

ISSUE 14 | WEEK 11, TERM 1 2018

COLLEGE**Matters**



A colourful end to
Term 1



MACKILLOP
Catholic College
WARNERVALE

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK CELEBRATION

SPORT CARNIVALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

YEAR 7 CONNECT WITH MARY MACKILLOP



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College Principal's Message

Steve Todd *offers his insights into the development of the College.*

AS WE EMBRACE the season of Easter we celebrate with joy the College's motto of 'Christ Our Light' as this is the theme of the Easter Vigil. It is a blessing for us to celebrate this theme everyday knowing that we are called to be a light to the world. I wish all our families much joy for this season of Easter and for how we are to be a light to one another.

Recently, the College held another successful Open Day, 7 March, along with an enrolment information evening, 21 March, to open the enrolment time for both Kindergarten and Year 7 for 2019. Thank you to families who have engaged in this process and over Term 2 we will complete the first round of enrolments for 2019. We are very grateful to Sue Dietrich, our Primary Principal, and Deb Ferguson, our Secondary Principal, who collaboratively support our Enrolment Committee for working through the enrolment applications for next year. In particular, we are very grateful to Janine Silver our Enrolment Officer who works tirelessly with the families and with the processes for how enrolment works at the College.

One of the changes for the enrolment period has been around the faith statement document which endeavours to honour each and every family for the many faith traditions connected with our College. The theme of this document is 'We welcome all connected families' and the message is a straightforward one of being open to all families who feel they belong to this Catholic College. It is important that we are a local Catholic School that has a welcoming spirit to everyone

that connects to our Catholic life and culture. I welcome parents to speak of this Catholic School to other prospective families who have similar values to yours who may come from a different tradition. They are most welcome to make applications for enrolment of their children. Put simply, we welcome students and families who find this school a place where they feel at home and comfortable.

One of our big tasks each year is to develop the School Improvement Plan and the agenda for 2018-2019 includes some important features that we hope will offer many opportunities and experiences for our whole College community. I would like to emphasize that we are working in our Teamness groups for bringing about the three important areas of Mission, Learning Culture and Wellbeing. In Mission, we are looking at the experiences of belonging to our Houses with the influence of indigenous totems so that we can bring a deeper sense of connection. For Learning Culture, we know that writing skills are a big challenge and there are programs we are engaging with to develop improve student-learning outcomes with the students' writing skills. And for Wellbeing, the partnership between the home and the school needs new layers of support bringing parents and teachers in closer connection for the wellbeing of the students.

As this term concludes and we head into the winter months we look for building upon the connections we have made over this term and thank you for making this journey with us.



A great start to the year

A fast-paced term full of hope and success, Sue Dietrich, Primary Principal .

AS WE COME to the end of the first term of the 2018 school year, we reflect on the many experiences we have shared as a community during the second half of this term.

We held our annual Open Day during Catholic Schools Week. First and foremost, Catholic Schools Week is about celebration. One of the major objectives of Catholic Schools Week (CSW) is to raise public awareness of the strengths of Catholic schools and highlight the significant contribution the Catholic education sector makes to our state and nation. CSW is an opportunity to share with the broader community the great things that take place in our schools every day. During the Open Day, we invited the current and future community in to see the College and what we are able to offer children and families in this partnership during their 13 years of education. We enjoyed this opportunity to share our College with many visitors and this time enabled them to see many different aspects of the College – both Primary and Secondary.

Every year, I am amazed at how quickly the weeks go by as we settle our new Kindergarten children into their school life and then so suddenly we are ready to meet the families for the next year ahead. On 21 March, we invited prospective 2019 Kindergarten parents to the College for the Enrolment Information Evening and we look forward to meeting many new families in the months ahead as they begin their educational journey with their little ones. If you have a

child ready for school or have family or friends who would be seeking enrolment for 2019, please advise them to come to the College Office for an enrolment package.

Our sporting events continued in a positive, community way with children participating in our annual Athletics and Cross Country Carnivals, and for those selected to move to the next level, going on to the CCC Swimming, CCC Cross Country, and Diocesan Swimming Carnivals. We thank Mrs Denneman and all the staff and parents for their organisation and involvement in making these events successful.

Our class teachers have completed the Parent/Teacher interviews for this first term. This has been a great opportunity for parents to meet and discuss their child's progress with the teachers. The two key areas of celebrating achievements of this term and setting goals for the term ahead have been the focus of discussions during the meetings.

With Easter being separate to the holiday break this year, we were able to focus on this special time in our Church with our wonderful, gentle reflection on Holy Week and our Resurrection Liturgy. We can truly look back over this term and feel blessed by the many positive experiences of mission, learning and care for each other that we have experienced.

I wish all families a wonderful holiday break ahead. We look forward to seeing all the children back at school on Tuesday 1 May for the first day of Term 2.



A busy term of achievement

Lent is a major focus in Term 1, Debra Ferguson, Secondary Principal.

THE SECOND HALF of Term 1 has flown by with so many events occurring. We had our beautiful Opening Mass which celebrated the wonderful community we have here at MacKillop. Our students once again responded beautifully and reverently for this Mass where 1500 students as well as parents and parishioners celebrated together. We acknowledge all the hard work and preparation of our REC's, Mrs Chrystal Price and Mrs Kerry Power, for this day as well as our music and dance teachers. A special thanks to Fr George who celebrated the Mass for us that day.

We have also seen three major carnivals with the Secondary Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country Carnivals being held this term. A huge thank you to Mrs Rochelle Williamson, our Representative Sports Coordinator, who is responsible for these events but also to all our staff who work so hard on these days. I'd also like to thank our parents who support these days either by coming along to the venues or by just ensuring their children are at school for these community days. However, the biggest group I wish to thank are our ever-impressive students who are just fantastic on these days and make it a real pleasure to share the day with them.

During Lent we have had a number of our students and College leaders attending 7.30am Mass each Wednesday and then sharing breakfast together. Also we are so grateful and impressed with the many teachers and students who have been raising money for Project Compassion. This money makes a huge difference to the poor both here in Australia and overseas. They have also been collecting bottles and cans

to be recycled which both helps our environment and raises money for charity. This has been followed by Holy Thursday where our Youth Ministry students with Mrs Liz Reynolds, our Youth Ministry Coordinator, led the secondary school in a beautiful reflection on the Stations of the Cross and the meaning of Easter.

Our Year 12 are have taken on a mission project this year to assist the homeless and to make our community aware of how hard life can be. They have linked with both Coast Shelter in Gosford and with Orange Sky Laundry. They also made us all very aware of how precious clean water is with a presentation they made to the entire school on the day of the Athletics Carnival. Year 12 have also sat their first exams of their HSC year, being offered a lot of support from our teachers and HSC Study Lockdowns.

In between all this every teacher has been dedicated to improve the thinking skills of all our students and to enhance learning through well researched pedagogy and eLearning. Our students are challenged to make goals, to strive for their personal best and to display self-efficacy in their learning. Our students need to believe that they can do well at school if they persevere and learn from their mistakes.

Finally, we wish our 50 students and staff attending the Commonwealth Games, and our 40 students and staff flying to New Zealand for the Netball and rugby league Cultural Tour, all the very best and we hope they enjoy every moment of these opportunities. We hope all our students have a safe and restful break at the end of Term 1.

Celebrating Catholic schools week

An opportunity for Catholic education to showcase what happens every day in our schools, Debra Ferguson.

WE ARE DELIGHTED to Catholic Schools Week (CSW) 2018 was held from the 4-10 March and involved the communities of all 615 Catholic primary and secondary schools across NSW and the ACT.

First and foremost, Catholic Schools Week is about celebration. The main aim of CSW is to raise awareness and celebrate the strength and distinctiveness of Catholic schools. CSW provides an opportunity for Catholic education to showcase what happens every day in our schools and invites the community in to experience teaching and learning at its best. It is also about strengthening relationships between all those that have a stake in our schools – students, staff, families, priests, parishioners, and members of the wider community.

At MacKillop, we celebrated CSW by holding our 6th annual Open Day on Wednesday 7 March from 4-7pm. The entire College K-12, was open to our parents, parish and the local community.

Our campus came alive with wonderful displays, performances, experiments and presentations. Information was available about enrolments and all aspects to do with this. Our staff and students worked hard to make the school look its very best for the day and we thank all the families who made

the time to come and look at their children's school and the work done here. During this time our College Dreaming Café was open, supplying free sausage sandwiches, muffins and tea and coffee while everyone was entertained by talented student buskers.

We are blessed at this school with such a wonderful staff; from our Office staff to our groundsman and all our teaching staff and assistants. To give up an afternoon for their school is a fantastic effort and so appreciated by us all. We also thank all the students who were present from Parliament and Peer Support to students who performed and to the many students who assisted with the classroom presentations.

We received lovely emails and letters from parents who attended and we hope that all our MacKillop children and parents let their friends and relatives know that there are places available here next year and encourage them to pick up their enrolment packs as soon as possible.

- Enrolments opened on 22 March and close on 11 May 2019 for Year 7 2019.
- For Kindergarten 2019, enrolments open on 1 May and close on 31 May 2018.
- There are also some spaces still available across the school from Years 1-11.



Artwork steals the day

The portraits were of St Joseph entitled 'In St Joseph's Care' and Mary MacKillop entitled 'Never see a Need', Debra Ferguson.



IN 2017, ST Joseph's High School Albion Park, in the Wollongong Diocese, commissioned our own College Principal and resident artist, Mr Steve Todd, to create two portraits for their school.

St Joseph's Primary School Albion Park had been established by the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1882 and in 1982 the High School had been built. However, over time they lost some of their close connection with their Josephite charism and their connection with Australia's first saint, St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop. They now have a clear plan to rekindle this connection and desired the portraits for their school community to visibly remember and to reflect on their deep connection to their charism.

On 13 March these two portraits were commissioned at Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney. The ceremony was attended by 20 students from the school, staff members, a number of the Sisters of St. Joseph and staff from our College.

The commissioning involved a beautiful liturgy which allowed for reflection about the portraits, followed by Steve Todd presenting the portraits to Amanda Wilson, Principal at Albion Park. The portraits were of St. Joseph entitled 'In St. Joseph's Care' and Mary MacKillop entitled 'Never see a Need'. Steve Todd also presented copies to Sr Colleen for the sisters to keep and his portrait of St. Joseph was featured in Mary MacKillop Place Chapel on St. Joseph's Day 19 March.

Mr Steve Todd had one more surprise on the day by also presenting a beautiful portrait of a very young Mary MacKillop in honour of this year being 'The Year of Youth' in our Catholic Church.

It was a wonderful celebration for all who attended and we congratulate Mr Steve Todd on his artistic talent, his deep connection with these saints and his humble sharing of his artistic gifts.



JUMPing to action

Michelle Baxter *shares the exceptional work of our students.*

THE MCC JUMP Program is proving to be a great success. In recent weeks we have had our first article published in the Central Coast Express Advocate, as well as online by NewsLocal and The Daily Telegraph. The article reported on the exceptional work that our Year 8 students are doing within the community and further detailed our partnership program which has been established between the College, Oasis Youth Centre at Wyong, as well as Coast Shelter at Gosford.

Two Year 8 JUMP students, Charlotte Hannan and Samuel Wolscher, who have participated in well over 30 hours of outreach activities thus far, described their experience of the program to NewsLocal. Samuel said that the best part of the program is seeing "how many people actually need help, and you feel really good that you're making a difference."

Each week it becomes more obvious the impact that JUMP is having on our students. As they discuss their experiences of the different activities they have been involved in, the more students want to get on board and participate in community service and outreach opportunities. Charlotte explains that JUMP is great because "it gives you so many opportunities to reach out and help in the community. There are so many things out there you can step up and help with."

One such example is the homelessness crisis on the Central Coast. According to a recent media release via the office of local MP, Emma McBride, homelessness figures show that Wyong and Gosford have double the rate of homelessness of that in NSW. This fact is alarming, and even more so, as it is right in our own back yard. The Salvation Army's Wyong Oasis Centre and Coast Shelter are working hard to provide support in this area. Our MCC community, as part of the JUMP program, are working closely with both organisations to help combat this issue and to provide as much support as possible. We do this by means of a rotational roster on the first Monday of every month, where a small group of Year 8 students, along with their parents and MCC staff volunteer at Coast Shelter; preparing, cooking and serving in excess of 100 meals for those in our local community.

JUMP is not only an opportunity for our students to make a difference in the lives of others. This program is an opportunity for our students to connect with the wider community, to stand up and speak out about real life, current events that are affecting people in their local community. It is an opportunity for action, for change and for our students to truly realise that they can be, and are, a light to the world.



Mini macks team

We are creating opportunities for Primary students to give back to their school community, Madeline Martin.



Mini Macks is a Mission Initiative that was introduced by Sr Marea Ross many years ago at MacKillop Catholic College. Mini Macks serves as an opportunity to guide and encourage a team of young leaders to live in the work of St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop, by seeing the many needs of our community and taking action to do something about it. These young leaders volunteer their time, before school, during recess and lunch, to follow in her footsteps through various initiatives.

This year the Primary Mini Macks team has been opened to all students from Year 3-6. The team is already showing their commitment to helping their school and wider community. So far this term, the Mini Macks team raised over \$300 for Project Compassion, by selling pancakes before school on Shrove Tuesday. As a Primary Lenten almsgiving initiative, the Mini Macks team collected donations of Easter Eggs. These eggs were wrapped and gifted with an Easter card to the elderly living in our local nursing homes. Mini Macks students enjoyed the opportunity to engage with members of the community, bringing some Easter joy to many who may not have regular visitors.

The 2018 Mini Macks team is looking forward to taking on new and traditional projects throughout the year within the MacKillop community and sharing them with you.



The way of the cross

As we relive the journey of the cross we are reminded of the greatest story ever told, Kerry Power.

HOLY WEEK IS an opportunity to retell the last days of Jesus' life amongst his community. As we hear this story, one that has lasted 2000 years, we are reminded of the energy and emotion that surrounds it. As participants we are asked to position ourselves within the story: Are we part of the crowd who welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem, waving palms and shouting Hosanna? Are we a disciple, present at the last supper, watching as Jesus washed our feet and asked us to serve each other? Are we the people who watched as Jesus carried the cross toward Golgotha and wept or jeered? Are we present on the road to Emmaus as the spirit of Jesus is revealed in word and the breaking of bread?

Our liturgies on Holy Thursday and Easter Tuesday remind us that we are part of this story. We are part of the Christian family who believes that Jesus dwelt amongst us, showed us how to live and then died to show us what is possible for us beyond our earthly existence. Kindergarten through to Year 5 led the Primary School in praying 'The Way of the Cross' on Holy Thursday and Year 6 celebrated the 'Stations of Light' with the Resurrection on Easter Tuesday.

Easter is the pinnacle of our Christian life and as a Catholic school we praise and give thanks for the sacred power of these Holy days.

Blessings for the Easter Season.



Year 7 excursions

Year 7 explore the charism of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Chrystal Price.

ON 19 AND 20 March, Year 7 students and staff set off for their excursions to MacKillop Place North Sydney and the Sisters of St Joseph Spirituality Centre Kincumber.

MacKillop Place is a special site for the Sisters of Saint Joseph as well as our College community. Whilst at North Sydney, students embarked on a guided tour of the museum from a volunteer Sister of Saint Joseph accompanied by one of the HSIE teachers. The students were able to visit Alma Cottage whilst on the tour and visit the tomb of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Visiting the tomb of our patron saint was a special opportunity for the students to pray together for their own intentions as well as the needs of our community.

Year 7 were also fortunate to participate in a workshop on the life of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop, lead by two Sisters who work at MacKillop Place; Sister Anne-Marie and Sister Annie. In these workshops the students explored the connections of their house values to the current work of the Sisters of Saint Joseph and how they can apply the charism of Mary MacKillop to their own lives today.

During the Spirituality Day at Kincumber, students visited the

museum and went on a walking tour of the grounds led by the volunteers. On the tour students learned about St Mary of the Cross and her passion to care for the poor orphans who lived at this historical site. Students also learned about the history of the area and the importance of the work of the Sisters of Saint Joseph in running the boys home in the early nineteenth century. Year 7 also participated in a workshop facilitated by the Youth Ministry Leaders, Mrs Elizabeth Reynolds. This engaging session allowed the students to reflect on what it means to be a MacKillop student and live out the core values connected to the house system. The end of the day saw Fr George facilitating an engaging Q&A session with the students at the Holy Cross Church on site. This was quite an insightful part of the day and it was good to see so many students curious to learn about the Catholic faith and its symbols.

A special thank you to Mr Copas, Mrs Reynolds, Fr George and Mrs Tenev for organising these important days. These excursions were great opportunities for the students to gain a meaningful understanding of our patron Saint and understand the importance of the charism of the school as well as how to act with a Josephite heart.



Cultures of thinking program

Teachers new to the College engage with Cultures of Thinking, Mel McGuinness.

THIS YEAR WE welcomed twelve new teachers to Secondary. As part of their induction they began their journey as part of a community that embraces a Culture of Thinking. Two of our new teachers attended a Professional Learning at the Catholic Schools Office led by Ron Ritchhart, the proverbial father of Cultures of Thinking. In June, Ron will visit MacKillop to conduct Learning Labs with some of our staff.

As we move forward in this model of learning, we continue to engage with the eight cultural forces. This year our focus is to engage with the impact of environment on learning and teaching. We have explored the Broken Bay learning principles and their connection to Cultures of Thinking. Teachers are actively employing contemporary pedagogies that allow for student agency and collaboration. Classroom opportunities to learn individually, as a whole group or within a small group are evident across all faculties. Students become familiar with the concepts of “campfires”, “watering holes” and “caves” as different avenues for learning.

We are also in the process of setting up an experimental learning laboratory in LA1 where students can learn in an agile learning environment which allows for movement, sharing, discussion, listening and creating together. An agile learning environment is a dynamic space where the students' voices emerge and their thinking is audible and valued. In this way the learning is potentially richer and deeper with greater breadth.

Part of the focus on environment also embraces flipped classrooms in the digital world. Flipped learning allows for students to learn at their own pace and in a space that supports and nurtures their independence with provision for them to extend their learning beyond the physical realm of the classroom.

We are on a most exciting and rewarding journey with our staff and students and look forward to seeing them grow into independent critical and creative thinkers who are confident in themselves with skills to move through the Secondary school experience and beyond.



Commonwealth games tour

Here we come, Commonwealth Games, Rachael Elcoate.

IN WEEK 11, 50 enthusiastic Year 10 PASS students together with Mrs Elcoate, Mrs Winkler, Mrs Abel, Mr Taylor and Mr Gasparotto, will make the trek to the Gold Coast to witness and be part of the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Students and staff have been preparing for this for almost a year in anticipation of this historic event.

Students have worked hard with fundraising to raise close to \$2500 which has certainly helped with the costs associated with the trip. The first fundraiser demonstrated the student's ability to wash cars in an exceptional way, so much so that teachers and the wider community are wanting this more often. We were lucky enough to have the support of Bunnings at Lake Haven who allowed the staff and students to host a BBQ and cake stall in February.

The 6-night tour has many highlights for the students and staff which include tickets to the Men's Hockey and Athletics, and Womens Rugby 7's events. Included in this tour is a surfing lesson at Coolangatta Beach and some free time in Surfers Paradise at the Live Zones. Students and staff will be camping during the trip, cooking the majority of meals and embracing the Games atmosphere. We are very much looking forward to this event and hope to represent the College in true MacKillop style!



College captains visit parliament

When student leaders come together as one!, John McNamara.



ON 15 MARCH, our College Captains, Gabrielle Baus and Joshua Lovett, joined me in visiting Parliament House and Government House in Sydney where Year 12 student leaders from all Secondary Schools in New South Wales were invited to attend a leadership day conducted at NSW Parliament, including a special meeting with the Governor.

This enabled student leaders to witness how Parliament works and experience the democratic processes involved with leadership at many levels. Gabrielle and Joshua represented our College so well in their experiences with His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) Governor of NSW, along with state parliamentarians. I was extremely impressed with all of the student leaders and their interactions with each other.

The program began at Parliament House, where Members of Parliament addressed the students and shared their experience as community leaders. We were well looked after by the honourable David Harris MP, our local State Member. The student leaders were then permitted to visit the Chamber or the House to view proceedings, followed by a visit to Government House to meet His Excellency, the Governor.

This was a great opportunity for our College Captains Gabrielle and Joshua, along with other leaders to get a first-hand look at and experience of NSW Parliament. It allowed an opportunity for Gabrielle and Joshua to represent their College and experience the environment of Parliament House and Government House.

Many of the College Captains shared contacts on the day and will no doubt share their wisdom as they travel forward in their Student Leadership Roles.



Primary sport

Kellie Denneman *updates us on Primary sport and activities.*

DESPITE SOME THREATENING weather we managed to stage another successful Primary Cross Country event at Hamlyn Terrace on Friday 9 March. The children in years 2-6 had been training extremely hard in PE in an effort to set some personal best performances. Congratulations to everyone on their endeavour. We had some blistering times run, and very close finishes in a couple of age groups. Special thanks to the parents who gave up their morning to assist as course marshalls for the event & the Year 10 PASS students for helping out. We are very appreciative!

The carnival itself was won by Fitzroy but the overall results were quite close for placings:

Fitzroy	112
Penola	101
Gesu & Kincumber	88
Temuka	86
Alma	84

Congratulations to the following age champions for Cross Country:

	Girls	Boys
8 Years	Rahni Deeley	Ryan Hain
9 Years	Keira Carlson	Patrick Kyle
10 Years	Ava Carlson	Fynn Sadler
11 Years	Jasmin Fisher	Dominic Enraght-Mooney
12/13 Years	Keeley Swaysland	Connor Hibbard

The top 8 competitors in each age group have qualified to represent the school at the CCC Cross Country at Mt Penang on Friday 6 April (Week 10 Term 1). The team of 80

competitors is posted on the Sports Noticeboard outside 4B. We wish them the very best of luck:

Congratulations to Dylan Wightman (5B) who represented himself and MacKillop so proudly at the Broken Bay Twilight Swimming Carnival on Thursday 8 March. Dylan placed 3rd in both the 11 Yr Boys 50m Butterfly and 50m Backstroke & equal 5th in the 50m Freestyle. Dylan progressed to the NSWCPSS Swimming Carnival at Homebush on Wednesday 21 March where he qualified in the Butterfly to represent Polding at the NSWPPSSA Carnival in Week 11 this term. We wish Dylan all the best of luck at this event!

A number of Upper Primary Students attended Broken Bay Winter Sport Trials across the Diocese in Weeks 7-10 this term. The Winter Sport Pathway is extremely competitive with clear nomination standards. We at MacKillop sometimes are required to have a school based trial to nominate our attendees when we have an elite group of athletes in 1 particular sport. We congratulate the following students on their selection in Broken Bay Teams this year:

11 Years League – Archie Black & Tyler Blackhall
 Open League – Jack Dedman
 Boys Soccer – Isaac Zappala
 Girls Hockey – Emma Jones
 Boys Touch – Tyler Blackhall
 Girls Touch – Anabelle Ross

The League, Soccer and Hockey teams will attend Polding in Tamworth on Friday 4 May. Polding Touch trials will be held in Parkes on Friday 1 June. We wish all the students listed above all the best of luck at these events.



A whole school sporting effort

Term 1 has been full to the brim of sport and sporting achievements, Rochelle Williamson.

IT HAS BEEN a huge term of sport for secondary this term. We have not only had two whole school carnivals, we have also had students representing the school in several different sporting areas.

The Swimming Carnival was a vibrant day with several students breaking school records, and Alma house taking out the house shield for this event. Students are to be commended on their active participation and house pride demonstrated throughout the day.

Soon after we celebrated our Athletics carnival on another beautifully sunny day. Students were eager to participate in a range of different events and once again our house captains represented the houses beautifully with a great decorating effort. Fitzroy house were the lucky recipients of the House Shield for Athletics this year.

In other sports our Touch Football Teams played well against other Broken Bay schools in the inter-diocese gala days. Our Opens teams played well, with our girls getting runners up to St Josephs 3-2. Our boys also played well but were knocked out in the semis. Our U13s teams both finished in 9th place

at their gala day, and the U15 boys also placed 9th. U15 girls are to be congratulated on getting 5th place in their comp. We congratulate Teearna Langbridge, Pania Paea and Samara Ross on their selection for the BBSSA representative team.

In Week 10, despite some extra rain, our Open Boys AFL team played extremely well and finished third.

At the BBSSA Swimming Carnival we achieved well, not just in the pool, but also in our clear display of sportsmanship-like behaviors. We were lucky enough to have Nathan Ward, Isaac Wightman, Noah Sanchez and Ella McKay all break records. In addition to this Noah Sanchez and Isaac Wightman took out their respective age champion awards. We wish them all well as they move on to represent Broken Bay in the NSWCCC Carnival.

Nathan Ward is to be further commended on his efforts at the Commonwealth Games Trials. He finished 0.06 outside of his personal best time of 29.99 for the 50m Breast stroke, which placed him in 39th place. What an amazing achievement to be able to compete against our nation's best. MacKillop is so proud of you, Nathan.



Supporting learning at MCC

Jackie Crowe reminds us *"When in doubt go to the Library"* J.K. Rowling.

OPEN DAY BROUGHT a huge crowd to the Library as groups of families and student guides began their tours of the school. Their challenge as they explored the Library was to complete a Library Hunt with a book pack as the ultimate prize. Congratulations to our two winners!

We held two HSC Lockdowns for our senior students in March to help them prepare for their half yearly exams. The Lockdowns were held from 3.30 – 5.30pm on two afternoons giving students access to teachers from various faculties for group and one-on-one tutoring. We will also be holding HSC Lockdowns before the trials and HSC exams in terms 2 & 3.

Our Secondary Book Club has been reading the book *Ghost Boy* in preparation for a visit from the author Felicity Pulman and excursion to the Quarantine Station at Manly, where the story is set, in Term 2. Their ANZAC cookie fundraiser will help cover the costs of these two exciting events.

We are looking forward to a record number of students participating in the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge this year with many students already registered and borrowing books from the list available in the library. The Challenge is open to all students from Kinder to Year 9 and encourages them to read more and to read more widely.

Our students have been extremely helpful this term with suggestions for book purchases. Many have responded to an email inviting them to reply with titles of books they would like us to buy as well as selecting manga books from a display set up by a visiting book seller.

May is National Family Reading month and we will once again be opening the Library for an evening of fun at our Family Pizza and Reading Night to support the importance of reading role models and shared reading time. We hope that many of our Primary families can join us for this on Wednesday May 16.



Sporting and cultural experience

New Zealand Sport and Cultural Tour, Duncan Black.



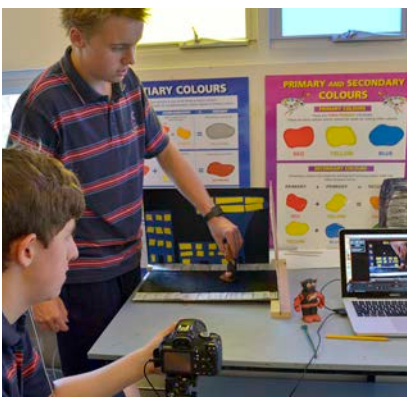
MACKILLOP CATHOLIC COLLEGE will for the first time take part in a Sport and Cultural tour to New Zealand in April 2018. The College will be sending 3 Netball teams and a Rugby League team with 6 Staff members. The touring party will be travelling to Auckland, Hamilton and Rotorua, with the final day attending the ANZAC ceremony in Auckland. While in New Zealand the teams will play 3 games each against other Colleges. Some sightseeing will also take place going to areas such as Waitomo Glow Worm Caves, Skyline Adventure / Lugging, Mitai Maori Village, Sky Tower, Sulphur baths and Redwood forest.

The students have been busy attending Bunnings BBQ, working in their casual jobs, participating in raffles and training throughout term 4 2017 and term 1 2018. We wish the students and staff safe travels and life experiences on the way.

Artists of excellence

Jillian Young showcases wonderful artwork from our students.

YEAR 10 - Photographic and Digital Media students experienced a day as animators.



Looking for Sr Marea

Steve Todd *outlines the recovery for Sr Marea from her knee surgery.*

ONE OF THE most welcoming aspects for starting every year at MacKillop (since 2003) has been the presence and welcome from our Sr Marea. So, it is quite acceptable to think that this year has felt different for us all without Sr Marea being here for the start of another school year. Sr Marea has been on sick leave recovering from her double knee operation that took place at the end of 2017.

Sr Marea's welcome to new students, especially Kinders and Year 7 students, has been part of all our students experience for starting at MacKillop Catholic College, as she is a much admired and positive Josephite influence in our Catholic community.

It was lovely to see Sr Marea pay us a visit for the Feast of St. Joseph on Monday 19 March for our Primary Mass with the Secondary student leaders in attendance. The celebration of the Feast of St. Joseph has become a most valued connection we have with our Josephite family each year for the Patron Saint of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

I am also pleased to say on seeing Sr Marea recently that she is looking very trim and in good spirits. Her recovery from knee surgery was made a little more challenging when she contracted a nasty gastro bug but, she is now doing quite well and gaining a little more strength each day. Sr Marea is exercising her new knees and is close to being able to drive again. She has moved back to her home here at Woongarra and she is so looking forward to rejoining us at MacKillop for the start of Term 2.

It won't take Sr Marea long to visit our Kinder and Year 7 students and continue her Josephite work with Mini Macks and our Secondary JUMP students slowly upon her return. Connections with families, especially those who may be finding the road difficult, will also be high on her list.

All-in-all we are so looking forward to seeing our Sr Marea back with us for Term 2 and I am sure she sends her very best wishes to one and all for the Easter Season.



Lots of choice in sport

Belinda Wells *talks about our new sport, fitness boxing.*

THURSDAY SPORT AND Activity Afternoon is getting more diverse with each year and 2018 saw the introduction of the Boxing Fitness Sports program, presented by qualified instructors Chris Liggins and Allecia Marino Liggins at Enterprise Fitness Boxing. There are two components to each Fitness Boxing session – general fitness followed by the fundamental skills of boxing and conditioning. Students participate in drills to promote speed, agility, finesse, power, timing, evasion, endurance, footwork, hand-eye coordination,

correct pad techniques, muscular and cardio endurance.

This term students were lucky enough to enjoy a training session by special guest and Olympian, Jamie Pittman. The training session used drills based on non-contact boxing movements in a high intensity workout. Students truly appreciated the knowledge and humbleness of Jamie Pittman whilst also learning about respect, teamwork and responsibility. Both Mr Hughes and I have been so impressed with the program's success and enthusiasm of every student.



Parent news

It was wonderful to see so many families gather for the Welcome Mass, Natalie Tunstead.

IT HAS BEEN a very busy term and I'm sure everyone is looking forward to the break. It was wonderful to meet lots of families during our College Open Day and our Kindergarten and Year 7 2019 Information evenings.

Our first Parent Forum for the year was held on Wednesday 7 March before the Open Afternoon and was supported by the attendance of our three Principals. Although it was a small turnout it was great to see some new faces. During this meeting we were able to discuss feedback from parents on College Matters and the Yearbook. As well as an update on the progress of the Parent Partnership Charter, which will be launched early next term. Keep an eye out for advertising of our next Parent Forum and come along - everyone is welcome.

Catholic School Parents Leadership Evening was held at St Cecilia's Wyong on Monday 19 March. This is an annual meeting where parents, Principals and catholic schools office staff come to meet and discuss issues affecting the Central Coast Schools of Broken Bay Diocese. During the evening important topics were discussed such as school funding, Parent partnership and Future planning. I attended this

meeting with our Secondary Principal, Mrs Debra Ferguson, and five parent representatives. A special thank you to John Woods, Nicole Williamson, Karina Baftirovski, Kirsty Liston and Craig Barrett for attending on the night and engaging in the process to support our college.

We have recently advertised a request for Primary Grade Parents including a description of the role. The Leadership team will now review and follow up with parents who nominated. I will continue to keep you informed via Facebook updates.

Last week our Primary Athletics Carnival was held at Mingara Athletics Centre. It was wonderful to see many parents out to support the children on this very warm day. I would like to say thank you to those parents who were able to give up their time to assist with the preparing, cooking and serving of the BBQ. I would also like to thank those who were able to bring a gazebo or esky at short notice. Last but not least, I need to say a huge thank you to Kirsty Liston who was able to coordinate the lunch orders beforehand and the BBQ on the day.





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