



MACKILLOP
Catholic College
WARNERVALE

28 January 2020

WELCOME TO THE 2020 SCHOOL YEAR

Dear Parents & Carers,

It is with much anticipation and eagerness that I welcome each and every one of you to the 2020 School Year. I hope this message of welcome finds your family well and looking forward to reconnecting with the College for this year. Each student, parent and staff member have an important role and opportunity to fulfil this year in shaping all that will be part of this school year. We do so with a renewed energy and focus to continue building our Catholic School community with a proud Josephite heart.

I do hope that your summer was a safe one as it has been a rather tragic time with the devastating bushfires that have enveloped our countryside from one side of the country right across the nation. The work of the RFS and many volunteers has been exceptional and the generosity of people from around the world to help rebuild lives and communities is an example of the goodness of the human identity that provides us all with much hope.

I take this opportunity to welcome back all members of the MacKillop College family with a special warm welcome to new students, families and staff members. We look forward to greeting you with a welcoming spirit that hopefully brings a unique sense of belonging. There are numerous beginning of the year events and occasions that will offer us the opportunity to say 'Hi! and welcome to MacKillop!'

We do welcome a significant new leader to our MacKillop community in Frank Cohen, our new Primary Principal. Frank is well known in our Diocese and this will be his third Principalship and one he is so looking forward to in further adding to our proud College community. There will be opportunities for parents to meet Frank as he is planning some occasions for parents to meet him. We wish Frank every blessing for his leadership role here at MacKillop.

One of the very early connections that we hope brings a real sense of belonging for all our students is the launch of the new mascots for our six Houses. We are so proud of these mascots and for the spirit that they will bring to the College House system. Our Secondary Principal, Deb Ferguson has sourced six full size costumes that will be launched at one of our first College Assemblies. The senior student leaders have been very keen to take on the role of wearing these costumes and so we await seeing them on parade very soon.

Speaking of Mrs Ferguson, it is pleasing to see that she will be taking some leave this term after being part of this College community since its establishment some 17 years ago. Mrs Ferguson will be accompanying our Performing Arts students tour to the USA in February and then take a well-earned rest. During the time of Mrs Ferguson's leave, Mrs Mel McGuinness will be the Acting Secondary Principal, Mrs Chrystal Price will be the Acting Secondary Assistant Principal and Mr Robert Copas will be the Acting Secondary RE Coordinator. We have every confidence in these leaders stepping up to keep the College on track over Term One. We wish each them well for their leadership roles.

As we begin the year, we have a new Strategic Plan 2020-2022 with related new School Improvement Goals. These documents will be shared with you very shortly on our website and some good conversations with parents follow at meetings etc. 2020 is also a School Review Year and we have placed our focus on our Wellbeing Domain. The College will be reviewing, refreshing and updating all our Student Management and Support procedures that will adopt the theme of: 'NOT JUDGING, BUT LISTENING'. The focus will be on the wellbeing of students, the dignity of parents and for the respect of teachers. These interconnected relationships are something that needs to be a cornerstone of why MacKillop is a 'Safe, happy and colourful School.'

So finally, in welcoming all members of our MacKillop community to the 2020 School Year, I am so looking forward to making a difference in my role this year across every aspect of our K-12 Catholic College.

Blessings,

Steve Todd
College Executive Principal