

ISSUE 24 | WEEK 8, TERM 2 2020

COLLEGE**Matters**

this girl can

We are all in this
together



MACKILLOP
Catholic College
WARNERVALE

SPECIAL HOME-BASED LEARNING EDITION

YMCC + JUMP = ARK

EASTER, MOTHER'S DAY AND MORE



Contents

COLLEGE

- 3 **College Principal's message**
Our **College Principal, Steve Todd**, shares his memories of the COVID-19 experience.
- 4 **Home-based learning during the pandemic**
Frank Cohen, Primary Principal, outlines the challenges we have been facing the past few months.
- 5 **Not what I expected**
Secondary Principal, Debra Ferguson, received a different homecoming when returning from Long Service Leave.

MISSION

- 6 **Your home is a holy place**
Realising the spiritual power of our homes and families, **Father Vince Casey**.
- 6 **Easter reflection**
Chrystal Price gives us an overview of an Easter celebrated like no other.
- 7 **ANZAC 2020: Together in isolation**
This year, ANZAC Day brought us all

closer together at the peak of our isolation restrictions, **Tim Snelling**.

- 8 **YMCC goes online**
Staying connected during times of isolation, **Maisie Tenev**.
- 9 **JUMPing over COVID-19**
We are all in this together, **Michelle Baxter**.
- 10 **Welcome to ARK**
JUMP and YMCC join forces and create ARK, explains **Michelle Baxter** and **Maisie Tenev**.
- 11 **Happy Mother's Day**
Our **student leaders** highlight the important of Mother's Day this year.

CULTURE

- 12 **Virtual awards**
Russell Jones praises our students for embracing their education.
- 12 **In This Together**
The theme of National Reconciliation Week became more poignant this year, **Marilyn Fraser**.
- 13 **Artists of excellence**

Highlighting the continued creativity of students throughout home-based learning, **Jillian Young**.

- 16 **Connecting anytime, anywhere**
Jackie Crowe tells us how things have changed in the library to adapt to the current environment.
- 17 **Home-based learning**
Documenting this significant period of our College's history - from your own words and homes, **Alyssa Chilvers**.

WELLBEING

- 25 **A thank you to our parents**
Recognising our wonderful parents and carers, **Natalie Tunstead**.
- 26 **Fun and games**
Kellie Denneman has encouraged us to keep our minds and bodies active during home-based learning..
- 27 **HBL workout competition**
Isolation has highlighted the importance of fitness and its link to physical and mental health, **Damien Tomsett**.



College Principal's message

Our College Principal, Steve Todd, shares his memories of the COVID-19 experience.

WELCOME TO THIS special edition of College Matters for Term 2, 2020. This edition will cover the unprecedented historical time of COVID-19. Whilst, the history of the event will be recorded across the world, for us here, it will be how our students, staff and families survived this most challenging time in our lifetime. We would do well to remember and learn from how we contributed to the health and wellbeing of every person. Social distancing was the new normal.

For myself as College Principal, I now stand back and look back on how this all impacted on our daily lives here at Mackillop. I am exceedingly grateful and proud of how everyone managed this time. The leadership of the College, the staff, the students and our wonderful families had to reach deep into their minds and hearts to make sense of what was the best thing they could do in protecting themselves and others from such a threat. To protect one another from a virus that spread so quickly across the world and then move into lockdown for a number of weeks will be recalled by each one of us for many years to come. Our memories might be of funny little things like trying to buy toilet paper and flour or watching people connect by group singing over social media or some creative sporting gesture. People did do some strange, funny and creative things. We may have looked at others suspiciously and we did wash our hands up to twenty times a day.

In my mind, I wonder what our very youngest students must think about this event. It was such a challenging time for them

at both school and at home. Learning to wash our hands was one thing but, to keep our social distance was something so foreign to how young people relate to one another. Mums and Dads, plus other family members, had to take on the role of supporting the students learning through new social media platforms to deliver home-based learning. We all learnt what a Zoom meeting was and in a number of ways we upskilled ourselves to connect a little smarter not only for learning, but for sharing our connections with family and friends. For the very first time in my living memory, Easter Sunday services were live streamed as Churches were closed and our Easter family gatherings were spent apart. A very strange time indeed.

Just so I can recall, I watched a great deal of TV news pondering what was happening across the globe. I tried to make sense of lots of mixed and confusing messages, and I saw the best and worst of leaders operating on the world stage. My memory will last for those leaders who actually communicated with respectful and caring language and embraced a pathway of hope for each and every person. We will prayerfully remember the hundreds of thousands of people who lost their lives to this virus, the amazingly brave health professionals and for those very caring individuals who thought about their elderly neighbours and friends.

So, as we begin a new era in life across the community, hopefully we can separate the important things from the not so important things about how relationships are the foundation of our collective wellbeing.



Home-based learning during the pandemic

Frank Cohen, Primary Principal *outlines the challenges we have been facing the past few months.*

“WHEN WRITTEN IN Chinese, the word ‘crisis’ is composed of two characters. One represents danger and the other represents opportunity.” John F Kennedy. How appropriate are the words from America’s most famous President? All of us have been thrown into turmoil with the Pandemic that is COVID-19.

A crisis sorts the calm out from the anxious and for every aspect of impending doom and gloom there are pockets of opportunities created to do something different. MacKillop Catholic College had little or no warning of what was to come with close to 98% of students staying away in fear of catching the deadly disease with no known cure.

Methodically the school engineered a very clear and precise plan to keep the education channels open for all our students, and while it would be naïve to think that all that has been done has been a great success, the overwhelming majority of correspondence from parents is one of thanks and praise for teachers who have been at the centre of home-based learning (HBL).

It became obvious early on that some programs and platforms would not cut it in providing safe and reliable teaching means for our students. Google Classrooms and Epic

have been sound resources. Zoom has often been used and is still being used, but as some parents have pointed out there are limitations around privacy and the potential for it to be misused by unsupervised students in the home. There have been a sprinkling of others and the teachers each week have provided hard packs of work to be collected from the office.

See Saw has become the platform of choice endorsed by students on my walk around classrooms. I learned very quickly what students thought worked and what did not. The amount of work and time given over to HBL most certainly doubled the workload of teachers for which I am very grateful for their dedication. All in all wherever and whenever possible teachers have created multiple ways for students to access learning.

As we head towards the end of Term 2 there are still many unknowns and the information, although clear from our elected officials, is sometimes baffling to enforce. COVID-19 has created a massive impediment to how things are done here at MacKillop but moving forward some new ways of teaching and learning have emerged. Let us hope and pray that the pandemic comes to a stop sooner rather than later, and that we count our blessings and give thanks to God for looking after us thus far.



Not what I expected

Secondary Principal, Debra Ferguson, received a different homecoming when returning from Long Service Leave.

WHEN I APPLIED for Long Service Leave (LSL) last year to travel in Term 1 2020, I had a very definite image of what this may look like. I could have never envisioned how 2020 would evolve or how a pandemic would change the world.

The first two weeks in February were to be spent with the USA Tour in California and this part of my trip was even more enjoyable than I pictured. The 19 very talented students, along with Mrs Baird and Mr LeBreton, shared an amazing trip with me of learning, performing and bonding that culminated in a fantastic competition in Sacramento. I thank each and everyone of them for these wonderful memories.

The next six weeks were also magnificent with my husband as we explored many areas in the USA and enjoyed two fantastic and safe cruises, firstly to the Caribbean and then through the Panama Canal and exploring parts of South and Central America.

Suddenly the world unravelled, and we made a mad dash to return to Australia before the borders closed and underwent a fortnight of physical isolation. What was then supposed to be a further month of LSL turned into returning to the College, mainly remotely, to see how I could assist with education being transformed into a very different mode of delivery virtually overnight with home-based learning (HBL).

Therefore, I wish to use this report to now thank some very important people who made this very new world of education, physical distancing and more profound hygiene regimes possible at MacKillop.

My thanks extend firstly to Steve Todd, Mel McGuinness and Chrystal Price, who supported the Secondary section of our College so strongly and intelligently whilst I was away in Term 1. Their dedication to the College along with Frank Cohen and Ann Jackson in Primary is second to none.

Overnight our teaching staff had to adapt to a brand new

way of delivering lessons and communicating with students. Despite the massive challenges here they worked way beyond their employed hours and through their holidays to ensure that they did adapt and that their students were provided with worthwhile lessons.

The students, overall, also stepped up having to make massive changes to their routines and quickly become self-motivated and disciplined participants of this new regime. Many flourished whilst others really struggled, and I commend all those who persevered and did the best they could. We are all so proud of you.

Finally, to our parents who had their routines also highly interrupted. Many of our families faced difficult challenges, yet we always felt so supported by our parent body and we cannot thank them enough for allowing us to plan what we felt was the best and safest options for our students.

I must make special mention of David Moore, our Facilities and WHS Officer and our Groundsmen and Support Staff who all took up various challenges to keep our school safe and healthy. Mr Moore, in particular, has worked overtime to procure all our cleaning products and to organise our cleaning procedures.

As I write this article, we are transitioning back to full time face to face teaching. Our challenge is now to ensure we spend each lesson to examine how each student has dealt with HBL, what areas students may need some assistance with and then to develop programs of study to ensure we cover all the essential skills and knowledge needed for each subject area.

So, we will continue to deal with each challenge as they arise and, hopefully, as our world moves back to 'normal', MacKillop Catholic College will continue to be the safe, hope-filled and loving community that it is and always has been

Your home is a holy place

Realising the spiritual power of our homes and families, Father Vince Casey.

LIVING THROUGH A pandemic has been a challenging time. Our Parish Church at Warnervale, like churches all over the whole world, has been closed and the only place we have been able to pray together is in our homes. It has been a deprivation; but it has also been an opportunity to grow as a domestic church with a home-based, family-friendly spirituality.

When the Parish Church closed, we initiated 'MacKillop Online', a weekly email to communicate our Parish. Our immediate reaction was to suggest options for viewing Mass on the internet or television. It was an understandable first response, to replace what is missing with what is familiar, but it could only ever be a stop-gap measure.

To use this time positively we provided links to resources and suggested ways that we can be church in our homes, with our family or on our own. Some of these ideas included using the readings of the Mass for prayer and reflection; praying traditional prayers like the rosary or Liturgy of the Hours; providing resources to celebrate Holy Week, Easter and Pentecost at home; and doing a simple bible study with family or friends. These activities may appear simple, but they provided us with the means to a rich prayer life and helped us to continue to grow as disciples in this time of pandemic.

The message we wanted to communicate is: Your home is a holy place; you are a leader of prayer; your meal table is your

eucharistic space; your family is the church in miniature, the domestic church; and like the universal church, you are called to proclaim the Gospel in this time and place. This call to be a domestic church is not new or only a response in a time of crisis. It was the experience of the early Church and promoted at the Second Vatican Council and by recent popes.

We did not want to miss this unique opportunity by waiting passively to return to the church building and back to how things were. Hopefully we have used the time well to grow as disciples and to realise the power our homes and our families have to proclaim the Gospel.

For more on the domestic church go to 'The Hour of the Domestic Church is Now' by Teresa Pirola.



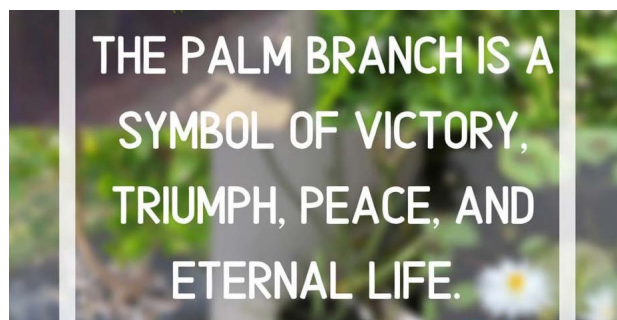
Easter reflection

Chrystal Price gives us an overview of an Easter celebrated like no other.

THE EASTER SEASON in the Catholic Church is the most important time in our liturgical calendar as it solidifies our core beliefs as Christians about Christ's death and resurrection. Easter is a joyous time as we celebrate the sacrificial love that God and His has for us His church, and His outpouring of grace upon us. This year was obviously a very difficult time in our Church's history with Churches having to shut their doors and not be opened for regular Masses or prayer. It was disappointing that we were not able to celebrate this joyous season together in liturgical celebrations.

Nonetheless, the Spirit of the risen Christ has continued to be present throughout our whole MCC community. It has been wonderful to see staff, students and families working together in partnership despite many hardships occurring at home as well as home-based learning (HBL). The importance of prayer throughout the Easter season continued as many students have created prayer spaces in their homes and the Youth Ministry students have sent through creative presentations that demonstrated their engagement in virtual prayer.

The secondary students participated in a virtual Easter Liturgy and we have been blessed with the recordings of



Gospel readings, reflections and activities provided by Fr Vince and Mr Snelling in the Primary. Our outreach program, JUMP, and Youth Ministry have teamed up to spread their joy and encouraged the students to embrace Acts of Random Kindness (ARK) to all those in need throughout these times of uncertainty.

We are truly blessed that we have been able to encounter Christ in various different ways throughout the Easter season at MCC. As Pentecost begins, may we continue our prayer for all those around our world who are suffering and embrace the continuous outpour of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives.

ANZAC 2020: Together in isolation

This year, ANZAC Day brought us all closer together at the peak of our isolation restrictions, Tim Snelling.

FROM BACKYARD SHRINES, biscuit bakes and driveway vigils, our MacKillop Catholic community were a part of a unique national movement to remember all Australians and New Zealanders who have served defending our land. With social gatherings limited, many of us gathered in our driveways at dawn to mark our national day of remembrance that is held on the anniversary of the first campaign of our young nation during the First World War. The significance of ANZAC Day was made even more poignant this year by the personal touches and creativity that was on display and shared across our community.

The solemnity of this time also provided some much needed perspective on our current situation; that whatever was happening to us this year, (and 2020 has been incredible for so many reasons!) we can be thankful that so many Australians are willing to serve and put their lives in much worse situations so that we can be safe.

Pubs and clubs were closed, and there were no marches or parades, but this year's ANZAC Day allowed us to commemorate simply and intimately with those in our lives who matter most; our families.



YMCC goes online

Staying connected during times of isolation, Maisie Tenev.

THERE IS A well-known Woody Allen quote, “If you want to make God laugh, tell him about your plans.” Towards the end of Term 1 the YMCC group was in full-swing to prepare for Praisefest that MacKillop was going to host, there were a group of students who were preparing to enact the Stations of the Cross at the end of term Easter Liturgy and students were returning permission notes for a youth ministry leadership camp. Everything was planned and then COVID-19 happened. Like many other groups and organisations, YMCC went online.

To remain connected during times of isolation, there were several steps taken to bring YMCC into the world wide web. The first was a YMCC Facebook page (please like and follow the page!), a YMCC Google Classroom was set up and regular meetings via Zoom were organized. The Zoom lunch meetings have been a time for students and teachers to socialize, pray together, play games and win prizes. One of the first challenges was the Easter Photo-a-Day Challenge where, for a week, students had to submit a photo linking to a theme. It was heart-warming to see both current and past MCC students participate in this challenge. This meant that for Easter, the photos from the challenge were used to create reflections and videos during Holy Week. Students also created short video clips with a positive message for people who might be struggling in isolation and these were shared on the YMCC Facebook page.

Another great way that the students have been able to explore their faith and spirituality is through the Alpha for Youth Online program. Alpha is a contemporary platform for young people to engage and explore their Christian faith. The Broken Bay Youth Ministry Coordinators invited students from their school to participate and approximately 80 students responded and have made the commitment to engage in the program. The Alpha group meet every Thursday afternoon for an hour and every week there is a specific topic that is addressed. Students are encouraged to question and discuss the issues and challenges that surround the weekly topic. The program will continue throughout Term 2 and the students are enjoying the experience of meeting people, making new friends and having conversations that really matter.

This year is already proving to be a memorable year for so many reasons. Everyone has been affected by the pandemic in some way and we continue to pray for our community. Some students have excelled during home-based learning and others have struggled to maintain the bare minimum. Teachers and families have dealt with the constant-changing environment as best as they could and have supported each other. Throughout this time the level of support that the MacKillop community has offered to the families and staff of the College has been a true blessing. God’s plan is a mystery and we will continue to walk together in faith because, as they keep telling us, we are all in this together.



JUMPing over COVID-19

We are all in this together, Michelle Baxter.

JUMP IS ALL about putting faith into action. COVID-19 has had a significant effect on our ever busy and complex lifestyles; shifting us all into a very different and foreign way of living. For some, this change has been a blessing, a chance to take a step back, reflect, breathe and rejuvenate but for others, especially the most vulnerable in our community, this new era has had a profound and lasting impact.

As Catholics we are called to help the marginalized, to seek out those in need, the poor, and those who may be suffering. Mary MacKillop tells us to “never see a need without doing something about it.” However, in the current climate, with so many restrictions in place, it has made living out this message quite a difficult task, particularly with volunteer work and making donations.

The JUMP program encourages students to embrace the message of the Gospel and to listen to the words of Mary MacKillop and so, even with so many guidelines in place, our students have found new ways to live out these messages.

ARK (Acts of Random Kindness) was born at the end of Term 1 to offer not only emotional and spiritual support, but also to assist students with their endeavour to help others. JUMP and YMCC combined forces providing many opportunities for students to practically live out their faith, to once again think beyond their own world and to take up the challenge to help those in need.

Although some of our regular JUMP initiatives were cancelled for health and safety reasons, there have been many ARKs completed, mostly via online platforms. In addition, Mrs Wells continued to work with a small number of students decorating refuse bins for our campus grounds. The withdrawal room has also been creatively decorated with inspirational messages and powerful reminders about self-worth and resilience.

Even through times of crisis, JUMP continues to develop students’ awareness about injustice, as well as encouraging them to witness their Catholic faith through action in giving to others in need.



Welcome to ARK

JUMP and YMCC join forces and create ARK, explains Michelle Baxter and Maisie Tenev.

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC has brought with it many challenges for our MCC community but this has not deterred our students, staff or their families from a sense of justice or compassion. It has been very difficult to participate in social justice projects in the current climate, so JUMP and YMCC joined forces to introduce ARK (Acts of Random Kindness).

Noah and his family were protected within the ark, and it was the ark that carried them safely through the floods. The hope for this new initiative was that it would carry our community through the storm of coronavirus. Secondary students of MacKillop have been encouraged and challenged to be the hands and feet of Jesus through acts of service and kindness, and the staff have been challenged too, with a creative few using TikTok as a method of communication and a fun way to express themselves!

An important aspect of the ARKs that the students complete is the element of faith formation and spirituality. There have been a number of ARKs on offer to encourage students to reflect and pray, as part of their Acts of Random Kindness. Students have had the opportunity to create a sacred space, participate in the Day of Prayer, Fasting, and Charitable Works (an initiative by Pope Francis and The Higher Committee for Human Fraternity). This was a call to unite people, regardless of religious affiliation, to pray for the end of COVID-19 around the world. Laudato Si Week was also a week of ARKs that focused on the papal encyclical that Pope Francis wrote five years ago, asking everyone to care for our planet, the environment, and the poor. In addition to this, Students were also encouraged to participate in a 'Colourful Characters' colouring-in competition to inspire our ARK participants. Congratulations to Rose Fergus for being selected by artist,



Blake Milne, as the winner of this competition.

Students have been uploading their activity submissions to the ARK Google Classroom and we invite all Secondary students who would like to contribute whenever they wish.

This has been an extraordinary time for everyone and it has been extremely heart-warming to see that even during challenging times our students still find ways to engage and assist those around them. There are many opportunities for students to become involved and all Secondary students are encouraged to participate where they can.



Happy Mother's Day

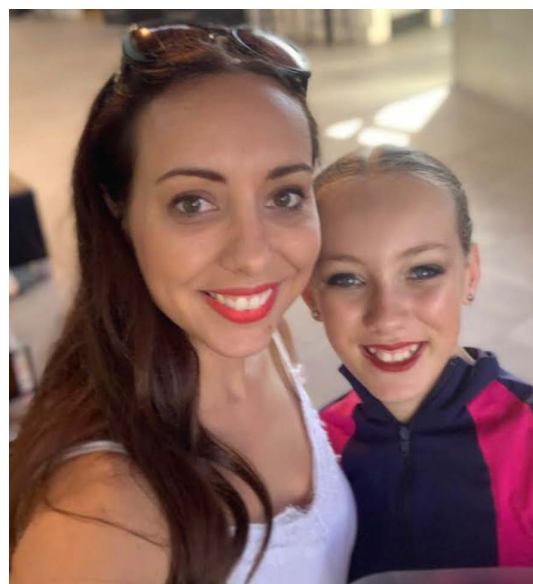
Our student leaders highlight the importance of Mother's Day this year.

A SEPCIAL MESSAGE from our Primary Captains:

On behalf of all primary students we would like to give a huge thank you to all our extraordinary mums. Firstly thank you so much for helping us during this challenging time especially during home based learning, you made an enormous difference. Covid19 has set us all two steps backwards but our mums have helped us go two steps forward. Our mums are both essential workers and have been working this entire time and we know how hard they work for us and the community so we would like to say a big thank you to the police officers, nurses, doctors, firefighters and teachers. Happy Mother's Day to all wonderful mums sorry we had to spend it inside but on behalf of all primary students we hope you felt loved and appreciated, we hope you were spoilt cause you deserve what you desire.

A special message from our Year 12 Parliament:

This Mothers Day, Year 12 2020 Parliament had decided to bring our annual Mother's Day celebrations to the safety of our own homes during the ongoing pandemic. As an effort to acknowledge the gratitude we hold as children of amazing women, a video was created which was broadcast across the school's Facebook page for the many families of our community to enjoy while in isolation. The contribution of images from the students of our school, as well as the cooperation of the majority of the Year 12 Parliament team, had significantly aided Ebony Glynn in organising, creating, and publishing this video whilst bringing the community together in a time where we were physically apart. With the aim to bring a smile to the mothers out there celebrating the special day in quarantine, we hope to have made the wonderful women in our school community feel loved from a distance.



Virtual awards

Russell Jones *praises our students for embracing their education.*

TERM 1 IS always a significant time for students to settle into a new academic year with all it entails: challenging subjects, different teachers, changing peer groups and new encounters. We had a very positive beginning to the year with classes embracing dynamic and authentic teaching and learning. Students deserve praise for embracing their education and being conscientious. At MacKillop we always like to recognise students' efforts and achievements in their academic endeavours. At the beginning of Term 2 we traditionally hold an awards ceremony to recognize and celebrate our students.

High Commendation Awards are determined at the discretion of the classroom teacher. 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. Whilst we have admirable and earnest students who meet the criteria, we limit the awards to one per class.

The sudden onset of COVID-19 and the commencement of home-based learning (HBL) significantly disrupted the momentum of learning and completely changed the face of education. The period of Home Based Learning was not included when identifying the High Commendation recipients. We could propose that, from this unprecedented time, many students deserve an 'endurance or adaptability' award for displaying such resilience and flexibility in managing this period.

The awards ceremony was an opportunity to acknowledge our Year 12 students with academic awards at the midpoint of

their HSC courses. These awards were calculated purely from assessment marks and presented to the top place-getters. The marks and rankings in HSC courses were highly contended with students often divided by a fraction of a mark.

Special recognition goes to the following students for achieving 3 or more academic awards, an incredible achievement considering they only study 5 or 6 courses: Kaila Andrews, Pyper Denneman, Benjamin Fleming, Ebony Glynn, Ethan Maleszka, Jack McDaid, Maddison Montgomery, Ryley Small, and Nathan Vassallo.

Due to social distancing restrictions our awards assembly had to be recorded with no students, staff and parents present. It is unfortunate that we could not come together as a community, but this does not diminish our delight and pride in acknowledging our students' achievements.



In This Together

The theme of National Reconciliation Week became more poignant this year, Marilyn Fraser.

THE ANNIVERSARY DATES which marks National Reconciliation Week are significant milestones for reconciliation: The 27 May 1967 Referendum and the High Court Mabo decision on 3 June 1992. This year's National Reconciliation Week theme 'In This Together,' clearly reminds us that everyone has a role to play when it comes to reconciliation. The theme echoes in ways we could not have foreseen but it reminds us whether in a crisis or in reconciliation, we are all in this together! Reconciliation must live in our hearts, minds and be actioned by all Australians so we can move forward, creating a rich nation strengthened by respectful relationships between all Australians. We need to commit by the continuation to strive towards equity and understanding, fully respecting and sharing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's, histories and cultures both now

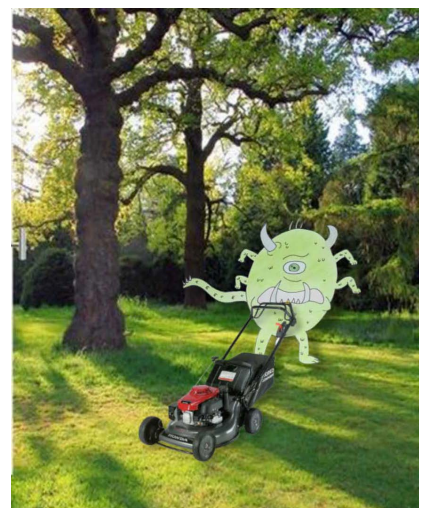
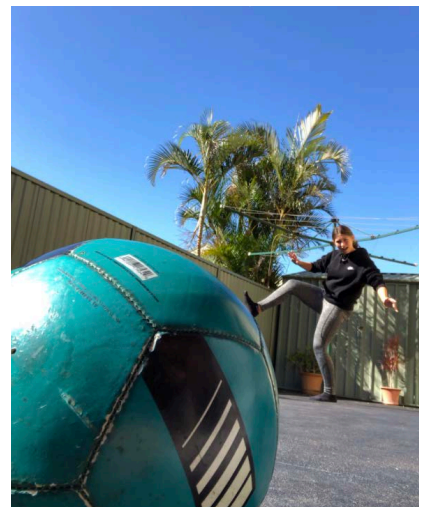
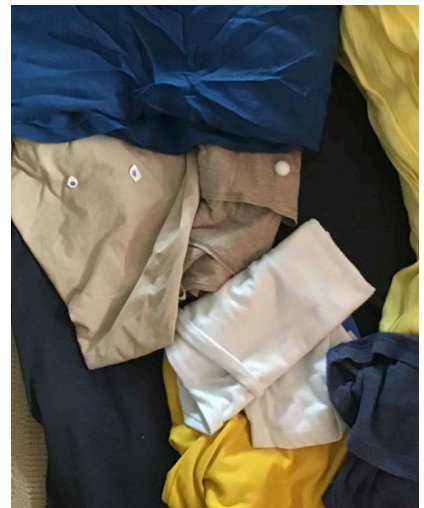
and in the future. Our K-12 staff and students came together in a video to honour our rich and cultural heritage.



Artists of excellence

Highlighting the continued creativity of students throughout home-based learning, Jillian Young.

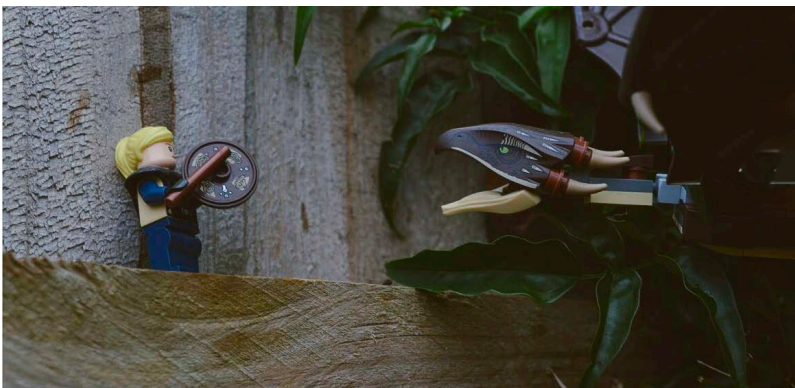
DURING HOME-BASED LEARNING, students were challenged to complete some very unusual and creative tasks: Recreating a famous artwork using clothes and objects you wear; Making a photographic illusion, called forced perspective, where two or more objects appear to be different sizes; Creating a cartoon monster and placing them into a photographic environment.



Artists of excellence

Highlighting the continued creativity of students throughout home-based learning, Jillian Young.

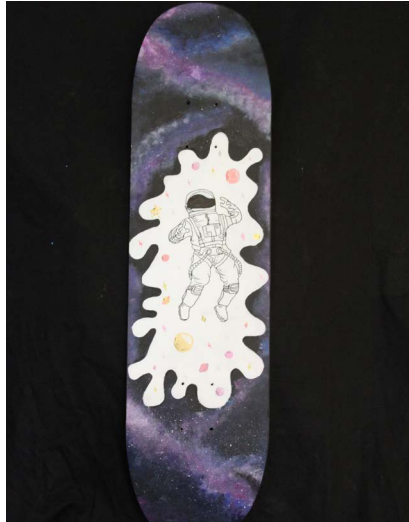
STAGE 5 PHOTOGRAPHIC and Digital Media students explored miniature world by depicting the small and beautiful up close.



Artists of excellence

Highlighting the continued creativity of students throughout home-based learning, Jillian Young.

STUDENTS DISCOVERED THE wonderful world of pop by designing contemporary skateboard decks.



Connecting anytime, anywhere

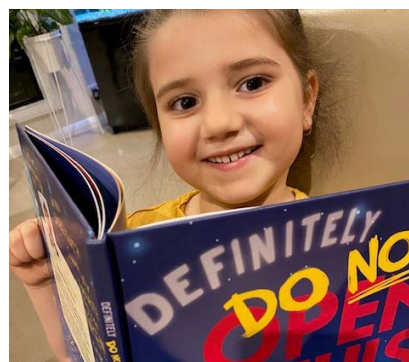
Jackie Crowe tells us how things have changed in the library to adapt to the current environment.

OUR LIBRARY HAS always been a place for all students, Kindergarten to Year 12, to play, to create, to study, to read, and to learn. Then COVID-19 arrived and we have all had to start doing things differently. To ensure our students continued to have access to the resources they need for learning and reading we have created a virtual library. The new MCC Library website is a space where students can get easy access to resources for learning, studying and researching. It is also a space where students will find links to all the best websites for books and reading. We've even got a space for playing and creating. The new Library website can be accessed via the link in 'Student Resources' on the College website or enter this web address: <https://sites.google.com/dbb.catholic.edu.au/mccw-library>

Every year during May we celebrate National Family Reading Month by hosting our Family Reading and Pizza Night @ the Library. This year, we still wanted to celebrate books and

reading and the importance of doing this as a family. So, although we could not do this together, we asked all our families to host their own Family Reading and Pizza Night @ Home. Those who were able to participate were encouraged to order pizza delivery (or make their own), find a comfy space and share a favourite book together. We were delighted to receive many photos and have posted these on our new Library website.

For the past 8 years our school has hosted Australia's Biggest Morning Tea in the Library to support people impacted by cancer. We couldn't hold a traditional morning tea this year at school, but we still hoped to raise much needed funds for life-saving research, prevention programs and support services. We asked our school community to hold their own special morning tea at home any time before the end of May. We would like to thank all the very generous people who donated to this cause.

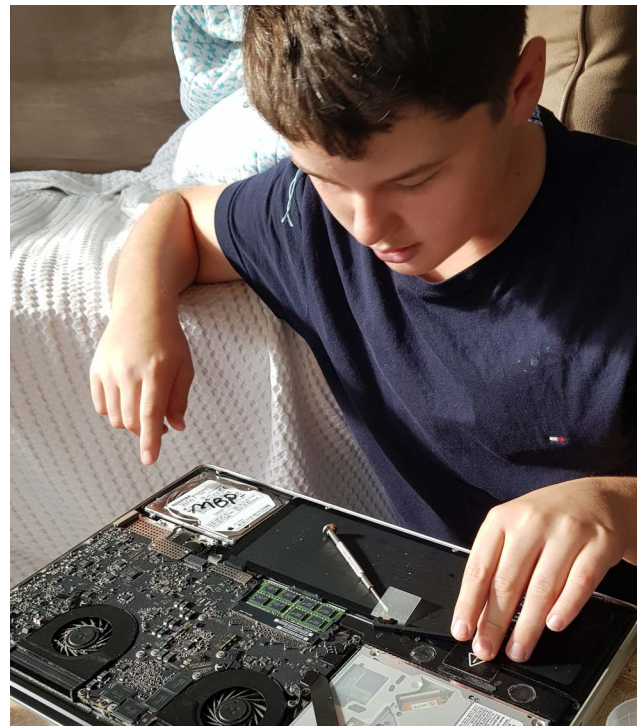
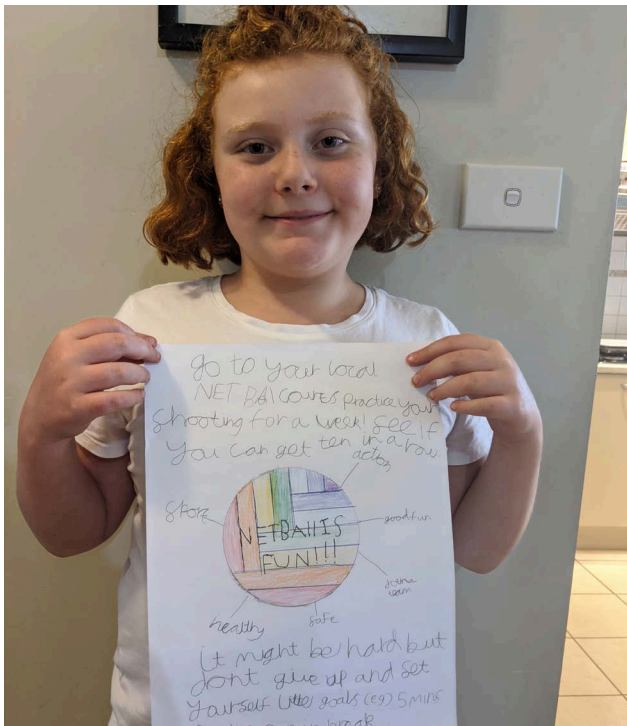


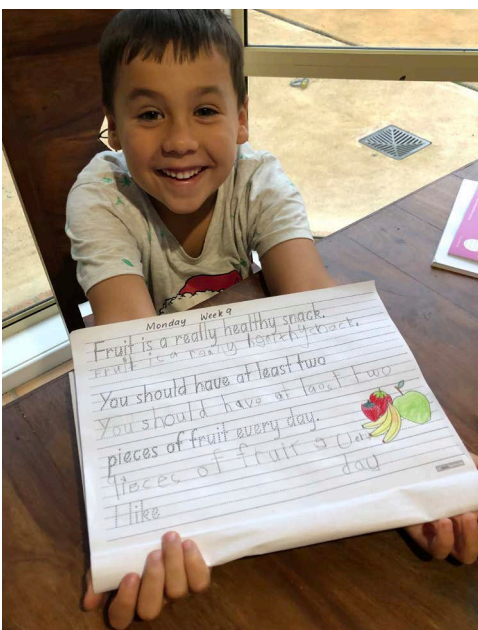
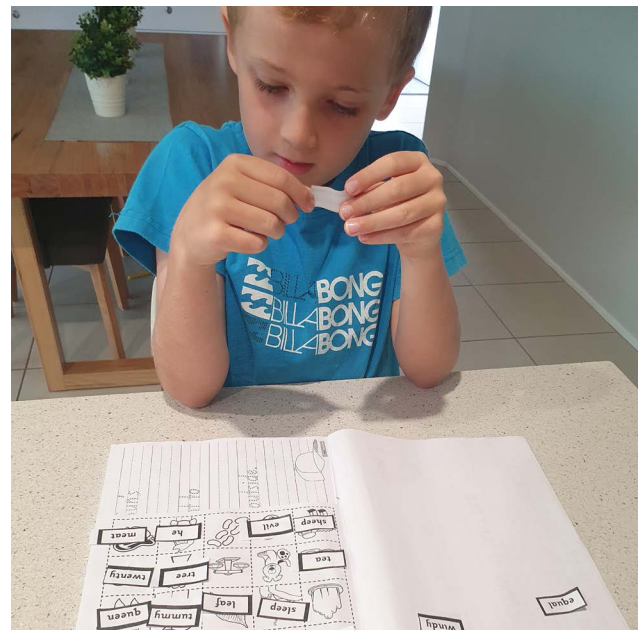
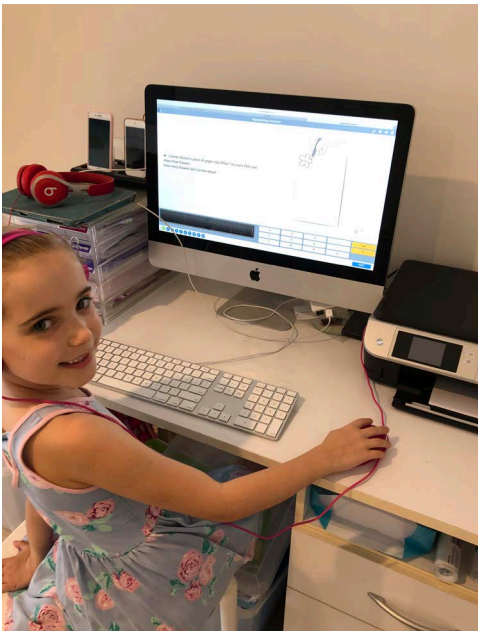
Home-based learning

Documenting this significant period in our College's history - from your own words and homes, Alyssa Chilvers.

THIS SPECIAL EDITION of College Matters is dedicated to all of our wonderful students and families for adapting to the unique challenges we faced during home-based learning (HBL). HBL commenced on Tuesday 24 March and ceased for Primary on Friday 29 May, and Secondary on Friday 5 June. This saw face-to-face teaching move to digital programs and printed take-home packs, where teachers engaged with classes using Zoom, SeeSaw, Google Classroom, and other platforms.

The effects of COVID-19 were felt across our entire community but it was with your continued support of our College that we have been able to weather these difficult times. We would like to share a collection of images and quotes to remember this unique time in our history.





"Because of the coronavirus I have to do school work at home. Mum is at work and my sister Evie is at daycare and my dad is working from home with me so I can stay safe. My dad has lots of meetings and also has to help me with my work. I miss my friends but at lunch time I get to play frisbee and kick the soccer ball with my dad. When Mum and Evie get home I show them my work and they like it. My favourite bit about school at home is I get to wear my casual clothes everyday. Dad and I take funny selfies for the roll for the teacher and we laugh. This is the weirdest year at school but I don't care, I get to spend more time with my dad."

- Bailey Leicester, 3B

"HBL has been a different experience. It can be fun at times but sometimes you just want to go back to school. A positive about it, is that you get to spend as much time on an activity as you like instead of having to have a set time to do everything. One thing I don't like though is that you don't have 1 on 1 time with your teacher, which personally I think is one of the most important aspects of being at school. Moving on from the negatives, I did learn how to multiply fractions; they're not as hard as they look. What really blew me away about SeeSaw, is that when you finish your work it just gets uploaded in an instant...you can go on a break and not have to worry about all your hard work getting erased. One last thing is that it tells you how many activities you have left. HBL has uncovered a great tool for us all to use!"

- Brayden Lees, 6B

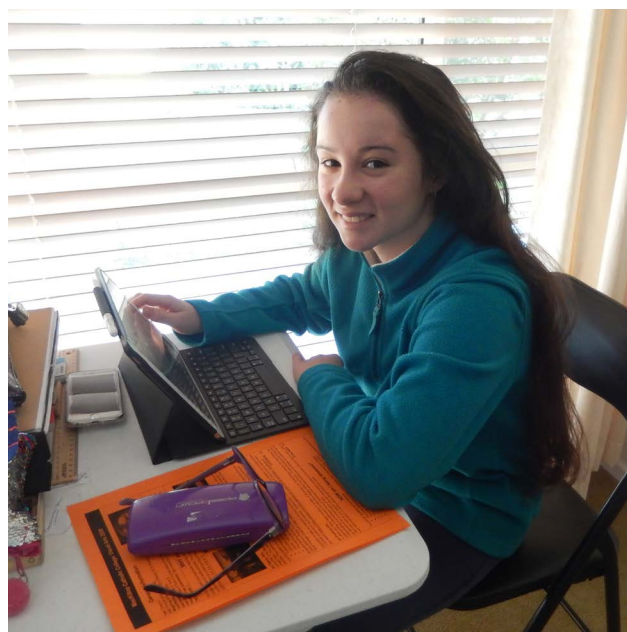






"One minute we were at school and the next we were home-based learning. My mum told me it was because of a virus called COVID-19 or coronavirus. The virus is invisible so to keep safe we all had to stay home and do home-based learning. Home-based learning has been fun, but I still really miss my wonderful school. On the positive side I still get to hear my teacher's voice and talk to her and Facetime my friends and family! Even though I'm at home we still do all the same subjects, even PE with Mrs Denneman! We even set up a home library just like the school library because we have a TRILLION books, but we don't have Mrs Martin! My favourite part of home-based learning is still being able to do my normal work. I love hearing the teachers' voices especially my teacher Mrs London's! We have videos for every subject and a workbook that goes with it and if you have a question you can still ask your teacher... The hardest part of home-based learning is not seeing my friends and teachers. Sometimes in the videos I can hear the school bell ring in the background, and it makes me wish I was there. I can't wait until I'm back at school having fun. But I know my school wants me to stay safe and do my learning at home. I can't wait until it's safe to hug everyone again. As soon as it is, I want to hug everyone in the school, even the high schoolers because I miss everyone so much!!!"

- Grace Anthes, 1B

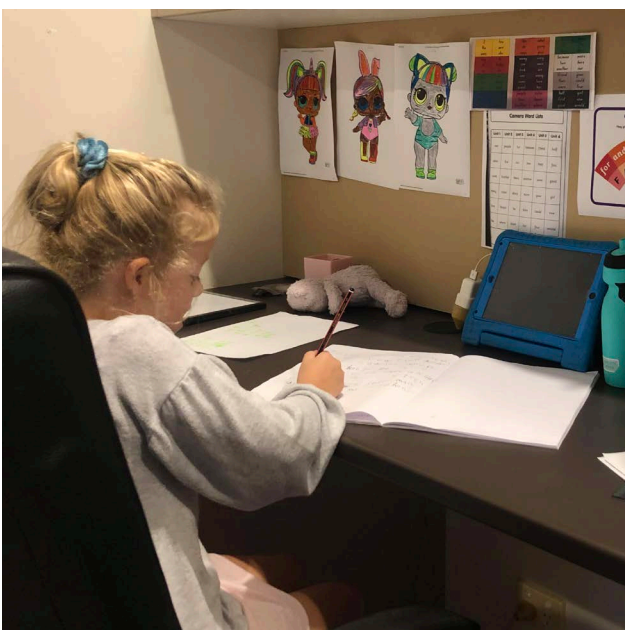
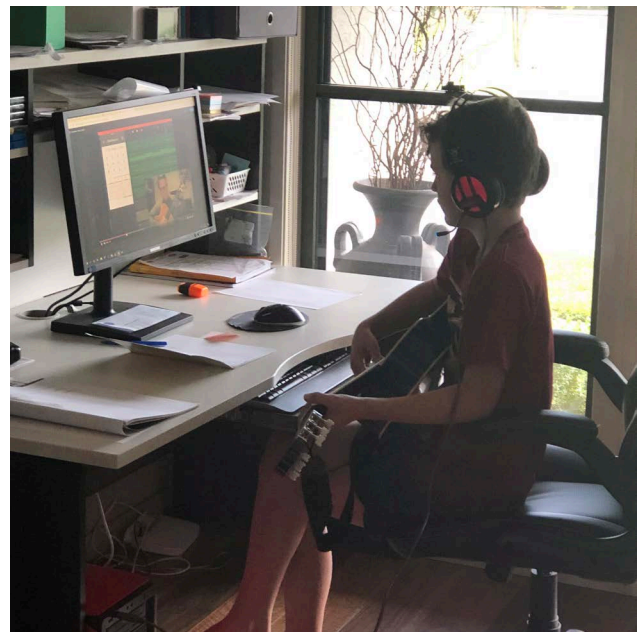






"We had to do our work from home because of coronavirus. We use SeeSaw to do our work. First I mark myself off on the roll. Next I listen to the instructions. I like listening to the teacher's voices. I do the work in my workbook and take a photo and upload it to SeeSaw. Finally I listen to the teacher reading a book. This is my favourite part of the day. I like home schooling because I get to see all my pets all day but I miss my teachers and playing with my friends."

- Charlise Senat, 1W





"When this all started, I was a little sad that I couldn't see my friends and my teachers, but I thought it would be only for a short time, I didn't understand just how long it was going to be... It was a roller-coaster of feelings. We all had so many things going through our minds and were so confused, sad, angry, annoyed, happy and lonely we were just crowded with feelings. But we just had to think about the positive, if we stayed home EVERYONE would be safer, our teachers, friends and family and the things we missed would come back like we would be able to see our friends and teachers soon enough... HBL was very annoying but my teachers did their best to turn my frown upside down by giving me fun activities to do. I really liked Mrs Denneman's PE activities such as going on an alphabet hunt in my streets, orienteering to find QR exercise codes that Mum was sneaky and hid, Wacky Wednesday workouts and cosmic yoga with Mum and Logan where my dogs jumped all over us when we were on the floor... It has been a long 2 months, but the good thing is that it will all stop soon..."

- Xavier Liston, 4W



A thank you to our parents

Recognising our wonderful parents and carers, Natalie Tunstead.

DURING THESE UNUSUAL times it has been wonderful to see our community coming together with the transition to home-based learning (HBL) in a positive manner and we are grateful for the cooperation and patience of our parents and carers. I would also like to say a special thank you to all our grade parents who have supported other parents and carers through sharing information, answering questions and assisting struggling families.

Whilst we have not been able to meet as we usually would there has been much sharing of resources via our Facebook grade pages. This has included information around COVID-19 and parenting, wellbeing, health and financial support. We have also been supported by the Catholic Schools Office with their implementation of the Parent Hub with a wide variety of resources for parents. Details for the parent hub can be found on the College website and Facebook page. If you require further support please phone, send a personal message via messenger or email natalie.tunstead@dbb.catholic.edu.au

We held two Primary and Secondary Q & A sessions via Zoom which proved popular with parents in being able to clarify processes and ease concerns. We also recorded and uploaded the recordings for those who were unable to join us live. We will be looking for further opportunities to use this technology in the future.

Although it was not possible to hold some of our annual events due to COVID-19 as we normally would, it has been wonderful to see that we have been able to adapt and partake in these events at home such as the Library's Family Reading

and Pizza Night and Australia's Biggest Morning Tea. Thank you to those families who shared their photos and experiences.

During this time our CSP (Catholic School Parents) Representatives have continued to engage in meeting regularly via Zoom where great conversations are being had around HBL, families wellbeing during and post COVID and the positive community relationships that are developing within our own school communities, across the diocese and with CSO executives. CSPs major focus at the moment is pastoral support including fee relief and resources for parents. Currently in the works is a number of webinars to support secondary parents with career conversations and pathways.

Elevate webinars around motivation, time management and study strategies were promoted for our Secondary parents to access online with some great suggestions on how parents can support students with their studies.

As letters of enrolment have been sent to families I have set up our Kindergarten 2021 closed Facebook Grade page. To join please search 'MCC Kindergarten 2021' and answer the security questions. I look forward to continuing to provide support to our families.



Fun and games

Kellie Denneman *has encouraged us to keep our minds and bodies active during home-based learning.*

WE HAVE BEEN very creative and had lots of fun in Primary Physical Education during home-based learning (HBL) and the staged return to school. In the early weeks of HBL the focus was on keeping the balance in our days with regular brain breaks of physical activity. A range of options were provided for the children to try based on a little wheel spinning task. Thanks to the staff who joined in the fun by filming Wacky Wednesday Workouts to share with our families at home – students were able to exercise and laugh along with us, or at us each week. As we began Term 2 the focus moved away from general fitness and brain breaks to individual and modified units of study for each year level which still met the requirements of the syllabus in the home environment. The SeeSaw application was fantastic for the children to view the HBL lessons/videos provided for PE and then to upload their completed work. I have enjoyed seeing the children and their families working together at home on their PE tasks. I love hearing the positive feedback provided by parents to their children completing the activities:

- Kindergarten and Year 1 studied units exploring movement with a focus on fundamental movement patterns.
- Year 2 explored hitting using many different items that could be considered a striking apparatus at home – we had lots of creativity with this one, as the students completed many tasks from target hitting, to juggling to continuous hitting. We even used our own hands/arms to strike and made paper balls to learn skills used in the game of volleyball.

- Year 3 studied a unit of movement with a focus around designing an individual performance routine using balances, rotations and fundamental movement patterns.
- Year 4 were introduced to pedometers completing some fun tasks at home to explore what pedometers can and cannot do. Upon return to school we used our pedometers in small groups to complete orienteering courses to find QR codes hidden around the school.
- Year 5 explored technology to design, create and complete exercise videos. The Workout Producer app allowed each student to create a range of workouts which were filmed and then shared. They thoroughly enjoyed this activity, particularly when they could share their videos with each other.
- Year 6 completed a modified 'Design a Game' unit creating a game that could be played at home by their own families using modified equipment. These were videoed and upon return to school we were able to share and play the games that were created.

Whilst our units of study have had to be modified for the staged return to school due to safety and social distancing, the children have been so excited to return to group physical activity here at school.

I would like to thank all of our families for their energy and investment in HBL from a PE perspective. It was evident that the children really appreciate the creativity of the tasks as a nice break to the academic elements of their weekly learning.



HBL workout competition

Isolation has highlighted the importance of fitness and its link to physical and mental health, Damien Tomsett.

ALL THE STUDENTS in PDHPE practical classes from Year 7-10 have been participating in home-based learning with a difference. During this time of social isolation, we all realise the importance of physical activity for your health and wellbeing. The recommended amount of physical activity is 60 minutes per day, so the PDHPE teachers are well aware of just how important it is to keep students active and engaged while having fun exercising at home. Mr Hughes, the Head of Fitness, created a series of online fitness sessions that the students have been completing at home. For each workout there is no need for any specialised equipment, all the students need is just a towel, water bottle, a yoga/exercise mat if available, and the desire to give it a go.

This online home workout competition replaced regular PDHPE practical lessons. The students were encouraged to record their results and complete a Google Form 'exit ticket' at the end of the lesson. The results will be collated and at the completion of the workout series, we will hold a play-off competition at school to determine the MacKillop Fitness Champion.

The fitness sessions are quite detailed and in each workout, there is a specific warm up, cool down and movement

explanation. Each week there is a different workout to ensure there is a variety of exercises targeting different muscle groups. Although this is a competition, the most important aspect of these sessions is to get active and to challenge yourself.

The students have been engaged in the workouts and provided positive feedback:

- It gets you off your games and iPad for a bit
- It makes you more fit and it makes you get off your electronic devices
- It is important to maintain an exercise plan
- Never give up the end-result will be better for you
- I have become less fit and active since school and sport has become cancelled
- Helps to wake you for your day ahead
- That doing breathing exercises afterwards can help calm you down
- It really gets you working and makes your body sore afterwards
- I am doing better each time I do it



