

ISSUE 18 | WEEK 6, TERM 4 2018

COLLEGE**Matters**

A magical farewell for
our Year 12 2018



MACKILLOP
Catholic College
WARNERVALE

A CULTURAL EXPERIENCE IN JAPAN

CELEBRATING SUCCESS IN SPORT

PERFORMING ARTS AT ITS BEST



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College Principal's report

Steve Todd, College Principal, outlines the exceptional achievements of the students.

I AM DELIGHTED to outline to our College community about the outstanding achievements and representation experiences of our students in recent times. It amazes me that at every turn our students are engaging with and achieving extraordinary things across such a diverse range of experiences. We have so much to be proud of here at MacKillop and I don't say that lightly, as over the past 6 or so weeks the achievements of our students have been nothing less than impressive. I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing and acknowledging our students with sporting prowess, engaging with leadership roles, offering their gifts in performing and the creative arts, and for wonderful academic achievements. MacKillop students have displayed so much talent and dedication with a hallmark spirit that has become part of who we are here at MacKillop.

Such happenings included the recent Japan Tour where 27 touring students were a delight and most impressive for how they related with our Sister School staff, parents and students. At the same time, exceptional sporting achievements have been outstanding with both individual and teams sports. Their successes have just kept coming. Many of these achievements have been at very high levels across so many sports. Our leaders have also stepped up as ambassadors representing us on a number of stages including the Ministerial Awards Ceremony, the senior retreat and the Year 5 Leadership Day. To hear of our creative and performing arts students gaining success at the Bishop's Art Prize awards, and for the Junior

Theatre Celebration in Newcastle, just blows so many of us away for what our students have been achieving in recent weeks. We have so much to be proud of here and I pass on my personal congratulations and thanks to all the students and staff who have supported all of these extra-curricular activities.

I recently sent home a letter inviting all parents to engage with some important developments for the College. The Plenary Council feedback opportunity is a way for us to connect with the future of the Catholic Church. The Bishops are keen to hear from us for how we move forward as the people of God. Also, the College, with the support of parents, has now completed the Parent Partnership Charter that will be launched in this community at the start of 2019. The last matter outlined in my letter is about the future of this College with the development of the next era of the College. There is an important opportunity to offer ideas to look towards who we want to be over the next 5 to 10 years. I thank parents who are able to engage with these matters.

Finally, I wish to formally acknowledge that our Primary Principal, Sue Dietrich, is returning to the College in 2019 to resume her leadership role. This is good news for our College and we warmly welcome Sue back to MacKillop. At the same time, we offer our thanks to Ann Jackson who has filled the role of Acting Primary Principal for past three terms.

With good wishes for Christmas and Summer holidays, I wish every family many blessings.



Acting Primary Principal's report

Ann Jackson explains teachers are missionaries, serving God's call!

THE YEAR IS whizzing by at an alarming pace with the end already, and alarmingly, in clear sight. It's been an amazing term, full to the brim, overflowing with enthusiasm with an outpouring of good will.

As we have walked our new Kindergarten parents through the orientation process, I have been amazed at how well our 2019 Kindy children have settled into the process too. It is a reminder to me, and testament to you, as parents, for all you do to enable your children to be the very best they can be. As a parent myself, I know it can be difficult to set high expectations in order to teach, guide and set limits, but know too that children need to understand that it's not all about parents serving children but all of us working together. I also know that it is so important to find that balance so that our children can be strong and independent individuals whilst being able to look to us as parents for the structure and guidance they require.

Having worked in several schools, I know that we have an exceptional staff here in primary. Not only are they supportive and caring to myself, but they are amazing educators who take

the learning of our students very seriously. Each teacher wants their students to learn and they want to give them a great experience of school. To this end, they have accompanied them on their journey, this term alone, through Surf Education days, gala days, spelling competitions, Christmas concert, leadership and transition days, as well as through the experience of a faith shared and nurtured joyfully, serving as they are, God's call.

As the year draws to an end I would like to again thank all who have made my transition to the Acting Primary Principal role so seamless. Especially, I thank Kerry Power and Allison Passafaro who have tolerated my meltdowns, witnessed first hand my mistakes and my learnings, and who have propped me up when I most needed support. I thank Steve Todd for enduring my endless questions and for his patient responses. As I hand the reins back to the ever capable Sue Dietrich, I thank this amazing community for walking with me these past six months, but most of all I thank our good God who has carried me when I have needed it most. I wish everyone a joyful break and look forward to all that 2019 has to offer.



Secondary Principal's report

Debra Ferguson *discusses reaching potential.*

IT IS A misleading quote that is often used about us all at some time or other: "You need to reach your potential." This can be quite confusing for us all as I wonder if any of us know what our potential really is. I think it is quite a scary saying for teenagers when they are experiencing so many changes in their lives, trying to discover who they are and want to be, that reaching your potential seems almost unattainable and a burden to respond to the pressure of expectation from adults.

I am afraid that I am guilty of saying this to students from time to time and perhaps the other phrase we use at MCC is a more appropriate one: "Try to do your personal best." This implies that your personal best can change due to the circumstances and, although it implies a personal challenge, it does not ask you to reach standards that may be way too high for any of us at certain times of our lives.

The biggest challenge here is for our students, your children, to understand that the only way to achieve personal best or potential is to be active and present in their world. They need to be well informed, curious, motivated, engaged and have resilience to keep trying and not give up. Unfortunately, in today's world, it is easy for our youth to escape the world through social media and gaming and actively avoid all the skills they need for a full and meaningful life.

In an assembly last term, and in Period 6 this term, some of the student leaders and I have addressed the students about the problem of addiction of gaming. They were then challenged to go without their devices for a week and see what difference this might make to their time and family interaction. They were informed that if they could not do this for 24 hours that they needed to ask some serious questions about what is happening for their personal best in so many other areas of their lives.

In the meantime, so many MCC students have proven themselves to be very much part of this world by being actively involved in the academic, sporting, cultural and social justice activities that are available in and out of school. Our College Matters, weekly MacKillop Chronicle and the annual Yearbook give so many examples of students trying to do their personal best, trying to help others and respecting their opportunity to attend a very good school.

MacKillop is a special place and, dare I say it, so full of potential. This has been another successful year, despite challenges at times, and I am really looking forward to our award ceremonies and end of year Mass when we will celebrate our successes of 2018 together.



Year 12 Graduation Mass and awards night

Finishing with a great deal of personal dignity and pride in their College, John McNamara.

ON WEDNESDAY 26 September, Year 12 returned to the College following their wonderful Charity Day where high spirits continued to flow. Students participated in the beautiful Mass they had helped create under the wonderful guidance of Mrs Price. Fr Vince was able to connect with the students, staff and parents as well as he always does. The rest of the student body, along with the parents and staff gave a fitting farewell to our graduating class of 2018. The threat of rain could not dampen the spirit that was in abundant supply with this group of students. With the rest of the College forming a wonderful guard of honour, Year 12 were able to leave their Graduation Mass to the wonderful sounds of the bagpipes being played by one of our local musicians. Each year this is such a beautiful link to the MacKillop tradition and Mary MacKillop herself. Threading their way through all other students and staff of the College, Year 12 eventually made it back into the arms of their parents. An emotional day it is, but one the students and their parents rarely forget for a long time. Year 12 2018 will be forever remembered for their great spirit of involvement, their support for others and their wonderful sense of being connected within a community.

That evening, Year 12 returned to the College to participate in their final awards ceremony. Countless awards were given to students who had excelled in their studies and community

service. The talent of the students was above and beyond, with various musical pieces and drama presentations also being part of the night. Once again our Year 12 students were able to shine their light on the MacKillop community.

A tremendous amount of work goes into preparing both the Graduation Mass and Awards Night. I would like to express thanks and gratitude to the College Executive for their input to these events, but also to the Secondary Key Learning Area Coordinators and Mr Jones as Curriculum Coordinator, for it is at these levels of management that all the academic results and awards are calculated and organised. As always, Mrs Ferguson weaved her magic to lead others and pulled all of Awards Night together. I appreciate the significant efforts made to contribute to a very memorable ceremony for our Year 12 students.

The wealth of academic, cultural, community service and sporting awards that were distributed to students as part of this ceremony is testament to the wonderful calibre of the year group. I am certainly looking forward to seeing how our students perform in their HSC examinations. We are confident they will do themselves proud and we know we will have great pride in their results. I look forward to seeing the students for the HSC results BBQ breakfast on Thursday 13 December.





Year 12 Formal

A wonderful farewell to the graduating class of 2018, John McNamara.

ON MONDAY 12 November our Year 12 students, their families and our staff gathered at the Mingara Recreation Club for the social event of the year, the Year 12 formal. With 368 patrons filling the room, we were able to celebrate the wonderful achievements of this unique group of students.

I believe this Year 12 group have been one of our best to date, abundant in happiness, community spirit, a sense of other, and a desire to seek excellence while supporting others on the journey. Their respect for their College and all its members has been clearly visible, in everything they have done. To Gabrielle Baus and Joshua Lovett our College Captains, and all members of the Senior Parliament, thank you for the wonderful contribution each of you made in your leadership of our students this year.

To all of the parents, I extend my heartfelt thanks to you all, for you have worked in partnership with us to ensure our College can provide everything needed by your child to see them reach their educational goals. With your support, we have seen the students grow as young people with a well-developed faith and social conscience. I have been blessed with your support in so many ways, and for that I extend my appreciation. As parents, you are always the original educators of your children, and you are to be congratulated for the wonderful young men and women that your nurturing has produced.

I must acknowledge my Pastoral team: Mrs Camilleri, Miss

Ajani, Mr Kilham, Mr Matzen, Mrs Lawrence, Mrs Baxter, Mr Gilham and Mr Legge. Their relationship with their students has been an anchor for them on their voyage through the sometimes treacherous waters of the HSC. They came to know them on a level that helped bring organisation and a sense of calm to their days. It takes a team to support a group of Year 12 students, and what a wonderful team we have had this year.

At MacKillop Catholic College, every Year 12 group since our first in 2008 has left a legacy from their journey through the College. For this group, among other things, they will leave having opened the eyes of the College community to the worsening problem of homelessness in Australia. This became a focus area for their leadership, and they can be very proud of the light they were able to shine on this social justice issue. From their support of Coast Shelter, the Winter Sleepout, and Orange Sky Laundry, they clearly displayed their well-developed social conscience, truly leaving their mark on this College, setting a new benchmark for future Year 12 groups that follow them.

The formal was a fitting celebration including fine dining, wonderful conversation and a fair amount of dancing talent on display as well. Congratulations Year 12, it was a privilege to manage your formal and it has been an honour to work with you over the last two years. May God bless you, for everything that you have done this year, and for everything that you will no doubt do into the future.





Reflecting on our time to JUMP

Looking back on the success of JUMP in its first year, Michelle Baxter.

AS I REFLECT on the year that was for JUMP, I am overwhelmed and so impressed by what an amazing job Year 8 have done as part of this program. They have not only pioneered the program, but they have revealed to our current Year 7 cohort the importance of service to others.

Since Term 3 last year, there have been numerous school based opportunities that students have involved themselves in: Coast Shelter and the March Charge, raising funds for the Epilepsy Foundation, creating art and inspirational messages in and around our school community, as well as serving the community at local organisations such as Salvation Army's Oasis Youth Centre. Year 8 have been busy, giving up their own time on weekends, during school time and school holidays. Other students have lodged hours for mowing their neighbour's lawn, helping mum and dad around the house, babysitting, coaching or volunteering at local sporting clubs or cadets. The array of service to others is incredible and truly heartwarming. Our students are so generous. Often this has been in a financial manner, but also, and often more importantly with their time. Our time is so precious and offering this up to someone else means so much.

Whilst JUMP requires our students to participate in 15 hours of community service, there have been so many students who have gone above and beyond this amount. They understand the gift of serving others. A large number achieved 20 hours and received their bronze badge. Over 30 students participated in 40+ hours and attended the Silver BBQ. 27 of these students completed 50 hours and receive their Gold Award and will attend Gold Day out at Wet'n'Wild. Both the Silver and Gold Award recipients will be acknowledged at the Awards of Distinction later in the term. Twelve Year 8 students are a part of the very special 100 Hours Club and will receive the Mary MacKillop Medallion at the Awards of High Distinction. This is a very prestigious award. These students are aware of injustices in our society, have encouraged others to participate in JUMP events and have often challenged their peers to stand up for justice.

Moving forward in 2019, my hope for the JUMP program is that it continues to flourish. The launch of the new JUMP Google Site earlier this term has made access to resources and information available to Years 7 and 8, along with their parents. Together, we can all work towards a better and more equitable future for all people.



Fun at the senior retreat

Do hard things... The springboard for life, Glen Taragel.



EARLY THIS TERM the new Year 12 students attended the annual senior retreat at the Collaroy Retreat Centre and the students were very excited about the event, as they understood it was a special time in their schooling and would provide many fond memories in years to come. These students displayed wonderful enthusiasm, great maturity and a deep sense of spiritual development.

The Year 12 2019 cohort is a fairly small group with a wide variety of personalities and friendship groups. By the end of the retreat you could see that the students had become a very close group and have formed special relationships with each other and the staff. During this time, students were able to participate in many different activities and learning sessions. The outdoor activities, which were run by the Collaroy staff included archery, flying fox, giant swing and laser tag, to name a few. The indoor sessions were presented by the retreat team members and were a very special highlight. The students were privileged to have a number of guest speakers talk to them about a variety of topics. Day 1 started with fun group activities and then Mrs Ferguson and Mr Todd spoke about the history of the College House system and its significance. This was followed by a relaxing walk to Collaroy Beach. After dinner the fun began with small group House challenges where

everybody was involved.

Day 2 started with Mrs Reynolds presenting a session called "Do hard things (springboard for life)." This session really got the students thinking about the wider community. This was followed by Mrs Baxter's sister, Belinda. Belinda spoke to the students about her life and the challenges she faced growing up. For the whole session the students sat in silence and were amazed about what they were listening to. The afternoon saw our RAD students and Mrs Baxter speaking about reaching out to the community and how we as a College could help. The night session is a highlight of the Retreat where the students have Mass and we were privileged to have Fr Jim lead us in this. On the last day we were all a little sad as we knew the retreat was coming to an end, however, we managed to organise a year group photo and a closing prayer.

The retreat would not be possible without the excellent staff: A big thank you to Mrs Price, Mrs Reynolds, Mrs Tenev, Mr Gasparotto, Mrs Elcoate, Mr Herbert, Mr Morrow, Mrs McCallum, Mrs Baxter, Belinda, Mrs Ferguson, Mrs McGuinness, Mr Todd, Mr Evanson, Mr Wallace, Mr Hepworth and Fr Jim. On behalf of the students I would like to thank you all for helping make this retreat such a success.





Plenary Council opportunity

Steve Todd *explains how MacKillop has engaged with the Plenary Council.*

THE AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC Bishops Conference sought the approval of Pope Francis to hold the Plenary Council here in Australia in 2020. Pope Francis approved the Plenary Council for the Australian Church that will now have a year of listening, discernment and implementation. The Diocese of Broken Bay has supported the Australian Bishops by offering everyone across our Diocese the opportunity to participate in the Plenary conversation.

The committee that has been formed to begin the conversation is an independent group allowing everyone the freedom to express their thinking around a key question: 'What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?'

MacKillop staff have been engaging with the process at a number of levels with lively and positive conversations taking place, and feedback being submitted.

Our students across the Primary and Secondary will have some briefings to hear their ideas and views as the next generation of young people in Australia. The Secondary Parliament leaders have held discussions and many classes across the school will also engage with a process offering their ideas and thinking.

To support the parents view we are offering a couple of options.

First is a family briefing response circulated to all parents. Parents can sit with their family and discern their thinking on this topic. Please email responses to the College and we will upload them to the Plenary website. Parents are welcome to attend a session at the College at 9.00am on Friday 30 November where a group response will be formed and sent to the Plenary Council's website.

We are all hoping and praying that the Holy Spirit speaks in such profound ways that the Church can look positively to the future. Thank you to everyone who engages with this opportunity.



Year 12 leadership day

Get up off the couch, Debra Ferguson.

IN NOVEMBER THREE of our Year 12 2019 Parliament Leaders and I attended the 'Gathering of Broken Bay Diocesan Secondary School Student Leaders' at the Catholic Schools Office. Lucy Pratt, Hannah Pratt and Zackary Potter-Evans joined leaders from all the other secondary schools of the Diocese to realise and to be grateful they had all been called and gifted by God to be in these vital roles.

They were addressed by the Very Reverend Dr David Ranson, our Diocesan Administrator while a new bishop is being appointed. He shared with them what he has learnt about leadership and then led them in a beautiful Mass where they were blessed as leaders for the next 12 months. The students were then addressed by Fr John Frauenfelder who remembered the words of Pope Francis at the last World Youth Day where he challenged the youth of the day to get off the couch and live a life worth living. To assist him with this we heard from two young women who are living quite amazing lives: Charlotte, who is becoming a doctor to work with the poor, and Ashleigh, who is using her writing and media degree to assist the marginalised and the poor.

The students had the opportunity to mix together to discuss their leadership aspirations for their schools.



United as one, helping others

John McNamara tells us how Year 12 reached out to those less fortunate than themselves.

FOR JUST ON 10 years now, students in Year 12 at MacKillop Catholic College have participated in a Charity Day on the Tuesday of their last official week of classes. Year 12 2018 students came dressed in fancy dress and rallied to collect funds for their chosen charitable organisations.

Our chosen social issue for this year was the problem of homelessness in Australia. Year 12 formed two strategic partnerships this year. The first being with Coast Shelter, while the second was with Orange Sky Laundry. Both of these organisations, along with Sister Marea's charitable works fund, benefited greatly from the enthusiasm and great compassion with which Year 12 carried out their Charity Day.

With the help and support of the College community, the students were able to secure \$2500 in donations, while at the same time releasing in a very appropriate manner, the energy associated with completing their final day of classes in Year 12. From the amount raised, \$1000 was given to both of our charitable organisations and the remaining \$500 went to Sister

Marea for her valuable work with our most disadvantaged students and their families.

As a Pastoral Coordinator I could not have been prouder than I was with the students on this day. They completed their Charity Day with great poise and dignity, and in the process will really make a significant and ongoing difference to the lives of the homeless on the Central Coast. It would be remiss of me to overlook the significant thanks that needs to go to all members of my Pastoral team, who were also on the beat very early on Charity Day, not only to oversee the morning, but to support the work of the students so strongly. To Mr Kilham, Mrs Camilleri, Mr Matzen, Mr Gilham, Mr Legge and Mrs Lawrence, thanks for your preparedness to support the students and get involved.

Finally, well done Year 12. Your contribution to our College has been significant. As a group you will be remembered for many years to come, by me and anyone who has had anything to do with you.



High commendation awards

Students learn to be active 'agents', Russell Jones.

THE HIGH COMMENDATION Awards are a chance to recognise the achievements of many of our students. This Award ceremony recognised students' efforts in Term 3 and was time to reflect and celebrate their outstanding success. Whilst the Academic Awards are based purely on academic achievement, the High Commendation Awards applauded students on other facets of learning. Determining the recipients was at the discretion of the classroom teacher. The students who receive these awards are genuine in their effort, application and diligence in learning. We acknowledged those who have consistently and repeatedly applied themselves to their learning activities.

A focus on teaching and learning at MacKillop is on building student 'agency'. Agency refers to the empowering of students to take ownership and responsibility for their own learning. Agency is about the student being the centre, the active 'agent' in the learning process; not just a passive recipient of information from the teacher. Being inquisitive, confident and creative are some key elements in student agency and a willingness to take calculated risks in their efforts to learning is paramount. When the student has agency, they are creating,

collaborating, and publishing in ways that are meaningful to them, using contemporary real-world tools and examples. The High Commendation Awards were an opportunity to commend students who demonstrate responsibility and ownership for their own thinking and learning – a level of student agency. It was a pleasure to present over 200 awards to very deserving students.



Minister's Awards of Excellence

Highest praise for the Filipino language, Debra Ferguson.

ON MONDAY 29 October I had the pleasure to attend the NSW Minister's Awards for Excellence in Student Achievement for Community Languages Schools at the University of NSW.

There are presently 36,288 students who are studying in Community Language School Programs across NSW which they do after school hours and on the weekends. These programs allow students to maintain and develop their background or heritage language and culture and acknowledge the importance of multiculturalism and diversity within Australia.

The Minister's Awards acknowledge the commitment of outstanding students in these programs. This year they presented 128 primary and secondary students with a Commended or Highly Commended Award covering 29 different languages. However, ten students were selected to receive the Minister's Award for outstanding achievement in their language of study, for their contribution to the development of intercultural understanding and for their involvement in the school and wider community.

I am delighted to announce that Trinity Young of Year 8 was one of these 10 students and was presented with her award in front of a large audience by the Minister for Education, Mr Robert Stokes. After being presented with this award Trinity made a short speech in Filipino and then lead the entire gathering in singing the National Anthem.

Congratulations to Trinity on this fine achievement.



A fun filled tour of Japan

Sister school friendship strengthened with the trip of a lifetime , Helen Beech.

IN THE SCHOOL holidays, 28 students and 7 eager teachers travelled to Japan. We instantly felt the humidity as we touched down in Haneda Airport. All excited, we jumped on the bus for a few hours of sightseeing around Tokyo, visiting Asakusa and the Tokyo Skytree. Even with cloud cover from the Typhoon the experience was still incredible. Eventually we made our way to Nihon Daichii Junior High School where we were matched with our host families for the next four days.

At Disneyland, we spent well over 12 hours walking around the park and meeting many new friends from Nichidai. The following day we spent with our host families, trying many foods and experiences, such as dressing in traditional kimonos and visiting the vibrant sites of Japan. In Nichidai, we engaged in the schooling of PDH, Music, Maths and Japanese History. We may have been nervous at the start but we settled in quickly, renewing old friendships and developing new ones.

After the home stay we caught the Shinkansen (bullet train) to Kyoto where we train-hopped, visiting many temples, such as the golden and silver pavilion and the great Buddha. We ate some interesting food and all of us agree we have eaten enough raw fish to last us a lifetime!

Kyoto opened our eyes to the more rural parts of Japan and also the extreme weather they can have. We experienced two typhoons and an earthquake while in Japan and although it affected our plans to spend the day at Nara, we enjoyed ourselves spending time shopping in Kyoto, as everyone enjoyed the cheap shoes and clothes, opening our eyes and

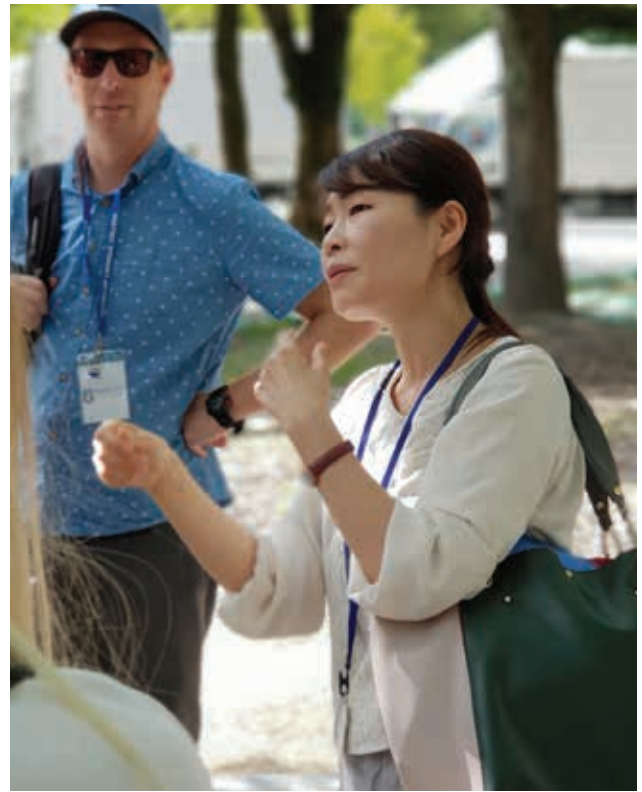
hearts to Japanese culture.

On the second last day of the tour, we adventured to a very confronting part of the world's history, Hiroshima. Getting up early to depart from Kyoto Station catching two Shinkansen, we finally arrived at Hiroshima and ate some of their famous okonomiyaki (savoury pancake). With our tour guide, Remi, we learned the effects of the Atomic Bomb and visited the Peace Dome that was lucky enough to remain standing whilst everything else was destroyed. Remi explained that her grandparents were living in Hiroshima at the time of the incident but fortunately were out of town at the time. We shed tears as we walked around the memorial park, beginning to understand the importance of showing people about this catastrophic event.

We would like to thank Mr Todd for his dedication to our cultural immersion and for also joining us on this trip. A big thank you goes out to all the teachers who accompanied us: Mr Kilham, Mr Bowman, Mrs Bowman, Mrs Martin, Mrs Baxter and Ms Calleja. To our families who helped ensure we were able to attend, and those who supported our fundraising efforts – thank you!

Finally, we are indebted to Mrs Beech, who spent countless hours and many sleepless nights planning this trip over the past two years. Without her, this trip would not have been possible and our time wouldn't have been as amazing and as memorable as it was.





Josie Mitchell public speaking

Public speakers explore tough topics, Kathy Yates.

AT THE BEGINNING of the term a group of public speakers travelled to Central Coast Grammar School to compete in the Josie Mitchell Public Speaking competition with students from Central Coast Grammar, St. Peter's, St. Brigid's, St. Joseph's and St. Edward's.

Each student presented a three minute speech on a topic of their own choice which always results in a lively covering topics such as how to fully take advantage of your laziness gene, to serious issues such as mental health, the drought and the dangers of technology.

The English Faculty, especially the public speaking coaches, were very proud of the students who presented on the night:

- Year 7 - Leah Pantoulas 'Drought'
- Year 8 - Charlotte Hannan 'Christmas - The best time of the year'
- Year 9 - Monique Kohen 'Mental Health'
- Year 10 - Darcy Heffernan 'The youth of today'
- Year 11 - Ryley Small 'Do you feel lucky?'

This year the calibre of the speakers was particularly high and the competition was fierce. All our speakers spoke

magnificently on the night and we were ecstatic when Ryley Small of Year 10 took out the Year 11 division of the competition. His speech focused on the idea of luck and how we often trivialise it. Speaking with real feeling, Ryley linked this idea with the experiences he recently had when travelling to Hiroshima on the recent Japan Tour. His speech was very moving as he spoke of the Japanese guide they met and how she, and her family, felt lucky to be alive after the atrocities of World War II and the bombing of Hiroshima.

All our students will be presenting at upcoming assemblies and we hope this will inspire our public speakers of the future.



Sharing wonderful poetry

Poet in the making, Nichole Calleja.

THIS TERM YEAR 9 have been studying Love and War Poetry. One main focus of the unit is to read and analyse the experiences of war through the poems of poets such as Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen. Ryan Leslie of Year 9, inspired by the ideas and messages explored in the poems set for study, composed the following poems himself. We are so proud of Ryan and it is great to see that the memory and the conditions of those who fought in war have not been forgotten, especially this year marking the 100th anniversary of Armistice.



EMPTY FIELDS

Eyes with no life wonder the empty lands
that once was green, not knowing when death will greet you
with his empty look,
only to be scarred by his menacing look of emptiness.

POOLS OF RED

In fields of red lay the dead with looks of horror. We mourn
those that lay flat who had gotten pats
on the back only to be the ones like many lay flat,
lifeless and rotting.
The only gain you get with war is bodies,
you send forth to the door to only call God to end their pain.
War is like a dispenser- you keep dispensing until none come
forth.

SHOTS

Shots rain like the clouds in the sky only to die.
The state of mind like mankind as shots rain as quick as they
die; they were replaced as quickly as they fell.
With rolls of thunder comforting those who see the light of the
Lord -
for some they had to pull that cord to fight abroad.

Enjoying our sister school

Our term in Japan, Helen Beech.

AT THE END of the Japan Trip Emma Gately and Connor Liston from Year 10 began their term exchange at our Sister School, Nihon Daiichi Junior High School. On 10 October they were officially welcomed to the school and gave a short introduction to the teachers in their staffroom. They have completed several Japanese exams and have received outstanding results. They are enjoying school and home life in Japan. We contacted them for a short update on how they are going:



CONNOR

Japan has been an amazing experience so far, from travelling around the country with the school group, to now experiencing life as a student in Japan. Days at school are a lot longer than in Australia but it's amazing nonetheless. Being in a classroom with 44 students who are all extremely helpful and happy to have you there makes it that much more fun, overall making an exchange here in Japan that much better.

EMMA

My experience in Japan so far has been good. I've been to places I never imagined that I would have such great opportunities. I just recently moved house and classes. My first host family were so nice to me and the students in the class helped me a lot. When I moved to my second host family and classes I was nervous as you can expect but on the first day they took me to Tokyo Sea Life Park which was really cool. The family are kind and caring and my new class have been welcoming. I'm glad to have Connor on this exchange with me because he has helped me so much. I'm extremely thankful for Mrs Beech for putting in all of this hard work making sure that we are both safe and doing well.

Taking part in Max Potential

A student leadership development initiative, Glen Taragel.

THE MAX POTENTIAL project offers 22 weeks of personal leadership development to our young leaders from both schools and the community. It is designed to help them maximise their potential during their final years at school and beyond. The program encourages students to focus on the local community and develop an initiative of interest that can help improve the community in some way.

To complete the program the students had to attend regular workshops with their community coaches. Midway through the program students had to present a special interest project. This part of the program allowed the students to present something they are interested in such as a hobby or special talent they may have. Max Potential is a journey and everyone who completes the program achieves different outcomes with every participant having the opportunity to obtain a Certificate I in Active Volunteering. This qualification provides a pathway to other vocational qualifications and improves their skills for gaining employment.

This year we had the largest representation from any school on the Central Coast. MacKillop Catholic College had 9 students who successfully participated in the program. These students showcased their Max Potential focus at Wyong Leagues Club on Monday 27 August, with our local members,

Mr David Harris and Ms Emma McBride, in attendance.

Congratulations to the following students from Year 11: Sarah Baresic, Lucy Pratt, Bailie Stewart, Sophie Coyte, Jayden Baird, Shari Towns, Tayah Blackman, James Santos and Isabelle Hannan, for the amazing effort and hard work they have put into their initiatives.



Junior Theatre Celebration

Making a splash in the performing arts, Sharon Baird.

THIRTY OF OUR secondary Performing Arts students joined over 800 students from other schools, dance studios and drama academies from around the nation at the Junior Theatre Celebration Australia held at Newcastle Civic Theatre between 26-27 October. Over the two day event our students performed an extract from The Little Mermaid Junior for adjudication and received excellent feedback from the judges, culminating in an award for Outstanding Choreography. Our adjudicators were industry professionals including Marty Johnson (iTheatrics), Erin James (Choreographer) and John Foreman (Musical Director) who commented on the groups "excellent ability to tell a story" through movement and song. The judges also nominated Trinity Young (Ariel) and Phoenix Morley (Flounder) to the All Stars, which is made up of outstanding performers at the event.

Mackillop students also participated in workshops covering music, acting and dance, and were able to meet Lucy Durack (Wicked and Legally Blonde) and John Foreman (conductor and musician extraordinaire), and finished by joining in an 800

strong sing-along.

Miss Rochelle Williamson, Mrs Rebecca Hale and Mrs Sharon Baird are so proud of these little merfolk. A big shout out to the parent chaperones as well as Mrs Iolanda Caruana, Mrs Debra Ferguson and Mrs Mel McGuinness for your support and involvement in this amazing opportunity for our students.

In the students own words:

"It was a fantastic learning experience... I am so proud and grateful to be part of our great team" - Larissa Andrews.

"I think we all tried our very hardest and gave it our all and this really shows of what the adjudicators had to say and I am very proud of that." - Trinity Young

"I just wanted to say a massive thank you to all the teachers who put in tonnes of work for the JTCOz musical it was great and we are lucky to have such passionate and hardworking teachers! Also, everyone in the musical did so amazing and you should be very proud of yourselves!" - Laila Johnston.



Library update

We love books!, Jackie Crowe.



SECONDARY BOOK CLUB

This term the Secondary Book Club has been looking at the work of Raymond Briggs, an English illustrator, cartoonist, graphic novelist and author who has achieved critical and popular success among adults and children. Book Club meets every Tuesday during Break 1. All secondary students welcome.

SECONDARY WRITING CLUB

The Writing Club is a newly formed group aimed at engaging students in developing their writing skills across a range of genres and writing styles. We have also explored the concept of a new Zine collection which will house student published works. The Writing Club meets every Monday during Break 1. All secondary students welcome.

NSW PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

Over 150 Students from Kindergarten to Year 9 completed the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge this year. All these students will receive certificates for participation but those who have completed the Challenge for the fourth year (not consecutive) or seventh year (not consecutive) will receive Gold and Platinum certificates respectively. The NSW Premier's Reading Challenge is always a great opportunity for all students to read more and to read more widely from a great range of Australian literature.

SECOND HAND BOOK SALE

This year's Second Hand Book Sale was held in weeks 3

& 4 to raise money for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. We were overwhelmed by the generous donation of books from staff and families and had over a thousand books to sell. Mrs Marilyn Fraser, our Aboriginal Education Officer, and secondary students involved in the school's JUMP program, helped with the sale before school and during Primary and Secondary breaks. We raised over \$740.00 which will help the Indigenous Literacy Foundation buy culturally appropriate literature for indigenous children in remote areas across Australia.

NEW AUDIOBOOK COLLECTION

Secondary students have had access to our online eBook collection, with almost 2,500 books to choose from, since 2016. We have recently added audiobooks to this online collection. Students can download the Wheelers ePlatform mobile app for free to access the huge range of titles from our eLibrary. They can borrow, read and listen on their iPad, iPhone, Android Phone, Tablet or Windows 8/10 device – without downloading any additional software. They can even read and listen offline. Our eLibrary allows students to borrow eBooks and audiobooks anywhere, anytime!

CHRISTMAS BOOK FAIR

As we come to the end of 2018, we celebrate with our Annual Christmas Book Fair and Santa photos that will be held in Week 7. The Book Fair will be set up in the Library during the week and then down at the Hall on Friday 30 November during the Primary Christmas Concert. Santa will also be available that day in the hall for photos with family and friends.

Do I need to spell it out for you?

A wonderful spelling bee, Debra Ferguson.

THIS COMPETITION HAS been designed to assist the students in Years 7 and 8 with just one aspect of their literacy development. This year every subject area nominated 20 words with their definitions which they would expect each student would be able to spell and define by the end of Year 8. These words were then collated and a booklet was published entitled, 'My Little Book of Vocabulary.' This book is to be kept by each student to use as a reference when working on assessments or learning preparation to assist them in comprehending the tasks.

In Term 2 every Pastoral class in Years 7 and 8 participated in a spelling bee which was based on the vocabulary words in their booklet. From this the two best spellers from each class competed in the final in Term 3. Some students were absent on the final day and other students stepped in for them.



Our finalists were:

7F	Elisabeth Heron	Nate Hopkins
7P	Annabelle Baker	Daniel Laing
7G	Georgia Armstrong	Amelia Ormsby
7A	Grace Heinemann	Bailey Laugwitz
7T	Zack Goddard	Santo Kay
7K	Tyler Jefferson	Baxter Andrews

8F	Cooper Shackleton	Joshua KrKac/Lachlan Bishop
8P	Tygar Bruen	Lachlan Ormrod/Malachi Daly-Arbolino
8G	Maddison Sternbeck	Ella McKay
8A	Ben Graham	Kobe Cowin
8T	Jayden Brady	Ashleigh Witt Charlotte Hannan (defending champion)
8K	Caleb Pantos	Connor McGarry

The final was closely fought with outstanding spelling occurring. The winners were:

- 1st Caleb Pantos
- 2nd Connor McGarry
- 3rd Georgia Armstrong

Being a House competition also, Kincumber took out the prize. Well done to everyone!

Indigenous dance workshop

A celebrity in the house for cultural enrichment, Marilyn Fraser.

WE ARE DELIGHTED to welcome Jonathan Wright, an Aboriginal ex-NRL player, as he pilots his schools program at MacKillop Catholic College. He is qualified in youth work and, as such, will be able to address a lot of tough conversations. The program is held every Thursday afternoon with Primary and Secondary Indigenous and non-Indigenous students. It aims to create a safe, welcoming and fun environment for the students, so they can be proud and confident to express themselves through dance and culture.

Indigenous programs are essential for Indigenous students as they increase attendance, decrease behavioural problems, give a sense of belonging and identity, and help them become the people they want to be with a great sense of purpose. It is equally as important for our non-Indigenous students to access the program and be exposed to Aboriginal people and culture. When our non-Indigenous students follow their career pathways as professional people they will have a rich understanding of culture and be able to show empathy for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Therefore they

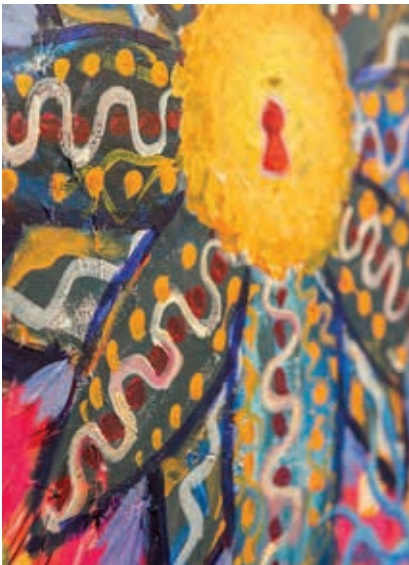
will be able to make informed decisions in collaboration with our Indigenous people in the future.

Jonathan's program covers topics such as dreamtime and storytelling, totems and ceremonies, traditional dance, contemporary dance, mentoring and setting goals, family and identity, and much more. We were also fortunate enough to be covered by the Channel 7 News!



Artists of excellence

Jillian Young showcases the Visual Arts HSC bodies of work.





Primary sport report

Wonderful results from our sport teams, Kellie Denneman.

ATHLETICS

20 students represented our school and the Central Coast at the Broken Bay Athletics Carnival at Narrabeen late last term. The 3 relay teams and individual competitors performed extremely well. Seven of these competitors qualified to compete at the Polding Athletics in Newcastle with fantastic results: the Awesome Foursome Junior Girls Relay Team (Ava Carlson, Keira Carlson, Phoebe Meers and Tyra Field) progressed to represent Polding at NSWPSA Athletics qualifying fastest into the Final and finishing with a Bronze Medal. Ava Carlson (Junior Girls Discus) and Lagi Brown (11 Yr Girls Shot Put) also qualified for NSWPSA. Congratulations to Keira Carlson, Fynn Sadler and Markus Wolscher for their efforts on the day in their respective track and field events.

At the NSWPSA Athletics, our Awesome Foursome, true to their name, competed in the Junior 4 x 100m Relay event qualifying with a personal best in the heat to run in the semi-final. In super hot conditions, they could not repeat this performance to progress to the final finishing in 13th position overall in the state - a fantastic achievement. Lagi Brown landed her shot put over 10m to finish 6th in the state for the 11 Yr Girls Shot Put - amazing! Ava Carlson competed in the Junior Girls Discus and finished 15th in the state - another great accomplishment. We are immensely proud of these students who have trained so hard.

NETBALL

The CCC Netball Gala Day saw Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 compete, supported by our secondary students as coaches and umpires. The children represented our school with such pride and enthusiasm and we are very proud of them all. Thanks to all the parents who assisted on the day and congratulations to the following teams who had overall success:

Winners

- Div 1 Girls Year 5/6
- Div 2 Pool B Girls Year 5 BLUE
- Div 2 Pool C Girls Year 6 RED
- Div 1 Boys

Runners Up

- Div 3 Boys Pool C Year 5/6 Red
- Div 3 Pool C Girls Year 6 RED

An extra special mention goes to the Year 6 Boys who remain undefeated in this CCC Netball carnival for the past 4 years. As a unit the boys were just exceptional - such was their skill level, teamwork and shooting accuracy! Special thanks to Mrs Crain who has done a great job coaching the boys and keeping the egos in line as the boys continued to improve each year.





CRICKET

During the Waratah Shield Cricket, our team had a busy start to Term 4. In game 1, St. John Vianney Morisset made 7 for 31 in 20 overs with Beau Hanson taking 3 wickets for 1 run. Our batting team were in fine form passing the total of 32 runs in 12 overs with Cooper Seymour top scoring with 12 not out. Our second game was a cliffhanger against St. Mary's Toukley with a loss by 2 runs in the very last over of the game. Progressing to the Semi Finals in Week 2 our team played Star of the Sea Terrigal at Bateau Bay in a tightly contested game where Terrigal set a target of 62 and were beaten valiantly in the last over with 4 balls remaining. Cooper Seymour became our top scorer again with 23 runs. Our fielding was outstanding with 2 run outs and a great catch by Cooper. Well done to the whole squad who represented our school during the competition.



CCC TOUCH GALA DAY

Nine teams represented the College at the Year 5/6 CCC Touch Gala Day in Week 4. The children had lots of fun and improved as the day went on, with some children not having played Touch before. Congratulations to the following teams who had success on the day:

Winners

- Div 1 Boys Year 5/6
- Div 3 Boys Pool B Year 6
- Div 2 Girls Pool B Year 6

Runners Up

- Div 1 Girls Year 5/6

A special mention to the Div 1 Boys who, as a group, have won ALL three CCC Gala Day Competitions this year (Soccer, Netball & Touch).



SURF EDUCATION BEACH DAYS

Our Year 3-6 Surf Education Program culminated with the practical Beach Days in Week 5 this term. As part of the Aquatics Unit in Physical Education, each year group attended Toowoona Bay Beach undertaking activities in various topics including: Hazard identification, rescue and survival techniques (using a rescue tube), recognising beach signage, surf skills, and sun protection. The day was led by qualified staff from Central Coast Surf Lifesaving and the children had loads of fun.



Secondary sport report

MacKillop continues to shine on the sporting field, Rochelle Williamson.

THIS YEAR HAS been a big one for our students in all areas of team and individual sport and I am proud to announce the following achievements:

GOLF

Annika Boyd of Year 11 represented the NSW Combined High Schools Girls Team at the National Championships. Annika finished 3rd in the Girls Stroke Play Championship, only three shots behind the winner. Annika's performances during the School Sports Australia Championship saw her recognised with selection into the All Australian Team.

SWIMMING

Nathan Ward of Year 11 attended an invite-only Australian training camp for a week down at the Australian Institute of Sport. He competed in the State Teams events and secured a spot on the NSW Team. Some of Nathan's highlights include:

- 1st in 50m Breaststroke, winning by 0.67 seconds
- 1st in 4x100m Medley Relay and achieving 2 seconds faster on his personal best for 100m breaststroke - a significant moment as the Relay team beat Victoria by 4 seconds and Queensland by 5 seconds
- 11th in 50m Freestyle

EQUESTRIAN

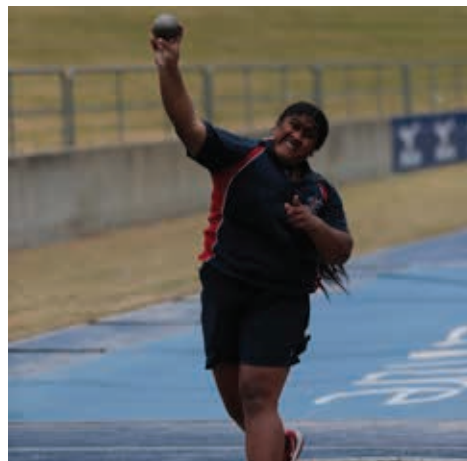
Darcy Heffernan of Year 10 represented MacKillop at the Tamworth Interschools Horse Extravaganza. In the Gymkhana ring events she placed in 4 out of 5 classes. Darcy also won the over 13 years 60cm One Day Event, consisting of dressage, showjumping and a cross country phase. Placing 3rd in her Dressage test, with 2 placings from other events, Darcy then joined a composite team for the Team Mug Race with three other national riders and won!

ATHLETICS

Ethan Jeffries and Anita Brown of Year 9 are acknowledged for breaking records in the Broken Bay Athletics Carnivals in their respective age groups.

NETBALL

An amazing year for the Year 9/10 Girls Netball team for winning the NSW Tafe Schools Cup in September. After beating Kildare College Wagga Wagga in the semi-final, it all came down to the final with Westfield Sports where the girls won 16-14. A special mention to Milla Evans who captained and led by example, and Savannah Castellino whose calm goal shooting under immense pressure was simply outstanding. We thank Mrs Abel and Mrs Werchon for coaching these girls.



WATERPOLO

Both our Boys and Girls teams qualified for the quarter finals and were successful. The Boys defeated St. Peters 8-4 and the Girls defeated Mount St. Benedict's 6-4. Both progressed to semi-finals and unfortunately lost. The Boys went down to St. Edwards 8-2 and the Girls to Brigidine College 7-3. We are very proud that both our teams finished in the top 4 and we would like to thank our coaches, Mr McNamara and Mrs Elcoate.

TENNIS

Our 17 Boys team were 4th after their pool matches but then won both the semi-final and final against Mater Maria. What a comeback! Our Champion Boys division came 2nd in their pool, went straight to the final but lost against St. Edwards. The 14 Boys just missed out on the semi-finals by 1 point but came 5th in the pool. While our 17 Girls had some tough competition losing both their pool games against Mater Maria and St. Peter's, they had a great time. We thank Mr Copas for accompanying our teams.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

After showing great commitment during their training sessions, our Boys team won their first 3 games against St. Edward's, St. Peter's and St. Leo's. Unfortunately, they lost to St. Paul's but still made the final. They went down three sets and placed third overall. Well done on the boys for this effort. The Girls team only dropped one set in their pool games, and won the semi-final against St. Brigid's in two sets. They fought hard against St. Joseph's and won the grand final, also in straight sets.

SURFING

At the BBSSA Surfing Titles at Shelly Beach in October, our Junior teams competed very well, each making the 2nd round. In the Senior division, both surfers progressed through to the four-man final. Darcy Piltz of Year 12 narrowly missed out on the title, finishing 2nd and Luke Buxton of Year 8 finished 4th. A special mention on Luke's performance considering he was surfing in the Senior division. Most surfers in this division were three years older than Luke.

CRICKET

In the Downie Shield, the team had to play without the Year 10's due to exams. They were bowled out for 33 and the St. Edward's batsmen finished the game off swiftly. Thank you to Mrs Mylchreest for your umpiring skills and to Mr Morrow for coaching on the day. In the Berg Shield the boys played two T20 games in one day at Sohler Park in Ourimbah. While they lost their first game, they came back with a win for their second day. Well done to these Year 7-9 boys who represented the school so well. Thanks to Mrs Mylchreest for your coaching.

FINAL NOTE

We look forward to finishing the year with a Girls Sport Expo in which 20 Year 7 students will be selected by their PDHPE teachers to participate in a day of AFL, League Tag and Cricket. The final event of the year will be Surf Life Saving in Week 8 and we are looking forward to seeing our talented students shine in this area.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for a great year in sport as I officially hand back the reins to Mr Black in 2019!



Presenting Dr John Irvine

Building resilience in a changing world, Debra Ferguson.

IN SEPTEMBER MACKILLOP Catholic College hosted Dr John Irvine and a panel of experts thanks to the Broken Bay Catholic School Parents Association. The topic for the night focused on building resilience in a changing world for our children. Parents were invited from all Central Coast schools and it was wonderful to see 100 parents attend. Free childminding was provided by the Student Parliament as well as light refreshments.

Dr John Irvine is a prominent child psychologist and runs the Reed Clinic in Gosford. He has over 40 years of experience working with children, families and parents. He outlined the pressures on families today and the importance of parents role-modelling resilience and good mental health care. He also spoke passionately about the need to form strong 'tribes' in the school that support each other to create resilient students where parents work together to set standards and then all support each other to maintain these decisions. This results in strong communities as the school and parents work together.

Dr Irvine also spoke about his campaigning to get the Worry Woo's "emotional intelligence" program into every pre-school, child care centre and Infant (Stage 1) school class room in Australia. This program helps address issues of anxiety and has shown significant improvement in the following areas:

- Pro-social behaviours
- A reduction in conduct problems, hyperactivity, peer problems, emotional problems, internalising difficulties and



externalising difficulties

- Overall ability to understand and manage emotional difficulties
- Interpersonal skills, emotional awareness and empathy, and resilience

It was a very informative night and we thank everyone who supported this evening. We are very excited to be involved in the Worry Woo Project.



Gritness exemplified!

Greg Hughes *shows us the determination of Year 9.*

AT THE START of Term 4, all Year 9 PASS students completed the RAW Challenge at Doyalson. This is an obstacle course which not only challenges a variety of fitness components but also physical and mental toughness.

The students have been preparing for this challenge during Term 3 completing a variety of fitness tests and exercises, as well as developing a personalised training program which was followed in preparation for the day. These learning activities were all part of the assessment for the Fitness unit.

Thank you to the Year 9 PASS students who have written a report about the day:

Due to heavy rain the week before the RAW Challenge, the course was particularly muddy and slippery. This made the course and the obstacles even more challenging and fun. Some of these obstacles included the vertical walls, lily pads, mud wading, and tunnels. What we hadn't planned for in our

preparation was the grit and determination that was required to overcome some of the more challenging obstacles. We discovered that sometimes you need the support of your classmates and teachers to get through, especially when you think you can't go any further. The day was a lot of hard work but also so much fun. Some students who didn't want to attempt some of the obstacles, got through these challenges just because they were being helped out by others. It was surprising to see everyone working together, even from people they would normally not hang out with. At the end of the day we were gifted with the most rewarding sausage sizzle BBQ we have ever tasted, and the can of drink that came with it washed away all the taste of the mud and sweat.

As a year group we thoroughly enjoyed this experience as it taught us to believe in ourselves, how to support and how to accept help from others, bringing our year group closer together.



K-2 swimming program

New Mariners swim school a big hit, Christine Owen.

THIS YEAR OUR K-2 Learn to Swim program was held at the YMCA Mariners Swim Centre. The intensive swimming program included 1 hour lessons over two weeks and is aimed at swimmers of all abilities from absolute beginners to those swimming a range of strokes. Together with Surf Education it forms part of the Aquatic Unit in the Physical Education Program. Students enjoyed these lessons and had lots of great things to say about the new venue and their teachers. During the program, Kindergarten to Year 2 had fun catching the bus to and from the swim centre. They had smiles as they arrived and greeted their teachers. They worked hard to develop their skills and were rewarded with a fun day on the very last Friday in the pool.

Depending on swimming level, activities for students included water safety and familiarisation, buoyancy and floatation, body position and rotation, underwater skills, entries and exits, water safety all the way through to stroke development. All children received certificates celebrating their achievements. We look forward to seeing some of our older infant children show prowess at the Swimming Carnival.



Parent news

Natalie Tunstead covers the recent parent news.

I KNOW EVERYONE says it, however, I still can't believe another year is almost over.

At the end of Term 3 the Broken Bay Catholic School Parents arranged for Dr John Irvine to present to parents along with a panel of experts. The session was very well attended and created lots of positive conversation around how to deal with a range of behaviour issues. The Worry Woos books have been purchased by the school and are now available for both children and parents from our Library.

Our Kindergarten 2019 Orientation sessions are now complete and ran very smoothly. In the next few weeks we will finish up with the playgroup including a visit to the Church, Library and a party planned. Orientation and playgroup offer a great transition for the children to 'big school' and for parents to make connections, while being introduced to the MacKillop way of life.

Our Facebook pages for MCC Kindergarten 2019 and MCC Year 7 2019 have now been set up. Parents of these students are invited to join these groups for ongoing information and a

way to communicate with other parents.

Thank you for another wonderful year in parent engagement and support as your Family Liaison Officer. I sincerely wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy and safe holiday break where I look forward to welcoming you all back for 2019.

