

# COLLEGE**Matters**



**A magnificent evening**  
*to farewell Year 12*

CHRIST OUR LIGHT



**MACKILLOP**  
Catholic College  
WARNERVALE

**A WARM WELCOME AND FOND FAREWELLS**

**YOUNG VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**

**SPORT MAKES A TRIUMPHANT RETURN**



# Contents

## COLLEGE

- 3 College Principal's message**  
Our **College Principal, Steve Todd**, offers his overview of Term 4.
- 4 A year like no other**  
**Frank Cohen, Primary Principal**, tells us how 2020 presented more challenges than most.
- 5 Resilience is accepting your new reality**  
**Secondary Principal, Debra Ferguson**, revisits the importance of resilience and its place in the world today.
- 6 Congratulations Class of 2020**  
**Kath Ardern** congratulates Year 12 on their graduation.
- 12 Introducing our new Business Manager**  
**Steve Todd** welcomes Anthony Dignan to MacKillop.
- 13 New ventures await**  
**Frank Cohen** farewells some of our wonderful Primary staff.
- 14 Thank you is never enough**  
**Debra Ferguson** wishes to acknowledge our Secondary staff who will be leaving us.

## MISSION

- 15 Christmas during COVID-19**  
**Father Vince** gives us an insight into how Christmas at our Parish will look like this year.
- 16 Take fresh courage**  
Celebrating the 10th anniversary of the canonisation of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, **Chrystal Price**.
- 17 Young Volunteer of the Year**  
**Michelle Baxter** celebrates the amazing service work of Jackson Lantry.
- 18 JUMPing for joy**  
**Michelle Baxter** explains how JUMP encourages students to love and serve our neighbours.
- 19 Celebrating NAIDOC Week**  
**Marilyn Fraser** praises students as they raise the bar in Indigenous Art.
- 20 Faith formation, fun and fulfilment**  
**Maisie Tenev** reviews an action-packed and positive end to 2020.
- 21 First holy communion**  
**Tim Snelling** recounts a special celebration of this holy sacrament.

## CULTURE

- 22 Professional learning**  
**Mel McGuinness** outlines the latest strategies to support student literacy.
- 22 Highly accomplished teacher**  
Teaching is a profession where you are constantly learning and growing, writes **Mel McGuinness**.
- 23 A bee-utiful tradition**  
**Ann Jackson** gives us an overview of the Primary Spelling Bee.
- 23 Better than auto-correct**  
**Debra Ferguson** shares the highlights of our Stage 4 Spelling Bee.
- 24 Junior Theatre Festival**  
**Sharon Baird** shines a light on our performance group.
- 25 Artists in excellence**  
Showcasing the bodies of work from HSC Class of 2020, **Jillian Young**.
- 26 MacKillop Portrait Prize**  
**Jillian Young** challenged our K-12 students to depict COVID-19 heroes.
- 27 In the studio..**  
Ceramics - the form and function debate, explains **Jillian Young**.
- 27 Library news**  
**Jackie Crowe** reminds us that the Library is a space

for our whole school community.

- 28 Primary sport returns full throttle**  
**Kellie Denneman** gives us an overview of a triumphant return to sport in Primary.
- 30 Finally, representative sport is back!**  
**Duncan Black** delights in reporting the return of Secondary representative sport.

## WELLBEING

- 31 Kinder Yana**  
**Frank Cohen** tells us about this new school readiness program.
- 32 New leaders step up**  
Year 5 start the journey toward 2021 leadership, recounts **Megan Smith**.
- 33 Peer support training**  
**Julian Legge** praises the hard work of our incoming leaders for 2021.
- 34 Jerusalema**  
**Debra Ferguson** delights in spreading the joy of this worldwide challenge.
- 34 Parent news**  
**Natalie Tunstead** looks back over the last term.
- 35 Orientation day**  
**Kathleen Black** describes the excitement and nerves from Year 6.



# College Principal's message

*Our College Principal, Steve Todd, offers his overview of Term 4.*

**WELL, WE HAVE** all survived 2020 and we have lived to tell the tale of our year here at MacKillop. As College Principal, I pass on my personal thanks to every student, staff member and family for managing this most unusual year in the most supportive and considerate way. I hope the Christmas season and the summer break bring much happiness and joy to each and every member of our College community.

Looking back over this term there have been many positive steps taken for how we can now offer many of the normal things we do with some variations to ensure the safety of everyone. It was wonderful to see sport happening again for both Primary and Secondary students, as this was an area greatly affected by the restrictions.

We were delighted to see the HSC exams take place for our Year 12 students and these were successfully completed by 11 November. The Year 12 Formal held at Mingara on 16 November was a tremendous celebration of the success and spirit of these young men and women. We extend our deep gratitude to Mrs Kath Ardern who navigated the way the Formal would look for our Year 12 students with much agility, never losing hope for what this event means to the students and the College.

Our term also included the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Canonisation of our Patron Saint, Mary MacKillop on 16-17 October. It was wonderful to provide every student and staff member with a special prayer card called 'COURAGE' sponsored by our Josephite Schools group, AJASS.

Lots of zoom assemblies, information nights and meetings have come and gone this term, allowing us to continue providing our community with the support and advice in the spirit for how we have done this over many years. Thank you for your support and understanding with all these happenings.

On 16 November, we welcomed our new Director of

Schools, Mr Danny Casey, to the College. We were able to provide a tour of the College and introduce him to many people, offering insight into our way of life that has made this College such a special place for the past 18 years. Mr Casey was keen to continue supporting and backing our growth here on the Central Coast.

A new and most valuable program has been Kinder Yana, introduced by Primary Principal, Mr Frank Cohen. This program supported Kindergarten children and their parents for 2021. Likewise, the Year 7 2021 Orientation Day was held on Friday 20 November and we are delighted to see so many local students eager to start their High School journey in 2021.

The Year 6 Graduation Mass was held on 7 December. This event also looked different to past years, but was done in a way that continued to honour the milestone of completing Primary School. Congratulations to Year 6 students, the teachers and parents for supporting this important occasion.

Our year concluded with awards ceremonies and these looked very different to how they have been operating in previous years. The two big ceremonies held in both the Primary and Secondary each year were merged into year group events that ran over the course of a day. We apologise that parents could not attend these ceremonies but, understanding that the reshaping of these ceremonies maintained the spirit of acknowledgement and achievement for our students across the College.

For those students, staff and families who are concluding their time with us at the end of the year, we offer our gratitude for being part of our College and we wish you every blessing for the future.

Blessings for Christmas 2020 with joy! Let us make 2021, a year of reconnecting with all members of this College community.



# A year like no other

**Frank Cohen, Primary Principal, explains how a Principal's job is never done and tells us how 2020 presented more challenges than most.**

**“LET THERE BE** more joy and laughter in your living” - Caddy. 2020 has seen a fair amount of misery throughout the world which has impacted every nation and people. The school was thrust into home-based learning (HBL) mode and the way lessons were presented to students changed to include ZOOM, YouTube, Seesaw, and a whole host of other online learning platforms. Teachers had to quickly come up to speed on how to teach over the internet and new ways of doing things were born. To say HBL was a 100% success would be a stretch as there were hiccups along the way. It is hard not to at least be impressed by the way the K-6 staff mobilized to educate students not knowing how widespread COVID-19 would become. Like other frontline workers, teachers sacrificed a great deal during this term and as the Principal, I am very proud of what each was able to achieve in such a short period of time.

Gifted and High Potential Education at MacKillop was launched with a view to train all staff in a post graduate certificate of Gifted Education. Close to 90 students across K-6 sat a gifted indicator assessment and from this pool of students we now have a comprehensive list of students who are gifted or exhibit high potential across various disciplines. A new Gifted and High Potential Coordinator has been created for the 2021 school year and cluster-based ability classes are being drawn up based on the assessments undertaken. This is an exciting time for the College and by the end of this year 20 full-time staff will have completed their post graduate training

in gifted education from the University of NSW.

A new Kindergarten school readiness program was launched based on the Reggio Emilia approach (Kinder Yana) and a whole host of new initiatives were introduced such as public speaking across K-6 and social and emotional support clubs for students impacted by loss and grief.

The absence of parents on site combined with a host of cancelled events due to COVID-19 proved too much for many. Even as the 2020 school year draws to a close there remains the very real possibility that parent participation in 2021 will still be impacted in some way. I particularly want to acknowledge the Year 6 students who missed out on so much as leaders of the school, with the Canberra excursion being cancelled the biggest casualty of the lot.

Some sport events went ahead as well as such things as Happy Healthy Harold and minor incursions, but overall, the students did miss out on a lot of external events.

Mrs Jackson, our long serving Primary Assistant Principal, has secured a Principal's position in the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese and we will welcome a new Primary Assistant Principal in Mrs Sherylyn Kenney for the 2021 school year. As the 2021 year beckons the school's Primary enrolment is hovering very close to 600 students making it by far the biggest Primary school in the Broken Bay Diocese. With hopefully the worst of COVID-19 behind us we will begin the new year full of energy and new initiatives to cement MacKillop as a school moving ahead.



# Resilience is accepting your new reality

**Secondary Principal, Debra Ferguson, revisits the importance of resilience and its place in the world today.**

**I CAME ACROSS** this quote from Elizabeth Edwards, an American attorney, which said “Resilience is accepting your new reality, even if it’s less good than the one you had before. You can fight it, you can do nothing but scream about what you’ve lost, or you can accept that and try to put together something that’s good.” All I could think was that she really has captured 2020 and the COVID-19 world.

This term will be another of making changes to our traditions to ensure we keep our College safe and follow, as best we can, all the confusing rules and regulations that have been developed for schools.

I wish to use this article to thank a very special group who are quite exhausted as they have kept showing up and making changes for their students, and this is our teaching staff and all our support staff.

Nothing has been able to run as normal: Assemblies, award ceremonies, liturgies, Thursday sport, sporting teams, House events, and the list goes on. Schools are busy enough when life is normal but every week teachers are working to

adapt lessons and events. Added to this is ensuring students use sanitiser and are as socially distanced as possible, and cleaning desks and chairs and other commonly used items.

I also applaud our students who have coped with so much. Many are still struggling with the effects of COVID-19 on themselves and their families. Navigating the tricky teen years can be tough as it is a period of significant changes, physically, mentally and experientially. Every week can bring fresh opportunities and challenges which can present new problems to overcome. This year has certainly tested this resilience, but the majority have truly excelled in this. Both parents and teachers have assisted our teens to develop resilience by equipping them with the tools to reduce the impact that negative situations can have.

So, at MCC we will complete this term and this year by still smiling and working together as a community despite all 2020 has thrown at us. We will celebrate this wonderful community and we will look forward to Term 1, 2021, in whatever form it takes.



# Congratulations Class of 2020

*Kath Ardern congratulates our Year 12 2020 students as we look back at their graduation celebrations.*

**THE FINAL WEEK** of school is always an emotional one. With the challenges faced by Year 12 in 2020, it was so rewarding seeing the students graduate with pride during the last week of Term 3. Our traditional Charity Day enabled the students to let their hair down while accepting donations for their chosen charity, which, for this year, was the Starlight Children's Foundation and Sister Marea's Foundation. Due to the generosity of the school community, over \$1500 was raised.

Their Graduation Mass was slightly different from previous years due to COVID-19 restrictions, however, the outdoor celebration was so memorable. The Graduation Mass was followed by the Award Ceremony, recognising the hard work that so many of our students applied to their final year of

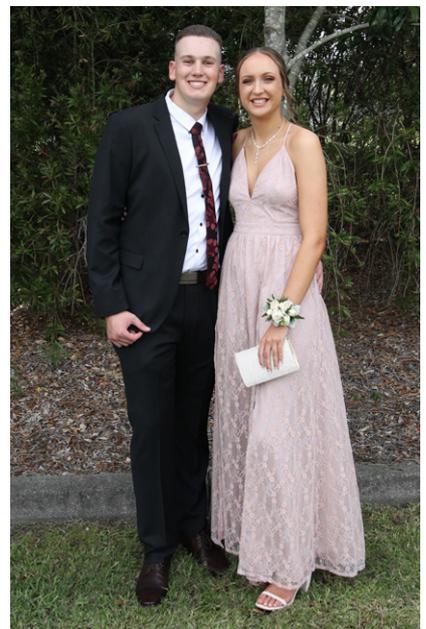
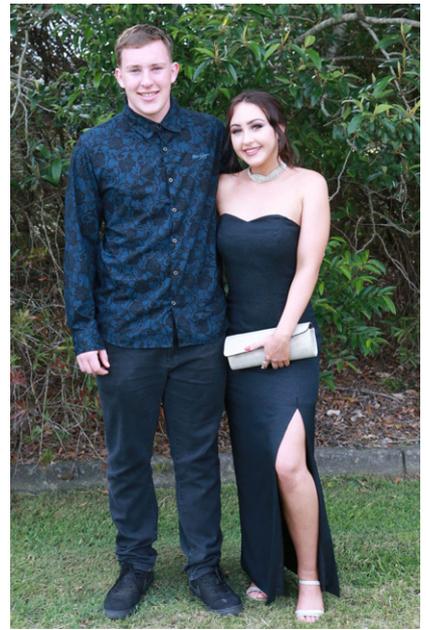
schooling. Parents were able to watch the Mass and Award Ceremony via live stream which, of course, was another first for this year group. Students exited the College on this final day through the traditional Guard of Honour to the charm of bagpipes.

Following their HSC exams, the Year 12 Formal was a night of celebrations, where students held their heads high, proud of the people they have become and values they withhold. I am incredibly proud of this group of young adults who have shown great resilience and perseverance. Please join me in wishing Year 12 all the best for the future, that they are proud of their results with goals and dreams achieved. Best wishes, Year 12!













# Introducing our new Business Manager

College Principal, Steve Todd, *welcomes Anthony Dignan to MacKillop.*

**I AM PLEASED** to welcome and introduce to our College community, our new Business Manager, Anthony Dignan. Anthony has quite a unique background and brings both experience and expertise across a number of areas to our College.

Anthony started his professional life as a PDHPE and Maths Teacher at St. Augustine's College, Brookvale. He worked at St. Augustine's for 11 years including being the College's Sports Coordinator. Anthony then completed university studies in Sports Management, this included general Business Management principles before working in AFL. Anthony was the Operations Manager and then the General Manager of AFL Canberra. After a period of 7 years in AFL, Anthony then moved on to be the General Manager of North Ryde Golf Club and then in more recent years, the Long Reef Golf Club. This

was a complex role that covered the operations of the Club and the course including functions such as weddings, etc.

The COVID-19 crisis allowed Anthony the time to rethink his career and when the role of Business Manager came up at MacKillop he thought this was an ideal opportunity for him. Anthony's vast experience will stand him in good stead for the complexities of the Business Manager's role here at MacKillop.

Anthony commenced his role as our Business Manager on Monday 9 November, and we are delighted to welcome Anthony here to MacKillop. Anthony's wife, Fiona, is Principal of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic School, Forresterville. Anthony and Fiona have two adult children.

I take this opportunity in welcoming Anthony and I know our College community will make him very welcome here at MacKillop.



# New ventures await

## Frank Cohen *farewells some of our wonderful Primary staff.*

**ANDREW VANDERGRAAF WILL** leave MacKillop Catholic College to take up a teaching position at St Declan's Penshurst. Andrew has been a permanent teaching member of staff since 2017 and over the past four years has worked diligently in the various class teaching roles he has undertaken. Andrew is relocating back to Sydney to be closer to family and we sincerely wish him all the very best for the years ahead and thank him for his wonderful contribution to our College.

Michelle Bondfield has been a part time member of the Primary staff since 2018 and in that time has taken on a variety of classroom roles. Her contribution to the learning support team and her guidance with working with students needing extra care has been much appreciated by all in the school. We wish her well as she resumes her substantive position in another local school.

Megan Smith was once a permanent member of staff at MacKillop and for this term returned to teach Year 5. It is never easy taking a class mid-stream, but Megan did well in the short time she has worked with our 5 Wattle class. We wish her well as she works in other school settings.

Cindy Noah has been at the school the past two years as Aboriginal Education Teacher who has worked as part of the Learning Support team. She has been a highly valued member of staff who will be sorely missed. Cindy is to take up the same role but at St Mary's Toukley in 2021. We wish her all the very best.

We bid farewell to Karen Jacobs who will be moving schools at the end of the year. Karen has worked diligently on Year 6 and has been a teacher who has worked in our school in different capacities for a number of years. We thank her for her time here with us and wish her and her boys all the very best for a bright future ahead.

Kerry Power was also an immediate past permanent member of staff who found herself in the Acting Primary Assistant Principal role for 16 weeks of this year. Kerry is such a wonderful pastoral leader who always finds the good in everyone she meets. Her assistance to me was highly valued. Kerry has returned to her substantive role in the Catholic Schools Broken Bay Office and will continue to assist our school with Religious curriculum assistance. Kerry will always remain a true member of the MacKillop family moving forward.



# Thank you is never enough

*As our year comes to a close, Debra Ferguson wishes to acknowledge our Secondary staff who will be leaving us.*

**IT IS ALWAYS** sad to say goodbye to any of our staff as the dedication and generosity of all the MCC community makes it difficult to adequately say thank you. At the end of 2020 we say goodbye to a number of wonderful staff members.

Lalit Buhagiar-Sharma – We thank Mrs Buhagiar-Sharma very much for joining us this year in a job-share position. Her great knowledge of Mathematics and her care for our students has been deeply appreciated. Due to her circumstances she cannot commit to another year in this position but we are hoping to see her once more next year as a casual teacher.

Amanda Machin – The positive of this farewell is that it is only temporary. Mrs Machin will be on maternity leave from January next year and is expecting her first child in March. We wish her all the best and we thank her for her hard work and dedication in the HSIE Faculty.

Dana Platt – We sincerely thank Miss Platt for joining us this year and teaching in the Mathematics and Science Faculties. As a young teacher she has brought to our community much enthusiasm and new skills as she has generously worked so hard for her students and her fellow staff. Miss Platt is going back to University to do further study next year and we wish her all the best and thank her again for her hard work this year.

David Moore – Mr Moore joined the College in 2005 as a teacher of Science, Religion, and Learning Support, assisting those students who truly need support to be able to access the curriculum. In the Science faculty, he used his other skills to teach a love of Science, particularly enjoying Senior Science in Stage 6. Mr Moore was able to make connections to a number of our students who did not like school helping to support and guide them. In 2017, he shifted his career and became the WHS and Facilities Manager at MacKillop, working alongside our Business Manager, Mr Michael Bowman. Mr Moore has been responsible for supporting and leading work, health and safety within the College as well as maintenance and many other issues. Mr Moore has decided to take long service leave for 2021 and we wish him a restful year that

allows him the opportunities to travel and enjoy this well earned time.

Robert Copas – Mr Copas has been a truly gifted teacher who has been with the College for the past 6 years. He has taught in both the RE and Music faculties and was appointed the Liturgy Leader in 2016 and the Assistant Leader of Religious Studies. During his time at MCC he has proven to be a true role model to our students of genuine Gospel values. He has always been involved in camps and retreats and ready to assist in any venture the school might have and encouraging students to be the best they can be. Mr Copas has always been at his piano during all our liturgies and Masses and he has had a true affinity with students who have found being at school difficult. Mr Copas has accepted a position at St Bede's College in the Newcastle Diocese which is much closer to his family home. We have been blessed to have him at our College and we wish him all the best.

Noela Fleming – In 2003, 13 staff members commenced at MacKillop with 131 Year 7 students. They have been affectionately called “The Originals” and Mrs Noela Fleming was one of these staff members. As a Science Laboratory Assistant in a new College where there were limited resources and no prep room, Noela began to build the resources needed for a fully functioning Science area. She worked in a small space in a demountable to begin with and was instrumental in assisting with the planning of our present prep room in S Block. Not only has she performed administration and organisational operations, but she has been a blessing to us all as a person of great faith. Noela has organised prayer mornings with Sr Marea, and we have listened in awe to her stories of travelling overseas to help the underprivileged. Noela has decided it is time to put her feet up and retire, although I doubt her feet will be up for long as she will now enjoy her family and Church work that she loves. We thank her for her dedication and love for our College and wish her much happiness.

We wish everyone much happiness in their future, and remind them that they will always be a part of MacKillop.



# Christmas during COVID-19

*Father Vince gives us an insight into how Christmas at our Parish will look like this year.*

**WHAT A YEAR** 2020 has been, congratulations to everyone! We have survived and done most things that we would have done in previous years, but with COVID-19 we have had to do them differently. COVID-19 means our Christmas celebrations at MacKillop will be different this year. Christmas Mass times will be:

- Christmas Eve – 5pm, 8pm, 10pm and Midnight
- Christmas Day – 8am and 10am

All these celebrations will be in the Church and the current restrictions provide a maximum of 132 people are able to attend each Mass. This means that for Christmas we will need to book in for all Masses. Please note that the 5pm Mass is not a big children's Mass in the hall, but in the Church and with limited numbers. This means bookings are essential. To book there will be sheets in the breezeway of the Church on which you are asked to write the name of each person attending and a contact number. You can also contact the office directly on 8379 1741 or warnervaleparish@bbcatholic.org.au but do not presume you are booked in until you receive confirmation.

We are not able to sing at Mass, so it is going to be a very different Christmas without singing Christmas carols!

During Advent, to prepare for Christmas, we will be having a candle lighting ceremony with the advent wreath at each Sunday Mass and Reconciliation will be available in the church on Saturdays from 4-4.30pm and Tuesdays 7-8pm. We will also be cleaning and decorating the Church on Saturday 19 December from 10am-1pm. Everyone is welcome.

Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus. If you are not able to attend one of our Masses this year, please celebrate with Jesus in some way at home. You can do this by reading the Christmas story at the beginning of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, or decorating your home with a Christmas crib and telling the story of each of the characters to your children. There are also lots of videos and other resources on the internet. A simple way that children love is to sing 'Happy Birthday' to Jesus as part of your celebrations.

In whatever way you celebrate this year, have a happy and a holy Christmas!



# Take fresh courage

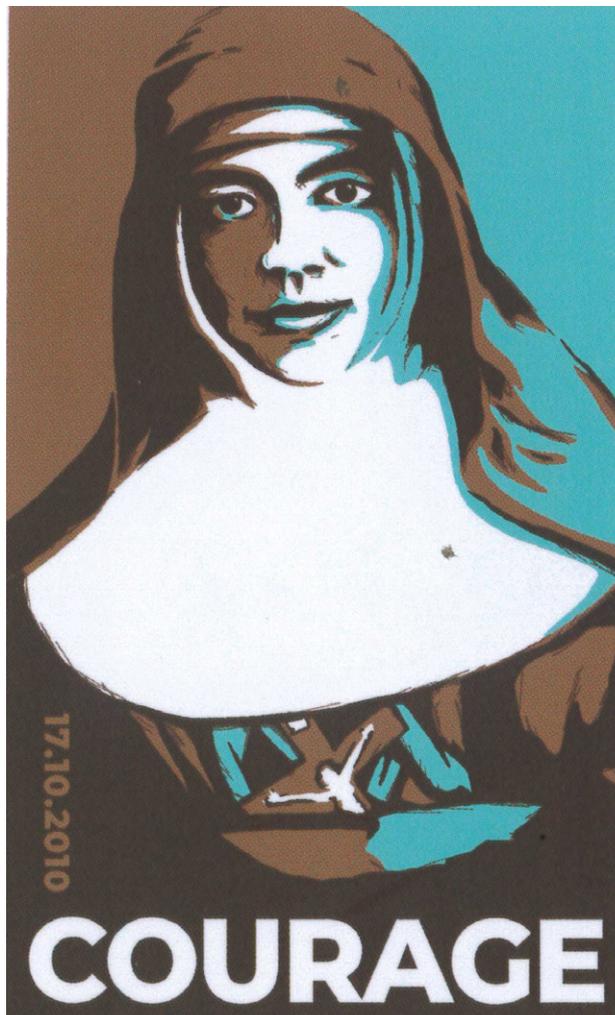
*Celebrating the 10th anniversary of the canonisation of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Chrystal Price.*

**SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER** marked the 10th anniversary of the canonisation of St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop. This was a very important event in our College's history, since she is our patron saint, and it was the first time that Mary MacKillop was formally recognised by the Catholic Church to become Australia's first saint.

In 2010 we were blessed to have sent four of our students with our then Youth Ministry Coordinator Mrs Paget, our founding College Principal, Mr Aiken, Mrs Ferguson and our very own Sister of Saint Joseph, Sr Marea, to celebrate the canonisation in Rome. Mr Todd also met our College representatives in Rome before becoming our College Principal the following year.

Mary MacKillop is a woman whose life continues to encourage us to "take fresh courage". The Sisters of Saint Joseph informed us that Mary MacKillop's perseverance in the face of adversity came from her deep desire to live in and for God. Walking amidst life's difficulties she had the capacity to lift people's spirit as she encouraged them to find meaning and purpose in their lives. The Sisters of Saint Joseph wanted us to be reminded of the need for courage with our faith today. So to mark this special occasion, all the students in the College were gifted with a prayer card from the Association of Josephite Affiliated Secondary Schools (AJASS) designed by Jane Maisey. The prayer card was created to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the canonisation of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop but it is also a timely reminder to have courage in our faith, in a time when we most need Christ in our lives.

To celebrate the 10th anniversary, some Youth Ministry students, under the guidance of Mrs Tenev submitted virtual testimonies about how St Mary of the Cross MacKillop continues to give them courage in their lives today. This video clip was submitted and used by the Sisters of Saint Joseph in their celebrations of the anniversary of her canonisation.



Primary and Secondary classes also held individual liturgies and viewed the testimonies from the students. The Year 11 students were fortunate enough to have an assembly where Sr Marea reflected upon her experience of the canonisation and the rest of the community viewed this virtually. During her reflection Sr Marea reminded us about Mary MacKillop's first trip to Rome and the courage she had despite the setbacks that she and the sisters were facing at the time.

From the reflections from Sr Marea, the testimonies from the Secondary students and the special commemorative prayer cards, we are reminded to give thanks and praise to God for the life and holiness of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop. May we continue to "gather fresh courage around us" as we live out God's Mission on earth.

# Young Volunteer of the Year

**Michelle Baxter** celebrates the amazing service work of Jackson Lantry and our K-12 community.

**IN THE OCTOBER** school holidays The Centre for Volunteering held the NSW Volunteer Awards via Zoom. It was a great opportunity to hear first-hand from local volunteers and, most importantly, to say thank you to the many people in the local community for their outstanding contributions and service work.

Mackillop had three students who were nominated for their service work: Rose Fergus (Year 9), Caleb Pantos and Jackson Lantry (Year 10). We are so proud of these students and of all of our JUMP students, as well as the many K-12 service programs performed in the spirit of Mary MacKillop.

Jackson's amazing service work was recognised as he won the Young Volunteer of the Year Award. Jackson has always shown great compassion for others, from pioneering the JUMP program since its inception in 2017, to volunteering for Coast

Shelter in East Gosford, attending local nursing homes, as well as Oasis Centre Wyong, neighbourhood centres and packing Zonta birthing kits. He has supported many charities including the MacKillop Ghana Appeal, White Ribbon Australia, Relay for Life and many more. This extends to his active participation in coaching a local soccer team, serving College breakfasts, and mentoring in MacKillop's PAL (Primary Assisted Learning) program. Jackson truly epitomises Mary MacKillop's saying, "Never see a need without doing something about it," seeking to help others and to build a healthier and well-connected community.

Jackson was among 118,000 nominations and so this is a fantastic accomplishment for Jackson. We congratulate him on this well-deserved award and look forward to him representing the Central Coast region at the NSW finals in December.



# JUMPing for joy

**Michelle Baxter** explains how JUMP encourages students to love and serve our neighbours.

**‘JUSTICE IS ABOUT** fairness. Social justice concerns the relationship between different groups in society and examines whether all groups in society receive what is due to them in fairness or not. We are all called to live in the right relationship with others, to love and serve our neighbours. Treating people and groups in society fairly is the minimum that we should do’ (Faith Doing Justice, 2014).

At MCC, social justice is a central part of the formation of our students, embedded as part of JUMP (Josephites Undertaking Mission Projects) and underpinned by the credo of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop “Never see a need without doing something about it.” The College has a very active Youth Ministry Team (YMCC) who together with other groups such as Mini Vinnies, actively seek to help those who are most in need.

This year has been tough and with many volunteer opportunities and initiatives cancelled, it made it extremely difficult for students to engage in outreach and community service work. As a result, JUMP along with YMCC joined forces bringing about a new initiative called ARK (Acts of Random Kindness). The hope for this new initiative was that it would carry our community through the storm of COVID-19, just as Noah and his family were protected within the ark that carried

them safely through the floods. Our students and staff were encouraged and challenged to be the hands and feet of Jesus through acts of service and kindness. ARK was a huge success with many outreach and service opportunities operating via a virtual platform during the lockdown period and even for quite a period thereafter.

During the October school holidays the NSW Volunteer Awards were held with three students from Years 9 and 10 acknowledged for their outstanding service work by The Centre for Volunteering. In addition, five students in Year 10 will receive the inaugural Mary MacKillop Honours Award in 2020 for their outstanding contribution to outreach and community service work over the past three years, participating in 300 hours of service or more during this time. We congratulate Jackson Lantry, Calab Pantos, Ember-Rose Rutherford, Trinity Young, and Samuel Wolscher, for their outstanding contributions and a wonderful achievement.

It is evident that despite the numerous challenges of 2020, JUMP has continued to live up to its commitment; to serve others in a positive spirit and giving generously to those who are in need.



# Celebrating NAIDOC Week

*Marilyn Fraser praises MacKillop students as they raise the bar in Indigenous Art.*

**THE NAIDOC 2020** theme for this year 'Always Was, Always Will Be' recognises that First Nations people have occupied and cared for this continent for over 65,000 years. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are spiritually and culturally connected to this country. The very first footprints on this continent were those belonging to First Nations peoples. Australia has the world's oldest Indigenous oral stories and has the oldest continuing culture on the planet. The First Peoples engraved the world's first maps, made the earliest paintings of ceremony and invented unique technologies. They built and engineered structures, structures on Earth pre-dating well-known sites such as the Egyptian Pyramids and Stonehenge. NAIDOC Week invites all Australians to embrace the true history of this country. It's a time to acknowledge the Indigenous culture of Australia, share their stories, support and to promote the beauty of our Indigenous culture.

Many eager Primary and Secondary Indigenous and non-Indigenous students entered the NSW AECG NAIDOC Art Competition. Elija Guest, from Year 6, received a phone call to congratulate him on gaining a Highly Commended prize in the

Primary School Category. This is a massive achievement for Elija, who was ranked in the top five among 1,500 entries. A big congratulations to Elija as he will receive a certificate and prize for his outstanding painting.

The tradition of the Message Stick goes way back in Aboriginal culture and history, now we are honoured to bring this proud tradition back into our schools. Each year, the Message Stick starts at Kanwal Public school and travels to all the schools in the Ngara AECG (Aboriginal Education Consultative Group) making its way to Wyong High School for the Ngara Assembly of Excellence in Term 4. MacKillop received the Message Stick from St Peters, then our students passed it onto Lakes Grammar. The message is around celebration, always moving forward and working together. The two animals on the message stick are the kangaroo and the emu, they are representative of Australia and both these animals never backward step and always move forward. The dance icons and musical notes represent celebration and the concentric circles represent the community working together as one.



# Faith formation, fun and fulfilment

Maisie Tenev reviews an action-packed and positive end to 2020.

**SO MUCH HAS** happened in such a short space of time and it has been an absolute blessing to witness the positive approach of our YMCC students in various events and programs. Alpha ran this term and the groups were separated into year groups. This provided an opportunity for students to try the program for the first time and we have experienced enjoyment and success across Years 7, 8 and 9.

The Alpha Connect group enjoyed three separate afternoons at school exploring the concept of identity and how our faith and personal beliefs can influence us and the choices we make. The group were able to Zoom with students from St Peter's Tuggerah and St Joseph's East Gosford on one of the afternoons and the students were able to share their discussions with each other.

Another Virtual Praisefest took place on Friday 13 November and this was a Parish event in the Church. The students were so happy and comfortable in the church and commented that they are looking forward to the next one. The students who

attended were from Years 8-12 and besides the pizza dinner and Jerusalem dancing, the Praisefest was a lot of fun. The students were so happy to see that our very own Mrs Reynolds was part of the worship team for the evening.

Year 8 students enjoyed their Spirituality Day on Thursday 26 November and the theme of the day was 'Acceptance of Others'. The workshops of the day were designed to get the students interacting with other students from their RE class, as well as giving them the opportunity to pray and reflect on their own intentions. Our Year 10 Helpers were Bianca McCann, Charlotte Hannan, Trinity Young, Olivia Baldock, Diana Beech, Tayla Brooker, Jaimie Witt, Alfred Brown and Lauchlan Bissaker. Thank you to these students for all their assistance on the day.

On behalf of the YMCC students, I would like to thank Father Vince, Mr Todd, Mrs Ferguson, Mrs McGuinness, Mrs Price, Sister Jiji, Mrs Baxter, Mrs Camilleri, Ms Calleja, Mr Legge and Mr Tomsett for their support and assistance with YMCC this year.



# First Holy Communion

**Tim Snelling** recounts a special celebration of this holy sacrament for our Year 4 students.

**MANY OF THE** Year 4 students at MacKillop, and a few from the broader MacKillop Parish community, received the Sacrament of Holy Communion throughout the beginning of November. This year our mass celebrations were limited to 20 students and their families making for a much more intimate mass celebration. The students from our school were able to prepare and participate in the sacramental program this year thanks to the help of the wonderful Sister Jiji and the Year 4 teachers. A special thanks must go to Mrs Power and Mrs Jackson for assisting in the Mass service, and to Father Vince for putting on extra masses in order to accommodate everyone in our Parish community.



# Professional learning for literacy

**Mel McGuinness** outlines the latest strategies our Secondary teachers have developed to support student literacy.

**MACKILLOP HAS PARTNERED** with Catholic Schools Broken Bay to engage in a 3 year literacy initiative. Through this partnership we have access to a specialist in Secondary literacy, Trish Weekes. As an experienced consultant, researcher and lecturer in literacy, Trish is the designer of the Literacy in Subject Areas professional development program for Secondary schools, and is the author of the Literacy Works range of subject-specific literacy resources. Her areas of special focus are literacy education, subject-area literacies, academic skills and Systemic Functional Linguistics.

As a College we are very aware of the importance of literacy shaping life outcomes for people. As stated by UNESCO, "Literacy is freedom. It is the freedom to take control of your life, to be informed, to have a voice, to stand up for your rights, to be politically conscious, to be self-confident, to resist exploitation, to be self-reliant and to write your own history..." It is our desire to be the support structure that assists our students to write their own history, to have the freedom to make choices in an ever-evolving landscape.

In Week 2 our Leaders of Learning and Teaching, along

with an additional member from each faculty, were fortunate to spend a day planning for long term literacy growth strategies to support our students in all areas of their learning endeavours. Towards the end of this term our Leaders of Learning and Teaching will meet again for another workshop with Trish Weekes and this will inform their planning for teaching and learning in 2021 and beyond. We look forward to improving literacy outcomes for all our students and supporting them in lifelong learning and success.



## Highly accomplished teacher

*Teaching is a profession where you are constantly learning and growing, writes Mel McGuinness.*

**THE NEW SOUTH** Wales Education Standards Authority (NESA) has a tiered system of classification for teacher accreditation. All teachers must be certified as either graduate, proficient, highly accomplished or lead. To be accredited at higher levels involves a rigorous process of self-reflection and this also requires a great deal of evidence-based documentation as part of the process. The evidence must be supported by a number of referees who can attest to the authenticity of the information that has been put forward.

NESA defines highly accomplished teachers as those who "work with others to enhance colleagues' practice and student or child learning in both their own and others' learning environments". Across Catholic Schools NSW there are 30 teachers who have been certified as Highly Accomplished. Within our Broken Bay system there are 3 teachers who are certified at this level. We are delighted to announce that one of these three is from MacKillop.

On 6 November the Director of Catholic Schools Broken Bay, Danny Casey, visited us to congratulate Erin Sullivan, our Leader of Professional Growth, and to present this award to her. We were blessed to mark the occasion in the company of Erin's parents and a small group from our MCC community.

Erin is an exemplary professional who contributes a great deal to the professional learning agenda at MacKillop. She is generous in sharing her knowledge, gifts and talents with her students and also with her colleagues. We wish to not only recognise and congratulate Erin; we also would like to thank her for all that she brings to her role and to our community.



# A bee-utiful tradition

*Ann Jackson gives us an overview of the Primary Spelling Bee.*

**THE PRIMARY SPELLING** Bee has become an annual tradition that the children look forward to each year. To begin with, there is a hive of activity as spelling knockout competitions occur at the classroom level and three finalists from each of the classes emerge. These three then compete with other students across the stage until there are three finalists remaining across the whole stage. During the finals, these qualifiers compete until the Stage winner emerges triumphant! Although COVID-19 prohibited us from having the usual audience participation that we have had in previous years, the enthusiasm for the Spelling Bee has not waned.

Each round of the Spelling Bee kept the audience ‘spellbound’ with the talent that was exhibited by our master

spellers. The finals are always a nerve-racking experience with each contestant digging deep to spell the words tossed at them with incredible acumen. Alas, there can only be four winners and so we congratulate Dean Bond (ES1), Olivia Tulaylay (Stage 1), Isaiah Senat (Stage 2) and Blaire Shaw (Stage 3) as they buzzed away to the sweet success of victory.

Our competition each year highlights spelling strategies and the patterns found in the English language. As a learning experience, children become familiar with these patterns, regularities and irregularities and serve to enrich the repertoire of their vocabularies. Congratulations to our Stage winners and to all those children who participated in the finals.



# Better than auto-correct

*Debra Ferguson shares the highlights of our Stage 4 Spelling Bee.*

**AS HANDY AS** auto-correct is, it is always nice to be able to spell well and have an expanded vocabulary to assist with understanding of what students are reading and being able to write in a mature fashion. Besides assisting students in school, reading also helps them expand their horizons as they learn more about people and the world. In addition, reading can show teens that everyone has problems in his or her life and may even help them see solutions to their own problems. Beyond the functional level, literacy also plays a vital role in transforming students into socially engaged citizens. Being able to read and write means being able to keep up with current events, communicate effectively, and understand the issues that are shaping our world. Spelling and understanding the meaning of words assists in all of this.

On Friday 6 November, 24 finalists from Year 7 and 8 competed in the final of the Stage 4 Spelling Bee. We thank Mrs Crowe and Mrs Arden who were our Spell Masters on the day and the Year 12 Leaders who ran the competition.

The finalists were all very nervous but did extremely well.

There was no audience this year due to COVID-19 so this relieved some of their nerves. Competition results:

<b>1st</b>	Finlay Smith	8 Penola
<b>2nd</b>	Shreya Saibu	7 Alma
<b>3rd</b>	Manual Ampoma-Gyamfi	8 Penola

Congratulations to our Champion for the second year in a row, Finlay Smith, and to the winning House overall, Penola.



# Junior Theatre Festival Australia

*Sharon Baird shines a light on the combined Primary and Secondary performance group as they bring home another National Award.*

**THIS IS OUR** third year participating in the Junior Theatre Festival (JTF) Australia, and what a celebration it was! In this year of COVID-19 restrictions we were so privileged to be able to participate in this hybrid event. The event included live participants, mostly from the local area, who were joined by teams from across the borders as well as from the United States of America who joined in the fun via Zoom. OzTheatrics, the team who ran the event, really looked after the live participants providing set areas of seating, a separate exit and entrance and even separate amenities.

This year, 33 young performers strutted their stuff in an exhilarating musical theatre extract from High School Musical Junior. The students sounded amazing, thanks to the talents of Mrs Iolanda Caruana, our Musical Director. The cast really worked together well and combined music, dance and

characterisation to create a really enjoyable performance. We won the Award for Outstanding Dancing and I would like to thank Miss Ralph, Mrs Calder and Tayla Brooker for their assistance with the choreography. I would also like to thank the chaperones who attended and assisted with supervision of the students - we could not do it without you.

It is so thrilling to see our young performing artists developing their skills year after year. It was wonderful to see our students involved in leading the sing-a-long for the festival participants. Congratulations to Trinity Young who was selected to perform for Eddie Perfect and role model taking on professional advice and applying it to your work. JTF is a vital aspect of our Musical Theatre and skills development program and we look forward to many more trips to Newcastle.



# Artists in excellence

Showcasing the bodies of work from Visual Arts HSC Class of 2020, Jillian Young.

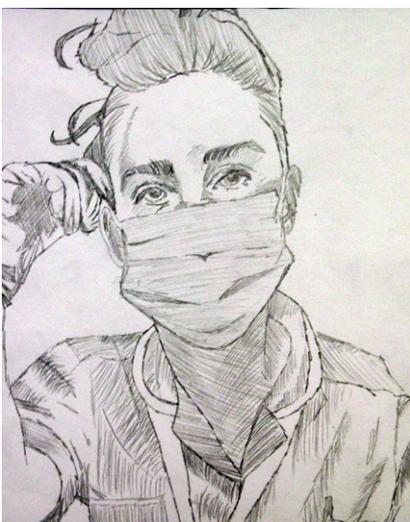
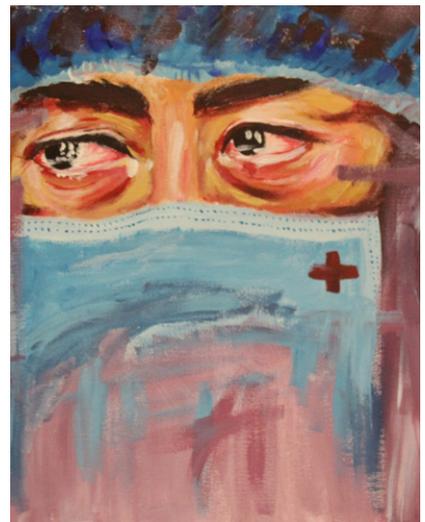
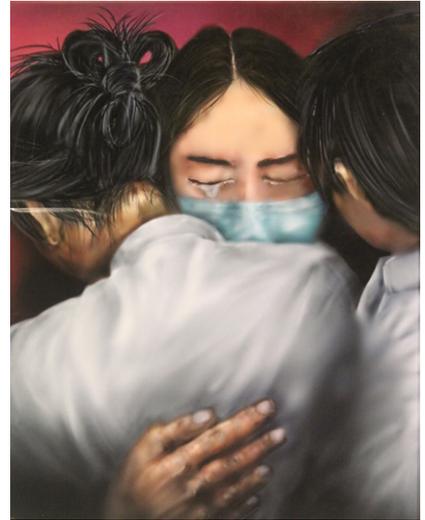
AN OUTSTANDING DISPLAY of creativity among our Year 12 students.



# MacKillop Portrait Prize

Jillian Young challenged our K-12 students to depict COVID-19 heroes for this inaugural art prize.

**THE MACKILLOP PORTRAIT** Prize was presented in a virtual exhibition and this year saw the introduction of a new category to encompass our entire K-12 community. You can view the entire collection on our website.



# In the studio... with Stage 5

*Ceramics - the form and function debate, explains Jillian Young.*

**CERAMICS IS A** popular medium to use in Stage 5. Both the 100-hour and 200-hour courses have experienced making with clay this semester. For some classes, it was a study into the design and functionality of teapots and sugar bowls, for others, making a functional mobile phone acoustic sound amplifier, with of course creative flair and appeal. Clay as a medium can offer our artists challenges, it can often dry out, while you are

still working on your piece, things can and do break off, but when the work survives the first firing in the kiln, and then is glazed, the sense of achievement is very pleasing. Our artists are now, looking forward to testing their functional pieces by having tea parties while listening to music!

Thank you to Reece Witt from Year 10 PDM for capturing these images.



Moulding the clay.



Ready for the first firing.



A finished ceramic teapot!

## Library news

*Jackie Crowe reminds us that the Library is a space for our whole school community.*

**THE LIBRARY HAS** been used widely this term by classes from K-12, and for several special activities. This term the Library has hosted HSC exams for our Extension Science students, Year 7 Orientation and AGAT testing, All My Own Work testing for Year 10 students, and NAPLAN lessons for Students in Years 2 and 4. Many of our students regularly visit the Library to read, borrow books, draw, study and complete learning tasks. The Library is a space for our whole school community.

Over 120 students from Kindergarten to Year 9 completed the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) this year. All these students will receive certificates for participation but those who have completed the PRC for the fourth year (not consecutive) or seventh year (not consecutive) will receive Gold and Platinum certificates respectively. The NSW Premier's Reading Challenge is always a great opportunity for all students to read more widely from a great range of Australian literature.

Our annual Christmas Book Fair was held in Week 6-7. For children, the Book Fair is a hands-on experience where they can get excited about books and ignite a lifelong passion for

reading. The Book Fair was set up in the Library during the week and students were given the opportunity to browse and create wish lists for parents/carers to purchase.

We are pleased to announce that the Library will be housing an iLab from early next year. With funding from a community grant, resources have been purchased, including a laser cutter, 3D printer and class sets of Lego Education SPIKE Prime. These resources will be used by classes and special interest groups to help develop creativity, critical thinking, design thinking and digital skills. This is a very exciting addition to our Library resources for all students K-12.



# Primary sport returns full throttle

*Kellie Denneman gives us an overview of a triumphant return to sport in Primary.*

**WE ARE EXTREMELY** thankful that much of our sport has returned to normal for the children, despite the frustration of COVID-19 regulations limiting parental involvement. Since our last edition of College Matters, we have seen lots of action in Primary sport, and from these photos it is clear how excited we are to be back enjoying all our internal and external sporting activity.

## **MACKILLOP SOCCER/NETBALL GALA DAYS**

Our Year 3-6 children enjoyed two fun combined soccer and netball gala days here at school late in Term 3. Despite not being able to use our Secondary PASS students as referees, the day was a hit with Primary students stepping up to show outstanding leadership by refereeing their peers. With all students evenly mixed into either a netball or soccer team so much enjoyment and sportsmanship was on display.

## **BOYS AND GIRLS RUGBY LEAGUE**

Our first return to inter-school competition was the re-scheduled NRL Rugby League Gala Day. Playing against both Catholic and government schools our girls and boys found the opposition extra tough. The girls were unlucky not to make the semi-finals. Thanks to Mr Black for preparing the teams and Mr Bondfield for coaching on the day, we loved being back competing.

## **SURF EDUCATION THEORY AND PRAC DAYS**

Central Coast Surf Lifesaving visited us here at school in the first week of Term 4 for the annual Surf Education Theory

presentations. These sessions were delivered to all year levels and provided a great information and preparation for the practical beach days. The Surf Education beach days for Years 3-6 are possibly the most enjoyable days on the calendar for our students. The weather was exceptional and the children had so much fun whilst learning essential beach safety skills.

## **YEAR 5/6 TOUCH GALA DAY**

Finally we were able to include a few essential helper parents at our CCC Touch Gala Day for Years 5/6. Under COVID-19 safe conditions a restructured non-competitive event with all schools travelling to and from venues by bus. Teams were evenly mixed and our students enjoyed playing games against St Mary's, St Brendan's, and St Cecilia's. Thanks to our Secondary students who did a fantastic job refereeing, without breaks, on the day. Our sister Primary schools were extremely appreciative.

## **KINDER AND YEAR 1 ATHLETICS FUN DAY**

This term it was time for our Kindergarten and Year 1 students to enjoy their Athletics Fun Day. To coincide with their learnings in Physical Education, we organized a range of track, field and novelty events for them to enjoy. Despite the warm conditions the children ran, threw and jumped with joy, many winning ribbons for their efforts in individual events. Our Year 9 PASS students assisted Primary staff to run these events and showed great leadership and initiative. We truly saw our K-12 community come together to make this an enjoyable day.





# Finally, representative sport is back!

Duncan Black *delights in reporting the return of Secondary representative sport.*

**2020 STARTED GREAT**, then COVID-19 hit the sporting community. All sports stopped like other recreational pursuits. Students and teachers at the College continued to stay active with COVID-19 workouts sent to students via their Google Classrooms from the PDHPE staff.

The BBSSA Sport Coordinator and Catholic Schools Broken Bay worked together to set up a round robin competition with Netball (Year 8 and Year 10 girls) and Touch (under 13 and 15 boys) form Term 4. Colleges were placed into two zones, a Central Coast Zone and Sydney Zone, with colleges playing each other fortnightly. I would like to thank Mrs Bernadette Werchon and Mrs Nicole Abel for taking the Netball teams.

## NETBALL

Round 1 - Year 8	MacKillop 18	St Joseph's 18
Round 1 - Year 10	MacKillop 33	St Joseph's 19
Round 2 - Year 8	MacKillop 28	St Peter's 18
Round 2 - Year 10	MacKillop 30	St Peter's 43
Round 3 - Year 8	MacKillop 36	St Brigid's 20
Round 3 - Year 10	MacKillop 36	St Brigid's 20

## TOUCH FOOTBALL

Round 1 - U13	MacKillop 3	St Edward's 14
Round 1 - U15	MacKillop 2	St Edward's 16
Round 2 - U13	MacKillop 9	St Peter's 5
Round 2 - U15	MacKillop 2	St Peter's 10
Round 3 - U13	MacKillop 5	St Brigid's 9
Round 3 - U15	MacKillop 2	St Brigid's 7

## BBSSA TENNIS

Our Championship boys were Mitchell Hamilton, William Ellis, and Lindon Selby-Smith. They won the pool game against St Peter's but lost to St Paul's. This was enough to put them into the semifinals against St Augustine's who were by far the strongest team in the competition. Unfortunately they lost that game in two close sets.

Our Championship girls were Ashleigh Jones, Alana Telfer, and Leah Krajewski. Though they played solidly in their pool games, unfortunately they did not make it through to the semifinal rounds. They were pleased with the way they played and came very close in some sets. The girls also felt positive about the future given that two of the girls are in Year 8, one is in Year 7 and they were competing against many other students who were in Year 10. Well done.

Our 17 Boys were Joshua Hyland, Joseph Merlino, and Lauchlan Bissaker. These boys were undefeated in their pool games and went through to the semifinal where they beat St Leo's. They then played St Edward's in the final but unfortunately lost in the final set after taking the second set. They were very proud to come home with their silver medals though!

Our 14 Boys were Alex Evans, Blake Hamilton, and Brendan Thompson. The boys were competitive in their pool games but unfortunately did not make it through to the semi-finals. A few controversial line calls went against them at crucial points which was a shame. However, the boys kept their cool and showed great sportsmanship.

Well done to all of our students!



# Kinder Yana

**Frank Cohen tells us about how 2021 Kindergarten students and parents participated in this new school readiness program.**

**AN EIGHT-WEEK ACTIVITY** program was condensed into four weeks due to COVID-19. Kinder Yana was launched into MacKillop in 2020, based on the Reggio Emilia investigative, play based approach to learning for preschool children. In Term 3, both parent and child were to participate in socially constructed tasks where the parent could help their child navigate their way through challenging tasks. Unfortunately, due to NSW Health restrictions what was planned for Term 3 had to be postponed to a later time.

During Term 4, a different version of Yana emerged where children worked on literacy, numeracy, fine motor and gross motor tasks with Year 5 helpers and College staff in the Kindergarten classrooms. Under strict COVID-19 tracing rules, parents were then treated to four presentations by College staff on the topics of AEDC (Australian Early Development Census), Literacy and Numeracy, Social and Emotional Topics and Getting Ready for School. Parents valued the opportunity

to hear the latest information and to ask questions about the 2021 school year.

While the parents were undertaking their own learning, the children were being assessed on the tasks at hand, and as a result the new 2021 Kindergarten classes were formed based on how the children worked with each other and to ensure that each class for 2021 was a mixture of abilities.

All children left wearing a school t-shirt and a bag full of free goodies in readiness for the year ahead. Parents were pleased that well ahead of time they know who their child's teacher will be and their classmates.

Although the new approach was a lot of work for the Kindergarten 2021 teachers, they equally appreciated the fact that classes have been designed based on the work the children undertook in each of the four sessions.

Kindergarten 2021, here we come!



# New leaders step up

*Year 5 start the journey toward 2021 leadership, recounts Megan Smith.*

**ON FRIDAY 6** November our excited Year 5 students gathered together to spend the day preparing for their roles as MacKillop leaders in 2021.

The children were welcomed by Mr Todd and Mr Cohen who shared guiding words of wisdom that set the mood for a day filled with challenging activities and team building tasks. The students were set to work discovering their 'inner leader,' thinking about the qualities they possess inside themselves, helping them to step up as Year 6 leaders. They brainstormed characteristics they could share with the school, created an app symbol to show who they were as leaders, discussed what good role models are and how they could follow in the footsteps of Mary MacKillop.

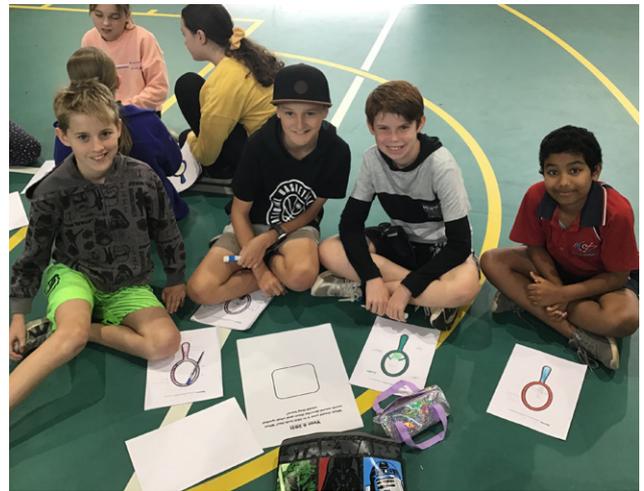
Students also learnt about the story of the MacKillop Houses. Sister Marea shared her journey as a Sister of St. Joseph and the impact of Mary MacKillop on her life. The students also learnt about the legacy of many significant MacKillop people, including founding Principal, Mr Stephen Aitken, Damien Hall and Ryan D'Annibale. The focus was on how the stories of these people are connected to MCC just as all our stories are connected, including the big story of Jesus

through the Gospel and the significance of our College motto of 'Christ Our Light.'

Year 5 finished the leadership day in the St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop Church with some more words of wisdom! This time from our current Year 6 Leaders, Joshua Allison and Phoebe Meers, together with 2020-21 Year 12 leaders. They reminded the students that even if they felt nervous, they possess the ability to challenge themselves and step up. The grade Mass, celebrated by Father Vince concluded the day and they all enjoyed a Subway lunch, followed by a relaxing afternoon.

We are very proud of the Year 5 students and their input from the day left the teachers excited about the wonderful leadership qualities they displayed.

From here, Year 5 students nominated five girls and five boys as leaders amongst their peers. These students presented speeches that outline their willingness and capacity to be a Primary Captain in 2021. We look forward to announcing our new Primary Captains at the Primary Awards on December 2.



# Peer support training

Julian Legge *praises the hard work of our incoming Peer Support leaders for 2021.*

**THE PURPOSE OF** the Peer Support Leaders training is to prepare students for their role as Peer Leaders, developing the skills necessary for effective facilitation of Peer Support groups. The training provides students with skills which are transferable across a range of contexts. This year we had 45 amazing Year 9 students apply and complete the Peer Support Leaders training.

The training was held over two days across Terms 3 and 4. Students learned skills that:

- foster the development of confidence, positive relationships, effective communication and time management skills.

- increase interpersonal skills, develop leadership and offer opportunities for students to practice these skills.
- highlight the importance of what a positive role model is, especially for young students transitioning into high school.

Over the two days the students were well behaved, respectful and engaged with the learning and activities of Peer Support Training. For me it was a great opportunity to work with an amazing group of students who I have not been heavily involved with previously. I really cannot speak highly enough of these leaders. I look forward to working with them in the upcoming Orientation for Year 6 students transitioning into Year 7 2021.



# Jerusalema

Debra Ferguson *delights in spreading the joy of this worldwide challenge.*

**IT IS ALWAYS** a challenge to learn a new dance routine and especially with the pressure of learning it with a large group of people. Yet, all our secondary students gave their best to try and learn this worldwide phenomenon.

The Jerusalema dance challenge has taken social media by storm. People around the world have shared videos of themselves dancing to the hit song Jerusalema by South African musician Master KG, featuring the voice of South African songstress Nomcebo. The dance challenge has provided moments of joy for many during the COVID-19 pandemic. The global challenge began after a group of friends in Angola shot a video of themselves dancing to the song in February, when the pandemic was beginning to look more serious and lockdowns were imminent.

Our Secondary Student Parliament wished to do something that would provide fun and exercise for our community during these times and so began dance practice for each year group and staff. Creating community events that are fun and promote good mental health are extremely important to us. We are now looking at a time when our year groups can mingle again, and we will have a Jerusalema dance-off between our House teams.



## Parent news

Natalie Tunstead *looks back over the last term and thanks our parent and carer community for their support.*

**TERM 4 HAS** seen an easing of COVID-19 restrictions which has allowed some activities to return to our event calendar. One of these was the Kinder Yana school readiness program which was a wonderful success by all reports from those involved. A special thank you to those parent volunteers who helped with morning tea during each session.

Early in the term we held our final PAST meeting for the year via Zoom. During this meeting discussions were held around end of year events and feedback/ideas sought for consideration when planning events in the future.

I think that this time last year many of us would not have heard of Zoom let alone have used the app. The parent update Zoom meetings for both Primary and Secondary have proved popular with the opportunity to ask questions and watch the recording at a later date.

We were successful in receiving the Catholic School Parents (CSP) Sustainability and Parent Engagement Grant of \$600. This will be used to buy paint and supplies to complete some art projects around the school. Parents will be asked to take



part in the planning and design process and hopefully we will look to implement this project early next year once restrictions have eased.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all our parent volunteers from our PAST, Grade parents and all our parents and carers who have helped out in any way. Even those small contributions all help to make our MCC community the wonderful place that it is. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas, take care and travel safe.

# Orientation day

**Kathleen Black** *describes the excitement and nerves from our Year 6 students.*

**ON FRIDAY 20** November the Year 6 students who will be attending the College next year in Year 7 were buzzing from excitement in the COLA ready to register and receive their name tags ready for the Orientation Day.

Students were put into their pastoral classes and were able to meet their fellow peers and make new friendships. This

day also provided opportunities for the students to bond with their pastoral class and learn more about the structure of the College. It also allowed students to ask plenty of questions, have a tour of the grounds and hopefully release some nerves.

We will meet them all again next year ready for Year 7 2021.

