

ISSUE 13 | WEEK 5, TERM 1 2018

COLLEGE**Matters**

A Terrific Start to 2018 in Term One



MACKILLOP
Catholic College
WARNERVALE

WELCOMING KINDERGARTEN AND YEAR 7

FANTASTIC HSC RESULTS FOR 2017

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL - THAT'S A WRAP!



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College Principal's Message

College Principal, Steve Todd describes how 2018 has started well for everyone at MacKillop with a great sense of hope.

WELCOME TO EVERYONE for another year of College Matters publications. This year, we welcome aboard our new Media Officer, Alyssa Chilvers who will be coordinating many of the College publications this year. Alyssa's skills and keen interest in media will see her heavily involved with the launch of a new College website and app, as well as for assisting us with the ongoing promotion of the College right across our local community. We have great hopes for all our communications and publications processes.

This edition covers the jammed-packed events of the first few weeks of the year. In particular, the welcoming of new students, staff and families. We also celebrate the HSC results from 2017 proving, once again, that MacKillop continues to be one of the leading HSC schools on the Central Coast. This is something that speaks strongly about the healthy learning culture we have developed here at MacKillop. Well done to the HSC Class of 2017 and best wishes for the next adventure.

There have been some wonderful celebrations to start the year that have been an absolute joy to attend. The recent Senior Students Luncheon on 9 February was a privilege to attend. It was a really proud moment to assist our Director of Schools, Peter Hamill, present the College Dux, Lachlan Drake, with his medal and the Stephen Aitken 'Personal Best' Shield.

The news that Lachlan not only came first in the Diocese in five subjects but also that he was the Diocesan Dux gave us all an enormous boost for just what a wonderful learning environment we have here at MacKillop. The luncheon was a wonderful day for all the senior students and to hear from 2008 HSC student, Shannon Martin, was also a highlight of the afternoon.

Our Parish Welcome Mass, held on Sunday 18 February, was another great occasion as all new students, staff and families were welcomed into our College. We thank Fr George for celebrating this occasion with us as Fr Vince is on leave for this term. The new students, families and staff thoroughly enjoyed a sausage sizzle, cool drink and cake after Mass. It always gives us a good feeling seeing the new Kinders hugging their MacKillop teddy bears. Year 7 students were presented with their MacKillop key rings. Thank you to our student leaders for supporting the day with their invaluable assistance.

We have reached another Lenten season and the journey to Easter is about growth, prayer and compassion. We can all do this with hearts that connect to the needs of the people around us.

Take care.



Welcome to 2018

Let 2018 be the start of something new, Sue Dietrich, Primary Principal .

AS WE BEGIN the 2018 school year, I reflect on the statement: "If you don't know where you are going, it doesn't matter which way you go." So said the Cheshire Cat to a somewhat muddle-minded Alice in the classic tale of Alice in Wonderland.

Our College Mission Statement is the opportunity for our College to set out its purpose for, with and to our community. How would each of us go, if we had to write a personal Mission Statement about the purpose of our existence and how we live our lives? Maybe we could state who we are, whom we serve, what services we provide, what are our goals and values.

Our College Mission Statement provides this same opportunity. Each year every member of our community, students, staff and families, has the opportunity to start something new for their own personal growth. The three areas of our School Improvement Plan lay out these opportunities with an even deeper perspective. These areas are:

Mission where we strive to be a "Be a Light to the World";
Learning where we strive to "Value Learning"; and
Wellbeing where we strive to "Honour Each Other".

At the start of our new school year, we welcomed 5 new staff members, 25 new children and their families in Years 1 to 6 and our 68 new Kindergarten children who joined us this year to begin their educational journey. We look forward to being an important part of their lives in the year ahead and being able to share their learning, successes and joys each term.

How can parents help their children have the best start to school in 2018 and know where they are heading during the

year? Here are some tips that may help along the journey:

- Be intentional about nurturing your child's sense of belonging
- Foster your child's value of inclusiveness and acceptance of others in spite of diversity and dissimilarities
- Model and engender attributes of kindness, courtesy and respect
- Teach the importance of mindfulness and sleep to balance physical and emotional wellbeing
- Champion a mindset of 'dare to be brave'
- Share their excitement... whatever they come home to talk about and be positive in your language with them
- Stretch your child's capacity wisely thus empowering their own sense of resolution and discovery
- Promote optimism and resilience, coach them at their pace and celebrate small and big steps along the way
- Let your child lead, being mindful that this is their time of self-discovery
- Whisper "just breathe" to encourage them at moments of uncertainty or anxiety.

With this first edition of College Matters for 2018, we invite all students, staff and families to start something new to enhance our lives and the lives of those around us, to continue to be involved with all school events as opportunities arise, to keep open and positive communication channels with staff and to share wisdom and support as we work together.



Another exciting year

Debra Ferguson, Secondary College Principal, informs us the bishops of Australia have nominated 2018 to be 'The Year of Youth'.

WE WELCOME BACK all our teachers, parents and students to another busy and exciting year. The bishops of Australia have nominated 2018 to be 'The Year of Youth'. That theme is so easily adapted into any school and at MacKillop we strive to work with our youth to be the best possible version of themselves. This is fostered by the three main themes from our School Improvement Plan of 'Being a Light to the World', to 'Value Learning' and to 'Honour each other'. These themes can be found on signs throughout the College to remind us of this every day.

This term we welcomed 8 new teachers to the secondary school and 5 returning teachers. We know our students will make them feel very welcomed and we hope that they enjoy their time with us. They bring experience and enthusiasm. All our teachers will continue this year to gain more pedagogical knowledge especially in the fields of eTechnology and Cultures of Thinking so that the learning and teaching at MacKillop is at the highest standard.

The term commenced with a number of key events with the 'Christ Our Light' Senior Luncheon, the Welcome Mass for all new students K-12, a number of assemblies, an Ash Wednesday Liturgy and preparing for our Opening College Mass and our Swimming Carnival, both in Week 5. All these events provide wonderful community time and are highly valued by the College.

During Lent we once again invited all our students to attend the 7.30am Mass at our church each Wednesday morning. This gives them some prayerful reflection time to prepare for Easter and to consider how they might be a light to the world. After Mass we provide them all with a hearty breakfast and a time to gather together.

During Lent we also support a Catholic charitable group called Caritas who work in the developing countries of the world. Their theme this year is 'A Just Future'. Our students have been viewing some stories of young people who have been assisted by Caritas in various parts of the world and all our students have been challenged to help raise money again this year for Caritas through Project Compassion.

At the beginning of term both Mrs McGuinness and I addressed the students about making goals for the year and to strive for their personal best. We explained the importance of never giving up and that making mistakes is the way we learn. We told them that our hope is that coming year is that they do make mistakes. Because if they are making mistakes, then they are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing themselves, changing themselves, changing their world and they are doing things they have never done before.

So I wish you all another fantastic year where we all, parents, teachers and student, work together for the benefit of every child.

New secondary staff members

MCC welcomes new staff members to our community by Mel McGuinness.

WE ARE DELIGHTED to welcome a number of new staff to our dynamic and faith-filled community:

- Mr Jason Morrow has been appointed to the position of Assistant Mathematics Co-ordinator. He has a breadth of experience which he brings to us and we look forward to learning with him.
- Miss Shannon Mulder spent time at MCC as an intern and has now been appointed to the English Faculty. We hope she has a truly happy and successful year. Shannon has a love of learning and English and she brings vitality to the role.
- Miss Georgia Townsend has been appointed to the Science Faculty. She was also spent time at MCC completing a practicum. Georgia brings with her a great love of learning and of Science, is very enthusiastic and energised.
- Mr Ryan Herbert has returned to MacKillop after 4 years. He has been appointed to the position of Science Co-ordinator and we are most delighted to have him return to us.
- Mrs Maria Lawrence has come to us from the Newcastle Diocese and she is an experienced teacher of English and Religion. She brings a great deal of passion and joy to her professional practice and we hope that she feels most welcome here.
- Mr Mark Gilham is a very experienced teacher and leader who has been appointed to the Religion Faculty. We are

most privileged to welcome him amongst us.

- Mr Brendan Campbell has joined our Learning Support team. He brings a breadth of experience to this role and we wish him well in joining our team.
- Miss Bryttani Ajani has joined our English Faculty. She is enthusiastic and keen to work amongst our students and share her love of learning.
- Mrs Corrine Patil came on board for a block last year and has now joined the HSIE staff this year. Corrine, too, is energetic and keen to share her love of learning with our students.
- Mrs Beverley Mylchreest comes to us after teaching at both St. Josephs, East Gosford and St. Peter's, Tuggerah. We look forward to having her on board in the Science Faculty and we welcome her to the College Community.
- Mrs Skye Sadler joins the Learning Support Faculty and she has been teaching in Broken Bay schools in the recent past. She is delighted to join us and we are thrilled to welcome her.

We hope that your time here is an enriching experience for you and that you are blessed abundantly as we walk this journey together in the light of God's unfailing love. We invite all into our community and say COME, EMBRACE, BELONG.



Welcome to new faces!

New year, new people, Ann Jackson.

A NEW YEAR brings with it new staff members and we are exceptionally blessed to have four teachers join our community. Each of them bring gifts and talents that will compliment our current staff members and will go a long way towards building our MacKillop Catholic community into an even richer place of education and faith. It is always a difficult task to choose new employees from the myriad of applications we receive each time a position is advertised, but we believe that these four ladies bring with them a deep respect for who we are, many skills, professionalism, and a deep faith.

It is my very great pleasure to welcome Mrs Angela Wark who comes to us from Narrabeen and who will job share in 5 Banksia with Mrs Lauren Oliver; Mrs Jodie Kessler who has a wealth of experience in Special Education and who will teach 5 Wattle; Mrs Catherine Brown who comes to us from Newcastle Diocese and who will teach 6 Grevillea; and Miss Alexandra Cooper who has been teaching at Noraville and will teach K Banksia. I know that, along with staff and students, you will welcome them with open arms in true MacKillop style!

Finally, I would also like to welcome back some staff: Mrs Melissa Ellmore, who returns from maternity leave and will share 1 Grevillea with Mrs Simone Merrotsy; Mr Luke Bondfield and Mr John Wood, both of whom joined us at the latter end of 2017, will be with us for all of 2018 teaching 6 Wattle and as a Learning Support teacher, respectively. We are indeed excited to be working with these 'new faces' and trust that they are mutually excited about this new beginning with which our good God has blessed us and which fills our hearts with deep gratitude. Welcome!



A word from our college captains

Gabbi and Josh are excited to lead the College into another successful year.



WHAT A GREAT start to the year! Both of us are continuing to grow in our time as College Captains and are excited for what the year has to bring. Upon returning from JJAMM in Week 3, we are eager to introduce new ideas and opportunities that we hope will enhance the Josephite spirit within our school community. We have enjoyed welcoming the newest members of our college, and the new cohorts of Kindergarten and Year 7 students, to the valued culture of learning here at MacKillop. We hope that they have found easy passage into high school and as seniors we will endeavour to upkeep the support of these students throughout this transition. With the goal of extending positive relationships and fostering optimistic attitudes between each cohort, we hope that we can create enlightening and memorable first experiences for these students at MacKillop.

To all of the new students from years 8-12, Carl Bard once said, "Though no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending." We realise that it is an immensely difficult transition from the environment, social life, educators and routines of your former school, but we will try our very best to ensure you settle into the MCC community and become part of the MCC spirit at our College. If any new students have any questions or concerns about their transition to MacKillop, feel free to come and introduce yourselves to ourselves or any of the Parliament members for advice or answers. It can be daunting to navigate your way around a new school campus which is so large. If you feel overwhelmed by this or any other fundamental issues such as studying or extra-curricular activities, don't hesitate to contact us. We hope you have an enriching time at MCC and we look forward to seeing you around the school and building progressive relationships with our peers.



JJAMM

John McNamara *explores the challenges of Leadership with our Captains.*

BETWEEN 10-14 FEBRUARY, our College Captains, Josh Lovett and Gabbi Baus travelled with me to St. Joseph's Spirituality Centre, Kincumber, to take part in the annual JJAMM conference. They joined key student leaders from 25 other Josephite Colleges from around Australia and New Zealand. Throughout the six days of the conference, Gabbi, Josh and all the other student leaders were commissioned as Josephite Leaders for their school communities. Working with Sister Jan and her team, Gabbi and Josh were able to explore the gifts and challenges of leadership. Along with their other JJAMM participants, they were able to consider that we are all called to leadership in our own way, as well as investigating the notion of what it is that makes a good leader.

Day two of the conference saw the group travel to Mackillop Place in North Sydney to engage in prayer around Mary Mackillop's Tomb. Such a sacred place that our students are so fortunate to be in close proximity to. This session was particularly moving, a very powerful experience. The work of Mary and Julian Tennyson Woods was conveyed in detail. Each individual school gave a presentation to the entire group about "The Spirit of their school." All of these presentations were impressive, but none were better than Josh and Gabbi's beautiful iMovie that they had made about the College House System and the relevant values attached. They were able to

truly depict the soul of our College.

JJAMM then moved on to St. Joseph's Spirituality Centre at Kincumber, where the students explored more deeply their capacity as leaders to make a difference in their schools and their world. Here the students explored what it means to call others into the leadership process. What it means to be united in prayer, and to undertake social justice initiatives and work for the oppressed. Each school presented their possible focus for 2018, though some schools were only at the very early planning stages for this. Josh and Gabbi spoke extremely well through their discussion sessions, clearly articulating our desire to focus on the plight of the Homeless in our communities here and abroad. The entire group helped to brainstorm possible strategies and action plans that could be used around the identified focus area. Josh and Gabbi came away feeling very positive and enthusiastic about moving forward from here.

It was a pleasure to travel to JJAMM with both Josh and Gabbi. The students of Mackillop Catholic College have been blessed with two fantastic young leaders who will enrich the College with their leadership and stance on social justice issues. I look forward to continuing to work with Gabbi, Josh and the rest of the Senior Student Leadership Team.



2017 HSC achievers recognised

MacKillop is proud to have had the highest achiever in the Diocese, Debra Ferguson.

ON TUESDAY 13 February, the Catholic Schools Office held its third annual HSC Achievers' Awards at Pennant Hills. Mr Peter Hamill, Director of the Broken Bay Catholic Schools Office, invited the 3 highest ATAR students, the students who topped the Diocese in each subject, the Allrounders, the students who were nominated and accepted to exhibit their major works at HSC performances and displays and also the Diocesan Dux. In total, 70 students were eligible for this across all seven secondary colleges and over 40 attended with their teachers and families.

We are so very proud of all our HSC Class of 2017 and we congratulate all the above students. They were presented with framed certificates as well as certificates for their resumes and all the students and their families were treated to a lovely afternoon tea.

This was a very proud afternoon for MacKillop as we were represented by the following:

3 Highest ATAR students	Lachlan Drake
	Kurt Bishop
	Brendan Walker

Topped the Diocese	
Entertainment Ind Exam	Chloe McDonald (also 5th in NSW)
English (Standard)	Chloe Chambers
Biology Equal 1st	Lachlan Drake
Chemistry	Lachlan Drake
Mathematics	Lachlan Drake
Physics	Lachlan Drake
Studies of Religion I	Lachlan Drake
Dance	Natasha Knight
Textiles and Design	Natasha Knight
Spanish Beginners	Connor McCaig
Hosp Exam Kitch Op & Cook	Lauren Parkins
Community & Family Studies	Alana Robertson
Allrounder (Gaining a band 6 in each exam of at least 10 units/5 subjects)	Lachlan Drake
Dux of the Diocese	Lachlan Drake

Welcome Father George

A journey of faith, from Terrigal to Warnervale, Kerry Power.

DURING TERM 1, while our Parish Priest, Father Vince, is away on Long Service Leave we have welcomed Father George Gorzkowski to St. Mary of the Cross Parish and MacKillop Community. Father George is currently assistant priest at Star of the Sea Parish, Terrigal. He has generously accepted to lead MacKillop through the opening months of 2018.

In the masses that Father George has presided over in the beginning weeks he has opening shared his love of vocation and the powerful mystery of God, working through him to bring God's love to others. Father George came to his vocation as priest later in life. He was originally a 'fitter and turner' by trade and a manager of petrol stations. Through extraordinary circumstances he was inspired by the Holy Spirit to turn his life around and begin to follow in Jesus' footsteps. He describes his experience as an 'epiphany' that brought about a profound faith in how he was called to live his life. Through Father George's experience we can all be witness the power of the Holy Spirit to make changes in our life. All we need to do is believe in God enough to trust and have hope in the message of Jesus as our Saviour.

Father George is enjoying his time at MacKillop and believes that each community he is called to might experience just a little of his inspiration. He has especially enjoyed the large masses he has led, including the Senior's Mass, Ash Wednesday and, of course, the amazing experience of the K-12 Opening School Mass in Week 5. He continues to enjoy the experience of community here at Warnervale and getting to know the parish and College Communities better.



Lenten season

Forty days of positive change, Kerry Power.



"LENT DRAWS US into the Paschal mystery, into the dying and rising of Jesus Christ that is the foundational pattern of our Christian life. As we walk with Jesus during these weeks and remember his passion and death, we see him lifted up on a Cross, emptying himself and giving life in an act of love and reconciliation for humankind.

The great gift we share as Christians is to know that the story does not end there. We look ahead to lifting up of Jesus in the Resurrection. Restored from the grave, death is transformed and hope renewed." Bishop Peter Comensoli Bishop of Broken Bay.

This introduction from Bishop Peter reminds us of the rhythm of the liturgical year; of Lent as the 40 day journey of change in preparation for Easter. We are reminded of the symbols and practices of Ash Wednesday and the message of fasting and giving us, giving more and making a greater commitment to prayer. This is our sacrifice in solidarity with each other and Jesus. Lent is a time to contemplate our need to repent, to control and change those habits that are negative, to renew our connection with the spiritual element of our life and make a focused commitment to the needs of local and global communities. The MacKillop Community uses Lent to raise awareness and funds to support Caritas (our Catholic Global Mission Organisation) through the work of Project Compassion. We also reach out to the residents in our local Nursing and Aged Care facilities through our annual Easter Egg drive. Take the time to ask your children to reflect on the ways they can change for the better during this Lenten Season.

Blessings.

Parish welcome mass

Building connections with new staff, students and their families, Chrystal Price.

OUR PARISH WELCOME Mass was held on Sunday 18 February. Members of both the College and Parish communities gathered together to celebrate in the Eucharist and welcome all those who are new to the College. This included the Kindergarten and Year 7 Students and their families, as well as, new staff members. At the end of the Mass those who attended moved to the COLA to share in a BBQ lunch together which was a lovely way to get to know the students and their families.

We are just so blessed to have such strong connections with our Parish community and we sincerely thank Fr George for presiding this Mass for us. In particular it was fantastic to see so many who are people connected to our MacKillop community there to welcome all those families such as our student leaders and staff.

Fr Vince (our Parish Priest) has described the College as '... an important expression of the Catholic community'. That 'All who work or study here, in one way or another, are enfolded

in the circle of our Catholic family' and this is exactly what the Welcome Mass was all about.

The Welcome Mass is an annual event that hopes to ensure that all families no matter what their religious background, knows that they are welcome here as part of our MacKillop community but also that this sense of belonging extends to our Catholic family as well.

The College Principals organised gifts for those who are new to our community and these were distributed at this Mass. These gifts all contain the College crest which connects us to Mary MacKillop and the sisters of St Joseph, the Norah Head lighthouse as well as the Indigenous land of the Darkunjung nation on which the College is built. More importantly, the gift is a reminder of Christ's light that continues to guide us and bless us.

We hope that the gifts act as a small reminder that we are so grateful to all who are part of our community and that they too belong to our Catholic community here at Warnervale.



Year 6 leaders commissioning

Sue Dietrich *introduces our Primary Student leaders.*

AN AREA WHERE we take great pride with our students is that of Student Leadership. Leadership is an opportunity to serve. Donald McGannon states that, “Good leaders must first become good servants”. As members of our Catholic community, service to others is at the forefront of our minds and during 2018 we aim to work with our Primary Leaders and instill in them a sense of the 3 “R”s: Reach, Respect, and Relationship, as they work with the school community.

Reach: to unlock their own potential and help others to discover theirs:

Respect: to begin while they are young to create an atmosphere of respect in classrooms and on the playground;

Relationship: to enable them to create healthy relationships in the school thus paving the foundation of friendships that will last a lifetime.

These 38 students across Years 3 to 6 will have opportunities throughout 2018 to work with all students of MacKillop Primary and staff members, under the guidance of Mrs Gainsford.

The children received their badges with pride during the Commissioning Liturgy which reminded everyone that we each have a role to play as respectful members of our community.

Congratulations to our Leaders for 2018

Year 6 Leaders		
SCHOOL CAPTAINS	Zoe Henderson	Manuel Ampoma-Gyamfi

Year 6 Leaders		
MISSION	Jonathon McCann	Keely Swaysland
CULTURE	Maddison Dunn	Sebastian Varndell
WELLBEING	Blake Field	Melissa Varney
KINCUMBER	Hannah Hopwood	Emily Sanders
GESU	Anabelle Ross	Jordan Primmer
ALMA	Charlize Bietola	Logan Liston
TEMUKA	Olivia Murray	Khylan Crain
FITZROY	Emma Jones	Thomas Schramm
PENOLA	Ruby- Jade Paul	Meg Wooden

SRC Members		
3 BANKSIA	Joshua Norris	Brooklyn Yahncl
3 GREVILLEA	Finn Williamson	Abby Seaman
3 WATTLE	Ryan Hain	Abbey Robertson
4 BANKSIA	Beau Hanson	Blaire Shaw
4 GREVILLEA	Kolton Yahncl	Ruby Black
4 WATTLE	Brayden Lees	Sienna Grigg
5 BANKSIA	Samuel Amino	Jasmin Fisher
5 GREVILLEA	Fynn Sadler	Asher Twentyman
5 WATTLE	Steve Johnson	Milly Timp



Sr Jane Maisey's profession

Steve Todd, *We celebrate with Sr Jane Maisey.*

DURING TERM 3 of last year, we had the great blessing of having Josephite novice, Jane Maisey, join us for 7 weeks at MacKillop, as part of her journey towards becoming a Sister of St. Joseph. I am delighted to tell everyone across our College community that on Saturday 13 January, Jane Maisey made her First Profession as a Sister of St. Joseph in the Chapel at Mary MacKillop Place in front of her family, the Sisters and special guests. Sr Monica Cavanagh, the Congregational Leader was delighted to welcome Sr Jane in what was a very moving and beautiful Mass and Ceremony.

As a representative of this College community, I was invited to attend this ceremony and I cannot describe just how privileged I felt for witnessing this very special event in Jane's life. It is hard to describe the event other than to say it was a very personal and spiritually uplifting occasion.

Like many people, I had never been to a profession of a religious Sister, so it was a first time experience for me and one I will long remember. Jane spoke about her love for her relatives, friends, Mary MacKillop for her God and the Sisters who all are her 'family'. The central focus for the mass was that we are all parts of this one body in Christ (Cor 12:12-27). She said; "We are all called to travel together, this day is about

joyfully celebrating everyone's special call from our inclusive God."

"Remember, we are but travelers here." ~ Mary MacKillop.

The ceremony booklet was adorned with wonderfully decorative images that Jane herself designed and made. They were simply beautiful and inspiring. So, everyone at our College can feel very happy about this special event as Jane found being at MacKillop gave her even more encouragement for where she has now taken her life as a Sister of St. Joseph.

It was announced at the end of the ceremony that Jane will be taking up a similar role to the one she had at MacKillop, Warnervale, as she will be in ministry as Pastoral Support and Design at Mount St. Joseph's College, Milperra. This is great news for Jane and for MSJ College, Milperra who are foundational members of the AJASS Schools around Australia and New Zealand. As we are also members of the AJASS community, I am sure our paths will cross again.

I join with our whole College community in congratulating Sr Jane and I know she will carry us in her prayers. Your prayers with Jane are also very welcome. You learn more about Jane's journey on her website: www.designjane.com



Peer support

Kathleen Black *helps guide Year 7 through challenges.*



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

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

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

Orange Sky Laundry

Josh Lovett *loses his long locks in the name of charity.*

IN TERM 4 2017 Josh Lovett took the plunge, or should we say 'cut', and shaved his head for charity.

All of the funds raised were donated to Orange Sky Laundry, while his long locks were cut so that they could be preserved for use in wigs for cancer patients. Saying farewell to his man-bun, Josh wanted to thank everyone for their generosity in helping him raise \$2073.90 for a great cause.

MacKillop would like to thank Josh for this magnificent act of charity, to our wonderful parent hairdressers who volunteered to make it happen, and to our community for their amazing support.



JUMP

Michelle Baxter *acknowledges Year 8 for their outstanding volunteer work.*

IT HAS BEEN an exciting start to 2018 with many students' in Year 8 participating in numerous outreach opportunities. As part of the JUMP (Josephites Undertaking Mission Project) initiative, students are required to partake in 15 hours of community service; with a number of our students exceeding this expectation, already logging up to 40 hours in Term 4 2017. These students were recently recognised for their contribution, receiving their Bronze pin as part of the acknowledgement process.

Each Term a range of opportunities will be available for students to interact with the community, to make a difference in the lives of others and to obtain hours as part of the outreach program. In doing so, they learn the true value of what it means to serve others.

This Term, a small group of Year 8 have been afforded the opportunity to visit Oasis, a youth centre in Wyong, where they spend each week during sport-time learning about social justice issues and developing care-packs for those identified as vulnerable. Another group of students have come together to create inspirational art in the girls toilets.

The project aims to promote a positive message of empowerment for all young women and to inspire self-worth and a positive body-image. The project is due to be completed at the end of Term 1 and will be sure to bring a new energy and colourful atmosphere to the S Block toilets, as well as a smile to the faces of those who visit.

Term 2 is set to continue in the tradition of Mary MacKillop, 'seeing a need and doing something about it' with our inaugural 'Birthing Kit' project being launched. Staff and students will work together to raise money in order to purchase supplies, and then come together for a packing day. The kits will be distributed to women in developing countries to ensure safe and hygienic births.

Congratulations to all students who have begun the JUMP program; whether it be helping a neighbour mow the lawn, babysitting for a relative or participating in one of the many opportunities available at the College; every small action can make a huge difference to the lives of others.



HSC class of 2017 congratulations

Another quality HSC performance, Mel McGuinness.

ONCE AGAIN, MACKILLOP Catholic College, Warnervale proudly welcomes another strong HSC result from the Class of 2017. Our students have continued the fine performance of honour listings achieved by the last six HSC cohorts. We extend our congratulations to the entire HSC Class of 2017 and all our staff, as these achievements continue the impressive reputation of the College's learning culture.

The HSC Class of 2017 has recorded a very credible HSC performance with 93.7% of all HSC entries achieving Band 3 and above. Close to 64.4% of all listings representing Band 4 and above with a most commendable level of 28.2% of all listings representing the top two bands. This increase in the top two bands is a great testament to the students and the teaching staff at MacKillop Catholic College.

HSC Results 2017 for all courses = 145 students

Bands	6+E4	5+E3	4+E2	3	2	1
Listings	31	162	247	200	32	11
%	4.5	23.7	36.2	29.3	4.7	1.6%
Variation from 2016	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.8%	5.4%	5.0%	-0.5%

There is close alignment with the bands over the past three years. There is much to celebrate with the all-round quality of the HSC performances at the College.

HSC Courses achieved above the State mean:

Hospitality/Construction Exam	+ 7.13
Industrial Technology	+ 10.84
Entertainment	+ 4.15
CAFS	+ 2.31
English Standard	+ 3.02
Music	+ 2.40
Senior Science	+ 3.75
Textiles and Design	+ 2.51



The College proudly acknowledges the 19 individual students who achieved 31 honour listings across 19 subjects:

Kurt Bishop	2U Mathematics
Taylor Doughty	Hospitality
Nathan Doyle	Mathematics General 2, SOR 1
Lachlan Drake	Biology, Chemistry, 2U Mathematics, SOR 1, Physics, Mathematics Ext
Sarah Halligan	Industrial Technology
Natasha Knight	Dance, SOR 1, Textiles and Design
Curtis Lang	Visual Arts
Matthew Martin	Mathematics General 2, Music 1, Entertainment
Chloe McDonald	Entertainment, Industrial Technology
Jarrod Montgomery	Industrial Technology
Chelsea Orchard	Senior Science
Lauren Parkins	Hospitality
Maddison Peters	Community and Family Studies
Karrisa Prince	Entertainment
Alana Robertson	Community and Family Studies
Laura Ryan	Food Technology, SOR 1
Jordyn Toms-Wedge	Design and Technology
Brendan Walker	Mathematics
Jordan Wasley	Entertainment

Top 10 ATAR Students

Congratulations to Lachlan Drake who achieved the highest ATAR of 98.55 and so deservedly becomes the College Dux and Dux of the Diocese. We join in congratulating these top 10 ATAR students for the HSC 2017:

- Lachlan Drake
- Kurt Bishop
- Nathan Doyle
- William Fischer
- Natasha Knight
- Matthew Martin
- Alana Robertson
- Laura Ryan
- Jordyn Toms-Wedge
- Brendan Walker

Our seniors are honoured

Debra Ferguson, *our seniors step up.*

ON FRIDAY 9 February, MacKillop held its annual 'Christ Our Light' Senior Luncheon. This commenced with Mass where we honoured our seniors as the leaders of the College community as well as developing into young adults. At the Mass the Year 11 students were presented with their senior badges by Year 12 Student Leaders and College Captains and all the students recited their senior pledge to the community.

Following the Mass the students and staff travelled to the Wyong Leagues Club where we all enjoyed a two course meal as part of our celebration and recognition of our senior students. During this celebration we also recognised our high achieving Year 12 students from the HSC Class of 2017.

We recognised and honoured the 2017 Dux of the College and the top 10 ATAR students as well as those students who achieved in being placed first in the Diocese in a particular subject. They were all invited, with their parents, to join us for this meal and to share with our senior students what they will be doing this year.

Every year the Dux of the College addresses us all and gives advice to the students on how to maximise their learning potential. Our Dux for 2017, Lachlan Drake, spoke very well on the day.

We also invite an ex-student back each year to explain what they have been doing since leaving school and also to add some advice. This year marks the 10th anniversary of our first class to sit a HSC so it was fitting to ask back a student from the HSC Class of 2008. Shannon Martin (nee O'Brien) who attended MacKillop between 2003-2008 and now a lawyer, gave an inspiring speech about striving for your personal best and finding a career you are passionate about. Shannon is presently in the law division of QBE Insurance.

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





Sister School Term Exchange

Thank you to our amazing host families, Helen Beech.

AT MACKILLOP CATHOLIC College we are fortunate to have a special relationship with our Sister School in Japan, Nihon Daiichi Junior High School. Last year we began a term exchange between our two schools. This has continued this year when we received two students from Nihon Daiichi Junior High School, Yuki Nitta and Yurina Morishita, on 21 January. The students received a big shock on their first day when it was 38 degrees in Sydney after leaving the Tokyo weather of 4 degrees.

The Japanese students have been experiencing school life, family life and activities. All students' language improved immensely and they made many lifelong friends. I would like to thank the host families that looked after and cared for our students both here and in Japan. Particularly, I would like to thank Whitney Valamis and her family for hosting Yuki, and Alisha Lambert and her family for hosting Yurina.

This was an amazing opportunity for all students, families and both school and I look forward to this school relationship continuing to flourish. Yuki and Yurina have written a few words of praise from their time so far in Australia:

Yuki Nitta:

G'day everyone. I'm Yuki. This is the third time to visit here. My favourite memory in school is taking part in laser tag

because it's really amazing and fun. I like it so I want to play more.

Thank you to my host family this is the second time to stay at the Valamis family's house. I'm really happy that I can stay twice. I'm grateful kind for everything. I also want to say thank you to my mates, You are all kind, friendly and sometimes funny. I love them.

Thank you MacKillop. Thank you Mrs Beech. Thank you everyone. I'll not forget you and a lot of memories

Yurina Morishita:

I'm Yurina Morishita. I love Australia very much and that's why I have come here three times. My host family are Alisha Lambert's family. I'm really happy that they are hosting me. Thank you very much.

First day I was so anxious because the environment is different with Japan and I don't know much English but at the same time I was excited to meet everyone.

And now I got use to school and class. I still can't understand everything but compared with before I can understand. Everyone is being kind to me and my anxiety is gone.

I'm glad to be here and become friends with you. Thank you very much.

Primary sport

Kellie Denneman *tells us about the Primary Swimming Carnival.*

LAST WEEK, WE were able to announce the results from our 2018 Swimming Carnival held at Wyong Pool before Christmas. The event was a wonderful day, culminating in the first ever student College House vs parent/staff relay race. Most pleasing was the large number of younger students who chose to participate in the 50m competitive events, rather than take the easier 25m option. This bodes well for the future of our representative swimming program. We had one record set on the day by Dylan Wightman. He replaces his brother Isaac in the record books with a cracking time in the 11-Years Boys 50m Butterfly.

Special thanks to the Year 10 PASS students who did a fantastic job in assisting us to run the event.

The carnival itself was won convincingly by Temuka by over 80 points.

	GIRLS	BOYS
8 YEARS	Stella Barrett	Jackson Grace

	GIRLS	BOYS
9 YEARS	Cora Logan	Patrick Kyle
10 YEARS	Ruby Black	Kye Northey
11 YEARS	Jasmin Fisher	Dylan Wightman
12/13 YEARS	Emma Jones	William Coppen

The following students have qualified to represent the school at the CCC Swimming Carnival at Mingara on Monday 26 February. We wish them the very best of luck:

Kye Northey, Cora Logan, Dylan Wightman, Emma Jones, Samuel Coppen, William Coppen, Jasmin Fisher, Slater Field, Jackson Grace, Saiorse Twomey, Toby Clark, Brooklyn Yahnel, Tegan Leslie, Patrick Kyle, Cameron Baxter, Tyra Field, Ruby Black, Kai Rennie, Millie Timp, Oren Stone, Emily Sanders, Joel Wait, Ryan Scaiffe, Maya Rennie, Brayden McDonald, Madison Dunn, Riley Wait, Blaire Shaw, Archie Black, Tom Vrljic, Annabelle Ross.



Secondary sport report

There is a sporting opportunity for everyone at MacKillop, Rochelle Williamson.

WELCOME TO ANOTHER exciting year of sport at MacKillop. Throughout this year students will have several opportunities to follow pathways in their chosen sporting areas. They are encouraged to keep their eyes on their emails and Edumate notices for information on upcoming trials. Some sports will go straight to Broken Bay selection for individual representation and students are reminded to check the email sent to them about upcoming BBSSSA (Broken Bay Secondary Sport Association) and NSWCCC (New South Wales Combined Catholic Schools) trials.

So far we have only sent one sport out for BBSSSA representation this term. Our Opens Basketball teams competed at Gosford City Basketball Stadium on Thursday 15 February. Both the boys and girls teams played with a sense of enthusiasm and skill. Our boys narrowly missed making the finals, and our girls were commended by their coaches for their teamwork. I would like to thank Mr McNamara for coaching, and Mr Gasparotto and Mr Rickards for their coaching and escorting the teams on the day.

A special mention to our Under 16s girls Futsal team who represented the school on the Gold Coast in November of last year. After winning 2 out of 3 games on the first day, a tough day on their second day, the girls managed to finish the weekend on a high, getting a win that resulted in the team coming 5th overall.



Library news

Fostering a Culture of Reading at MCC, Jackie Crowe.

RESEARCH ABOUT THE benefits of reading for pleasure shows clear evidence that children and teens who read for the sheer enjoyment of it do better across a whole range of measures - from academic achievement to social skills to emotional health and wellbeing - than those who aren't readers.

In order to get a picture of our students' reading habits, at the end of 2017 all students in Year 7 to 9 were asked to complete our End of Year Reading Survey. In all three year groups over 90% of students identified themselves as 'okay' or 'good' readers. However, when asked if they have ever read a book for fun, 63.5% of Year 7, 50% of Year 8 and only 37.9% of Year 9 students responded 'yes'. This highlights that even though our students identify themselves as capable of reading they are choosing not to read.

Other general trends in the survey:

- 55%-60% students would read more if they could find books that they would like to read
- Books are the most popular format followed by magazines and eBooks
- Most popular genres are:
 - o Humour
 - o Mystery
 - o Fantasy
 - o Horror
- 80% - 90% students do not share books and reading with

others.

- 40% of all students indicated they are more likely to read a book recommended by friends or family

The results of this survey will help us to plan initiatives to foster more engagement in reading for leisure at MCC. One of the best ways the Library can help to promote reading for fun is to build a collection of texts that students want to read and have access to. The Library staff value engaging with students about their reading preferences and suggestions for books to purchase. Our school also has an eBook collection which is available to all Secondary students online at mccw.wheelers.co

All students K-12 can request books/eBooks at the Library or via email to Mrs Crowe. The Library is open every day from 8.20am to 4pm and students can visit before/after school and during break times to browse, read and borrow.

The Library also promotes reading for fun by facilitating the Scholastic Book Club orders twice each term and by hosting a variety of reading events throughout the year:- National Simultaneous Storytime, Secondary Book Club, author visits and our biggest event, Book Week. Our Primary Family Reading and Pizza Night in May is a wonderful opportunity for families to share the love of books and read together just for FUN!

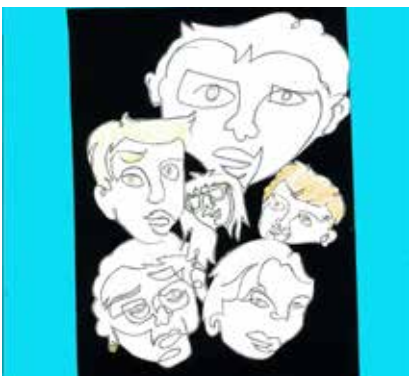
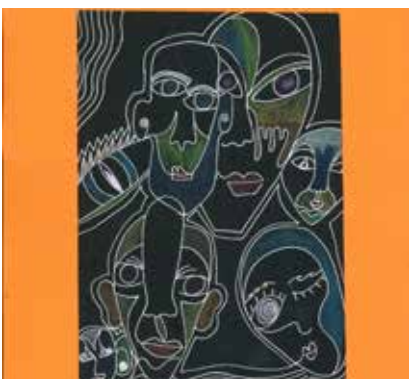
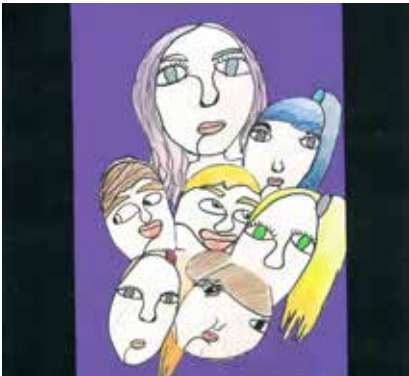
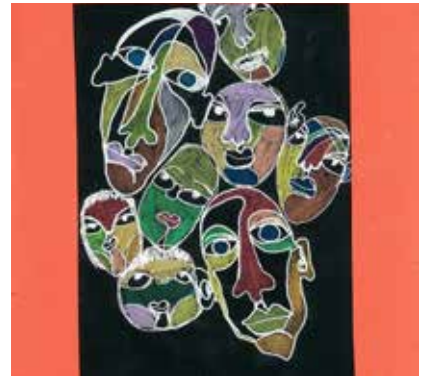
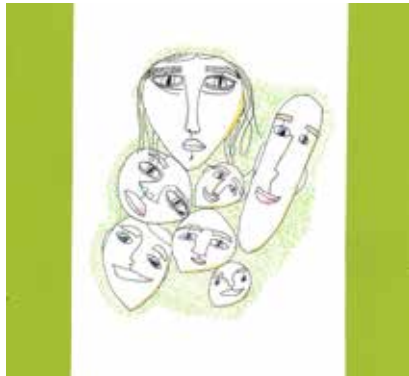
There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all — Jacqueline Kennedy.



Artists of excellence

Jillian Young *showcases wonderful artwork from our students.*

YEAR 7 AND 8 students in Visual Art, have been focussing on drawing skills this term. With a focus on the Elements of Art - line and tone, students have been creating artworks.



High School Musical

Sharon Baird *explains how "We are all in this together."*

WITH 65 CAST members (both Primary and Secondary), a live band and another 25 students working behind the scenes with their teachers, the Sr Irene McCormack Theatre exploded with the sounds and sights of our College Musical in December 2017. Cast and crew performed four shows over three days with nearly 800 people in attendance!

Last year, when the Performing Arts staff decided to put on a musical, we agreed that Disney's High School Musical was the obvious choice. It is well known and well loved by our students whom I have heard singing the film's catchy tunes in the playground, on buses and even while waiting for their

exams to begin! Its uplifting message about being yourself and not letting anyone stand in the way of your dreams speaks to everyone. Furthermore, the song – We're all in this together – encapsulates the spirit of community that is so much a part of MacKillop's identity. I am incredibly privileged to be able to

work with such dedicated and talented individuals.

A number of amazing staff collaborated on the production and I am indebted to each and every one of them for helping to bring our ideas to fruition. In particular, I want to mention the Performing Arts staff who all generously donated their time: Rochelle Williamson, Shane LeBreton, Scott Wallis, Kate James, Iolanda Caruana & Nicholas Cronin.

I would sincerely like to thank Alyssa Chilvers for providing the cast and crew with home-made cupcakes bearing the High School Musical logo as a special treat between the Saturday matinee and evening performances. The students showed their appreciation by devouring these delicious cakes!

On behalf of everyone involved in this production, I hope that you enjoyed watching the show as much as we enjoyed presenting it to you.



High School Musical

Congratulations to the entire cast and crew.



We are stars, watch us shine!

Kindergarten teachers *tell us today is a great day to learn something new.*



AS BOUNCING KINDERGARTEN children bounced into the classroom with shiny shoes, new uniforms, a variety of lunchboxes and bursting with energy and wonder, we realise that there is nothing more special than the first day of 'big school'. Countless photos were taken of bright and smiling faces ready for action. The few tears and worried looks soon disappeared once the classroom door was opened and it was time for a song, story and fruit break.

The children have settled quickly into their classes and are having lots of fun learning and making new friends. There have been so many 'new' things to learn and explore: places to play, class routines, the '5 L's', and bell times! It can be very overwhelming.

Kindergarten met their Year 6 buddies who have made them feel very special. The highlight was walking hand in hand and sitting with their new 'big' friend in the Church to celebrate the Commissioning liturgy. We were so proud of their behaviour and ability to sit and listen quietly to all the important announcements.

We have enjoyed borrowing books from the library with Mrs Martin and playing games with Mrs Denneman during sport lessons. The Kindergarten classes joined together to learn a special song and prayers for our Welcome Mass on Sunday 18 February. All three classes have had time to play as a whole group and to practise our 'bucket-filling' behaviour such as sharing and using kind words.

It has been a happy and promising beginning to our new Kindergarten year. The Kindergarten teachers cannot wait to see where this wonderful group of children will lead us next!



Welcome year 7

Megan Phillipson *is excited to begin this new journey with Year 7 students.*

YEAR 7 STUDENTS had an exciting and positive start to their High School experience on Wednesday 31 January. They were welcomed to the MacKillop community by Mr Steve Todd, Mrs Deb Ferguson & Mrs Mel McGuinness, and spend the day learning about setting goals and how to use mistakes as a way to grow.

The day began with their Pastoral Class fostering House spirit. The pastoral teachers for Year 7 are Mrs Maisie Tenev (Fitzroy), Mr Mark Webster (Penola), Ms Nichole Calleja (Gesú), Mr Damian Clair (Alma), Mr Phil Murphy (Temuka) and Ms Elise Beckinsale (Kincumber).

Students in Year 7 are also very lucky to have a support network of Year 10 Peer Support leaders. These leaders were trained by Mrs Kathleen Black, Transition Coordinator, at the end of 2017 and they are very excited to undertake this role. Students will spend time each fortnight with their Peer Support groups getting to know each other and developing strategies to help them navigate their way through High School. We also hope that this will foster strong and constructive relationships for both Year 7 and Year 10 students.

I would like to congratulate Year 7 students on their positive start to the year. In addition to lots of learning experiences in the classroom there are a number of events in coming weeks, swimming and athletics carnivals, excursions to MacKillop Place, North Sydney and Kincumber and Camp in Week 1 of Term 2. I look forward sharing this journey with you all.



Parent news

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

A WARM WELCOME back to all our MacKillop families, and a special welcome to our new families. On Sunday 18 February we celebrated with our Welcome Mass for 2018 and it was wonderful to see so many families gather for this special Mass followed by a community barbecue.

I recently advertised the opportunity for parents and carers to enrol the Parenting Program "Tuning Into Kids" run by Catholic Care. A few of our parents have enrolled into this very successful Program. The program teaches parents skills in emotion coaching, which is to recognise, understand and respond to children's emotions in an accepting, supportive way.

Just a reminder that we have Facebook Grade pages for Kindergarten to Year 12. These are closed group pages and you can request to join if you haven't already done so. Search for "MCC [Kinder/Year 1, Year 10, etc] 2018". If your Facebook

name is different to that on our school records please send me a private message letting me know so that I can approve your request. Just a reminder also that the page is for the use of parents and carers of students in that particular year group. The purpose of the page is to share information and resources. Any specific grievances or personal issues should be emailed in an appropriate manner to the person concerned. In the event that you don't know who this would be, you can always email or message myself and I will help with this. If any member of this page is concerned that it is being used inappropriately please email me at natalie.tunstead@dbb.catholic.edu.au so that it can be reviewed.

There are many opportunities over the year for parents to be involved in our community, so keep an eye out for when we advertise these occasions. We also have a Parent Forum once a term where various topics are discussed and this provides parents the ability to network with the College and each other.





MACKILLOP
Catholic College
WARNERVALE

2018/19 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

MISSION 'Be a light to the world'

GOAL

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

TEAMNESS PLAN

- Clearly define how our College participates in God's Mission.

STRATEGIES

- Continue to develop the Outreach programs across the College.
- To explore belonging to a Catholic School community with links to the Darkinjung people.

faith



discipleship

LEARNING CULTURE 'Value learning'

GOAL

To engage with models of learning to improve student outcomes.

TEAMNESS PLAN

- To continue to develop and build a broader understanding of dynamic learning environments.

STRATEGIES

- Extend the existing PL plan for all teachers to embrace agile learning environments with the CoT model.
- Explore the opportunities to establish some prototype flexible learning spaces across the K-12 Campus.
- Develop and extend K-12 writing skills programs.

hope



integrity

WELLBEING 'Honour each other'

GOAL

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

TEAMNESS PLAN

- To further enhance and build upon the College's partnership with parents, staff and students.

STRATEGIES

- Review of the processes that link to the K-12 Student Behaviour Support Policy.
- Launch the Parent Partnership Charter with further expansion links via the College's Family Liaison Officer (FLO).
- Add to the masterplan for outdoor wellbeing spaces for students.

compassion



justice