

COLLEGE**Matters**



Congratulations to our
new College Captains



MACKILLOP
Catholic College
WARNERVALE

FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS

READING IS OUR SECRET POWER

FATHER'S DAY MASS AND BREAKFAST



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The winds of change sometimes surprise us

College Principal, Steve Todd, *reflects on the changing of the guard.*

IT IS AN old saying that the 'winds of change' sometimes blow gently and at other times take us completely by surprise. Since the start of Term 3 in July, there have been a few announcements that bring an unexpected change to the guard here in leadership.

Our term started with the announcement that Frank Cohen would be the next Primary Principal for MacKillop at the start of 2020. This was timely news and one we were expecting to happen and then, over the next two weeks some news did come out of left field. We were somewhat shocked by a couple of the announcements. The first was the announcement that our Director of Schools, Peter Hamill, would be leaving us in early August to take up a new role as Assistant Director for the National Catholic Education Commission. As Peter has led the CSO for the past 8 years he was seen as a very entrenched figure there with much to offer Catholic education in the near future. The change to the national stage highlights Peter's interest and influence on the bigger scene for the future of Catholic School education. We wish Peter Hamill every blessing for his new role.

Whilst the dust was settling on these announcements, we also heard the news that our Primary REC, Kerry Power, was appointed as an Education Officer at the CSO, also starting in August. Now the familiar faces of leadership were on the move here at the College. Albeit, sad news for us we are delighted for Kerry as she is so suited to this new role and we know she will do us proud at this level of leadership. This role will be a secondment until the end of the year, but we are realistic in our view, that this role may well lead into a full-time position in

2020. We farewelled Kerry on the 12 August and welcomed a new Acting REC for the Primary for the remainder of the year in Tim Snelling. Tim has been part of our College for many years and his personal gifts and faith will be warmly welcomed at the College.

Whilst I am on the topic of change to leadership, we have also welcomed two new College Captains, a new student cabinet and Parliament leaders for 2019/20. Our outgoing leaders in College Captains, Lucy Pratt and Jack Baresic, now have to focus their attention on their trial exams and then the HSC. So, we now have a changeover of leaders to allow continuity of student leadership. We are extremely grateful to Lucy, Jack and all the student leaders for this year and we wish them all the very best with their preparations for the HSC in October/November. The Year 12 Graduation Mass and Awards Night will be held at the end of Term 3.

We are also thrilled to see the next leadership group commissioned for 2019/20 and we warmly welcome Alexa Walker and Ryley Small to their new roles as College Captains for MacKillop. We know both of these students are widely admired across the College and we look forward to seeing them step up into this role over the coming year.

Our annual St Mary MacKillop Feast Day was celebrated with a wonderful College Mass, picnic and then the House Challenge spectacular. It is always a day to remember and the students put so much energy into preparing their whole House item. We always end the day with a sense of joy as there is something very, very special about this place that makes you feel a better person for all that happens here at MacKillop.



An exciting term

Sue Dietrich, Primary Principal *gives us a cross section of the many events of the last term.*

THE CHILDREN AND staff returned to school for Term 3 refreshed after a good rest during the holiday break. As the number of children and staff suffering cold and flu symptoms rose at the end of last term, the break was well timed.

We are looking forward to welcoming Mr Frank Cohen to our community as the new Primary Principal in 2020 and have started working through a transition/hand-over process with him. Mr Cohen is a colleague and an experienced Principal currently leading the Our Lady of the Rosary, Wyoming, and prior to that, St John the Baptist, Woy Woy. He is looking forward to beginning his new role with our community.

The Feast Day of our College and Parish's Patron, Saint Mary MacKillop, was celebrated on Wednesday 7 August with a K-12 Mass for all the community in the Aitkin Hall. Following lunch, the College held our annual House Challenge with all students K-11. These College House events are always exciting and fun, and we all had an enjoyable afternoon.

The roadworks that took place over the holiday break were completed at the end of Week 1. From Week 2 the regular routines for Kiss and Drop and student pick-up were reestablished. I would like to thank parents for the support given to staff over those weeks of roadworks. It was a very smooth process thanks to your willingness to work with us.

On Thursday 1 August, we invited parents and especially grandparents to join us for a special Liturgy followed by Morning Tea. All families were invited to visit classrooms in the morning before the liturgy and it was wonderful to see so

many people taking this opportunity to spend time with the children. Grandparents are a wonderful part of and make a significant contribution to a child's life and this was certainly evident on this day.

During Term 3, our children in Year 4 took part in the preparations with the Parish to receive the Sacrament of Eucharist. First Communion is an important event in a young Catholic's life, and it's a time to be celebrated with friends and family. The Sacrament of Eucharist is a rite of passage for the child and allows him/her to begin participating as a full member of the religious community. We, as followers of Jesus, still do that when we receive Communion. The Parish program concludes with the sacrament being celebrated with the children and their families on Sunday 22 September.

Our selected team of students were fine representatives at the Central Coast Catholic Primary Schools Athletics Carnival at Mingara on Friday 9 August. There were many individual successes to celebrate.

This year we again welcomed our Sister School students from Nihon Daiichi Junior High School, Japan. While most of their time is spent with our Secondary students there was an opportunity for our Primary children to be involved with the Japanese visit. Year 3 children joined with the Japanese students for some activities. The looks of joy and excitement were evident on all faces during the afternoon.

Thank you for another exciting and interesting term.



Let's work together

Secondary Principal, Debra Ferguson, *wants students to realise that each and every teacher wants them to succeed which is why they push them so hard.*

I COMMENCED THIS term by reminding students that half their school year is over and to truly reflect on what they had and had not achieved so far this year. Having received their half-yearly report, completed Parent Teacher interviews, submitted a number of assessment tasks and received a great deal of feedback, and being offered extra classes and help at break times by many of their teachers with classes offered to Year 12 students over the holidays, a time for reflection is needed.

Term 3 is a good time for the entire family to sit and discuss each child's goals and ambitions, to look at any data that is available through marks, comments, reports and meetings. It is so easy to just drift along and then find that so much has passed the student by.

Discussions about future jobs and careers may be way beyond the student's imagination as yet with many undecided about what they want to do but they all need healthy reminders and support to realise that they need to be developing skills for the future. Skills such as the ability to listen, to collaborate, to ask for help, to meet deadlines, to be reliable, trustworthy, respectful and punctual. They need to be able to follow instructions and to realise that individuality comes from within, not with the latest fashion. They need to learn how to organize their priorities and their time. They need to persevere even when they find something difficult or not to

their liking.

Students need to realise that each and every teacher wants them to succeed and that is why they push them so hard. That teachers come prepared every lesson, every day and continue to come back even when the student or class is showing little to no interest in learning because the teacher knows that education is vital for every human being and they are invested in teaching young people to soar.

So, I really believe that setting goals and having ambition is so necessary for each of our students. This is probably very obvious to us all but children need to be taught this. They need to be continually encouraged to keep trying, to plan, to have hope even when life becomes difficult and they need to know that giving up or getting their own way will never assist them to reach their goals. We need to help them face their problems and their challenges but always walking beside them.

I am so grateful to the teaching staff at MCC who come every day and work so hard for each of your children. We have a great school but we need to continue to ensure that every student that leaves this school does so with the skillset to be a great citizen, parent, spouse, employee or employer having reached their potential to be able to take advantage of all the world can offer.

New Primary Principal

Steve Todd *offers a welcome and introduction to our newly appointed Primary Principal, Mr Frank Cohen.*

IT WAS WITH much anticipation that our College awaited the announcement of the next Primary Principal to follow Sue Dietrich in 2020. The news of the announcement by our Director of Schools, Peter Hamill, that Frank Cohen would be the next Primary Principal for MacKillop Catholic College, Warnervale was well received here at the College.

Frank comes to the College as a very experienced Primary Principal in our Diocese having been the Principal at St John the Baptist, Woy Woy for 8 years and then OLR, Wyoming for the past 5 years. Frank is presently the President of the Diocesan Principals Association and has served Catholic education on many committees and associations over the years.

Frank brings many gifts to our community and he has both determination and passion for how students learn to the best of their ability. He also has a love of sports and cultural programs as well as being an advocate for students with learning disabilities. He is a faith-filled man with good practical sense for servant leadership in the Catholic school environment.

It is important for new leaders to build on the strengths of the leaders who have led our College over the years. Frank will be a great complement to Sue Dietrich who has built our Primary School up to be one of the biggest in the Diocese. Frank is well known to us and we look forward to working with Frank over the coming months to prepare him for his new role as Primary Principal at MacKillop.



Congratulations to Kerry Power

Sue Dietrich *announces a change for our Primary REC, Kerry Power.*

AT THE COMMENCEMENT of Term 3 we made the announcement that Mrs Kerry Power, our Primary REC, made a decision to change her career pathway for the remainder of this year and accepted a position at the Catholic Schools Office in the Mission Services team. Her work will centre around faith formation for staff of schools and evangelization for our school communities. This will be a wonderful opportunity for Kerry and her passion and strengths in this area will be invaluable.

We thank Kerry for always being a wonderful part of our community, always interacting in her leadership role with enthusiasm and energy; no matter how much is going on. This excellent energy transfers to all. Over the years, she has shown herself to be an authentic leader of faith who promotes enthusiasm and joy in her approach to it. She leads both the staff and the students and their families, assisting them in the negotiation of their own faith journey. She is insightful and has a deep knowledge and understanding of our Catholic beliefs whilst also being very aware of the current issues of today's Church. Kerry encourages everyone to speak of their faith and reflect on their life in a spiritual way. While we will miss Kerry being part of our community, we know that this role will enable her to share her wisdom, knowledge and expertise across the broader Diocesan context. We hope the secondment is for the



remainder of this year only, but that is yet to be determined later in the year.

With this change, we worked with the CSO through the process of replacing Kerry. We congratulated Mr Tim Snelling to the role of Acting REC for the remainder of the year, and Miss Jasmine Joyce to the classroom position working with 2W. We know that both Tim and Jasmine are excitedly looking forward to the new work with the community and will be well supported by staff, students and families during this time.



We farewell our Director of Schools, Peter Hamill

Peter's focus has always been to ensure in our school system a sense of hospitality, enthusiasm and genuine endeavor, Steve Todd.

IT WAS SOMEWHAT of a shock to receive the news that our Director of Schools would be leaving us in early August. Peter Hamill who has been involved in Catholic education in various places across NSW has been appointed Assistant Director to the National Catholic Education Commission. The national scene for Catholic education will benefit greatly from the wisdom and focus of Peter Hamill. A number of staff attended Peter's farewell Mass and function held on Friday 2 August at Waitara. The following article taken from the August edition of Broken Bay News celebrates and thanks Peter Hamill for his valued contribution to our Catholic School system.

It is with regret that the Diocese of Broken Bay announces that Mr Peter Hamill has resigned as Director of Schools. Peter will take up a new role as Deputy Director, National Catholic Education Commission commencing Monday, 5 August 2019.

"Peter has made a magnificent contribution to the Diocese of Broken Bay and has been instrumental in developing what is a first-class Diocesan Schools System with remarkable leadership," said Very Rev Dr David Ranson, Diocesan Administrator.

"He has negotiated the school system through significant challenges, and always with careful discernment and astute management. In so doing, he has enjoyed the confidence of the leadership of the system at every level. His attention to school staff and their issues has been exemplary, as has his collaboration with all stakeholders in the field of education, particularly clergy and especially government."

Peter has had the significant role of overseeing 44 schools and their more than 11,000 staff and 16,000 students, who in

concert with teachers, students, their parents/ guardians, their priests and parish communities, work tirelessly to educate and form young people in Catholic life.

"A key focus for Peter has always been to ensure in our school system a sense of hospitality, enthusiasm and genuine endeavour, and to ensure that students not only achieve their academic best, but that their wellbeing and advancement in Catholic faith is nurtured," added Fr David.

Peter initially commenced work with the Diocese in early 2010 as the Assistant Director of Administration for the Catholic Schools Office (CSO). In February 2012, he was appointed to the role of Director of Schools by Bishop David L Walker, a position subsequently reaffirmed by Bishop Peter A Comensoli in 2018.

During his time as Director of Schools, Peter has been responsible for the more than 120 staff of the CSO as well as the 46 Principals of the Diocesan Schools System. Beyond the Diocese, Peter has also held significant roles. Currently he serves as a Director of CENet and is Chair of the Conference of the NSW and ACT Diocesan Directors of Schools and he was a member of the Catholic Education Commission of NSW. He has been on a number of inter-diocesan committees, boards and has undertaken reviews for other dioceses.

Whilst the Diocese of Broken Bay is in a period of waiting for a new Bishop and given the critical role of our Diocesan Schools in the mission of our Diocese, the appointment of a new Director of Schools will be delayed until a new Bishop of Broken Bay is appointed. In the intervening period, Dr Tony Bracken, Assistant Director School Improvement, will take on the role of Acting Director of Schools.



The Little Mermaid Junior

Sharon Baird *praises all who helped put together the College Musical.*

OVER TWO PERFORMANCE nights in June, 41 secondary and 38 primary students presented Disney's The Little Mermaid Junior. There was great excitement about presenting this well known musical, especially as our production coincided with its 30th anniversary year. The cast rehearsed solidly every week for two terms and was rewarded with sold out performances. I also commend all the students who took on roles as student directors, choreographers, and technical and stage crew. Participating and contributing to a production such as The Little Mermaid Junior is an important step in the students' development as performing artists. For many of the cast it was their first time in a full scale production in front of a large audience. For some, it will lead them to Hollywood and Disneyland to perform in front of an even larger audience in February 2020 on our first Performing Arts Tour of the USA. All students who participated in the musical in any way should feel very proud of their efforts; they are a credit to themselves,

their families and the College.

A musical of this scale could not be as successful as it was without the dedication of the staff and volunteers who supported the work of the cast. I would like to mention the Performing Arts staff who took on creative roles: Mrs Iolanda Caruana, Mrs Rochelle Calder, Mr Shane LeBreton and Mr Scott Wallis. I would also like to thank Mrs Jacqueline Crowe, Mrs Maria Lawrence, and Mrs Kerry Power. There were a number of parents who assisted with costume, lighting and canteen, my eternal gratitude to Mrs Kate Wooden, Mrs Sharon Trigg and Mrs Loretta Foster in particular, but also to all the parents of the students who were involved in the musical as you have given your children an opportunity they will never forget.

Finally, my thanks to the executive of MacKillop Catholic College for their support of the musical: Mr Steve Todd, Mrs Debra Ferguson, Mrs Mel McGuinness and Mrs Sue Dietrich.





Commissioning of our new leaders

Debra Ferguson *introduces our Secondary student leaders for 2019-20.*

OUR COLLEGE LEADERS have now been announced and were commissioned at our College Commissioning and Academic Awards Assembly in Week 2 of this term. At this ceremony their badges were blessed and presented. They will all now stay in Office until the end of Term 2, 2020. This allows the Year 12 students to then relinquish their positions and concentrate solely on their Year 12 HSC Trials, major works and the Term 4 HSC exams.

The ceremony was very special, as always, and it was wonderful to share this day with so many parents who attended the ceremony.

This group has already achieved so much with their preparation for the annual House Challenge, attending the

Parish Mass on the Thursday morning of Mary MacKillop's Feast Day and Year 11 welcoming our Japanese sister school on the Sunday they arrived.

The elected members of the 2019/20 Parliament are as follows and we congratulate them all.

COLLEGE CAPTAINS

Alexa Walker and Ryley Small

COLLEGE LEADERS

Mission: Melanie Elshaug, Jaz Denneman, Charlie Martin

Culture: Gauri Arun and Thomas Drake

Wellbeing: Isabella King and Pyper Denneman

HOUSE LEADERS

HOUSE	Year 11	Year 10	Year 9	Year 8	Year 7
Fitzroy	Matthew Deeley Melanie Elshaug	Pania Paea	Bianca McCann	Tanner Johnson	Lucinda Ford
Penola	Gauri Arun Kirra Duran Megan Trigg Alexa Walker	Harrison Sciberras	Samantha Varney	Caitlyn Duran	Manuel Ampoma-Gyamfi
Gesu	Jaz Denneman Pyper Denneman Thomas Drake	Chloe Benson	Jayden Bourke	Ryan Travers	Leo Baftirovski
Alma	Emma Gately Connor Liston	William Hill	Montana-Rose Currey	Shane Jacob-Saibu	Elise Gray
Temuka	Charlie Martin Piper Roberts James Taylor	Jesse Slattery	Hannah Coughlin	Hayden McNamara	Regan Beaver
Kincumber	Eliza Ellis Ebony Glynn Isabella King Ryley Small	Hannah Taylor	Caleb Pantos	Tyler Jefferson	Keely Swaysland

Mary MacKillop Feast Mass

Chrystal Price *praises this very special community event.*

ON 7 AUGUST the College gathered in the Aitken Hall as a K-11 community to celebrate the very special feast day of our patron saint St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Fr Phillip led this celebration of the Eucharist where he reminded us about the call to continue Mary MacKillop's legacy, by reaching out to those marginalised and in need in our local communities.

At the beginning of the Mass we reflected upon the importance of this year being the International Year of First Languages. The new Mission leaders informed us about how Aboriginal people used stories to explain the reason for events and to speak about the Spirit of the land, which is sacred. We also witnessed the sacred Dreaming stories and spirit animals that connect to our Houses and the land on which they stand. This understanding of indigenous spirituality throughout our liturgical celebrations is important to our MCC community as we explore the connection between our House system and belonging to a land that is rich in Aboriginal spirituality.

It is important for the whole K-11 community to come together and celebrate Eucharist whilst honouring the life of our patron Saint St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop. As we participated in Mass we were called to reflect upon Mary's ability to reach out to others with a love that showed no limits. As the Sisters of St. Joseph continue to bring mercy to many parts of the local, national and international communities, we at MCC are called to think about how we too can reach out to others with a Josephite heart.

So many wonderful staff and students contributed to the delivery of such a large liturgical celebration and we are indebted to the Performing Arts staff and students for their generosity with the beautiful music and liturgical dance. Heartfelt gratitude goes out to every reader, minister, dancer and usher that made the feast day Mass such a special community event.



Kincumber breaks through!

Greg Hughes *congratulates Kincumber House as the 2018/19 House Shield winners.*

EVERY YEAR OUR six College Houses, each carrying the name of important places in the life of Mary MacKillop and representing our College Core Values, compete for the coveted annual title of House Champions. Students are presented with numerous opportunities throughout the year to gain points for their respective houses and are awarded points for almost every accomplishment; including sports carnival participation, cultural activity involvement, attendance on community days, school representation and so on. Even though students are competing against each other in their House groups, the competition is always friendly and has assisted in building a fantastic sense of school community. While gaining points for their Houses, students are also raising funds for charity, establishing new events and activities around the College, and tightening bonds across year groups.

The Secondary champions were announced at the end of Term 2, and this year was won by Kincumber House; their first ever win! Kincumber were led by their House Captains, Jayden Baird, Samantha Messina and Shari Towns. Kincumber students received a day out of school classes on the last day

of Term 2, where they watched a movie, had a pizza lunch followed by ice skating.

The most important aspects of all is the strong community pride and the connection to Mary MacKillop that our House system has built at our College, and knowing that all our students are aware of the College Core Values - that we hope they will adopt and develop over their time at MCC.



The light of World Youth Day continues to shine

Maisie Tenev *and the WYD pilgrims come together for a reunion.*

JOURNEYING TO MEXICO and Panama was an enriching experience for all the pilgrims who attended World Youth Day (WYD) in January this year. It is only natural that experiencing such a unique event over a two week period of time, would form friendships and bonds forever sealed. Amidst the busyness of school life, there was an opportunity to come together for a reunion lunch at the beginning of the term, to once again, share a meal and reminisce on the WYD pilgrimage.

The slideshow of photographs was a beautiful reminder of the many moments they had shared. A playlist of music also transported the group back to the songs sung during the trip. A Mexican lunch was provided, along with a memento of the pilgrimage and the students enjoyed reminiscing about the highlights from the two week journey. The pilgrims were also able to congratulate Shari Towns who decided to be baptised and become a Catholic on her return from WYD.

All pilgrims were in attendance and a few special guests were also invited. Fr Philip Thottam took this opportunity to

meet the students and share in their WYD experiences, as did Mrs Chrystal Price. One of four Chaplains from the Diocese that attended WYD, Fr Bogdan Skupien, also travelled from the Narrabeen Parish to join the pilgrims for lunch. It was a blessing to be able to come together and see how the WYD pilgrimage has inspired and changed the pilgrims in different ways.



A festival of colours

Debra Ferguson *reminds us how important the House Challenge Festival is.*

AT MCC THE Feast Day of Mary MacKillop is extremely important and we wish to celebrate the day as a true K-12 community. Unfortunately, Year 12 were in the middle of their CSSA HSC Trial Exams and could not join us. With their exam timetable needs we decided to honour this day on Wednesday 7 August for this year.

We commenced the day with a beautiful Mass for all K-11 students, staff, parents and parishioners. After Mass and the handing out of the traditional M&Ms (we have claimed them as the Mary MacKillop sweets) the students enjoyed a picnic on the oval. It was especially enjoyable with the 'Year of Origin' Stage 5 Cup where Year 9 and 10 competed against each other for the honour of winning this perpetual trophy. They competed in netball, basketball and newcombe ball during lunch and the stakes seemed to be very high.

In the afternoon, the students participated in a further event that they also truly enjoyed – the House Challenge where each House devises a performance that involves singing, movement and costumes and it needs to represent their House in name,

colour and/or core value where possible. The Yr 11 and 6 Leaders worked together with their House Teachers to create these great and entertaining songs. The students from K-11 met over a period of 3 weeks to rehearse all this.... A real challenge in the short period of time.

The new Student Leaders must truly be congratulated for all their hard work and enthusiasm.

We need to thank Mrs Tenev and Mr Hughes who were splendid MCs for the afternoon, the parents who attended for their support, all the teachers for their sense of good fun and our judging panel made up of our Office and Library staff.

Please join me in congratulating every House for their hard work this year.

3rd place	Temuka
2nd place	Gesu
1st place	Kincumber
Year of Origin Cup	Year 10





JUMP expands its horizons

Michelle Baxter *proudly updates us on outreach in our local community.*

DURING THE LAST school holidays over 40 MCC students, their parents and staff attended our Birthing Kit Packing Day. There were many Year 7 students present which is fantastic, given that the JUMP program for this cohort doesn't officially begin for them until Term 4. It is evident that the JUMP culture is already embedded into these students and what it truly means to be a member of the MacKillop community. As a result of our collective efforts, we saved the lives of 20 mothers and their babies.

Term 3 witnessed the start of three exciting new programs at the College. PAL (Primary Assisted Learning), the inter-generational program, as well as a collaborative project with Bunnings and Wyong Hospital. PAL is a partnership between Year 9 and Year 2 students. Each week these students meet and work together to complete an art installation which will be constructed in the Primary area later this term. The aim of the program is to develop the leadership skills of Year 9, and for our Year 2 students to feel more confident in a range of social settings, as well as to improve overall wellbeing. This has been a very successful initiative thus far and one we hope will continue in Term 4.

The 'inter-generational' program runs every Thursday afternoon during sport time. Year 8 students have been attending Uniting Nursing Home at Hamlyn Terrace. Activities

include paper planes, Indigenous art painted on boomerangs including an Aboriginal culture talk, a photography session as well as puzzles and gaming. The students have learned a great deal about the adversities some elderly face, particularly when in institutions; feelings of loneliness and isolation. Vicky Sanchez, the Activities Officer, boasts about the benefits of such a program explaining how "...the residents have thoroughly enjoyed the company of the students. Each week they can't wait for them to arrive. It gives the residents something to look forward to."

In Week 3 this term, seven Year 9 boys along with Mr Gasparotto were afforded an opportunity to assist with the refurbishment of a pediatric unit at Wyong Hospital. Bunnings Lake Haven, in collaboration with Taubmans and Lions Club Toukley worked in partnership to improve the site, in order to provide a more pleasant environment for the patients and their families who visit. Our students spent two days preparing surfaces, painting walls and door frames and offering assistance wherever needed. Our students helped to create a more inviting environment to those who visit the unit.

Our students are responding to many needs within our local and wider communities. We can all be proud of their wonderful achievements.





Happy father's day

A beautiful way to show the fathers in our community how much we cherish them, Tim Snelling.

THE BEST START to Spring is after a down pour, when the plants and animals become hydrated and ready to grow for a new season. Friday's Father's Day morning celebration was the downpour that we needed to start this wonderful time of year. It was wonderful to see the church full of the fathers and carers of our students at MacKillop, celebrating Mass with us and enjoying a freshly cooked breakfast. We are grateful to all staff who pitched in with the running of the morning, contributing to the wonderful atmosphere of the school; the secondary volunteers on the BBQ, the wonderful canteen, the primary staff for their Mass contributions, and Father Phillip for sharing his time with us.

Hopefully everyone enjoyed the glorious start to Spring on Sunday for Father's Day. Thank you for taking the time to celebrate with us.





100 days of kindergarten

Cath Paholski *reflects on 100 days of wonderful memories with Kinder.*

ON TUESDAY 30 July the Kindergarten classes celebrated their 100th day at school. The children had a few giggles seeing their classroom teachers dressing a little more 'elderly' than usual, especially Mrs Paholski who looked 51! Mrs Britten also joined us on the day and loved all the fun. Every child brought in a very special '100 day project' which they had created at home. The task was to collect 100 items, for 100 days of school, and to display them creatively. We had a 'gallery walk' and visited each classroom to admire all of the amazing artworks.

We spent the day doing lots of '100 themed' activities including, 100 day necklaces, listened to a story about a caterpillar and his 100 shoes, drew a self-portrait of what the students would look like in 100 years and played a race to 100 game in Maths. In the afternoon we had a fun grade party with a twist. Each student brought in a packet of party food to share and had to build groups of 10 yummy snacks to equal 100. There were lots of bulging paper bags filled with all sorts of treats taken home that day! Our Year 6 buddies joined us and we had lots of fun singing, playing lego, drawing, reading and chatting together.

In 100 days our Kindergarten students have learnt so many words, numbers, rules, songs, made special friends and now catch buses and go to kiss and drop confidently. We are so proud of them and they are definitely 100 days smarter!





NAIDOC week

NAIDOC Week allows us to reflect on an important part of our culture, Marilyn Fraser.

NAIDOC WEEK CELEBRATIONS are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC Week is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. The NAIDOC theme for 2019 is Voice, Treaty, Truth.

VOICE - The Indigenous voice of this country is at least 65000 years old and beyond.

TREATY - In the European settlements of Australia, there were no treaties or no formal settlements.

TRUTH - The true story of colonisation must be told, must be heard and must be acknowledged.

A traditional piece by Jonathan Wright's Dhinewan dancers was performed at an assembly. The week also saw various activities throughout Primary and Secondary.

Olympic visit

Olympics Unleashed grants a gold for MacKillop, Corrine Patil.

IN AUGUST, OUR College was privileged to welcome Olympic freestyle aerial skier, Samantha Wells, to speak to Years 8 and 10 as part of the Olympics Unleashed program. This fantastic program aims to inspire students to do their personal best and strive for excellence through learning about the journeys of Olympic athletes.

Samantha Wells started her sporting journey at an early age as a talented gymnast, representing our country and developing gymnastic techniques that would eventually form part of her Olympic career. A sudden injury at the age of 15 quashed Samantha's hopes of becoming a world renowned gymnast, but by transferring her acrobatic skills she set out on a different path which would lead her to represent Australia at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi and the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang.

Through Samantha's journey, the students learnt about perseverance, commitment and overcoming challenges; that resilience and open mindedness are vital to wellbeing and success. She engaged the students by showing images and



videos of her training routines, her successes and setbacks. She spoke about the importance of setting goals and working towards them, and how to navigate barriers to success. Samantha answered questions and stayed back after the presentation to chat to students. We are extremely thankful for this wonderful opportunity, and hope that by listening to Samantha's journey, our students will be inspired to strive for their personal best.

Spelling Bee fun

This year saw an impressive extra round to determine our winner, Debra Ferguson.

THIS COMPETITION ASSISTS students in Years 7-8 with literacy development. Every subject area nominated 20 words with their definitions that they would expect each student would be able to spell and define by the end of Year 8. These words were collated into a booklet called, "My Little Book of Vocabulary." Each student uses this as a reference when working on assessments or learning preparation.

In Term 2 every pastoral class held a Spelling Bee based on the vocabulary in their booklet. The two best spellers from each class competed in the Spelling Bee Final in Term 3:

7F	Lucinda Ford	Rose Santhosh
7P	Kristian Ay	Finlay Smith
7G	Josephine Rogencamp	Maddison Dunn
7A	Glenn Thakkolkaran	Connor Metcalfe
7T	William Cook	Isabelle Johnson
7K	Anya McAndrew	Tiana Harb
8F	Haylee Starkey	Ashton Sturgeon
8P	Annabelle Baker	Caitlyn Duran
8G	Larissa Andrews	Noah Edwards
8A	Damon Lowe	Marcus Harcourt
8T	Santo Kay	Shannon Reilly
8K	Tyler Jefferson	Emma Bailey

The final was closely fought with outstanding spelling. For the first time ever the final three students had spelt all the words in their list so we moved onto words they had not been given. Our winners were:

- 1st** Finlay Smith from Penola
- 2nd** Tyler Jefferson from Kincumber
- 3rd** Rose Santhosh from Fitzroy

As the Spelling Bee is also a House competition, Penola took the glory for 2019. Well done to all!



Nihon Daiichi visit with an Aboriginal focus

The friendship continues to grow and strengthen every year, Helen Beech.

WE ARE VERY fortunate at MacKillop Catholic College Warnervale to have an amazing sister school relationship with Nihon Daiichi Junior High School, Japan. The annual Sister school visit this year took place in July/August. Our visitors were Mr Hatoyama, Assistant Principal, Ms Koga, English Language teacher, Ms Suzuki, Mathematics teacher and 25 students. Their tour conductors, Mr Makoto Uesugi and Mr Futoshi Kitajima, also accompanied them.

Our visiting Nihon Daiichi students had some amazing experiences during their MacKillop visit. A big thank you to Mrs Georgina Martin and Mrs Kirsty Liston who were our English teachers this year for the students. The students also attended a Year 10 Dance class with Mrs Rochelle Calder. Mr Phil Murphy taught the students how to make sausage rolls. They also participated in the House Challenge and performed three times. The highlight was the drumming and also the traditional dance of Soran Bushi.

This year we had a focus on the students experiencing Aboriginal activities with Mrs Marilyn Fraser. The students went to Bulgandry Art Site Aboriginal place and Mrs Fraser gave explanations on the plants and art work which the students

enjoyed. The Japanese male students were able to try to learn the didgeridoo and they all watched our Dhinewan dancers perform traditional dances with the assistance of Johnathon Wright. Thank you to Mrs Fraser for organising these activities.

Exploring the Australian Reptile Park is always one of the highlights of our sister school visit. The Japanese students and their host students spent some time there together and there were many laughs. All the students had fun feeding the kangaroos and having their photo taken with a koala.

Our Year 3 students also had opportunities for cultural exchange during our sister school visit. Groups of students came together with our Japanese visitors to play games and learn origami.

We would like to thank all the MacKillop host students and their families for welcoming the Japanese students into their homes, allowing them to experience Australian life, and giving them such wonderful experiences. This valued friendship between our two schools could not have thrived without the generosity of our amazing host families, the support of the school executive, and the many staff who help year after year to ensure the visits run smoothly.



Artists of excellence

Gifted and talented Visual Arts students create an impressive installation, Belinda Wells.

RECENTLY, OUR GIFTED and talented Visual Arts students from Year 8 and 9 completed an art installation within the Creative Arts garden. The works were inspired by traditional Japanese ceramics. Thirty-six unique ceramic koi fish were individually handmade by students and were installed on metal poles to create a school of fish swimming amongst the reeds. The level of creativity behind each koi fish is astonishing! The main focus of the project was to extend students learning by focusing on form and texture in the medium ceramic sculpture.

Our gifted and talented Visual Arts group is formed by selecting students using the “Three Ring Conception of Giftedness” (Renzulls) which looks for students who demonstrate, or have the potential for demonstrating, above average ability, creativity and task commitment. Once selected by their class teacher, they attend lunchtime classes to undertake further learning and practice. Students are also able to accumulate JUMP hours for participation in community service.

Well done to our entire gifted and talented class: Amelia Aquino, Tahlia Ashcroft, Zara Barrett, Hayley Barry, Alicia Bottle, Isabell Buchanan, Molly Buchanan, Kaidyn Dovey, Sofia El Gabaili, Georgia Fellowes, Olivia Fitzgerald, Isabella Garcia, Tessa Hay, Zoe Karipidis, Chantelle Lawry, Bianca McCann, Hilton McMaster, Hayden McNamara, Charli Miles, Leah Pantoulas, Montanna Pauley, Bella Pearce, Ava Rodencamp, Abbey Ryan, Paige Sadler, Mikaedy Sammut, Madison Smith, Stephanie Thomas, Chloe Tonacia, Ryan Travers, Samantha Tracey, Madeline Van Den Broek, Reece Witt and Jamie Witt.



I'm a reader, what's your secret power?

Jackie Crowe and the Library staff celebrate Book Week.

"ALL THE READING she had done had given her a view of life they had never seen." Roald Dahl, *Matilda*

Term 3 has been full of fun and excitement. Book Week is always a fantastic event in our school calendar. It promotes reading, an appreciation of books and the joy of stories. Students were given the opportunity to learn about new books, listen to authors speak about the writing process, get creative, dress as a favourite character or superhero and take time to be alone and just read.

The Book Week theme for 2019 was 'Reading is my secret power.' Reading gives us the power to walk in the shoes of others through their stories, the power to escape into other worlds, the power to improve vocabulary and imagination... the list goes on. As part of our Book Week celebrations students in Year 7-12 had the opportunity to enter our Writing Competition. They were asked to write a creative piece of 50 words to tie in with this year's theme, using their imagination to display the power of words. Congratulations to all students who entered - we were extremely impressed by the standard.

We were privileged this year to have three authors visit our students during Book Week. Deborah Abela, Charles Hope

and John Larkin captivated their K-3, Year 4-7 and Year 8-11 audiences with personal tales and stories that inspired their writing.

Many of our Primary classes also enjoyed the opportunity to listen to a 'special reader' who shared their favourite book. Special readers were staff from across the school including learning support staff, K-12 teachers and Executive staff.

An important tradition during Book Week is the Reading Hour, a time when all staff and students drop everything and read for 20 minutes. This year classes were encouraged to find a quiet space to read alone either in their classrooms or outdoors.

Our annual Book Parade was a fun way to focus on the value of books. We danced and sang and showed off costumes that were creative and fabulous. MCC staff and K-12 students came together to celebrate that reading really is a secret power!

To complete a great term we held our annual Indigenous Literacy Foundation Second Hand Book Sale which was very generously supported by the whole MacKillop community. We raised hundreds of dollars to help bridge the gap for Indigenous students living in remote communities.





Smoke rings and crocodiles

An entertaining yet informative Science Week, Ryan Herbert.

ANOTHER FANTASTIC CELEBRATION of science at MacKillop. Every year during Science Week we are able to really extend our students' experiences of Science. Year 7 and 9 were all engaged in incursions, and 30 Year 8 students were invited to an excursion to the Sydney Science Festival.

Our Year 7 students had a visit from Fizzics Education in the Library with exciting demonstrations and discussions related to real world Science concepts involving energy. The show revolves around phenomena they encounter every day presented in an entertaining way. There were giant smoke rings from a dustbin, static electricity, levitating footballs, unravelling toilet rolls and more, all clearly showing important scientific ideas.

Year 9 enjoyed an entertaining presentation from Ranger Mick from the Australian Reptile Park in the Theatre. These students learned about Australian animals and were given the opportunity to get hands on with some of Ranger Mick's friends. The students were patting Rosie the alligator, wearing live snake scarves, and passing lizards around for selfies. The

presentation included life-saving information on how to treat snake and spider bites. We discovered ways to make our gardens frog-friendly and how this relates to the importance of our own involvement in the conservation of all wildlife.

A select group of Year 8 students were taken down to Sydney Science Festival. This was another information-filled and fun-packed event. Students were able to find out about the huge diversity of science. From a lecture about dark matter, to virtual reality goggles, Australian reptiles and even dinosaurs. The Science Festival Expo gave students an immersive space where they could ask all the hard questions, try out some science experiments and investigate the science they encounter every day. Australia's top science institutions and organisations came together to provide students with interactive booths where they can explore STEAM and get excited about the future of science.

The events were entertaining yet informative. Students were able to witness for themselves the diversity of science and connect with the relevance of science to their lives.



Around the grounds in Primary

The latest in Primary sporting news, Kellie Denneman.

WHAT AN EXCITING and busy time in Primary sport!

Broken Bay and NSWPCS Cross Country

Mackillop had 15 competitors represent the Central Coast Catholic Cluster at Broken Bay Cross Country at the end of May at Fagan Park in Sydney. On a difficult course our runners all recorded personal best performances with Scarlett Clark finishing 5th overall in the combined 8/9 Yr event. After representing Broken Bay at the NSWPCS event and finishing 22nd overall, Scarlett is still eligible to run in the same age group again next year! Well done, Scarlett!



Paul Kelly Cup AFL

Congratulations to the 30 children who represented the College in the Paul Kelly Cup AFL competition at Baker Park in May. We had a fantastic day with the boys finishing with 3 wins and the girls improving in every match to score their first goal before the end of the day. A special thanks to Bianca Blackhall of Year 10 who assisted with coaching the girls team.

Junior Boys Rugby League

The Under 10's Rugby League team ventured to Morrie Breen Oval, Kanwal to compete in the Wyong Cup Competition. The team were led around the paddock by Evan Enraght-Moony with special mentions to Taj Hilder for his outstanding

sportsmanship, Patrick Kyle for his fancy footwork, and all the boys for doing themselves proud and representing our College so well. An enormous thank you to all the parents and friends that came along to support the boys. We had an awesome day.



NSWPSSA Soccer and NSWPSSA 11Yr Rugby League

A number of students represented Polding at NSWPSSA Sporting Carnivals. Maya Rennie and Ava Carlson competed in the Girls Soccer in Lismore, whilst Fynn Sadler competed in the Boys Carnival in Bathurst. Soccer is ultra-competitive at the Primary level, so it was a fantastic achievement to have 3 Polding Representatives from the one school selected this year. Tyler Blackhall journeyed to the Hunter region to compete at the NSWPSSA 11 Yrs Rugby League Carnival.

Polding Softball and Girls Rugby 7's

Ava Carlson and Cameron Baxter represented the Diocese at Polding Softball trials in June, with both successful in making the Polding teams. Ava will compete in the NSWPSSA Girls Carnival at Manly whilst Cameron will be heading to Tamworth. Good luck to both of these students. Ava Carlson continues her selection success having been named in the Polding Girls Rugby 7's team. The Rugby 7's concept is new on the sporting calendar and we wish Ava the best of luck later this year at NSWPSSA. Ava has now been selected in 4 Polding Teams so far this year – setting a record!



Woolworths T20 Cricket

The school entered two Boys and one Girls team in the annual NSW Cricket T20 Gala Day. We ventured to Wadalba for an action packed day with Mr Bondfield and had so much fun. This format of cricket is inclusive and enjoyable and we thank the Secondary student helpers who assisted on the day. Our Boys A team were undefeated on the day with some mind blowing results.

NSWPSSA Athletics Trials

With the School Sport Australia National Athletics convened in Darwin much earlier this year, NSWPSSA were required to hold a selection trial in Term 2. Four students qualified with results from our school carnival to attend this trial day with around 350 athletes from all over NSW. Congratulations to Ava Carlson and Keira Carlson (multiple events), Lagi Brown (12 Yr Girls Discus) and Markus Wolscher (12 Yr Boys Long Jump) for their qualifications and efforts on the day. The competition was red hot and it was a credit to these athletes for their performances on the day amongst over 400 participants.

CCC Athletics

We had in excess of 50 students represent the school at CCC Athletics at Mingara in August. With some amazing individual performances our school finished 3rd overall on the points score with both our Senior Relay teams qualifying to run at Broken Bay. It was a fantastic day and our students are to be congratulated on their sense of school spirit. Best of luck to the following 19 students who will now represent the Central Coast at Broken Bay Athletics at Narrabeen next month: Samuel Amino, Jasmine Amos, Ethan Ampoma-Gyamfi, Lagi Brown, Halle Bruen, Ava Carlson, Keira Carlson, Enda Connolly, Tyra Field, Eliza Guest, Kye Northey, Kai Rennie, Maya Rennie, Fynn Sadler, Millie Timp, Nate Valamis, Diesel Warner-D'Avino, Sasha Wolfenden and Markus Wolscher.



The wide world of Secondary sport

The College impresses in team and individual results across a number of sports,
Duncan Black.

OPEN GIRLS AND Boys Soccer

A fantastic day for the Opens Soccer with nine girls teams and seven boys teams competing in the BBSSSA Championships. The Boys team had a tough day with a win and two draws in the pool of death. All three of these teams finished on 7 points with our boys bowing out on goal differences. The Girls team finished second in their pool and went into the semifinals to play Stella Maris, winning 1-0. They went into the final against Mount Saint Benedict, playing an outstanding game with a 1-0 win. Congratulations to Maddison Laing, Montana-Rose Currey, Aimee Greenfield, Zoe Karipidis, Haylee Starkey, Roisin Laverack, Sarah Bartlett, Lucy Pratt, Hannah Pratt, Jamie Mulholland Wilson, Sophie Coyte, Aidan Taylor, Jade Kroemer, Kaitlyn Knight, Emmasyn Hills and Georgia Fellowes.

BBSSSA U13 Boys Soccer

A windy but sunny day for our thirteen Boys soccer teams in Sydney with eight of these teams competing in the BBSSSA Championships. The U13's played extremely well throughout the day with two big wins against St Peter's and St Paul's, with a total of ten goals scored for and none against. Their last game was against St Edward's where they went down 1-0. Moving to the semifinals, they played against St Augustine's and won this game in a penalty shootout 3-1. They progressed to the final and played St Edward's, overcoming earlier defeat to win the Championships 1-0. Congratulations Manuel Ampoma-Gyamfi, Keanu Jackson, Jacob Waddell, Alex Evans, Liam Ippolito, Benjamin Murray, Brodie Slattery, Brayden McDonald, Max Hartge, Sebastian Ceolin, Giancarlo Trimarchi, Keegan Freeman, Isaac Zappala, William Boyle and Oren Stone.

BBSSSA Netball Championships

Nine schools were in attendance for this competition across four divisions: Year 7, Year 7/8, Year 9/10 and Year 11/12 with a total of 35 teams. All four of our teams made the semifinals which is a great achievement for the girls and their teachers, indicating the depth and dedication these girls have to their training while at school. The Year 7 team finished third overall. The Year 7/8 team won the day and we congratulate Mrs Black, Makenzee Ryan, Ella Flaus, Maraea Paea, Tessa Hay, Annabelle Ross, Taalirah Gristwood, Tahlia Henry, Ruby Walker, Cate Maclachlan, and Mikaedy Sammut. The Year 9/10 girls were runners up on the day going down by 1 to Mount St Benedict. Congratulations to Mrs Abel, Maddison Eady, Savannah Castellino, Olivia Miles, Samara Ross, Mia Middleton, Bianca Blackhall, Megan Parker, Maddison Sternbeck, Pania Paea, Ellie Williams. The Year 11/12 team were crowned BBSSSA Champions. A huge congratulations to Mrs Werchon, Bree Miller, Alexa Walker, Milla Evans, Georgia Ray, Caitlin Smith, Shona Carey, Shae Slattery, Piper Kennedy, Madysen Ryan.

NSW All Schools Futsal Championships

Our Futsal girls dominated their opposition in the Central

Coast Championship and progressed to the State round, however, bowed out after the pool round. An awesome effort from Mrs Baxter, Hannah Pratt, Lucy Pratt, Jade Kroemer, Jamie Mulholland Wilson, Sophie Coyte, Montana-Rose Currey, Zoe Karipidis.

Northern NSW Futsal Championships

Our representing Futsal team went undefeated during the regional championships, going on to win 4-1 into the final against Tumby Umbi. After a tense first half, the girls dominated and eventually won 4-1. Congratulations to Mr Moore, Haylee Starkey, Montana-Rose Currey, Kaitlyn Knight, Zoe Karipidis, Grace Heinemann, Emmasyn Hills, Georgia Fellowes, Maddison Laing, and Zoe Henderson, as they now prepare to go to Nationals.

School Sports Australia Championships - Swimming

Over weeks of competition, MacKillop was lucky enough to have two talented students competing at this competition, Noah Sanchez (Year 8) and Nathan Ward (Year 12). We congratulate them on their outstanding results.

Noah Sanchez

- 6th place in the 50m Backstroke
- 3rd in the 4 x 50m Mixed Medley Relay

Nathan Ward

- Silver in the Boys 17-19 yrs 50m Breaststroke
- Silver in the Boys 17-19 yrs 100m Breaststroke
- Gold in the Boys 17-19 yrs 4x50m Medley Relay - School Sports Australia Record
- Silver in the Boys 17-19 yrs 4x50m Freestyle Relay
- Silver in the Mixed All Age 10x50m Freestyle Relay

BBSSSA Athletics

Congratulations to Ethan Jeffery in the Discus where he threw a BBSSSA record for his age. We also congratulate Tyson Scicluna who will be representing the College in the BBSSSA team at the NSW CCC Championships in the 1500m run.

NSW Schools Netball Cup

We had two junior netball teams, Year 7/8 and Year 9/10, travel to Maitland to compete in this Championship. Well done to our Year 9/10 team who were runners up.

Equestrian

Regan Beaver from Year 7 recently competed in two inter-school equestrian competitions in Sydney and Tamworth. Over those two competitions Regan had some outstanding results with her horse, Jack, including first rider, first best presented, first handler, second active rider, fifth pleasure, Champion Hack and being crowned Supreme Champion Hack/Hunter, receiving a flower garland. In Tamworth, Regan competed in two dressage tests, where she received 7th place out of over 50 people in the 1B classification and 6th out of over 50 people in the 1C classification. Well done, Regan!



Parent news

Natalie Tunstead *fills us in on parent engagement.*

AN INITIATIVE BY the Catholic Schools Office saw the beginning of our Learning Together Playgroups which were open to any families with preschool aged children who would like to come and experience what life is like at MacKillop. A total of five preschool play groups were run with two in Term 2 and three in Term 3. This was a successful initiative with parents providing positive feedback on the experience. We will now commence our Kindergarten 2020 playgroups at the end of Term 3 and into Term 4.

MacKillop Feast Day was again a wonderful celebration of our MacKillop Community. A number of parents and carers

were able to join us for the events of the day and we hope that this continues to grow. A big congratulations to our 2019 House Challenge winners, Kincumber.

In September, Central Coast Family Support will be running the Triple P program at the College, for MacKillop families free of charge. Triple P is a parenting program aimed at children aged 2-12 years. The course will run over a four week period for two hours per week. The course had a busy content that will open participants up to new strategies and insights into their own families and parenting styles.



Accio disco ball!

Bridie, Elouise, Jessie, Dylan and Alissa take us to Diagon Alley for the Footsteps Disco.

AT THE END of Term 2, K-6 students had the opportunity to participate in a Harry Potter themed disco, with its very own 'Diagon Alley'. It was a fun-filled fantasy experience that created some great memories and raised money for the Year 6 Graduation.

Year 6 worked hard to build their own 'Diagon Alley', including decorations, prop potions, magic tricks, fun games and activities. All students were involved in dressing up as their favourite Harry Potter character and participated in the fun

and magical games Year 6 had created. This magical disco was a great experience and a fun time for everyone.

The Footsteps team worked extremely hard to create masterpiece dances for everyone to perform and enjoy at the disco. The Footsteps teachers created an awesome dancing vibe for the magical afternoon. We thank them for sharing their talent with us.

Year 6 students and teachers would like to thank everyone for supporting them.



Leadership enrichment

Kath Ardern *explains how valuable this camp is for our new senior leaders.*

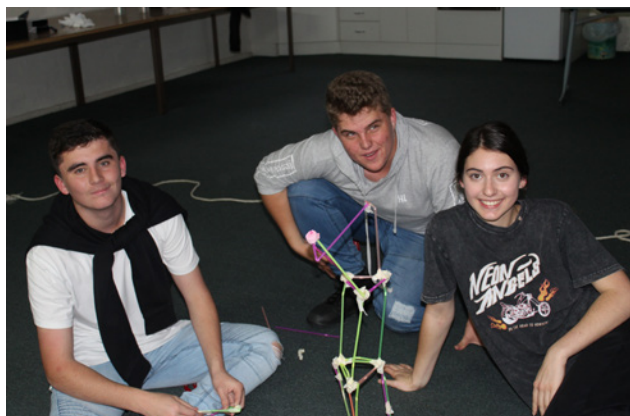
THE 18 YEAR 11 students who were selected for the Senior Leadership team for 2019/20 attended a two day camp at St Joseph's Spirituality and Education Centre at Kincumber in June, accompanied by Mrs Price, Mr Mace and Mrs Ardern.

During that time, students participated in workshops which focussed on effective teamwork, personal attributes and challenges as well as the qualities of being an effective leader. Students were also able to complete in some team activities indoors, due to the weather, which proved both challenging, requiring effective communication and enabled them to be creative. During these activities, students developed their leadership skills as well as strengthened relationships with

their peers. The evening liturgy coordinated by Mrs Price was invaluable in helping with student's reflection on their personal qualities.

Mr Todd, Mrs Ferguson, Mrs McGuinness and College Captains, Lucy Pratt and Jack Baresic, visited the Leadership Camp to speak to the students and further develop their skills. Mr Todd's session involved leadership and the Josephite heart, Mrs Ferguson and the Year 12 students worked extensively with goal setting for MacKillop during the next 12 months and Mrs McGuinness focussed on stress management techniques.

All of the students possess great ability to be effective leaders. They will be a valuable asset for our College.



Outdoor education at Mangrove Mountain

Michael Rickards *tells us how the Year 9 Camp was enjoyed by all.*

THERE WAS A real community spirit exhibited by our Year 9 cohort as they attended the Year 9 Camp this year. 150 students gathered together with some very enthusiastic staff as they spent 3 days together at the Adventure Centre in Mangrove Mountain. Students were very positive and supportive with each other and really got involved in the program.

On camp students challenged themselves across a range of activities such as the giant swing, high ropes, tri-jump, abseiling, rock climbing, the flying fox, archery and bushwalking. These activities at times did get the adrenaline pumping and it was so good to see students challenge themselves and support one another through these activities. Many new friendships also formed, which is part of what camp is about, the opportunity to meet people and strengthen relationships with one another.

We had a few themes running through the camp. On the

first night we had 'my team colours' party disco. Students wore their favorite team colours and some glow sticks to add to the fun. Plenty of new dance moves were shown throughout the night and many laughs shared.

Thursday night saw a Challenge Night of funny tricks, followed by a story by the campfire. Students raved about the amazing camp food and the instructors were wonderful.

A big thank you to the wonderful MCC staff who accompanied Year 9 to camp. Without them, it would not have been possible. Many thanks to Jennifer Walters, Candice Gorman, Beverley Mylchreest, Nicole Abel, Nicole Jolly, Julian Legge, and Brendan Campbell. Also to the staff who visited us including Rachael Elcoate and Debra Ferguson.

When our students leave school and move on in life it will be the events such as camp that will remain life-long school memories.



Time for wellbeing

Rachael Elcoate *shares the highlights of the Year 10 Retreat.*

AN AMAZING AND memorable overnight retreat are the words to sum up such a positive experience for staff and students. The theme of 'positive relationships' allowed students to reflect deeply in a number of sessions and to strengthen bonds with each other and staff.

Throughout the two days, students listened and shared experiences with one another whilst having the opportunity to share a beautiful Mass and eucharist together. Students were challenged in recreational activities and had to work together in friendship groups to solve challenging situations such as walking blind through obstacle courses or encouraging one

another as they completed the high ropes, flying fox and even the laser tag challenge. Year 10 embraced the trivia night with enthusiasm and enjoyment, sang together with their favourite hymn '10 000 reasons' and most of all formed new friendships and bonds with students in the year group.

Many laughs were had and students demonstrated wonderful leadership and maturity throughout the retreat. Many thanks to Mrs Price for her leadership and guidance of the students and to the RE faculty and Year 10 pastoral team who were sensational in their involvement and connection with the students.



