

ISSUE 20 | WEEK 8, TERM 2 2019

COLLEGE**Matters**



Our blessed community
together as one

VALE DEACON JIM CAULFIELD



MACKILLOP
Catholic College
WARNERVALE

SPECIAL COLLEGE EVENTS COVERAGE

OUR MANY SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS



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College Principal's message

College Principal, Steve Todd, supports many new initiatives at MacKillop.

WHEN I LOOK at the broad brush of events and activities across our College, I am always impressed by how our students engage with these activities. This term has covered the Easter celebrations, ANZAC Day, Year 5 Bathurst trip, Year 7 Camp, a successful Hollywood Trivia Night for our USA Performing Arts Tour 2020, Mother's Day Mass, Secondary High Commendation Assembly, Library Family Reading and Pizza Night, senior students attending the ABC Q&A television show, wonderful sporting prowess and success, 2019 NAPLAN online testing program, the Elevate study skills initiative and the start of the meritorious selection process for new student leaders. These are just some of the highlights that have moved in among our learning agenda and other weekly happenings here at MacKillop over Term 2.

The Catholic Schools Office has held a community consultation this term to support the process for the selection of a new Primary Principal in 2020. To commence this process early is a good thing as it allows us the time to prepare the handover to a new leader. Our College community looks towards welcoming and introducing a new leader into the K-12 Catholic College community. I take this opportunity to thank the CSO team, our staff, students and parents who have offered their thinking for how we shape the next era of Primary leadership within our K-12 MacKillop Catholic College community. Our community will host a number of farewell and thank you events for Sue Dietrich as she finishes her time as Primary Principal after 10 years here at MacKillop, Warnervale.

We welcome Fr Philip Thottam to our Parish and College community as he takes up the reins as Administrator whilst Fr Vince is on sick leave. Fr Vince will have new knees when he returns in Term 4 and hopefully the surgery and the recovery goes well for him.

Parents will have noted the pending changes to the area around the College with a new residential subdivision starting above the College. This will bring some adjustments and additions to our road system. The main access to the College will remain via Tenison Woods Close, which will remain a private road allowing specific access to both the Church and the College. In general, the College welcomes the new development as it brings the local community to our doorstep and we look forward to connecting with the people who join this Warnervale community. Our thanks are extended to our parents who have taken on board the changes for how to access the College via a new road connection that links Mary MacKillop Drive to Mataram Road.

In Term 3, the students and College community will be introduced to the next step along our House system's 'Belonging' theme with new mascots, Indigenous links with dreaming stories and how we are assisting a broader Australian and Catholic identity within our College. This is a very exciting adventure and has involved the support of local Indigenous leaders, our Mission team and student leadership groups for how this will provide a deeper sense of connection.

Wishing one and all well for the conclusion of this first half of the 2019 school year.



A time of change

It is amazing and wonderful to be part of the MacKillop community, Sue Dietrich, Primary Principal.

A WARM WELCOME back and best wishes to all families for Term 2 ahead. I hope you were able to enjoy special blessings over the Easter season, and a restful, wonderful break over the holidays nurturing and refreshing your energy levels.

We have welcomed two new babies to our staff community: Mrs Sarah Shorter welcomed her second little son, Oliver, a little brother for Hayden, and Mrs Allison Passafaro welcomed her second child, Marcus, little brother for Kaylee. Both mums and babies are doing well, and we wish them all the very best for the future.

This term, we also welcome Fr Philip, who will take up the role of Parish Administrator until early December while Fr Vince is on leave.

At the start of this term parents received an announcement from Peter Hamill, Director of Schools, notifying you of my decision to step out of my role as Primary Principal of MacKillop at the end of this year. After 41 years in education, 40 of these serving the Diocese of Broken Bay and 19 years in the role of Principal, with the past 10 of these at MacKillop, I have decided to complete this part of my life and career journey. With Peter Hamill's support, I will be able to work at the Catholic Schools Office in a part-time capacity supporting schools and principals for the next two years and then wrap up my career completely at the end of 2021. Change happens in all our lives, and can at times be a bit daunting, but it is important to embrace this with a positive outlook, both from my

personal perspective and that of the school community. My years at MacKillop have been amazing and the staff, children and families will always hold a special place in my heart. While I am not yet completely finalising my career, this major part of it is coming to an end. I hope to see many parents at different events in these last three terms of the year. May I take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your support of myself, but most importantly for the support of our staff who are so dedicated to the children in our care. I will do this more formally towards the end of this year.

At the end of last term, our Year 6 children headed to our nation's capital for their major three-day excursion where they have undertaken an education tour of the national capital and this term, our Year 5 children headed to Bathurst for their excursion. The children were wonderful representatives of our school and your families and were a joy to be with for these days. I thank them for their positive manner and behaviour. My thanks also go to the staff who were with the children for the three days.

During this term we also share in many other activities, celebrating ANZAC Day and Mother's Day, Reconciliation preparation, Kindergarten 2020 enrolments, and NAPLAN Assessments for Year 3 and 5. Our K-6 Disco will be held to celebrate the end of term and the conclusion of our dance program with Footsteps Dance Company.



A real community

Secondary Principal, Debra Ferguson, describes her joy of being a teacher and school leader.

AS A SCHOOL principal you ponder often on the decisions that are made within a school as you continually wish to see that our students are thriving in all areas and that they have opportunities to enrich their lives. Usually you can witness these by observation of what is physically occurring in classrooms, by studying data of test results and by reading the many articles that are written on our Facebook pages, our website and in such publications as this one. However, there are other, sometimes much smaller signs of a strong community being built and students and staff working together to allow everyone to achieve their personal best.

I have been so impressed with the majority of our students in so many ways this term. Their friendliness and ready smiles is evident as you walk around the playgrounds, their kindness to others so often on display to both teachers and students, their pride in the College and being prepared to stand up and say something if they feel other students have let the school down in any way and their willingness to participate in activities even if they feel a little out of their comfort zone.

The staff at the Year 7 'Aussie Bush Camp' stated that our students were probably the best group they have had come through their camp. We have had praise back from our sporting coaches about the sportsmanship and good behaviour of our representative teams, our dance troupes have been praised for their high collegiality and efforts and our school leaders continue to impress with their maturity and work ethic. We are also witnessing much more care and

cleanliness with the school environment.

This all points to a real commitment by our staff to form positive relationships with their students and our families. We feel the JUMP program is making a difference with our students being much more aware of the plight of others and the difference that they can make. The opportunities students have had to be involved in fundraising for Project Compassion and for various overseas trips and also the information being shared with the younger students by the senior students on such topics as affordable housing, the homeless and the importance of ensuring bullying does not occur in the school have also contributed to the strong sense of belonging in the school.

Yes, we still have so much more we wish to do in the College. We must encourage all our students to be part of all that is happening as some are still opting out for various reasons. We, as a staff, are continuing to work hard in our professional learning to ensure we continue to deliver and develop the best pedagogy possible to assist our students to reach their potential and we are always searching for new ideas to encourage student engagement for those students who struggle in the classroom.

In education you never come to a point where you feel you have now accomplished all you could but that is what makes being a teacher so exciting. We are all learning and moving forward together, and this is so much easier when we work in a wonderful College such as MacKillop.

Welcome Father Philip

Ann Jackson invites us all in welcoming Father Philip to our community.

THIS TERM, WE warmly welcome Father Philip Thottam to our community. Fr Philip will be with us until the end of the year as Fr Vince has some overdue surgery on his knees and then spends some time recuperating.

Fr Philip comes from Kerala, India, and has been in Australia since 2015 having been ordained in India in 2005. He was initially appointed to Toukley Parish where he stayed for three months before moving on to Woy Woy where he has been an Assistant Priest for the past four years. Fr Philip is a religious

priest from the order of the Congregation of the Missionaries of St Francis de Sale, Pune Province. Before coming to Australia he was mainly involved in training seminarians and teaching.

During the month of May, he worked closely with Fr Vince getting to know the workings of the Parish and meeting the people within it, before Fr Vince commences his leave. I know that our community here at MacKillop Catholic College will make Fr Philip feel very welcome as we get to know each other.





The retirement of Sue Dietrich

Frances Reynolds *acknowledges the dedication of our Primary Principal, Sue Dietrich.*

WITH THE RECENT announcement that the Primary Principal of MacKillop Catholic College, Mrs Sue Dietrich, will be stepping down from her role at the end of the year, it is only fitting that we offer a tribute to her valued contribution to the Broken Bay system of schools. As the Schools Consultant for the Central Coast, I am only too pleased to offer this recognition of Sue's leadership.

It is with this sense of gratitude and heartfelt thanksgiving that I acknowledge the significant leadership that Mrs Sue Dietrich has given over a career spanning four decades.

Sue has been in the Diocese of Broken Bay for forty years, holding positions at St John the Baptist, Woy Woy, Our Lady Star of the Sea Terrigal, OLR Wyoming, St Cecilia's Wyong and MacKillop Warnervale. During her principalship at Wyong and Warnervale, Sue has played an integral role in so many areas, both inside and outside her role as principal. She has served on various Cluster and Diocesan committees supporting the work of leaders, teachers and students in such areas as public speaking, gifted education, maths, Leading Learning, spirituality and wellbeing.

More recently Sue has been an active member of the Wellbeing Team at MacKillop, has experienced a cultural tour

to the MacKillop sister school in Japan and was appointed to the role of Principal Coach/Mentor in the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese.

Sue has always seen her role of principal as one that provides stability for students and families, engaging them in the life of the school, enriching the 'whole person' (spiritual, physical, emotional, learning and wellbeing) to enable others to grow in their capacity to be even greater.

On behalf of the Diocese, I warmly thank Sue for her leadership, generosity of spirit, engagement with the diocesan strategic direction and initiatives that have been implemented over many years, her pastoral care and support of many hundreds of students, families, staff and community members.

I know that her legacy will live on through the students and staff that she has 'touched' with her words and actions that are always centered on a genuine care and concern, sprinkled with a laugh and a joke.

I know that the entire College community will be offering their thanks to Sue at a number of events towards the end of the year, and I thank you for your support of Sue as Primary Principal at MacKillop Catholic College.



Vale Deacon Jim Caulfield

Steve Todd honours an important member of the MacKillop community.

THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY was saddened to hear of the news that Deacon Jim Caulfield passed away on 16 May at home after a long and courageous battle with challenging medical conditions. We were informed of this sad loss by Fr Vince, our Parish Priest, who has been a constant support to Jim and his wife Gayle over these final years.

Jim Caulfield was the first appointed and dedicated Deacon in our Parish and one of the first Deacons in the Broken Bay Diocese. Jim was a big supporter of the Parish and of the College. Jim's wife Gayle was the coordinator of the Catechist program here in the Parish for many years. It is true to say that Jim and Gayle have been part of the furniture here at MacKillop. Gayle and the family will be deeply feeling the impact of the loss of Jim and we offer our prayers as a comfort.

Deacon Jim's funeral was held in our Parish Church on 23 May and was well attended by many family, friends, clergy and College representatives. The student leaders formed a Guard

of Honour to farewell and thank Deacon Jim. Deacon Jim baptized many students across the College over the years and his loss is felt deeply across this community.

Jim and Gayle also have grandchildren here at MacKillop and we appreciate that this is a great loss to them. The loving memories that so many people have of Jim will hopefully be some reassurance as he returns home to the Lord.

Many of us who knew Jim well, know he was a very devoted Deacon. He was a very loving husband, grandfather and family man. Jim was also a member of the 70s band 'Autumn', famous for their song 'Yellow River'. Jim was a member of the band towards the back-end of their career as a replacement member on their final tour.

Jim Caulfield's life just underpins what a caring soul Jim was and we all will miss his familiar face in and about the Parish and College.

Vale Jim Caulfield.

The way of the cross leads to the light of Christ

We are reminded of the greatest story ever told, Kerry Power.

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

Our liturgies before and after the holiday break remind us that we are part of this story. We are part of the Christian family who believes that Jesus dwelt amongst us, showed us how to live and then died to show us what is possible for us beyond our earthly existence. Kindergarten through to Year 5 led the Primary in praying 'The Way of the Cross' on the last day of Term 1 and Year 6 celebrated the 'Stations of Light' on the first day of Term 2.

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



Our new Year 6 shirts

Kerry Power explains how our MacKillop story connects to our Darkinjung tradition.

IN 2018 I had the great pleasure of working closely with our Aboriginal Education Worker, Mrs Marilyn Fraser. We worked together on a presentation that reflected a scripture story using Indigenous Art. A talented artist, Mrs Fraser embraced The Story of Emmaus and turned it into a wonderful depiction of this popular scripture story. The detailed image allows the viewer to retell the story by use of image rather than words. After attending the annual Primary Rotary Awards last year we were struck by the beautiful image displayed by the Wadalba Community School on their Year 6 commemorative shirt. I asked Mrs Fraser if she would consider creating a design that was unique to the story of MacKillop Catholic College. The shirt illustrates two concentric circles, illustrating the Primary and Secondary schools. These circles are joined by journey lines that show the movement from primary to secondary school over the bridge. The footprints indicate the bandicoot, which lived on the land prior to European settlement. The large circles that embody the complete image represent the wider College and then Warnervale community.

After consultation with College Leadership, the incoming

Year 6 2019 students and the producers of the shirts, Alinta Apparel, a design was presented, along with its corresponding story. We were so impressed by the associated artwork that the Year 6 shirt was produced along with a corresponding staff shirt that many College staff members have purchased. This echoes a new beginning for our commemorative Year 6 shirts, one which is now truly unique, that represents, who we are as a MacKillop community, our story connected to our indigenous tradition.



We are in harmony

Debra Ferguson echoes Mary MacKillop's saying, *'Never see a need without doing something about it.'*

OUR STUDENTS ARE leading the way in being truly aware of the world around them. In the last 6 months they have cooked and served meals at Coast Shelter, raised money for Orange Sky Laundry, met with politicians to discuss affordable housing and attended a rally at Town Hall in Sydney about this topic. The Year 12 students have led assemblies informing the student body about the plight of the homeless and the need for dignity for all.

Each week the Year 7-10 students meet on a Tuesday afternoon to look at topics such as the trauma of bullying, cyberbullying, domestic violence and racism. It is also used to reflect what may be occurring in the world at that time or a special international day.

Leading up to Harmony Day they had been investigating the meaning of tolerance and acceptance. Due to this we decided to organise something special to mark the occasion. Christine Anu, Australia's iconic Indigenous female entertainer, performed her show, 'In Conversation and Song', for all Year 5-12 students with many teachers and

parents also in attendance. Christine was introduced with the Acknowledgement of Country said in the Darkinjung Language by one of our Year 8 students, Lachlan Bishop, whilst accompanied on the didgeridoo by Mr Brendan Campbell. Christine Anu gave us all a real insight into her life and its trials and successes and gave a positive message for Harmony Day.

Our Primary students also reflected on the cultural diversity of our country and our community with people from other cultures as guest speakers and through the book 'I'm Australian Too' by renowned author, Mem Fox. Activities planned for the day centred on cultural diversity and how we are able to embrace this in our lives.

The secondary students were also able to order their lunches for the day from many nations around the world which was organised by our wonderful Outreach Coordinator, Mrs Michelle Baxter.

Mary MacKillop said, 'Never see a need without doing something about it' and that's what the MacKillop community is trying to ensure they do each day.



Lest we forget

Debra Ferguson and Andrew Mace commemorate ANZAC Day.

ON THURSDAY 11 April, MacKillop commemorated ANZAC Day with the assistance of the Toukley RSL and Mr. Shane Walker from Honour Our Fallen. The highlight of the service was the keynote address delivered by one of our students, Connor Liston.

Here is an edited excerpt from the address:

'As we come together today to commemorate the service of the ANZACs and all Australians that have followed in their example, we are challenged. We live in a world that the first ANZACs could not have imagined, with the power of technology at our figure tips, and peace. Peace that is threatened by those that live with us and those that live in distant lands. Each time peace is shattered, whether in our home, community, country or world, it is a threat to the work of those that fought so hard to establish peace. The mention of the city 'Christchurch' brings with it a sorrow that is born of the shattering of such peace. On Friday 29 March Jacinta Ardern delivered her reflections on the impact of the events of 15 March, here is a little of her address;

What words adequately express the pain and suffering of 50 men, women and children lost, and so many injured? What words capture the anguish of our Muslim community being the target of hatred and violence? What words express the grief of a city that has already known so much pain? I thought there were none. And then I came here and was met with this simple greeting. Peace be upon you. They were simple words, repeated

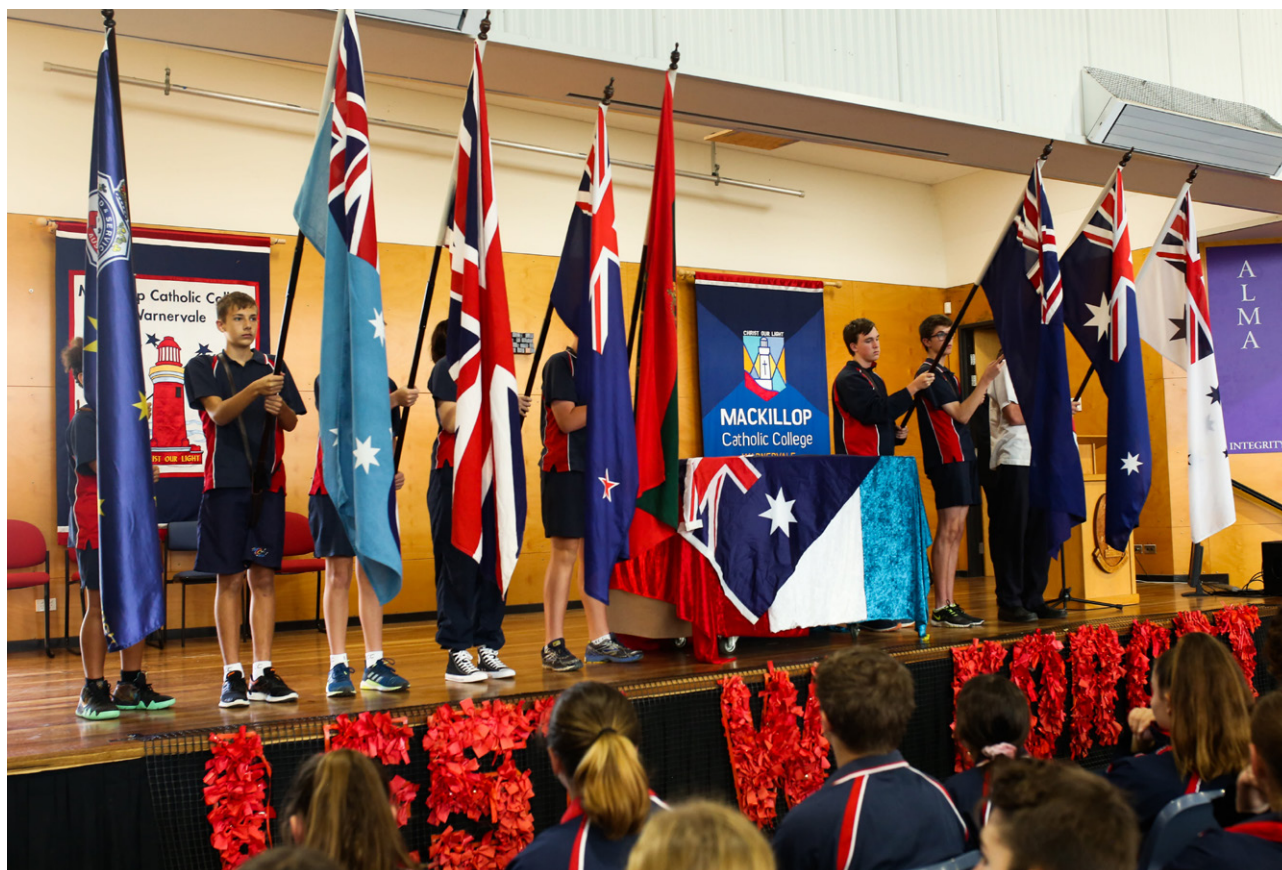
by community leaders who witnessed the loss of their friends and loved ones. Simple words, whispered by the injured from their hospital beds. Simple words, spoken by the bereaved and everyone I met who has been affected by this attack.

The bond we have with New Zealand was formed in the trenches of Gallipoli and continues to this day, their pain is our pain and their struggle for peace is our struggle for peace. 'With that memory comes a responsibility', it is not good enough to empathise with New Zealand, we must take the responsibility to empower peace in our lives. Australia has not been immune from the disease of hatred, in our past or our present, but we can choose the direction of our future.

Looking forward we must not forget or underestimate the sacrifice of so many, but most importantly we must not ignore our responsibility to ourselves and to each other to act responsibly and with service. Let us make Australia the place that we wish it to be. Lest we Forget.'

On Thursday 25 April, we were very proud of the number of students who attended the ANZAC Day March at Toukley. Dressed in school uniform, the group marched from the centre of town to the Toukley RSL Memorial Park and joined other schools and groups to honour those who have and are still serving in the forces. A wreath was laid on behalf of the College by Zachary Potter-Evans, one of our Year 12 leaders.

The MacKillop students display so much respect for, and understanding of, the importance of ANZAC Day.



A day we give thanks

Mother's Day is an opportunity to gather as a community and give thanks for inspiring women, Kerry Power.

OUR ANNUAL MOTHER'S Day Mass provides an excellent opportunity for our MacKillop Community to gather and give thanks for inspiring women who help shape our lives. Father Vince concelebrated the Mass in our St. Mary of the Cross Church, to a large congregation. Though largely a Primary liturgical celebration many secondary students took the opportunity to join their mums and grandmothers at Mass. Each primary grade had a special responsibility, from processions to presenting the readings and prayers. The highlight of this celebration is often the Mother's Day slideshow that brings laughter and tears. This year Mrs Sue Dietrich

presented her final Mother's Day address to our community. Walking in faith and love Mrs Dietrich focussed on her role as a mother and grandmother but also as a carer, mentor and supporter of the students and staff she has lead in her 40 year career as a teacher and leader in Catholic schools. Her gentle and consistent manner has made her a valued member of our community for the past 10 years and as we prepare to farewell Mrs Dietrich her heartfelt reflection during this liturgy touched all in attendance. Many families stayed following the Mass to join the Primary School in a morning tea.



JUMPing for others

Volunteering, a selfless act of love for fellow man, Michelle Baxter.

QUITE OFTEN STUDENTS ask me why they should volunteer, what the purpose of the JUMP program is and what they can expect from participating in acts of service. Recently, a small group of representatives from MacKillop attended a presentation at Coast Shelter Gosford to celebrate and acknowledge volunteers as part of National Volunteers Week.

For almost two years, our students, their parents, as well as staff have been attending the centre on a monthly basis to feed the homeless and disadvantaged. Margaret Portass, President at Coast Shelter, provided many of the answers to the questions I am often asked. Her speech began by answering the question, 'Why be a volunteer?'. She explained that volunteering is a selfless act. It is not for money, fame or for personal gain. She suggested that, instead, it is for the love of fellow man and to lend a helping hand, providing a little bit of self to others. Portass said "those who volunteer do not do it for the medals but instead it's about a feeling deep inside. It's a reward in one's heart that they have been a part of helping others. This is what makes one become a volunteer."

Our students continue to make us proud as part of JUMP. They participate in numerous initiatives both within the

College, but are broadening their horizons; partaking in many opportunities within the local and wider community. Seeing a need and doing something about it is at the heart of what it means to have the spirit of Mary MacKillop, and our JUMP students are truly demonstrating the importance volunteering can have on their fellow man.



Honouring our fallen heroes

Michelle Baxter explains more about this commemorative project.

HONOUR OUR FALLEN is a not-for-profit organisation which was formed in 2018 to honour and preserve the memory of deceased military personnel buried in Australia who have served our country in all conflicts since the Boer War. Their mission is to ensure that a flag is erected each ANZAC Day on the grave or memorial plaques of those who served our nation.

On 24 April, a number of students from both Primary and

Secondary attended Palmdale Cemetery to erect flags on these gravesites and acknowledge the service men and women. Students listened to a brief talk about the importance of the organisation from Mr Shane Walker, Secretary and Founding Director of Honour Our Fallen. It was a great experience for those involved and definitely an event we will continue to support, ensuring that the efforts of our diggers continue to be recognised.



Mini Macks Easter drive

John Sullivan and the Mini Macks spread Easter cheer.



AT THE END of Term 1 our Year 4 Mini Macks, along with Mrs Power and Mr Young, visited the local nursing homes to spread some Easter cheer amongst the residents. Our Primary community had very generously donated a vast assortment of chocolate goodies, as well as an extremely kind donation of hand knitted baby chicks. The students stopped in at five nursing homes in the local Warnervale area and had an opportunity to hand out eggs, share stories, ask questions, as well as perform some rousing renditions of school songs.

An enormous thank you to all the families that contributed. It was amazing to see how many donations we received and the students couldn't contain their excitement in partaking in such a rewarding experience. Among the great feedback we received, the residents were blown away with the generosity as well. A fine example of our MacKillop community banding together for one another!



Accolades for MTP

Kath Ardern *praises the achievements of Jade Riley from HSC Class of 2018.*

JADE RILEY'S MAJOR Textile Project (MTP), from the 2018 HSC Textiles and Design course was selected for inclusion in Textstyle, the annual exhibition of outstanding MTP's developed by HSC Textile and Design students from across NSW. Her stunning work is from the focus area of Textile Art taking inspiration for the work from various beach landscapes, both in Australia and the Greek Islands. Aesthetic features involve a variety of colouration methods, manipulation techniques as well as embroidery throughout each panel which represent the sand and water environments of the portrait landscape.

The Textstyle presentation was held at Ultimo TAFE where Jade was presented with her certificate from NESA representative, Mark Tyler. There were 42 MTP's on display at The Muse, Ultimo TAFE. All special guests spoke highly of the quality of work on display.

Jade's was also awarded the 'Most Creative MTP on display', sponsored by S&S Wholesalers. This prize includes a voucher as well as having a photo of her work on the back cover of the S&S magazine which is distributed throughout Australia. To be nominated for Textstyle is fantastic in itself, but to be finally selected and secure a further award with such high quality work on display is a brilliant achievement.



Professional learning day

Writing is an area in which we needed to support student improvement, Mel McGuinness.

THE FIRST DAY of Term 2 saw our K-12 staff gather for a day of professional learning with a literacy focus. As a College we had identified from our data, that writing is an area in which we needed to support our students' improvement.

The day began with a plenary session in the hall where we examined data from the Tell Them From Me survey alongside NAPLAN and HSC data. The data analysis was very meaningful and effective in setting the context for our focus on improving writing across K-12. A number of staff from both Primary and Secondary presented samples of initiatives being used across faculties to provide a snapshot of how our writing is taught and how students respond to the learning activities.

There were three workshop sessions after the plenary and each session allowed teachers to choose one of 7 choices to learn more about strategies to improve writing. The Mathematics department had a full day focus on writing in Mathematics and the presenter was from the CSO. The Mathematics team found this to be very useful. The day concluded with time to plan implementation of the strategies within the lessons across. Primary workshops focused on guided reading using decodable texts, phonemic awareness and writing.

The evaluations for the day were very positive and teachers



appreciated the time to learn, reflect and implement the learning in a practical way.

In the second week of Term 2, Secondary then held a twilight professional learning evening where we continued the learning on providing meaningful feedback. The professional learning across K-12 has been tailored to be tightly connected to literacy the needs of our students as we focus on achieving a year's growth in a year.

What is PLT?

Ann Jackson *explains what PLTs are and how they assist in today's education.*

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES (PLCs) are communities made up of professional learning teams (PLTs) where teachers collaboratively work on issues of instruction and assessment with the aim of improving student outcomes. In particular the teams focus on four critical questions each time they meet: What is it we want our students to know? How will we know if our students are learning? How will we respond when students do not learn? How will we extend and enrich the learning for students who are proficient?

Each week, I, as the Primary Assistant Principal, meet with every classroom teacher and learning support teacher for an hour and focus on writing. During this time we analyse work samples and discuss how the students are going in general and those who may need extra support and what that may look like. We talk about pedagogical practices, resources and strategies that may assist learning and so draw upon the collective wisdom of the group. We then plan our Literacy lessons collaboratively for the coming week. In this way, every teacher takes responsibility for the learning of every student. As Professor John Hattie states, "The staffroom needs to be a professional community of scholars working together to maximise each other's success."

Research shows that PLCs, as a process of working together rather than working alone, are the most effective way to promote student learning through both change of practice and

the collaborative support from other teachers and leadership. They engender professional growth, provide a process for problem solving, the opportunity for leadership to provide professional teacher development and, most importantly, significantly improve student learning. In fact, there is a growing research base that supports the claim that PLCs lead to improved student outcomes.

Although our PLTs have only been in operation since the beginning of this year, our teachers are excited at the positive change they are already seeing in both the quality of students' writing and their ability to write for sustained periods of time and so produce a substantial text. We look forward to comparing our results from the beginning of the year to the end but already sense that we will see substantial growth!



What is ELEVATE?

Debra Ferguson *praises the positive response of students to these sessions.*

IN OUR LAST edition of College Matters I wrote about the fact that this year MacKillop has engaged a group called Elevate to assist our students in their study and learning skills and they are working with Years 7, 11 and 12.

So far this year we have had:

- A staff training session in Week 4 of Term 1
- A parent training session informing parents of all that is available including a student and parent portal
- Years 7, 11 and 12 participated in this program at the end of Term 2 with instructors from Elevate attending their classes
- Years 7, 11 and 12 have had follow up lessons, which were provided by Elevate, to continue improving the study skills earlier this term

Elevate instructors will return in June to present further lessons to Year 7 on time management and to Year 12 skills for study leading up to the HSC exams. These lessons will also be followed up in pastoral periods to assist the students with mastering these skills.



Students have responded very positively to these sessions so far and we hope all parents have had an opportunity to go onto the parent portal and the student portal and to be able to use these resources at home. We will be evaluating this program later on in the year to decide whether to continue with this in 2020 and if we would also extend it into other year groups.

MacKillop open to all

Steve Todd *recognizes the tremendous effort put into the Open Day showcase.*

ON WEDNESDAY 13 March, between 4-6pm the 2019 Open Day Showcase took on a new flavour to appeal to our local community. The Aitken Hall was transformed into an exhibition centre that featured key themes from across our K-12 College community. Many aspects of life here at the College were on display highlighting that we are a 'happy, safe and colourful' K-12 Catholic College. Areas such as beginning school in kindergarten, transitioning to high school, overseas tours, sports, performing and creative arts, student leadership programs, eLearning, spiritual life and Youth Ministry, our learning agenda, our Library, literacy and numeracy, uniforms, HSC achievements, publications, enrolments and school tours, and lastly, answering the question 'who is Mary MacKillop?'. Our Dreaming Café and Performing Arts students offered a wonderful ambience to the afternoon that just had such a positive feel, that so many visitors and parents commented on just how good it feels to come this College.

A special highlight of the day was the offer of school tours led by our Primary and Secondary student leaders. The feedback from visitors and prospective students acknowledged just how proud our students are of MacKillop. Likewise, we are proud to be part of this local community.

The day concluded with two information sessions, one for prospective Kindergarten parents and the other for

those looking for their children to start Year 7 in 2020. Many enrolment packages were distributed on the night and the process for welcoming new students and families in 2020 is well underway.

There are just so many people to thank for making this day such a joy to attend and I would like to mention our student leaders and faculty leadership groups for making the day a real showcase of life here at MacKillop. Well done, MacKillop!



High commendation awards

Acknowledging our academic achievements, Russell Jones.

IN WEEK 2, our Secondary students were acknowledged and celebrated for their academic achievements in the High Commendation Awards Assembly.

There is great diversity in the subjects students are required to undertake: each demanding a different range of skills, processes and knowledge. The focus of every lesson is on academic and personal growth. Each student learns at their own pace, in their own way and with their own successes and struggles. To be an authentic learner a student needs to genuinely engage with learning activities, be open to new

experiences and willing to take risks. At MacKillop, we pride ourselves on recognising and valuing each student as an individual learner; with unique qualities and attributes. The High Commendation Awards are an opportunity to recognise and congratulate some of our wonderful learners.

The Highly Commended Awards are calculated at the discretion of the classroom teacher. Each teacher looks for students who have consistently applied themselves to their learning throughout the term. The students who received these awards are genuine in their effort, application and diligence in a particular subject area. They are also students who persist and seek assistance with their understanding of subject matter and who have made an effort to improve their approach in that subject. These students are then passed on to the Leaders of Learning and Teaching of each subject and were presented with an award at the assembly. These students should be extremely proud of their achievement.

As a community it was delightful to see the student body honour each award recipient. I would like to also thank the parents and carers who attended our assembly and show great support for these students.



Artists in excellence

Year 11 paint the landscape, Jillian Young.

USING THE NATURAL environment around them, students explore paint application to capture light on the land.



The memory project

Providing identity and meaning through art, Jillian Young.

AT THE START of this year, a selected group of students from Years 8-11 Visual Arts classes participated in The Memory Project. The Memory Project is a charitable non-profit organisation that invites art teachers, art students and solo artists to cultivate global kindness by creating portraits for children around the world who have faced substantial challenges, such as violence, war, extreme poverty, neglect and loss of parents. Our students have created portraits for the children from Peru and we hope that our artworks make them feel valued and important and that someone cares about their wellbeing.



Luana by Kaidyn Dovey



Luana by Zane Eldridge



Nick by Carmen Rickards



Nick by Paige Sadler



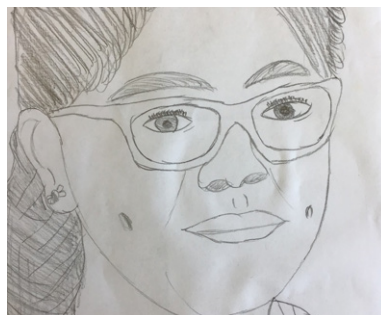
Nick by Robert Arthur



Sebastian by Georgia Fellowes



Sofia by Ebony Glynn



Sol by Aimee Stilo



Soledad by Whitney Valamis



Sophia by Emily Lees



Stefano by Ella Edwards



Stefano by Jade Graham

Around the grounds in primary

The latest in Primary sporting news, Kellie Denneman.

PRIMARY CROSS COUNTRY

Our efforts in PE training for Cross Country were well rewarded this year with many personal best performances on display. Our Age Champions for 2019 were:

7/8 Yrs Girls	Scarlett Clark
7/8 Yrs Boys	Bayley Michael
9 Yrs Girls	Rahni Deeley
9 Yrs Boys	Heath Rowland
10 Yrs Girls	Keira Carlson
10 Yrs Boys	Toby Clark
11 Yrs Girls	Ava-Marie Carlson
11 Yrs Boys	Beau Hanson
12/13 Yrs Girls	Jasmin Fisher
12/13 Yrs Boys	Dominic Enraght-Moony

The House Trophy was won by Fitzroy.

80 children qualified and ran at the CCC Cross Country at Mt Penang at the end of Term 1. In super hot conditions we had many personal best performances, including Katie McCarron who won the 13 Yrs Girls events and Scarlett Clark who was 2nd in the 8 Yrs Girls event. We congratulate the following students who qualified to run at the Broken Bay Cross Country at Fagan Park in May: Scarlett Clark, Brooklynn Yahnel, Rahni Deeley, Keira Carlson, Ava-Marie Carlson, Phoebe Meers, Jasmin Fisher, Katie McCarron, Maddy Campbell, Bayley Michael, Toby Clark, Joshua Norris, Beau Hanson, Lachlan Fouracre and Dominic Enraght-Moony.

Broken Bay Winter Trials

A large number of students represented our school at the Broken Bay Winter Trials this year. Everyone is to be congratulated on their efforts as competition is extremely competitive in many of these sports.

Open Boys Rugby League - Wyong Cup

Coming up against some very skilled and polished opponents in stifling heat, the boys played their hearts out in testing conditions. Going down to St Mary's 26-10 in our first match, and then a few unlucky calls saw the boys go down to Tuggerawong Primary 16-10. Our third and final match sadly had to be abandoned due to injury. The boys showed terrific sportsmanship and respect for their opposition on the day and represented our school beautifully. A special mention to Cooper Seymour for captaining the team and displaying excellent leadership, to Isaac D'Arrigo who could hardly be contained whenever he had the ball in his hands, and Nate Valamis for his steamrolling hit ups and countless big hits in defence.

NSWCPS Swimming

Our swimming star, Dylan Wightman progressed through to represent Broken Bay at the NSWCPS Swimming Carnival at Homebush after outstanding swims at the previous carnivals. We congratulate Dylan on his results at this carnival, placing

5th in 11 Yrs Boys Butterfly and 8th in 11 Yrs Backstroke.

Primary Athletics Carnival

The hot and challenging conditions did nothing to detract from the fun had at the Athletics Carnival. We were dazzled by the outstanding efforts resulting in 14 new records being set by the following students:

Ava Carlson	4 records - 11 Yrs Girls 800m, Shot Put, Long Jump and Discus
Keira Carlson	2 records - 10 Yrs Girls 200m and Long Jump
Lagi Brown	2 records - 12 Yrs Girls Shot Put and Discus
Millie Timp	12 Yrs Girls 200m
Beau Hanson	11 Yrs Boys 800m
Fynn Sadler	11 Yrs Boys Long Jump
Nate Valamis	11 Yrs Boys Shot Put
Samuel Amino	12 Yrs Boys Shot Put
Taj Hilder	9 Yrs Boys Shot Put

The House Trophy was won by Kincumber.

Congratulations to our Age Champions:

7/8 Yrs Girls	Scarlett Clark
7/8 Yrs Boys	Corbyn Norris
9 Yrs Girls	Halle Bruen
9 Yrs Boys	Taj Hilder
10 Yrs Girls	Keira Carlson
10 Yrs Boys	Toby Clark
11 Yrs Girls	Ava-Marie Carlson
11 Yrs Boys	Fynn Sadler
12/13 Yrs Girls	Millie Timp
12/13 Yrs Boys	Markus Wolscher

Mark Taylor Shield Cricket

The team progressed through to the second round of the competition after beating St. Gerards Carlingford in Round 1 in Sydney. We hosted St. Augustine's Brookvale in the Round 2 game at Darren Kennedy Oval Toukley. St. Augustine's set our team a big task after scoring 8 for 174 in their 30 overs batting. With solid efforts at the crease our team managed to bat out our 30 overs but fell short by quite a few runs. Special mention to Cooper Seymour for his 29 runs and Alex Goddard who made a quick 15. Congratulations to the whole team on the way they represented our school, and to Charlie Baresic and Ben London from Secondary for umpiring and scoring on the day.

Polding Winter Trials

Thirteen students represented MacKillop and the Diocese at Polding Winter trials in May. Congratulations to the following students on their selection in Polding Teams for 2019:

Soccer: Fynn Sadler, Ava-Marie Carlson and Maya Rennie.

11s Rugby League: Tyler Blackhall.



Outstanding results

Duncan Black gives us the highlights in Secondary sport.

TALK ABOUT OUTSTANDING results from all of our sporting events so far this year!

Swimming Carnival

House Champion - Temuka

12yrs	Mahlie Cashin
13yrs	Zara Christensen, William Copen and Caleb Field
14yrs	Laura Evans and Noah Sanchez
15yrs	Montana-Rose Currey and Tyson Scicluna
16yrs	Leah Caldwell and Isaac Wightman
17+ yrs	Victoria Copen and Nathan Ward

Athletics Carnival

House Champion - Alma.

12yrs	Isabelle Johnson and Blake Field
13yrs	Miranda Deverson and Brayden McDonald
14yrs	Zoe Karipidis and Izac Cliff
15yrs	Kaitlyn Norris and Ethan Jeffrey
16yrs	Mia Middleton and James Bragg
17+ yrs	Victoria Copen and Mihajlo Vukovic

Cross Country

House Champion - Gesu.

12yrs	Mahlie Cashin and Blake Field
13yrs	Emma Jones and Jacob Waddell
14yrs	Zoe Karipidis and Joshua Hyland
15yrs	Maddison Sternbeck and Zachariah Waddell
16yrs	Mia Middleton and James Bragg
17+ yrs	Georgia Ray and Jamison Costa

AFL

Mackillop represented at the Year 7/8 and Opens Boys at this year's gala day. The teams played in a non-contact version of the game emphasising skills of AFL. The Year 7/8 team played well throughout the day with great improvements. The Open Boys team demonstrated great skill and fitness over other schools in the race for the title. In the end both teams did themselves proud.

Isabelle Kelly 9's

The girls played exceptionally well with representatives from various sporting teams (including the Sydney Roosters and Newcastle Knights) acknowledging how well they played in attack and in defence. The girls won their pool games beating Narara Valley High, Wyong High, and Gorokan High in the semi-final. For the third year in a row they upset Kincumber High School, 4 tries to 1, and they are off to the NSW All Schools 9's in September.

Bill Turner Cup

The boys team are up to Round 3 of the cup which is a great achievement. They won 4-1 against Lisarow and 7-2 against

Berkeley Vale High.

Our girls team have been playing some great soccer over the last few weeks and are now going to play in the Regional Final against Tumby Umbi. They have won each round with impressive results: 7-0 against Berkeley Vale, 6-0 against Northlakes, and 5-0 against Gosford.

BBSSSA Opens Touch Football

Both the boys and girls teams played extremely well. With the girls making through to finals though going down 3-2 to St Joseph's College.

BBSSSA 13/15 Girls

On arrival in Manly, the girls got stuck into their competitions, playing well throughout the day. Though not making the semi's most of their games were tight. Congratulations to Kaitlyn Norris, Ella Hopkins and Maddison Sternbeck for being selected into the Possible and Probable's game.

BBSSSA Boys Touch

Both boys teams played some hard fought games with the 15's team making the semi-finals. We congratulate Lauchlan Bissaker for being selected into the Possible and Probable's game.

BBSSSA Swimming

We had some outstanding results throughout the day at Homebush. Congratulations to our Boy's Opens 4 x 50m Medley Relay and 4 x 50 Freestyle Relay teams consisting of Brock Ray, Nathan Ward, Tyson Scicluna and Isaac Wightman for their wins. In the Medley Relay the boys missed out on the BBSSSA record by only 0.04 seconds - less than a fingernail! Another record to add to his swimming highlights, Nathan Ward broke the 50m 17+ Years Breaststroke record!

Soccer Intermediate Girls

Though going out to the eventual winners of the day, the girls played with great effort on the day.

Opens Soccer

The girls won which is an outstanding achievement, however, the boys just fell short of the finals. Great display of ability on the day.



Representative Honours

A huge congratulations to the following students who were selected into their representative teams following either individual trials or competitions.

BBSSSA Opens Touch	Samara Ross and Blair Brady
BBSSSA Rugby League 15s	Dane Barlow, Lauchlan Bissaker, Ashton Lovis and Aidan Richardson
BBSSSA Rugby League 18s	Jack Bishop, Isaac Blackhall, Regan Clark, Isaac Day and Kyran Hancock
Sydney Independent Combined Catholic College	Jack Bishop, Lauchlan Bissaker, Regan Clark and Aidan Richardson
BBSSSA Swimming	Noah Sanchez, Tyson Scicluna, Isaac Wightman and Nathan Ward
BBSSSA Cross Country	William Enraght-Moony, Jamison Costa, Georgia Ray, Brodie Slattery and Alexander Jones
BBSSSA Opens Boys Soccer	Ryan Baker, Jamison Costa and Hayden Ungaro
BBSSSA Opens Girls Soccer	Sophie Coyte, Montana-Rose Currey, Zoe Karipidis, Jade Kroemer, Lucy Pratt and Hannah Pratt
NSWCCC Waterpolo	Jemma Caldwell
NSWCC Cricket	Jaz Denneman, Pyper Denneman
NSWCCC Hockey	Alexander Jones
NSWCCC Swimming	Noah Sanchez, Tyson Scicluna, Isaac Wightman and Nathan Ward
NSWCCC Touch	Blair Brady
NSWCCC Netball U15	Maddison Sternbeck
NSWCCC Opens Netball	Mia Middleton
NSWCCC U16 Boys Soccer	Ashley Wilson
NSW All Schools Swimming	Noah Sanchez and Nathan Ward

It is a great achievement to be selected into selective state teams to play at either a national or state level - congratulations to you all!



Our talented performers

Sharon Baird *takes us through the latest in Performing Arts.*

THIS TERM HAS been an eventful one for students and staff involved in the Performing Arts. MacKillop students have successfully competed in the Theatresports Schools Challenge, embarked on a range of fundraising events for the Performing Arts USA Tour 2020, and are currently four weeks away from opening night of the College Musical, The Little Mermaid Junior.

Both the Intermediate and Senior Theatresports representative teams competed in tough nine team competitions with the Seniors going through the semi-finals. A Junior team will also be selected and will play in the Sydney competition in Term 4. We congratulate the following students for representing the College so well in this tough, but entertaining improvisation competition:

Intermediate: Diana Beech, Tayla Brooker, Charlotte Hannan, Phoenix Morley and Trinity Young

Senior: Tayah Blackman, Isabelle Hannan, Samantha Messina and Ryley Small

Also, this term, a group of around 40 Secondary and 40 Primary students have been preparing to perform the much-loved Disney classic, The Little Mermaid Junior. There will be two fun-filled evening performances on Thursday 27 June and Friday 28 June, starting at 7pm. Tickets are on sale now with more information available on our website. Join us 'under the sea' where you can sing along to all your favourite tunes.

In February 2020, 20 students will be travelling to the USA to perform at the Junior Theatre Festival in California as well as Disneyland, Anaheim. These students will also take part in skills and development workshops with industry professionals and spend a bit of time sightseeing in Los Angeles and San Francisco. Each student and their family have worked extremely hard fundraising to assist with the cost of the trip. This term we held a Bunnings BBQ and hosted a Hollywood themed Trivia Night which saw 300 members of our community come together for quizzical entertainment. On behalf of the students and staff attending the trip, I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended either of these events; we are truly grateful for your support.

Our Dance troupes have been busy training in preparation to perform at two eisteddfods so far this term. They danced well in tough sections, attaining pleasing scores and three highly commended awards at Gosford Eisteddfod. They continue to train up for another competition in September. All students wishing to join dance troupe are encouraged to speak with Mrs Calder.

As always, none of these events would be possible without the dedicated staff at MacKillop. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Performing Arts staff for everything they do – Mrs Rochelle Calder, Mr Shane LeBreton, Mr Scott Wallis, Mrs Iolanda Caruana, Mr Nicholas Cronin. Also, thanks to Mrs Maria Lawrence, Mrs Jackie Crowe and the many staff who actively contribute to Performing Arts events.



Library news

Jackie Crowe *is excited about all the wonderful events and activities in the Library.*

THIS TERM THE Book Club has been engaged in a wonderful collaborative writing experience, creating their very own novel. This group of avid readers and writers have joined forces to develop a thrilling adventure story of an apocalyptic nature where each member has a character and section of the novel to complete. This has been a very rewarding activity for all and has caused much conversation and excitement over how the plot is unfolding.

A new, and very enthusiastic, Lego Club has started that meets weekly in the Library's new creative learning space. This group are working individually or in pairs on themes and challenges, with prizes, to create the most interesting design they can. To see the results is truly amazing. Last term we were given a donation of mixed Lego pieces which was much appreciated and enabled us to kick this activity off sooner than expected. However, if anyone has any Lego that they would be willing to part with, our library staff would love to receive them.

The Australian STEM Video Challenge has again been in full swing and we have had many interested students across Years 5-8. This is a great opportunity for students to use their coding skills to explore and develop a video game with this year's theme of 'Emergence'. Students have been working in teams to journal and create a unique video game that encourages collaboration, game design, programming skills, storytelling,

visual design and use of special effects such as music and animation.

We have also had a wonderful time this term planning for and holding a number of annual Library events. We began with our Family Reading and Pizza Night to celebrate the Family Reading Month of May. This year our event saw over 60 families in attendance. It is a joyous experience to see so many families spending time together making this a special event to support the love of reading.

Once again we participated in National Simultaneous Storytime. Every year a picture book, written and illustrated by an Australian author and illustrator, is read simultaneously in libraries around the country. Many of our Primary students joined over one million children who listened to the story 'Alpacas with maracas' by Matt Cosgrove. They also had a lot of fun creating alpaca hand puppets.

Our major fundraiser, Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, was another very successful event which raised over \$550 for the Cancer Council. Staff at MacKillop generously donated baked and/or bought cakes, slices and biscuits for many members of the school community who came to enjoy a cuppa in the Library. We are truly blessed to have such a generous community.



Parent news

Natalie Tunstead *fills us in on parent engagement.*

ON 14 MAY the annual Catholic School Parents (CSP) meeting was held on the Central Coast where we looked at Parent Engagement within the school and Parent Leadership Teams and the benefits/obstacles to their success. On the night we were able to hear from a number of key speakers and discuss ideas to take back to our individual schools to review current practice and areas for growth. If you would like further information on how to become involved in the CSP please email natalie.tunstead@dbb.catholic.edu.au

The Catholic Schools office has instigated to run five playgroup sessions over Terms 2 and 3 this year. This is being facilitated by our Kindergarten teachers in the Kinder classrooms. Numbers have increased between the first and second sessions as more parents become aware of the groups. The playgroups are open to all preschool aged children. You do not need to have children enrolled in MacKillop to attend and you don't need to attend all sessions, just come when you can. The next sessions will be run on Wednesday 31 July, Thursday 15 August and Friday 23 August from 9–10.30am. There is no need to RSVP, just meet at the



front office at 9am if you would like to attend. Please email smccw@dbb.catholic.edu.au for more information.

Lastly, we have had a number of fundraising and social events this term including Mother's Day Mass and morning tea, Family Reading Pizza Night, Hollywood Trivia Night and Australia's Biggest Morning Tea. These events were all well attended and supported by our parent community and we greatly thank you for your support.

High school taster day

Kathleen Black *outlines the success of our first ever High School Taster Day.*

HELPING YEAR 6 transition to Year 7 is a huge process that began earlier this year with visits to the local feeder schools as an introduction to myself and the College. These visits were then followed with our Open Afternoon and the Year 7 2020 Information Night.

All students who were interested in enrolling at MacKillop for Year 7 2020 were invited to experience a 'taste' of what High School has to offer at our inaugural 'High School Taster Day' on 9 May. The day was well attended with 145 Year 6 students from various schools.

The day began by meeting College Principal, Mr Steve Todd, and Secondary Principal, Mrs Debra Ferguson, who gave an insight as to what it means to be a MacKillop student. This was followed by Mrs Elizabeth Reynolds and the Youth Ministry team who led the Year 6 students in prayer, song and ice breaker games.

After recess and many games of handball, the students had the opportunity to experience what it is like to learn in a secondary school classroom by secondary teachers. Students were divided into groups and were eager to be involved in the activities of the day. This year English and Art were the faculties who led the sessions and students engaged in activities within these subject areas. In Art, students drew a pastel cubist

portrait followed by a lesson in poetry and metaphors in English. After lunch students were divided into sporting groups of gymnastics, AFL and basketball.

It was a fantastic day as students eagerly participated in all activities and began to develop future friendships. The day also settled some nerves for students who are unsure what high school is like.

We are looking forward to seeing our Year 7 2020 students again at the end of this year for the Orientation Day on Friday 22 November.



Colonial life for Year 5

Keira, Bree and Sienna tell us about the Year 5 trip to Bathurst.

ON OUR WAY to Bathurst, the first thing we did was visit the Blue Mountains, which was cold but awesome. At the lookout, we braved the icy winds and saw the Three Sisters. We stopped at Scenic World where we went on the steepest railway which had a massive drop and went surprisingly slow. We went on the Sky THING which was high up in the air inside a glass cube. After Scenic World we went to the Jenolan Caves where we saw crystals and amazing different things deep underground in the incredible caves.

Later that evening, we arrived at the Goldfields where we would be staying. We had dinner then had a campfire where we listened to bush songs and learnt some simple bush dances. After many laughs and the cold setting in, we went to our rooms and crashed for the night.

In the morning we had breakfast then went on a history tour

through the camp museum which was fun. After the history tour we tried our luck gold panning in the chilly waters before making damper and playing some colonial games. Later we had lunch and went to see how a blacksmith's shop worked and had lots of fun. Later that day we went to the Sisters of St Joseph Convent in Perthville for Church and a tour. Father Vince, Mrs Dietrich and Mrs Jackson all came to celebrate Mass with us. After a meal, it was into the hall for some line dancing before bed.

Before we left camp, we had a chance to decorate and paint boomerangs, as well as learn to throw them too. As the drizzle and cold set in, it was thankfully into the warmth and shelter of the bus for the trip home. After several stops for snacks and rests, we got back and were all in a great mood, but ready for our own beds.



Oh, the places we'll go!

Jodie Lewin, Luke Bondfield and Grania Pourbozorgi share their Year 6 trip to Canberra.

IN WEEK 11 of Term 1, our Year 6 students made an early start and began an educational tour of the national capital. Students were given the opportunity to visit a multitude of educational venues in Canberra with a focus on consolidating our work on from our History unit, 'Australia as a Nation'.

One of our first official stops was a visit to the National Exhibition Centre before heading to the Australian War Memorial where we were able to explore the history of Australia's involvement globally, in different conflicts.

Later that evening, we got our accommodation sorted then took a trip back in time to the world of dinosaurs. The Dinosaur Museum allowed us to enjoy many hands on activities before heading back to our cabins for another night

of much needed sleep.

The following day was extremely busy, beginning with a visit to the Australian Museum of Democracy, the National Electoral Education Centre and Parliament House. The highlight of the trip for many students was our visit to Questacon in the evening.

On our last day it was time to hit the Australian Institute of Sport for a tour around the facilities then finally a trip to Telstra Tower before beginning our trip home.

Whilst all students and teachers had a wonderful, yet extremely busy, experience during our visit to our Nation's Capital, we were all certainly ready to return home to share our experience with our families AND for a well-earned rest



Building stronger bonds

John McNamara *explains how important the Year 7 camp is.*

OUR YEAR 7 Camp arrived fast and early in Term 2. We were blessed with the most beautiful weather for each of our three days at the Great Aussie Bush Camp in Tea Gardens, with 146 campers and 9 staff. We were met by an enthusiastic camp staff who immediately bonded with our students so well. The first day of camp really asks the students to hit the ground running, with activities including both physical and mental challenges.

A highlight for many students was the 'Leap of Faith', where students are required to climb a telegraph pole, stand on top of it, and jump off to catch a trapeze suspended around 15m above the ground. This can be particularly challenging for students who are not good with heights. This all happens while the rest of the students offer words of encouragement and provide safety belaying. That evening saw the students involved in a commando challenge activity and storytelling around the log fire before bed. It didn't take long before they were all off sleeping soundly that night.

Day two saw the students woken at 6am, with many appearing bright and cheerful, while others had bleary eyes. Activity groups rotated through a range of activities again today, with the dual flying fox, the crate climb, and the giant swing being three more adrenaline packed activities. Once again, the students stepped up, with many pushing themselves out of their personal comfort zone. It was truly delightful to see

the look on their faces when they conquered their fears and anxieties with courage and determination.

On day three, students climbed out of bed at a slower pace, but still greeted the day in a very positive fashion. Though a shorter day, students were still able to squeeze in some abseiling, high ropes and raft building before heading home at lunchtime. These fine Year 7 students were a delight to go away on camp with. They built strong relationships between themselves and their pastoral teachers and conquered each of the challenges put before them, all while having fun.

I'm always mindful that camps cannot take place without the generosity of staff. I am personally indebted to the following staff who dedicated their time 24/7 during the camp, all in the name of providing Year 7 with a wonderful experience. To Mrs Camilleri, Mrs Swords, Miss Machin, Mrs Black, Mrs Beech, Mr Dawson, Mr Legge and Mrs Calder - your contribution to camp is appreciated by me and the students enormously. All these staff leave behind their professional responsibilities, along with family responsibilities, just so they can attend camp. This is a significant commitment and one which I acknowledge and respect. Year 7 have now settled back into their normal routine and can soon look forward to receiving their Semester 1 school reports. I am very proud of all that they have done this semester. They are truly off to a wonderful start to Secondary school.





