our Diocesan director, Peter Hamill visited the Primary campus visiting several classrooms and sharing morning tea with the staff. He was so impressed by the settled nature and engagement of children in their learning during the classroom visits and also the friendly, welcoming manner in which they spoke with him. He commented to me that even in such a short time frame of his visit, he was able to glean a true sense of community, partnership and welcome in our community through his interactions with children and staff.

On Thursday, 19 October, our School Captains, Leaders and Mrs Power attended the annual Diocesan Mission Mass at the Cathedral in Waitara with Fr Vince and our Secondary Leaders. Our Scooterthon Day, in support of this Diocesan Initiative to raise funds for those in need, was a fantastic day thanks to

your support. Children supported the annual Mission Week Appeal through raising sponsors and funds and part of this was presented as our donation at the Diocesan Mission Mass. The remaining funds raised will be used to purchase some new classroom furniture to support 21st century learning.

During Weeks 3, 4 and 5 of this term, our Kindergarten 2018 children and parents were engaged in an Orientation Program in preparation for joining our Mackillop Community next year. We welcomed many new families and for many current families, another sibling. Whilst the children are getting to know each other and the school, parents are also getting to know each other and more about our Catholic Education framework, the Curriculum for Kindergarten and many of the "day-to-day" issues and activities of Kindergarten.

During the last weeks of Term 4, there are many activities to complete. Teachers are steadily completing the Semester 2 reports, classes are arranged for 2018, the MCC Musical is ahead, our End of Year Concert and Swimming Carnival are to be enjoyed, our Year 5 children take part in the 2018 Leadership process, our two awards assemblies acknowledge the children's efforts and work during 2017, and we spend time with our current Year 6 children celebrating their completion of their Primary School years. This will be celebrated with the K-6 community at a special Mass on Tuesday 5 December and with families at dinner the night before. We look forward to all of these events with the children, staff and families of our Mackillop Primary community.



# Coming to the end of another year

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

**I WAS INFORMED** last week that there are only 6 Fridays until Christmas which made me ponder once again about how quickly the year progresses as well as that usual panic that creeps over about how we will complete all we have to do between now and the end of term. However, when the panic subsides we can all look back over the year and be quite proud of all we have achieved this year. Most of this has been covered in our College Matters throughout the year and in the Year Book that each family will receive on the last Wednesday of term.

This term we have admired the approach of our Year 12 HSC class to their final exams, been impressed with the maturity of our Year 11 students as they commenced their HSC course and assisted and encouraged our Year 7-10 students as they sat their end of year exams.

We now approach all the end of year activities but also

impress that the teachers and students do not complete their curriculum until the last week of school and all students are required to attend school until 13 December. The last few weeks have formal classes but also award ceremonies, end of year Mass and liturgies and events to reward our students who have worked consistently all year.

Our teachers and students have continued to work this year towards our three themes in the areas of Mission, Learning Culture and Wellbeing – “Be a light to the world”, “Value learning” and “Honour each other”. We have witnessed so many incidents where these occur on a daily basis and we are so proud of our school and what it has achieved.

We hope the last few weeks of this year are safe and happy occasions for you all as we approach Christmas and the birth of our Lord.



# Girls Night In

**Debra Ferguson** *tells us about a great night raising money for cancer research.*

**ON 1 SEPTEMBER** the third 'Girls' Night In' was held at MacKillop. This is part of a nationwide charity where thousands of Australian women assemble their favourite ladies together and host a Girls' Night In to raise money to help support the estimated 20,000 women who will be diagnosed with breast or gynaecological cancer this year. Female friendship has never been more powerful.

At MacKillop this night has always been organised by the Senior Leaders. Abbie McDonald, assisted by some of her Year 12 friends and Year 11 Leaders organised a fun night for approximately 80 girls from years 7-12.

The night began with 'Polished by Donna'. The girls received hints about good grooming and modelling. This brought smiles and laughter to all present and a great deal of admiration for the models on the night who had completed a course with Donna. A number of these models were MacKillop girls.

Throughout the night there was pizza, lolly bags, drinks, raffles, nail make-overs, hair braiding, a movie, discussions, singing and games. All this helped raise money for the McGrath Foundation and the girls should be highly commended for raising almost \$900 which will assist with cancer research.

Abbie is to be congratulated for her hard work to organise this night and we thank every girl who attended. We also thank the teachers who gave up their Friday night to supervise this event and who also slept over. A wonderful charity and a great night. Well done to all!!



# Year 8 students' Reflection Day

**Rachael Elcoate** *praises our Year 8 students for 'giving it a go'.*



**AS PART OF** the pastoral care program for Year 8, this term they engaged in their Reflection Day which was themed around respectful relationships. As part of the day, students travelled with peers from their pastoral classes together with their teachers and engaged in activities that focused around the theme of Relationships.

The Reach Foundation ran a session focused on students addressing issues present in their lives and how these issues can impact on the individuals' health and wellbeing. They were able to support one another and have the opportunity to talk through how to best deal with difficult situations in the future.

We also had the company Drumbeats run two practical sessions with our students which focused around the students working together through music and dance. As a class, students each had a bongo drum and they learnt different percussions and created their own musical melody. Lots of fun was had by all and some unknown talent emerged amongst Year 8.

The final activity involved dance and the boys learnt the Haka and the girls learnt the Hula. It was great to see students out of their comfort zone giving it a go and working together to have some fun.

Year 8's behaviour was impressive on the day and they really engaged in all activities well.







# Introducing the JUMP project

**Michelle Baxter** *praises the positive attitude from our Year 7 students.*

**IT HAS BEEN** an exciting first few weeks of Term 4 with JUMP (Josphites Undertaking Mission Project) officially launched within the College. The primary aim of the program is to encourage students' to serve others in a positive spirit. Our Year 7 students' are the pioneers of this project. They are encouraged to identify areas of need within their homes, the local and wider community. Once areas of concern have been established, students' can then determine practical solutions to these problems and ways in which they can make a difference; whether it be through community service, or perhaps a fundraising event.

A number of students' are already participating in a number of community service activities which the College has to offer. Every Thursday afternoon a group of students' have been working on packaging goods as part of a Christmas appeal for the homeless, as well as to distribute to nursing homes in the local community. Others have been selling Zooper Doopers

every lunch time as part of a fundraising activity.

On the first Monday of every month, students' and their parents have been invited to attend Coast Shelter in Gosford. Students' prepare, cook and serve meals to financially disadvantaged and homeless people. Our first booking for this activity is already full and there has been a lot of positive interest for this community service.

Students' can also complete community service at home, for family or neighbours. They may wish to create their own fundraising event or raise awareness about a particular issue they feel strongly about. There are many ways for students' to get involved.

I am very proud on the way Year 7 have approached the JUMP Project. Their overall attitude and participation thus far has been excellent. I look forward to the many possibilities and opportunities the initiative will provide to our students'.





# Celebrating Holy Communion

**Kerry Power** reminds us we remember Jesus in the breaking of bread.

**EVERY DAY REMINDS** us of your love and care.

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

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

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

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

The celebration of First Holy Communion was held at St

Mary of the Cross Mackillop Church on 10 September with two groups at 10am and 12pm. Each ceremony presented approximately 40 children over two services with Father Vince Casey presiding. The day was a lovely family and community event with the church at full capacity for both services. The Readings of the day recounted the story of The Last Supper when Jesus first shared the true meaning of the Eucharistic celebration. Children attended and listened as Father Vince talked about his experience of First Holy Communion and even shared his own Communion certificate. The students prepared for the sacrament by participating in four Parish-based lessons with volunteers as teachers of faith. The children received a Eucharist medallion as a gift and shared a wonderful cake after the ceremony.

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





# Helping the homeless

**John McNamara** *explains Year 12 Student Leaders focus.*

OUR YEAR 12 Student Leaders have made 'addressing Homelessness on the Central Coast' a focus for their leadership over the next 12 months. They are keen to link in with two specific organisations - Orange Sky Laundry and Coast Shelter.

Orange Sky Laundry is the world's first free mobile laundry service for the homeless. A crazy idea in 2014 to put two washing machines and two dryers in a van and wash and dry clothes for free. Starting in the streets of Brisbane, Orange Sky has now grown to 20 services across Australia in Brisbane, Canberra, Gold Coast, Melbourne, Sydney, Sunshine Coast, North and South Perth, Adelaide, Newcastle, SE Melbourne, Wollongong, SA Northern Districts, Port Macquarie, Mackay and Hobart. Orange Sky Laundry now does over 6.2 tonnes of

laundry every week. However most importantly, has over 1,300 hours of positive and genuine conversations every week.

Orange Sky laundry recently launched a service on the Central Coast and we had the pleasure of having Brendan, their Central Coast Vehicle Manager, address our School Assembly on the Friday 27 October. Brendan was delighted that our Senior Leaders want to focus on helping the homeless in our region and grateful for the opportunity to address our students. The senior student leaders will be looking at ways to raise funds for this tremendous service, as well as keeping close links to them as they continue to expand. We are hopeful that there may even be opportunities for our students to volunteer time for Orange Sky as part of the revamped Community Service Program in 2018.





# Imagine not being able to read!

**Marilyn Fraser** *shares the wonderful response to the Indigenous Book Sale.*

**CAN YOU IMAGINE** not being able to read a newspaper, a road sign or directions on a bottle of medication? Sadly, this is a reality faced by many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders living in remote communities today.

The Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF) is a national charity that was founded and set up by members of the Australian book industry in 2005. It draws on the skills and expertise of the book industry to address children's literacy levels in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The Foundations vision is to make a positive difference in the lives of Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children by focusing on ways to improve their literacy levels. The children's future educational experiences can be greatly improved through enjoyable, positive engagements with books in family and community environments.

In true MacKillop style students and staff helped by donating their unwanted books to the school and then in Term 3 they were sold for 50c each. We raised a total of \$481.95 and the proceeds were sent to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation to improve the literacy of Indigenous children living in remote areas of Australia. We thank our parents, staff and students that supported this initiative which will help to continue the vision of the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.



## Fun on a scooter

**Jodie Timp** *thanks the whole community for their efforts.*



**ON FRIDAY 3RD** November, K-6 children participated in a VERY successful Scooterthon. We are very proud of the enormous effort, support and enthusiasm from students, parents and the whole community. The day raised over \$10,000 with money going to Catholic Mission and towards purchasing flexible classroom furniture.

I think it is safe to say that our K-6 children had a 'Wheelie fun' day!

Thanks to the whole MacKillop Community for supporting such a fun and worthwhile day!!











# Celebrating language studies

**Debra Ferguson** *shares the wonderful achievement of our Language Awards.*

**ON MONDAY, 25** September I was delighted to accept an invitation to attend a ceremony at the University of NSW for the 2017 Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement – Community Language School, where one of our students was being recognised for his commitment to the study of Filipino.

These awards were started 25 years ago and in NSW this year over 34,000 students study the language of their heritage at Community Language Schools.

On this night 142 students received awards for their outstanding commitment to their studies. From MacKillop, Liam Goss from Year 8 was recognised this year. He and all the other recipients were dressed in their national costumes and many family members also wore these. With a full auditorium it was certainly a great privilege to stand with all these nationalities who now call Australia home and to sing the National Anthem with them.

At the end of the night a further thrill and compliment for Liam when Mr Marford M. Angeles, the Philippine Consulate General, came to congratulate him personally for his achievement.

Well done to Liam who attends his language class every weekend and who has achieved so well in this.



# Celebrating success

**Anne Lovett** *congratulates the recipients of our High Commendation Awards.*



**IT WAS WITH** a sense of community spirit that the Secondary College came together at the end of Week 1, to acknowledge and applaud students across year groups, subjects and classes for their consistent and repeated application during Term 3.

Every teacher nominated a student in each of their classes. Throughout the term these students demonstrated responsibility and took ownership for their own thinking and learning. Teachers found some of these nominations difficult as a growing number of students were endeavouring to become proactive learners and continue to do so throughout the year.

Award winners did not necessarily receive the highest mark or grade in their assessment tasks. They are keen students who show a mature attitude and willingness to improve their understanding of ideas, topics and concepts. They cooperate with students and teachers and are respectful of others.

At MacKillop, we think it is important to acknowledge the different ways that students demonstrate success. While we do celebrate academic success, it is as important to acknowledge the significance of sustained application. 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. To prepare students to make a difference in the world as they become young adults is a privilege. These awards acknowledge the development of skills that will assist students to do so.

During the assembly, the student body was respectful and embraced each award recipient. This reflects the communal spirit of good will and generosity that we aim to foster. It was a pleasure to be a part of this celebration. We thank the growing number of parents who attended this assembly and look forward to sharing future high commendation assemblies with you.

# Bishop David Walker Annual Prize

*Jillian Young shares the results for Religious Art.*

**THE BISHOP DAVID** Walker Annual Prize for Religious Art is a competition run by the Broken Bay Diocese. The competition is open to all primary and secondary school students enrolled in Catholic schools. Each year a theme is given for students to create a piece of work in the medium of their choice. The theme of the 2017 competition was 'Walking the Way'. This year, two of our students placed for awards.

Stage 4, Highly Commended – Carmen Rickards, Year 8

Stage 5 1st Prize - Rebecca Bosley, Year 10.

The Caroline Chisholm Centre Award was also awarded on the night. This award is voted by the staff at the Centre and is similar to that of the Packing Room Prize for the Archibald. Congratulations to Rebecca Bosley for winning this prestigious prize.

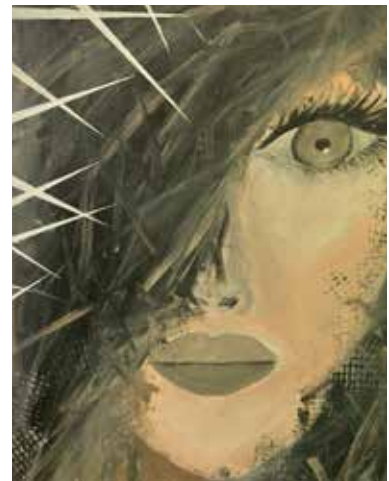




# Year 12 Visual Arts HSC

Jillian Young showcases our Year 12 Bodies of Work.

**THIS IS THE** artmaking component of the examination and accounts for 50% of their overall HSC mark.

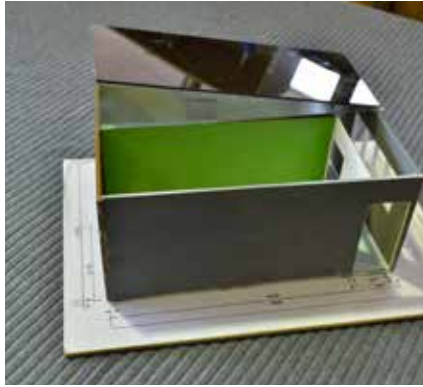




# Year 12 Design & Technology HSC

Damian Clair showcases Year 12 Bodies of Work.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE** Design and Technology and Industrial Technology (Timber) classes on the outstanding quality of all their major works.





# Year 12 Textile HSC

Megan Phillipson showcases Year 12 Bodies of Work.

**YEAR 12 TEXTILES** and Design students design and create a Major Textiles Project as part of their course. The Project incorporates a creative and innovative textile product and documentation which communicates the process they undertook. Each project is unique and is the student's interpretation of the designers that inspire them.



# Another great term in sports

## Kellie Denneman *reflects on sport for Term 4.*

### CCC NETBALL GALA DAY

**MACKILLOP WERE REPRESENTED** by 15 teams at the CCC Netball Gala Day at Baker Park in Week 9 last term. The day caters for both boys and girls across age groups for Year 3, 4, 5 & 6. Much effort was put into preparing for the day & we thank the teachers who looked after each age group, Mr Vandergraaf, Mr Bonfield, Miss Higson & Mrs Timp. Congratulations to the following teams on their success on the day:

- 9 Boys - Runners Up
- 10B Girls – Winners
- 11 Boys Blue - Winners

### LEARN TO SWIM

Kindergarten, Year 1 & Year 2 had a busy end to Term 3 participating in “Learn to Swim” at Mingara. This activity forms a compulsory part of the Physical Education Program is aimed at swimmers of ALL abilities – from absolute beginners to proficient. Children had a 1 hour lesson each day for 10 days finishing with the ever popular FUN DAY activities. You will see from the smiles on all the faces that, the children have so much enjoyment and the skill improvement across the 2 weeks is substantial.

### WARATAH SHIELD CRICKET

MacKillop played 2 games in Round 1 of the Waratah Shield Cricket Competition on Friday 13 October at Toukley. After a loss to the very talented St Mary's team in game 1 we bounced back with a convincing win over St John Vianney. Outstanding sportsmanship and team ethics were on display in both games. Special mention to Mikaedy Sammut and Zack Goddard, who put on a wonderful batting partnership in Game 2 both retiring not out on 30 runs each.

### NSWPSSA ATHLETICS

Congratulations to Travis Northey (Yr 6) who represented Polding at the NSWPSSA Athletics in Week 2 this term. He qualified to compete in the 12 Year Boys discuss against the best athletes from all over NSW. We congratulate him on this wonderful achievement!

### MILO T20 BLAST CRICKET GALA DAY

MacKillop entered 2 teams in the recent MILO T20 Blast Schools Competition at Toukley.

The School Cup gives girls and boys the opportunity to play four action packed games of modified cricket in an active and social setting - all on the one day in a gala day format. Every player gets a chance to bat, bowl and field. It's an exciting

atmosphere, just like the KFC T20 Big Bash League with a fun catching competition at the days end.

Our teams had so much fun, winning a few games along the way.

### CCC TOUCH GALA DAY

MacKillop entered 10 teams from Year 5 & 6 across 2 venues at Bateau Bay in the annual CCC Touch Gala Day. Congratulations to the 90 plus children who attended and represented us so proudly and had lots of fun. We had some success on the day:

- Division 1 Girls – Warnervale 2 2nd place
- Division 3 Mixed – Warnervale 4: equal 2nd place
- Division 1 Boys B – Warnervale 1: 3rd place
- Division 2 Boys B – Warnervale 3: 3rd place

### NSWPSSA GIRLS CRICKET

Congratulations to Mikaedy Sammut who represented the Polding Girls Cricket Team at the NSWPSSA Carnival in Maitland during Week 4 this term. The team was coached this year by Mrs Denneman and finished in 4th place overall despite being equal first in their pool after the round games. As a result of outstanding individual performances, Mikeady was selected in the NSW Invitational Team to contest the National Championships in Barooga in January next year. Well Done!

### SURF EDUCATION

As part of the Primary Physical Education Program all students complete a Surf Awareness Course presented by Surf Life Saving Central Coast. This complements the Infant Learn to Swim Program in Years K - 2 and is essential real life education given our geographical location on the coast. The course aimed at promoting skills & knowledge in beach & surf recreation, is presented by nationally accredited staff and has two distinct parts.

A Beach Smart theory presentation of approximately 45 minutes was delivered to children at school in Week 10 last term. The practical “on the beach” program designed specifically for children aged 8 – 13 years was completed at the the sheltered Toowoona Bay Beach during Week 6 this term. The practical 4 hour component involves: Hazard identification, Beach & Wave types, Rescue & survival techniques (using rescue tube), Recognising beach signage, Surf Skills (body board paddling & nipper boards), Sun Protection, Beach games & sports. The children have lots of fun and become much safer for the experience when enjoying our local beaches in their own time.



# A fantastic finish to Rep. Sport

**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 nominated or selected to represent the College in various sports. Team events include futsal, open beach volleyball, waterpolo, tennis and softball. 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.

## BBSSA WATERPOLO

Well done to our boys and girls water polo teams. Both teams played extremely well on the day. The competition was very tough. The boys team placed 6th while our girls placed equal 3rd overall with St Peters College, Tuggerah.

## BBSSA TENNIS

Congratulations to our Tennis teams who all played well. Our Open boys team placed runners up for the day to St Leo's Wahroonga.

## BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Both the boys and girls Volleyball teams travelled to Manly Beach. The boys were competitive all day winning a few sets.

After losing the first two games, our girls won 3 straight pool games to reach the semi-finals where they beat St Joseph's College to reach the grand final against Stella Maris, Manly. The girls were equal at one set all and they dug deep to take victory in the deciding set.

Well done to all.

## BBSSA SOFTBALL TRIALS

The Broken Bay softball trials are an open trial for any girl who plays softball. This year Hannah Taylor of Year 8 trialled and was accepted. We wish Hannah all the best for next years competition.

## NSW ALL SCHOOLS

The following students will be representing NSW ALL SCHOOLS at the Pacific School Games in Adelaide in December. We wish them a great time and enjoyable competition.

Nathan Ward – Swimming

Jack Taylor – Softball

Milla Evans - Netball

## FUTSAL

On Thursday 9 November, the girls U16s Futsal Team headed to the Gold Coast to compete in the Australasian Champion of Champions National's Futsal Competition. The team competed over 3 days playing a number of games each day. Each game was 40 minutes in duration.

On the first day, the girls won 2 of the 3 matches, however; on the second day of competition, they lost both games by only a goal difference. On day three, they won their final game, placing them 5th overall.

We are very proud of their efforts and for their achievement; competing at such a high level. They are the first team to go through to a National's tournament from MCC.



# Getting ready for Kindy 2018

*Ann Jackson talks to us about getting ready for big school.*

**WHEN A CHILD** first goes to school, there is great change for that child and for his or her family. Whilst we don't know exactly what this new beginning will bring, we do know that it will bring times of work and play and times of successes and failures. All these things are part and parcel of school life. But above all we know it is especially a time of hope; for good results, sound partnerships, successful relationships and a great thirst and love for learning.

Our Kindy Orientation was conducted over three weeks with parents learning a little more about school life and what MacKillop values and can offer families. With – mostly – huge smiles on their faces, the children were led through a series of tasks that were fun to do whilst building a bigger picture of the child who will begin their journey with us. We talked at length about the education of a child in the Catholic Christian faith and how it is very much relational; relationships with each other, with our family, friends, the wider world and of course our church family. It is through these relationships

that we encounter a relationship with Jesus Christ and the God that has been revealed to us throughout history, throughout the stories that have been part of all our lives. We talked of parents as the first educators of their children and that they are the most important link in the educational chain for them. The message of recent research shows that the better the bridge between home and school, the better the educational experience. It is together as parents and teachers, in collaboration for wanting the best for these children of the 21st century, that the educational experience of school for a child is an excellent and enjoyable one.

Our greatest wish for the incoming Kindergarten of 2018 is that there may be learning, prayer and fun, hard work, faith and friendship. As we all begin this new relationship, this new experience, may it be done in a spirit of hope, and may our God begin it with us, be with us during it, and stand alongside of us as we look back on a successful year, happy children, hope fulfilled.





# Students participate in ICAS

**Kylie Huggins** *shares the students' ICAS results.*

**EACH YEAR MANY** MacKillop primary students participate in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS). This year was no exception with more than 50 students entering the competitions. ICAS is an independent, skills-based assessment program which recognises and rewards student achievement. ICAS is unique, being the most comprehensive generally available suite of academic assessments for primary and secondary school students. The assessments comprise Digital Technologies, English, Maths, Science, Spelling and Writing tests.

This year we had many students excel in a number of the tests. We would like to acknowledge the following students for their outstanding achievements in receiving awards.

## MERIT AWARDS

### Year 2

- Toby Clark - Mathematics
- Dalia Hancock - Mathematics
- Natalie McSherry - Mathematics
- Lara Stanford - Mathematics

### Year 3

- Michael Vrljic - Digital Technologies

### Year 4

- Steve Johnson - Mathematics
- Emily Schumacher - English, Digital Technologies
- Brodie Stanford - Science

### Year 5

- Ryan Jaison - English
- Thomas Vrljic - English, Spelling

### Year 6

- Leo Biju - English

## CREDIT AWARDS

### Year 2

- Seleena Dao - Mathematics
- Mya Fuller - Mathematics, English, Science
- Reuben Robinson - Mathematics, Science
- Lachlan Wood - Mathematics
- Giselle Woodham - Mathematics, English, Science
- Ryan Hain - English
- Natalie McSherry - English
- Lara Stanford - English

- Xavier Rose - Science

### Year 3

- Blaire Shaw - Mathematics, English, Spelling
- Michael Vrljic - Mathematics
- Phoebe Meers - English, Spelling

### Year 4

- Ashton Hibbard - Mathematics
- Brenalyn Alcid - English
- Jaikiah Chan Smit - Spelling
- Steve Johnson - Spelling
- Hailey Robertson - Writing, Digital Technologies
- Jack Benson - Writing
- Steve Johnson - Writing, Science, Digital Technologies

### Year 5

- Jaison Ryan - Mathematics
- Thomas Vrljic - Mathematics, Science, Digital Technologies
- Kristian Ay - Spelling, Digital Technologies
- Madison Dunn - Spelling, Writing
- Lucinda Ford - Writing

### Year 6

- Kristine Bito-on - Mathematics, Digital Technologies
- Mia Cross - English, Writing
- Abbey Ryan - English, Science
- Samuel Hedges - Spelling, Digital Technologies
- Daniel Lang - Writing

## DISTINCTION AWARDS

### Year 2

- Ryan Hain - Spelling
- Reuben Robinson - Spelling
- Lachlan Wood - Science

### Year 3

- Blaire Shaw - Writing

### Year 4

- Brenalyn Alcid - Spelling, Writing

### Year 5

- Hannah Hopwood - Writing

### Year 6

- Kristine Bito-on - English, Spelling, Writing, Science

# The annual Senior Retreat

**John McNamara** *shares the time spent at Year 12 Retreat.*

**OUR NEW YEAR** 12 students had the wonderful opportunity to head to Collaroy Retreat Centre on Wednesday 1 – Friday 3 of November this Term. The annual Senior Retreat is a wonderful experience, one which our Year 12 students enjoy each and every year. I was delighted with the way our Year 12 Students engaged with the Retreat, showing maturity and a deep sense of Spiritual Development. They are a very close group and have built tremendous relationships with each other and with staff.

The Retreat was an opportunity for students to participate in a variety of activities and learning sessions that will help set them up for the challenges ahead. I am particularly grateful to all staff who attended the Retreat and took time away from their normal duties here at the College, not to mention their families. To Mrs Price, Miss Kovacic, Ms Tenev, Mr Legge, Mr Kilham, Mr Tomsett, Mr Matzen, Mr Hughes and Ms Baxter, thank you for your significant contribution to the Retreat. To Mr Simon Hyland from the CSO, thank you for sharing your wonderful gifts with us. To Mr Todd, Mrs Ferguson, Mrs McGuinness, Father Vince and Mr Copas, the Retreat valued your input and the students certainly gained much from your contributions.

Our Retreat had a mixture of outdoor physical activities run by The Collaroy Centre, as well as indoor sessions presented

by Retreat Team Members. Session 1 was revolving around pushing yourself out of your comfort zone and was entitled “Do Hard Things (Springboard for life). That evening the students participated in a Challenge Night in their house groups. Much fun was had by all, including our staff!!

Day two included a wonderful presentation by Simon Hyland from the CSO. Much was gained by our students in this session. This was followed up by Collaroy Outdoor Activities with the day concluding with Mass, and a presentation by Mrs Ferguson about Senior Student Expectations and links to the Australian Catholic Youth Festival.

On our final day we rose with a tinge of sadness. It was time to return to school after a wonderful three days of time out, enrichment and renewal. We managed a Year group photo and boarded our buses for return.

I was delighted with every aspect of the Senior Retreat, particularly the wonderful way our Year 12 students enthusiastically participated in every activity. Their attitude towards the Retreat and everything around it, was a true reflection of the fine young men and woman of this Year 12 group. I am very proud to be the Year Co-ordinator of such a fine group of students and look forward to working with them into 2018.









# Year 12 Graduation Mass

**Lia Camilleri** *shares the final day for Year 12 2017.*

**THE YEAR 12** Class of 2017 was farewelled by the College community in the final week of term, beginning with a beautiful mass celebrated by Father Vince Casey. A very moving part of the mass was the students rousing singing to the College song 'Southern Cross Shine' at the conclusion of the mass. As is College tradition since our first cohort graduated in 2008, the students were lead out of the College grounds by a bagpiper, as students and teachers from secondary and upper primary formed a guard of honour.

The students returned on the evening of the same day to the Year 12 awards ceremony where academic, cultural, community and sporting achievements were recognised.



# Year 12 Charity Day 2017

**Lia Camilleri** *acknowledges the wonderful efforts by Year 12.*



**A WELL ESTABLISHED** tradition now at MCC is the Tuesday of Year Twelve's last week at school where they are given the opportunity to let off steam, dress up and raise money for charity.

Our Class of 2017 arrived very early on that morning in September in a fabulous range of costumes, restricted the access to the staff car park and "decorated" various parts of the school. Some even launched dinghies and floated around the pond! Incoming vehicles to the College were bailed up until a donation was made for entry.

Students collected almost \$2500 which was split between two charities that they nominated: The Fred Hollows Foundation that fosters healthy sight in developing nations, and S.A.N.D.S., an organisation that supported Mr Damien Tomsett and his wife Dominique after the loss of their precious infant son Patrick.











# Year 12s grand finale

**Lia Camilleri** *shares the final event for Year 12.*

**HAVING BEEN FAREWELLED** from the College in a very fitting way at the end of Term 3, our graduating class of 2017 returned early in Term 4 to complete their HSC exams, which spanned a period of approximately three weeks, with the final exam taking place on 7 November.

On 13 November they came together for the very last time as a cohort to celebrate the end of their schooling at their Formal, held at Mingara.

The event commenced with drinks and canapes in the reception room, followed by each student being acknowledged on the stage by Mr Todd and Mrs Ferguson, where they received their reference folders, and their gifts from the College that included an MCC keyring with their unique identification numbers for the MacKillop College Ex-students' Association.

Students looked absolutely stunning, and, as always, conducted themselves in the ways of the beautiful young adults they are.

Meals were enjoyed, speeches made, photographic slideshows watched and then, with the formal proceedings of the evening concluded, Mrs Ferguson invited the students to take a parent to the dance floor. The dancing continued until the DJ shut down the music at 11pm and final goodbyes said.

A very grand finale to the thirteen years of schooling of this wonderful group of young people.



# Parents working with the College

**Natalie Tunstead** *keeps us updated on our parent partnership.*



**OUR PARENT PARTNERSHIP** Charter is coming into its final drafts before being forwarded for publishing. I would like to thank the parents and carers who have taken the time to participate in this process.

Kindergarten 2018 Orientation has been going smoothly and I would like to say a special welcome to our current and new families. Following the completion of the formal orientation process I have organised an informal playgroup on the following dates 15/11, 22/11, 29/11 and 6/12 from 9am - 10.30am in the OSHC. These sessions will be an opportunity for parents to link with others whose children are starting school next year. It will also be an opportunity for the children to spend more time with each other. All families starting Kindergarten next year are welcome to attend.

Our next Parent Forum and Volunteer thank you will be held on 7 December from 10 - 11.30am in the Cafe. This time will be used to discuss past and future events.

The Facebook grade pages are going well and hopefully you are finding them a useful resource. Please remember these pages are for information sharing and personal grievances should not be shared on a public page. If you have a personal issue please send a private message or email and I can follow up appropriately. These pages will roll over into 2018 with a name change to reflect the current year group. The Year 12 Class of 2017 was farewelled by the College community in the final week of term, beginning with a beautiful mass celebrated by Father Vince Casey. As is College tradition the students were lead out of the College grounds by a bagpiper, as students and teachers from secondary and upper primary formed a guard of honour.

The students returned on the evening of the same day to the Year 12 awards ceremony where academic, cultural, community and sporting achievements were recognised.