

COLLEGE**Matters**



Chloe and Jesse
lead the way for 2021



MACKILLOP
Catholic College
WARNERVALE

INTO THE DEEP BLUE WITH SCIENCE

CURIOUS CREATURES, WILD MINDS

PRIMARY ATHLETICS FUN DAY



Contents

COLLEGE

- 3 **College Principal's message**
Our **College Principal, Steve Todd**, looks back over the term with gratitude.
- 4 **New initiatives take flight**
Frank Cohen, Primary Principal, celebrates a term of firsts!
- 5 **A term of reflection**
Secondary Principal, Debra Ferguson, encourages us to establish good routines and expectations.
- 6 **Commissioning of our new 2020-21 Parliament**
This process reminds us of what wonderful students we have, **Debra Ferguson**.

MISSION

- 8 **Beanie for brain cancer**
Our community still gives in times of uncertainty, **Corrine Patil**.
- 9 **Mary MacKillop Feast**

Day

Chrystal Price explains how MCC keeps the spirit of Mary MacKillop alive.

- 10 **Happy Father's Day**
Celebrating the father figures in our community, **Tim Snelling**.
- 12 **Resilient during restrictions**
Learning to adapt to an ever-changing environment, **Maisie Tenev**.
- 13 **JUMPing straight into Term 3**
Michelle Baxter provides an update on the many activities in outreach this term.

CULTURE

- 14 **Deep Blue**
Jennifer Walters outlines an exciting week of science.
- 17 **Curious Creatures, Wild Minds**
Book Week remains a favourite for K-12 students, **Bronwyn Sandeman**.

20 Public speaking

Frank Cohen introduces our first ever Primary public speaking program.

20 Primary writing competition

Catherine Brown declares, "Submissions are now closed!"

21 Scope IT - digital technologies

Robots are humans, or is it that humans are robots, asks **Frank Cohen**.

22 Stage 4 spelling bee

Allowing students to become literate and enjoy reading, **Debra Ferguson**.

23 Sharing dance moves

Marilyn Fraser highlights how Indigenous dance shares culture at MacKillop.

24 Library news

A term of fun events and new initiatives, **Bronwyn Sandeman**.

24 Subject selections

Russell Jones outlines the important decisions our Year 8 and 10 students

must make.

25 Artists of excellence

It's a wrap!, **Jillian Young**.

26 Artists of excellence

Light painting with Year 10, **Jillian Young**.

27 In the studio... with PDM

Painting with light in photography, **Jillian Young**.

27 In the studio... with Year 7 and 8

Printmaking is still popular in Art class, **Jillian Young**.

28 Athletics fun day is a hit!

Kellie Denneman was excited when we could finally hold our athletics activities.

WELLBEING

31 Secondary parent teacher interviews

An honour that brings great joy, **Mel McGuinness**.

31 Parent news

Natalie Tunstead introduces our new PAST group.



College Principal's message

Our College Principal, Steve Todd, looks back over the term with gratitude.

MY REFLECTION ON Term 3, as we continue to manage the changes for how we operate due to the restrictions with COVID-19, is all about my appreciation to our College community for the creative and agile approaches to everyday school life. We have seen many familiar large-scale events replaced with modified versions to keep the College community living out all the various aspects of school life. That has been quite a challenge, and we are indebted to so many staff, students and parents for making some very creative and inspiring alternative approaches to quite a number of events. Some things have had to be cancelled or postponed and whilst regrettable, we are looking for reasons (restrictions in place) to do things to keep the happy, safe and colourful tone of Mackillop part and parcel of everyday life.

Some of these events included the Commissioning of new student leaders, the Academic Excellence Awards Ceremony and for our whole College liturgy to celebrate the Feast of Mary MacKillop. Lots of great ideas came forward and using the technology platforms with inventive touches made these events most memorable.

I take this opportunity to congratulate our new Secondary student leaders with special mention of new College Captains,

Chloe Benson and Jesse Slattery. The new Year 11 leaders stepped up to the mark by arranging a special video message for our AJASS Schools in Victoria. This was quite an inspiring thing to see and we congratulate these new leaders on setting their focus on important matters both locally and nationally.

Important learning agenda happenings this term have included both Science Week and Book Week celebrations along with our Year 12 students sitting for their HSC Trials. There has been strong support for the students with these important matters and especially for our Year 12 students as they set their sights on completing their formal education this term.

Our term ends as per normal with celebrating the Year 12 Graduation Mass, Guard of Honour and Awards Ceremony. All of these occasions have been simplified and modified with the spirit of these occasions remaining in tact for Year 12 students. We continue to walk the HSC path for Year 12 and we are very confident they will put their best foot forward when the HSC exams come around in October/November.

In conclusion, thank you to all our families, students and staff for making Term 3 remain positive and inspiring during such challenging times.



New initiatives take flight

Frank Cohen, Primary Principal, *celebrates a term of firsts!*

"THE MOST BEAUTIFUL thing we can experience is the mystery" - Einstein. A growing need for our time is to address the social and emotional challenges that face us all due to 21st century living exacerbated by COVID-19. Children are not immune from such anxiety and stress which many of our families experience in life. While social media for many is a great instantaneous communication tool the cracks are starting to appear with how it is also being used as a tool of influence and not always for good. This term the school revised the student IT user agreement to counter issues arising outside of school with social media use. Other programs of intervention were also undertaken such as Seasons for Growth and lunch clubs to help students deal with anxiety and to learn how to better interact with each other.

This Term the school introduced Literacy Pro Lexile Readers into the Year 3-6 classrooms. This is a researched, evidence based program that targets a student's comprehension ability to a text based on an established Lexile level. Essentially we are taking the guess work out of matching texts to reading levels. To progress, each child reads a Lexile text and then completes an online quiz. Reading is for fun as there are a variety of genres to read. The only difference is that we are now much more scientific on what will progress each child's reading development further using the Literacy Pro system.

For the first time the school introduced a successful whole

Primary school Public Speaking Competition. Each class dedicated about three weeks of learning to refine the speaking and listening skills required of each student to successfully speak about a chosen topic in front of an active audience. This will become a feature of our school program moving forward and some wonderful public speakers have emerged!

The staff have begun the process of being trained in gifted and high potential teaching and learning. This term was spent identifying students who would fit into this category. The model being used at MacKillop is based on the work of Francoy Gagne's Differentiation Model of Giftedness. Through time the plan is to have all staff trained in a Post Graduate Certificate of Gifted Education. Rather than have a dedicated gifted class of students, those identified will move into cluster groupings to work with like-minded peers at key points of the learning day.

Term 3, sadly, will also be known as a term free from parent participation. As COVID-19 restrictions wax and wane in intensity the government has made it very clear that strict protocols need to be in place to try and eradicate this insidious disease. Also impacted were planned carnivals and excursions, with the Canberra trip cancelled.

Let us pray to our Lord and Saviour that Term 4 brings better news to us here locally and the world around!



A term of reflection

Secondary Principal, Debra Ferguson, *encourages us to establish good routines and expectations.*

JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING I read now starts with some comment about 2020 being an unusual and/or challenging year, with which we would all agree is very true. However, it is also true that when we experience challenging times, many positives can emerge from this.

Overall, our students have coped remarkably well with the disruption to their attendance at school, home-based learning, changes to their day to day routines and all the hygiene requirements. They have kept their sense of humour and their hope-filled outlook on life. The vast majority have been so cooperative and understanding of all the changes and why they have been necessary, and we thank each and every one of them for this.

We also applaud all the students who have involved themselves in finding ways to support each other and to continue to grow our sense of community. The virtual assemblies where students make videos to be included, the competitions that have been run online and off, our Student Parliament who are organising small events on Fridays to create some fun and all the small but kind deeds they have done for each other when they realise some students are not coping as well as others.

The one area I think our students have found difficult is in keeping routines to ensure they can achieve all their goals and to help their mental wellbeing. As John C Maxwell, the author of '21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership' quoted "The secret of your success is found in your daily routine."

Some of our students struggled prior to home-based learning with routines but we have seen an increase in this

during the end of Term 2 and this term. Arriving at school or to class on time, having all their equipment, completing the work required in class, completing homework and assessments are all part of having routines where self-discipline is needed as well as realizing that they need good routines to learn skills for the future. Routines do the following:

- A routine helps teens learn how to set goals and work toward them.
- Teens who have a routine that helps them accomplish everything they need to do in a day—from getting ready for school in the morning to preparing a healthy lunch to finishing a class project in the evening—will continue good habits into their college and work life.
- Having a routine helps ensure everyone in the family or in the classroom is on the same page.
- With a routine, teens learn to take responsibility; they have tasks to do and know when they're expected to complete those tasks.
- Some teens feel very scattered and anxious because they feel like everything is constantly changing. A routine can provide teens with some structure amidst all the unknowns in their lives.

Reflecting on this, we at school are trying very hard to establish and re-establish good routines and expectations to assist our students to achieve their goals and their potential. As we all move forward together in this strange new world we truly wish to ensure that all our students are successful in navigating this world and have wonderful futures.



Commissioning of our new 2020-21 Parliament

This process reminds us of what wonderful students we have, Debra Ferugson.

THE ELECTION OF our new Student Parliament is another example of how COVID-19 has changed our normal procedures. This year our brave Year 11 students nominated for Leadership once more knowing they would have to make a short speech to introduce themselves to the entire Secondary school. However, where this would usually occur at a school assembly, they each made videos and these were played to the rest of the College during a virtual assembly.

Once the 17 students were selected, after studying the voting by the Senior students and staff, they normally would have travelled to the Kincumber Centre for 2 days, for their Leadership Camp. This year we had the camp at school over 2 days with the students being addressed by several staff members and last year's College Captains on the various aspects of being a leader. A lovely liturgy and pizza dinner occurred at the end of the first day. On the second day they made decisions on what positions they would like to apply for

in leadership and voted.

The following week, interviews were held for 14 of the students who wished to apply for College Captain. This is always a humbling event for the staff panel as we hear from these young men and women and why they wish to lead. It always reminds us of what wonderful students we have at the College.

Whilst all this is happening, members of each Junior pastoral class also nominate for leadership and they too make speeches in front of their peers and are elected.

Early in Term 3 we held their commissioning as leaders in the Parish Church. While our parents were unable to attend, we were able to record and share this with them.

We are so proud of the number of students who wish to assist our College to continue to build strong community links and to lead. The results for this year are as follows and we congratulate them all.

COLLEGE CAPTAINS

Chloe Benson

Jesse Slattery

HOUSE LEADERS

HOUSE	Year 11	Year 10	Year 9	Year 8	Year 7
Fitzroy	Aleeta Joseph Tara Moorman	Tayla Brooker	Haylee Starkey	Annabel Joseph	Reyes McGill
Penola	Harrison Sciberras Nathan Van De Wakker	Riley Byrn	Ruby Walker	Ashleigh Jones	Tasman Smith
Gesu	Dorothy Bagley Chloe Benson James Connolly Jennifer Keenan	Preston Lorusso	Larissa Andrews	Tyler McGlashan	Jessie Dunn
Alma	Charlie Baresic William Hill Madysen Ryan Timothy San Pedro	Milly Perez	Rose Fergus	Elise Gray	Travis Faulkner
Temuka	Anita Brown Khalil Miclat Jesse Slattery	Eugene Kanyimo	Hayden McNamara	Regan Beaver	Connor Higgins
Kincumber	Aimee Greenfield Hayden McCarthy	Abbey Lea	Noah Sanchez	Alexandra McGarry	Olivia Woodleigh

COLLEGE LEADERS

Mission: Khalil Miclat and Harrison Sciberras

Culture: Anita Brown and Aleeta Joseph

Wellbeing: Charlie Baresic and Aimee Greenfield



Beanie for Brain Cancer

Our community still gives in times of uncertainty, Corrine Patil.

WHEN MONIQUE KOHEN of Year 11 approached the College about holding a fundraising event for The Mark Hughes Foundation's 'Beanie for Brain Cancer' we were cautiously optimistic. 2020 has been a year of unprecedented adversity, with many of our families facing hardships as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Monique, however, was adamant that the giving spirit of MacKillop would continue to shine even through these hard times, and so we booked in the date of the MCC Beanie for Brain Cancer day for Friday 31 July. And as always, our College rose to the occasion in the spirit of Mary MacKillop to never see a need without doing something about it.

Brain cancer kills more children than any other disease, with approximately 1,200 Australians dying of the disease every year. Brain cancer receives less than 5% of all Federal Government cancer research funding, so donations through fundraising events like the MCC Beanie for Brain Cancer day are vital to help find a cure for brain cancer.

Staff and students attended the College wearing beanies and donating to the Mark Hughes Foundation. Our Christian spirit and sense of giving was highlighted by the donations collected through our Pastoral Teachers. We are proud to announce that the College raised over \$900 for the foundation!

Monique should be commended on her charitable spirit and determination to continue to think of others even during times where giving may seem difficult. We thank our families and MCC community for their donations and living through service to others. We hope our donation will aide in a cure for brain cancer.



Mary MacKillop Feast Day

Chrystal Price *explains how MCC keeps the spirit of Mary MacKillop alive.*

ON FRIDAY 7 August the College celebrated the feast day of St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop in a very different but unique way. A liturgy celebrating our beloved patron saint was filmed a week prior and was then viewed by the whole K-12 community and shared with our MCC families via Compass.

This liturgy contained insightful testimonies from our very own Sister of St. Joseph, Sister Marea Ross, who spoke about the importance of the feast day and the continuation of Mary MacKillop's work here at the College. Some staff and students provided their thoughts about the evidence of Mary MacKillop's spirit here at MCC and her importance as our patron saint. The testimonies also reflected on Mary MacKillop's great sense of compassion and understanding for others, which is something we could all take on board at the moment.

Students were invited virtually to participate prayerfully in the liturgy led by Father Vince. In his homily Fr Vince reminded our community about how Mary MacKillop was a prayerful woman who had a great love of God and she would encourage the sisters to pray often. He encouraged the community to take time out for prayer like St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop did and he also reminded us that Christ too calls us to show

kindness and compassion by reaching out to others.

In keeping with tradition, the students across the College received M&Ms, and the Secondary also held the Stage 5 Cup with Year 9 and Year 10 students playing a game of basketball in the break. Whilst Year 10 still defend their title, this was another great example of the MCC community spirit among all present.

In the Primary, students participated in the same liturgy and had the opportunity to be involved in some creative activities put together by Primary REC, Mr Tim Snelling. Some classes were even fortunate to have a visit from Mary MacKillop herself, dramatized by Mrs Kerry Power.

Overall, so many wonderful staff and students contributed to the organisation of the celebrations throughout the day and we are indebted to an ex-student who assisted us with the production of the liturgy; Joshua Kind. Although we were not able to participate in our usual liturgical celebrations and house challenges, it is clear that the spirit of St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop is thriving in the hearts of all those in our wonderful community.



Happy Father's Day

Celebrating the father figures in our community, Tim Snelling.

FATHER'S DAY WAS celebrated on Sunday 6 September and we are so disappointed we could not hold our annual liturgy and breakfast to thank the wonderful father figures in our College community. To make sure we could thank the men in our families, our students worked very hard in the weeks leading up to the day, creating a variety of gifts. The students have been writing poems and stories, making coffee mugs, voucher booklets, cards, photo frames, jewellery, book-marks and fashionable neck ties – items that I am sure every dad and father figure will enjoy this year.

Mrs Power and our parent helper, Mrs Liston, made it possible for the students to purchase gifts for their fathers this year in place of the usual parent-run Father's Day stall. We are so lucky to have people like this in our community that have helped to make Father's Day even more special for our families.

Here we have included a selection of photos from our Father's Day craft activities and some images sent in by our families.





Resilient during restrictions

Learning to adapt to an ever-changing environment, Maisie Tenev.

THE YEAR 2020 so far has been a memorable year and the YMCC group has been affected by the pandemic in a number of ways. The YMCC students are resilient and adaptable. Despite the challenges, we continue to find ways of engaging with others in a positive and safe way.

During home-based learning the YMCC students would meet once a week via Zoom for faith, friendship and fun. The students voiced a request to have a platform for young people to discuss some of the issues they are challenged with. As a result, a new discussion group called 'Spark Sessions' was born and the students nominated the topics they wanted to explore. These are fortnightly during lunchtime where a topic or challenge is discussed. So far we have covered 'anxiety' and 'dealing with pressure that others place on us.'

During Spark Sessions, students are encouraged to 'share, care and dare' and the same format is followed each time. Students are asked to 'share' either their own personal experience or someone else's experience of the issue. Those who have attended this term have been courageous and respectful in the way they listen to and affirm each other. In order to 'care', the students are given some insight into what they can do and how their faith can help them to manage the issue. The final part of the session is where the students are given a 'dare' or a strategy that they can put into place.

Before students leave the Ryan Centre at the end of the session they are asked to choose a laminated card with an inspirational quote or scripture passage that links to the topic of that session. We call these 'pocket power' as they are small enough to fit into pockets. Unfortunately, with the recent restriction of students interacting with other students outside



of their year group, we have had to pause Spark Sessions and look forward to the time when it can resume.

When Term 3 commenced a group of students started the Alpha Youth program. This is a Christian based program that encourages young people to explore their faith, ask important questions and engage in meaningful conversations. Sixteen students from Years 8, 10 and 11 are involved and each Tuesday afternoon we would meet in the Ryan Centre and Zoom with the Alpha students from St Peter's Catholic College, Tuggerah. Unfortunately, with the recent restrictions, we have had to move Alpha to an online format. A special thanks to Regan Beaver from Year 8, Charlotte Hannan and Tayla Brooker from Year 10 who completed the Alpha program in Term 2 and are now assisting as leaders this term.

In a time where there is much despair and uncertainty in our world, it is heartening to observe the various ways in which MacKillop students demonstrate their kindness and compassion to each other and the local community.



JUMPing straight into Term 3

Michelle Baxter *provides an update on the many activities in outreach this term.*

TERM 3 IS always busy when it comes to JUMP. The calendar year for the program ends in Week 8 of Term 3 with all students in Year 8, 9 and 10 acknowledged for their commitment to social justice and community service and receive awards for a minimum of 15 hours of outreach. This year lodging of hours moved to a new platform; embedded within student Compass profile. This new way of entering and tracking hours has certainly streamlined the overall process and the feedback has been very positive. There are a number of students who are on track to receive Gold Awards for 50 hours, as well as a hand full of students in Year 10 who will be the first to receive the very prestigious Mary MacKillop Honors Award for three consecutive years of 100 hours of service in the JUMP calendar year. We cannot wait to announce who these students are in the next College Matters!

The Mini Vinnies regrouped this term and we were very excited to have a number of new members join including Sr Jiji and Mrs Tenev. Although COVID-19 restrictions have made holding meetings difficult, particularly during the back end

of term, the students have been committed to taking action and in making a difference. Normally MCC holds an annual Winter Sleepout but unfortunately this had to be cancelled. The Mini Vinnies, along with Mission Leaders decided to initiate a canned food drive to support local charities. In Weeks 5 through to 7, students across the College were asked to donate non-perishable food items as well as new blankets, socks, jumpers or sleeping bags. All donations will support Mary Mac's at Woy Woy, St Vincent De Paul, Wyong and Toukley Food Stall.

Every year students from across the diocese participate in the Bishop's Art Prize. As part of this competition, students were asked to submit a film linked to themes associated with the Gospel of Matthew. The themes included; Compassion and Forgiveness, Sin and Immortality. Student's communicated their understanding of these themes and linked scripture of their choice. Finalists and winners will be announced early in Term 4.



Deep Blue

Jennifer Walters *outlines an exciting week of science.*

DURING SCIENCE WEEK (15-23 August) at Mackillop the theme was Deep Blue, which focused on the beauty and diversity of our oceans as well as the ongoing threats. Numerous activities and opportunities were provided for students during the week from Kinder to Year 12. All students in Years 7-10 underwent a series of escape room activities. Students solved a series of challenges and undertook a range of experiments in relation to chemistry and biology. Students across Years 7-11 were also entertained with a series of dry ice demonstrations undertaken by our very own science teachers. Throughout the week in the Library Primary and Secondary students were treated to a science display which has hosted a range of hands-on activities, information and access to a CSIRO colouring in competition with science kits as prizes.

Congratulations to Alexander Barrow, Sherine Lukang and Matilda Dedman from Primary, and Mia Whitbread, Rose Fergus and Melissa Varney from Secondary.

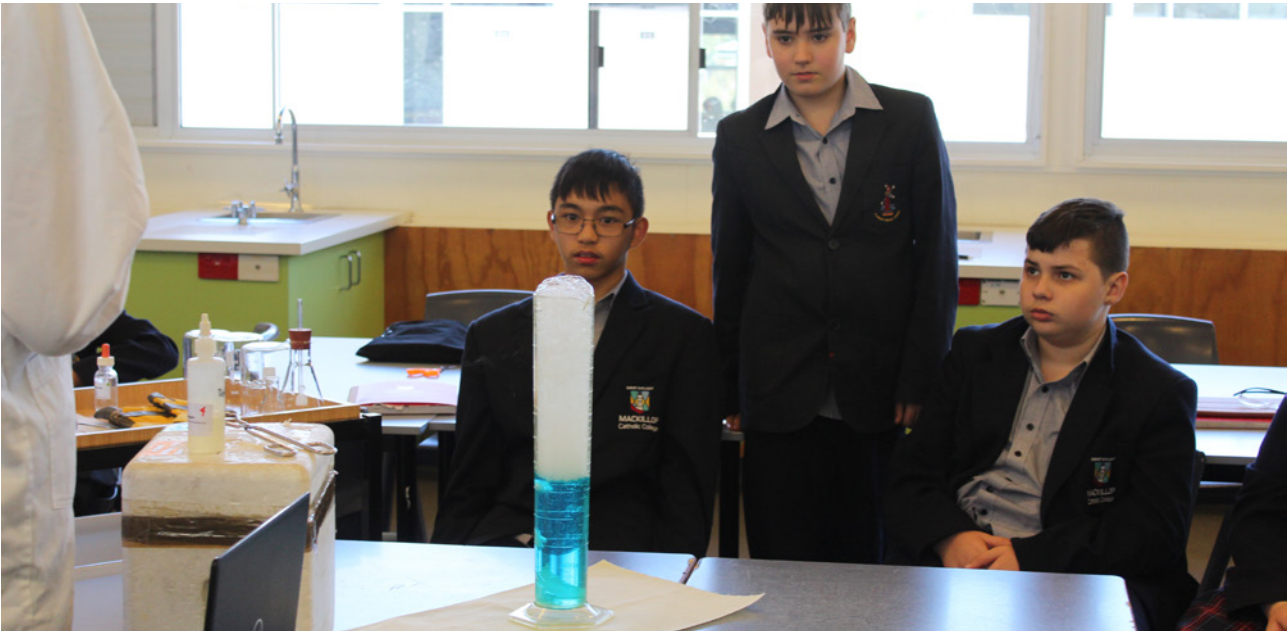
Students also competed in the Education Perfect World Series Competition. After a week of competition, including 347,000 questions and 850 hours, our students earned 19

Credit awards, 13 Bronze awards, 9 Silver awards, 4 Gold awards, 8 Emerald awards and 4 Elite awards.

As a College, we placed 1st in the Diocese of Broken Bay, 3rd overall globally, and 2nd in Australia! This is an outstanding achievement and we commend all of our participants on their hard work!

Students in Primary were educated and entertained during the week by the science department. On Monday and Tuesday Year 6 students watched a video to meet one of the seals from Taronga's Seals for the Wild show and heard a marine keeper talk all about these fascinating and intelligent marine animals. They also learnt about the litter in our oceans following the amazing story of Andrew the tiny turtle. They were then provided with a STEM activity on marine debris which involved designing a piece of technology to remove ocean debris. To end the week, Year 4 tuned into a special screening of the documentary BLUE which focused on how humans are harming our oceans and marine life. They also had a discussion on how humans can change their behaviours and try to make a difference







Curious Creatures, Wild Minds

Book Week remains a favourite for K-12 students, Bronwyn Sandeman.

ORGANISING BOOK WEEK activities this year was quite a challenge with the COVID-19 restrictions. What a challenge it was to incorporate the chance to see all the costumes without our traditional parade activities. Consequently, the library staff were busy visiting each class and taking as many photos as possible while several staff members volunteered to read to the primary and infant classes.

The secondary staff and students also put in a great effort to dress up and have some fun. From the Cheshire cat and The Mad Hatter to Thing 1 and 2, The Wiggles, The Corroboree

Frog, The Butterfly from the Hungry Caterpillar and many many other interesting characters a fun day was seen by all.

This year the library ladies had fun dressing up from Where the Wild Things Are, in line with the Book Week theme, "Curious Creatures and Wild Minds." Our library display featured large cut outs of characters from this book among a forest like backdrop. This colourful and humorous display has brought many curious and excited responses from the school community.





"Today is Book Week. I dressed up as the Queen of Hearts and a lovely lady, Mrs Young, from High School came in and read us a Dr Seuss book. We did a small parade. We went in a circle and people clapped when we were walking around. It was a fabulous day. We did book week art with the theme Curious Creatures, Wild Minds and Mrs Mukherjee took a class photo and all the Year 1 teachers were dressed up as Mad Scientists. We took lots and lots of pictures. This is why I love Book Week."

- Isabella Lee from Year 1





Public speaking

Frank Cohen *introduces our first ever Primary public speaking program.*

ONE OF THE most important and yet terrifying skills a person can have in this interconnected world is the ability to speak in public. Some people find this very easy to do and others who are just as intelligent if not more so, struggle to engage an audience in public.

This year for the very first time, MacKillop Catholic College began a whole school K-6 Public Speaking program to teach students how to write and prepare a speech to be heard by an active audience. Communication is the backbone of our society. Through speaking, connections are formed, changes can be made, and decisions influenced by those who engage an audience and speak confidently to them.

For three weeks each teacher delivered Public Speaking lessons which enabled every student to write a persuasive speech on a chosen topic. Each student then delivered their speeches in front of their class peers and some were selected

to represent each stage.

At the stage level, two students per class were selected as finalists and then ultimately, three place getters were chosen for their outstanding speeches. For our very first attempt at a whole school competition the speeches and standard were very good. Well done to everyone for taking part!



Primary writing competition

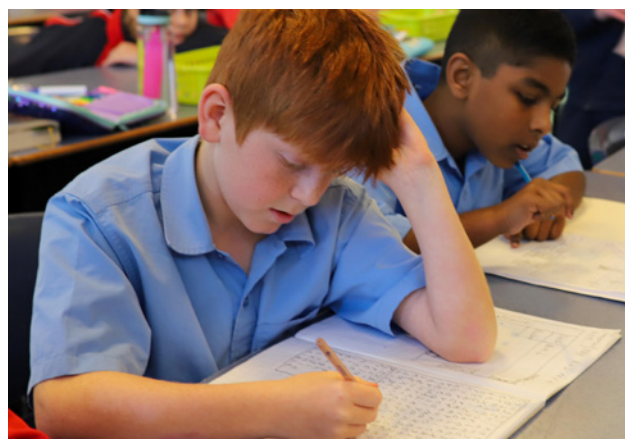
Catherine Brown *declares, "Submissions are now closed!"*

IN ITS SECOND year of inception, the Primary Writing Competition has again seen strong participation rates.

With the first entry within a week of its opening, entries continued to slowly filter in from both young and older students. In what is a voluntary activity, it was pleasing to see that this year all K-6 grades were represented within the final writing actually submitted.

The competition was open to any writing form with all ages working with the same image. As inspiration, a photograph from award winning wildlife photographer Mark Cowan – a rather sly looking, gnarled Caiman with a group of delicate butterflies perched gently atop its knobbly snout. And, as it turns out, where that image led writers, was as diverse as the students themselves.

Indeed, with a veritable flurry of last-minute activity as students hurried to meet the deadline, my own classroom



door felt like it should have been a revolving one! With pens now still, nothing but the odd, discarded idea buzzes around.

For now, without the scratching of pencils and the tapping of keyboards, all is silent...until the winners are announced later this term!

Scope IT - digital technologies

Robots are humans, or is it humans are robots, asks Frank Cohen.

"OLD ROBOTS ARE becoming more human and young humans are becoming more like robots" - Morgan-Richards. Those of us engaged with social media will have come across funny videos or pictures of human behaviour. One such video doing the rounds is a group of teenagers struggling to use a landline dial turn phone. Time has advanced so quickly that most children in school would never have seen a landline phone in the home and dare I say such things as VHS recorders and DVDs! Changing times means changing curriculum.

Scope IT was brought into the school this year to teach students how to code in order to understand how applications (apps) are developed and to get a basic understanding of web development. Our teachers are very savvy with the use of technology, but when it comes to understanding the coding behind what we use, really specialist coaching and training is required.

To meet the demands of a rapidly changing world and to set the students up for an artificially intelligent global society has required a very quick rethink on how we deliver IT to meet the

curriculum demands for this world.

From Kindergarten to Year 6 the engagement of the students with the creative coding curriculum delivered by Scope IT has been a massive hit. The work achieved in basic app development to simple web design and understanding the process of block and chain programming means our students are being well trained and prepared for the digital world they will continue to inhabit. The ten-week program has been highly valued by all involved.



Stage 4 spelling bee

Allowing students to become literate and enjoy reading, Debra Ferguson.

ENCOURAGING STUDENTS TO enter a spelling bee competition can result in several benefits. The spelling bee not only provides a valuable educational experience, but also allows them to engage in healthy competition. The valuable learning outcome of a spelling bee results in students gaining competency over vocabulary which allows them to excel at reading and writing. The ability to understand more words will allow them to become literate and enjoy reading an extensive range of material.

The spelling bee will allow students to develop a range of cognitive skills including the ability to handle pressure. The learning process accompanying the spelling bee is likely to enhance their memory and allow them to develop better learning skills. Also, the student's confidence level is usually boosted after entering such competitions. A spelling bee helps them gain the confidence they need to speak in public and accept their mistakes, while also getting the applause their hard work deserves.

Each year we run the Stage 4 Spelling Bee competition for Years 7 and 8 where they have a booklet of spelling words and definitions of words that they would be expected to know by the end of Year 8. The booklet changes every second year.

On Wednesday 26 August all Year 7 and 8 students participated in this competition within their Pastoral classes receiving small incentive gifts as they proceeded. The two best spellers received a \$20 iTunes Card each and will represent their House in Term 4 at the Spelling Bee Final.

Congratulations to our finalists:

7F	Nate McDonald	Izzik Rowlinson
7P	Connor McNamara	Joshua Tredinnick
7G	Jacinta Andrews	Beau CHambers
7A	Beau Goodall	Shreya Saibu
7T	Isabella Pereira	Joel Biju
7K	Nathaniel Aquino	Hailey Robertson
8F	Liby Abraham	Liam Ippolito
8P	Finlay Smith	Manuel Ampoma-Gyamfi
8G	Josie Rogencamp	Jessica Loder
8A	Glenn Thakkolkaran	Olivia Jabr
8T	Isabelle Johnson	Annalise Sadler
8K	Anyia McAndrew	Tiara Harb



Sharing dance moves

Marilyn Fraser highlights how Indigenous dance shares culture at MacKillop.

OUR DHINEWAN DANCE group worked with Year 3 classes as part of their Indigenous games and dance unit in Physical Education.

The students proudly showed off their dance skills in the Brolga courtship dance which was taught to them by Jonathan Wright. The dance of the Brolga is an elaborate performance, head bobbing, stretching their wings and shaking all over.

Several traditional dreaming stories are associated with the Brolga and mimic their graceful movements. The Brolga dance illustrates the connection and transformation between the human spirit and the spirit of an animal. The Brolga is also used in the totemic system in Aboriginal culture related to their clan.

It was a lovely sharing of culture and storytelling experience.



Library news

A term of fun events and new initiatives, Bronwyn Sandeman.

TERM 3 HAS certainly flown by with many activities keeping the library a busy place.

Celebrating science week was a real buzz with the wonderful science staff entertaining the students with a hands-on display and presentations. From what you can see under a microscope, to seeing friction in action and many other science activities, all students had the chance to engage in fun and exciting lessons.

With the Premier's Reading Challenge coming to a close, students and library staff have been busy helping students complete their reading records. Well done to all who finished this amazing reading task.

The Secondary Book Club have been enjoying the lead up to Book Week, discussing themes and costumes and gathering ideas to make a noticeable outfit on Book Character Day.

The library staff have also been trying to encourage a greener library by recycling more. We hope that our efforts, little by little will encourage others to join in.



Subject selections

Russell Jones *outlines the important decisions our Year 8 and 10 students must make.*

CREATING A TIMETABLE for the College is a complex task. It primarily involves catering for students' subject choices and optimizing the use of teachers' expertise. The timetable also requires careful allocation of resources; particularly for those subjects requiring specialist equipment and rooms. The first part of this process is students in Years 8 and 10 selecting their subjects for 2021.

Year 9 is the first time in a student's schooling where they have choice in the subjects they study. Students at Mackillop study three elective courses during Stage 5 (Years 9 and 10). Year 8 students have recently completed their selections for the electives courses to be studied next year. An advantage of being a large school is having the capacity to offer many courses. Our students were fortunate with 19 elective courses on offer, including subjects in Languages, Creative and Performing Arts, PDHPE, HSIE, Technological and Applied Studies, as well as vocational and Year 11 early commencement courses. The students are to be acknowledged for their openness and sense of responsibility when making these selections.

Our Year 10 students have been undertaking a program in preparing for life beyond compulsory schooling. The PDHPE

faculty in conjunction with our Careers Advisor (Mrs Pearce) have been guiding students through activities in self-reflection, investigating education and further training, and exploring the 'world of work'. Part of the program is aimed at developing each student's confidence, knowledge and ability to plan their unique future pathway. Year 10 students' focus moved towards planning the HSC and they have now committed to their senior pattern of study to commence next year; this is both exciting and daunting for students.

The extensive range of subjects at Mackillop cater for the diverse range of abilities and interests of our students. It is always pleasing to see them mature as young adults and pursue their own unique pathway.



Artists of excellence

It's a wrap!, Jillian Young.

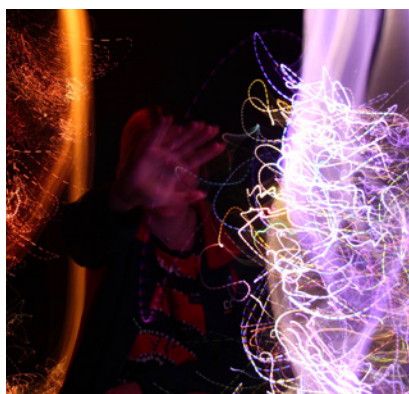
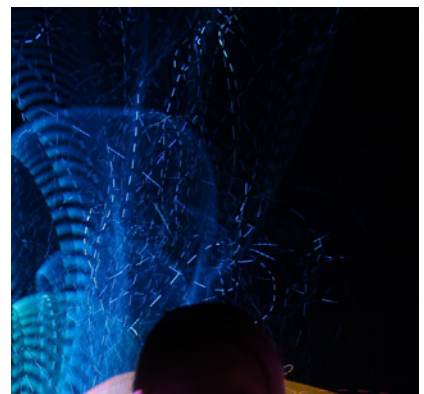
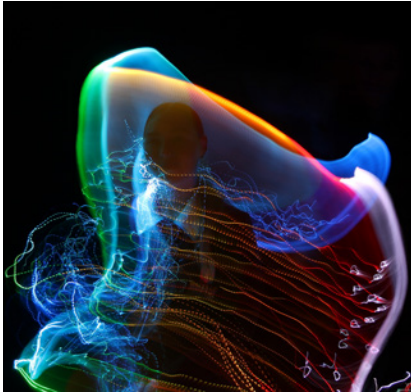
YEAR 9 AND 10 students completing the 100 hours Visual Arts course have appropriated famous artworks into sculptures. Can you guess the artworks which inspired them?



Artists of excellence

Light painting with Year 10, Jillian Young.

PHOTOGRAPHIC AND DIGITAL students crack the whip to paint with light!



In the studio... with PDM

Painting with light in photography, Jillian Young.

OUR PHOTOGRAPHIC AND Digital Media students this term have been challenged to paint with light and capture light movements using DSLR cameras. Experimenting with long exposure time and ensuring large apertures and long shutter speed, has allowed for a creative flare in photography using low light conditions. A range of tools has been employed to create their imagery including; black fibre optic brushes, LED poi ball, light swords, LED lights goggles, colour light hoods, opaque light writers and the use of a fibre optic whip. Working in both the photography studio and the MAC Lab, the results have been amazing.



It all starts with camera work.



Next, setting up the studio and having fun!



Lastly, we edit using Photoshop.

In the studio... with Year 7 and 8

Printmaking is still popular in Art class, Jillian Young.

WHEN PARENTS ARE often told their son or daughter is doing a unit on printmaking in Year 7 and 8, they respond with fond memories of their own experiences at school. Lino printing, a popular art form, is still enjoyed today by students at MacKillop. In the art classroom, students have worked on their designs for their artworks using their Visual Arts Process Diary, exploring themes like still-life and drawing simple objects, to work out the positive and negative shapes and space. Then, they safely cut their lino tile, ready for printing. Using their best prints, students are working towards a final hand-coloured print ready for their assessment.



Drawing a template and cutting it out.



Inking up a storm!



Enhancing our lino prints with other mediums.

Athletics fun day is a hit!

Kellie Denneman *was excited when we could finally hold our athletics activities.*

THE YEAR 2-6 Athletics Fun Day was held at school in lieu of our cancelled carnival at Mingara, and acted as the perfect circuit breaker for what has been a challenging term. Despite losing our Secondary Year 10 PASS helpers due to upgraded COVID-19 restrictions the previous week, we were still able to run our year group rotations with fun and frivolity – and some serious competition thrown in. All groups completed four activity rotations including two track events (100m and 800m) and two field events (foam javelin and frisbee).

To make for added excitement we had 'Olympic conditions' with heats and finals in all three events excluding the 800m. Children who placed top 2 in each heat progressed to the final. Ribbons were awarded to the first 4 in each finals event. Some of the 100m finals were hotly contested – event photo finish technology was used to determine placings! Thanks to Ronnie for his expert camera use on the finish line. Lots of cheering and celebration was heard particularly in the throwing finals. Children are to be congratulated on how they encouraged their friends, particularly in the 800m event given the warm conditions. Results aside, all the children had plenty of laughs and fun. A sausage sandwich and popper with friends was the perfect way to reflect on a fantastic day of activity.

Whilst COVID-19 has brought many of our events to a standstill, Interschool Equestrian still managed to get an event completed on the calendar before restrictions were upgraded. Congratulations to Adam Porter from Year 1, who, together with Regan Beaver in Secondary, represented MacKillop Catholic College so proudly at the Arndell Equestrian Carnival at Clarendon Racecourse. Adam placed top 3 in six separate events riding 'Ella'. Awesome effort, Adam!

In true K-12 spirit we still managed to get our sport fix early this term helping Year 11 Sport, Leisure and Recreation (SLR) and Year 10 Physical Activity and Sport Studies (PASS) students with their coaching units of study. Year 3 and 4 had busily and happily been working with the Secondary students before restrictions were increased. We are blessed to have the opportunity to work so closely with Secondary in a K-12 environment sharing our learning opportunities – when this has to stop for external reasons we so dearly miss it.

We aim to end out the term with an in-school gala day opportunity for Years 3-6. With all our CCC gala days being cancelled across Terms 2-3, we will coordinate two separate combined soccer and netball gala days in Week 10 this term here at school – something to look forward to!









Secondary parent teacher interviews

An honour that brings great joy, Mel McGuinness.

AS YOU ARE aware this year, we have seen the introduction of Compass as well as a host of other new conditions in which we all find ourselves functioning. It comes as no surprise then, that 2020 has necessitated a different way of conducting Parent Teacher interviews. This year we requested interviews through the half yearly report template and interviews were conducted either by zoom or telephone.

It was heartening to see the uptake for these conversations about learning and the spirit in which our teachers, parents and students engaged in these meaningful conversations. It is always a joy to partner with families in the growth trajectory of the children in our care. Your entrusting of your children to us is humbling and such an honour that brings great joy. I am reminded of the words of David Brooks, the author of *The Road to Character*, "Joy is not produced because others praise

you. Joy emanates unbidden and unforced. Joy comes as a gift when you least expect it. At those fleeting moments you know why you were put here and what truth you serve. You may not feel giddy at those moments, you may not hear the orchestra's delirious swell or see flashes of crimson and gold, but you will feel a satisfaction, a silence, a peace—a hush. Those moments are the blessings and the signs of a beautiful life."

It is truly a blessing to walk alongside our students, to serve this community and to take the opportunity to collaborate with you in ensuring your child's progress. This is indeed what the spirit of Parent Teacher Interviews have at their core.

I offer my deep thanks to every family who took the opportunities presented and to every teacher for their work with the students.

Parent news

Natalie Tunstead introduces our new PAST group.

I HOPE EVERYONE is keeping well in these challenging times and know that there is always support available. I am here to help you navigate these outside support services and make referrals where appropriate.

On Thursday 23 July we were able to hold our first PAST (Pastoral Care and Support Team) Meeting via Zoom. PAST is made up of 10 parents across different grades with varying areas of engagement with the College and they are joined by our College Principals. The PAST meetings will be held once a term and parents will be asked about aspects of school life where it is felt parents can offer advice and support. These areas include excursions, award ceremonies, student leadership, house system, publications, open days, liturgies and retreat programs to name a few.

This term there have been two CSP (Catholic School Parents of Broken Bay Diocese) where we have had discussions around a sustainability/parent engagement project in which there is a small amount of funding available for each school in the diocese. Further discussions will be had over the coming weeks about the best option for our school. A submission will be made by 18 September, if you would like to contribute to this discussion please feel free to contact me via email at natalie.tunstead@dbb.catholic.edu.au

The Kindergarten and Year 7 Facebook Grade pages for 2021 have been set up and are steadily growing in membership with the majority of parents of students for next

year having already joined. If you would like to join the page at any time please search "MCC Kindergarten 2021" or "MCC Year 7 2021" and answer the identity questions for approval to this closed group.

We are currently holding two parent Compass tutorials via Zoom. This will be set at a beginner level and aimed at those who have not used Compass before or who have a preference for visual learning. We will see how these sessions go and if required we will look to hold further sessions in the future. More details are available on our website. Please note if you have students in both Primary and Secondary that we recommend you join the Secondary session. Also if you cannot join the live session the recording will be uploaded to Compass and Facebook Grade pages for you to view at a later date. If you have any questions you would like covered beforehand please feel free to email me.



