

ISSUE 27 | WEEK 9, TERM 1 2021

COLLEGE**Matters**

Welcoming a new year
with new spirit



MACKILLOP
Catholic College
WARNERVALE

FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES

OUR 2020 GRADUATES

SPORT MAKES A TRIUMPHANT RETURN



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College Principal's message

Our College Principal, Steve Todd, acknowledges the positive start to 2021.

THE 2021 SCHOOL year is off and running and it has begun with great enthusiasm. After a very challenging 2020, it was good to know that many restrictions were beginning to be relaxed and that quite a number of events and activities could now be managed in a safe manner for the College community.

There were still adjustments to be made to many events that usually take place in Term 1, and there was now an air of optimism for making these events happen here at the College. We know that parents were still not allowed onto the campus (NSW Government rules) and we appreciate the frustration that this causes for parents. We are hopeful that once the vaccination program gets into full swing that things might look a bit more normal from Term 2 onwards.

So far this year, we have held the Welcoming Liturgies for Kindergarten students, a Commissioning Mass for Primary student leaders, the Senior Mass and Luncheon, Primary Parents goal-setting meetings, Swimming and Athletics Carnival, Year 7 Spirituality Days and the Ash Wednesday Ceremony for the start of Lent. All occasions were meaningful and appropriately organized for students, parents and staff.

On Wednesday 10 March, the College held our annual Open Day with tours, a showcase and some hospitality for visitors (all under COVID-19 regulations). This event was great to see, and the day proved to be most successful. It was certainly good to see people about the College Campus. Our thanks to staff and students for assisting with the operation of the day. Two Information Sessions (Kinder and Year 7 2022) were held for prospective parents and we thank the parents who

attended these sessions. Both Kinder and Year 7 enrolments are now open, and we encourage parents to have their child's application in as early as possible. Our Year 6 students have continued enrolment here at MacKillop right through to Year 12.

Our year also features two important milestones. Firstly, we are celebrating 200 Years of Catholic Education in Australia. The first Catholic School opened in Australia was St. Patrick's at Parramatta in 1820. Today, over three-quarters of a million students attend Catholic Schools right across Australia. The Catholic School system is often referred to as 'the jewel in the Church's crown.' The other important milestone for this year is the 150th Anniversary of St. Joseph as Patron of the Church. This milestone has been addressed in a letter to the Church by Pope Francis. As part of our celebrations, we gathered our Primary students for Mass on Friday 19 March to celebrate the significance of St. Joseph in our MacKillop Josephite community.

This year also sees our College community welcome Sheryllyn Kenney as Primary Assistant Principal. We are delighted to have such a highly-skilled professional educator assisting the development of our Primary School and I invite you to read a welcoming article by Primary Principal, Frank Cohen, in this edition.

As we head towards Holy Week and Easter, we are very hope-filled that our Church can connect with many more families for the ceremonies of Holy Week and Easter.

Blessings for a wonderful Easter.



High expectations

Frank Cohen, Primary Principal, welcomes our Primary community and introduces the theme for the new school year.

MACKILLOP CATHOLIC COLLEGE has started the year with approximately 600 Primary students, the highest ever in the school's history and the largest Primary school enrolment in the Diocese of Broken Bay by a considerable way. Such growth is both exciting and challenging as we try to shake off the shackles of COVID restrictions to begin anew.

One unintentional bonus of having limited parents on the school site was the way the students have returned to school from day one with little or no anxieties. There may be something in that for the future! At any rate we are in for some exciting times in the Primary school, especially with the addition to our staff with a new vibrant and positive Assistant Principal Mrs Sherylyn Kenney. Her arrival at the school has been welcomed by all, as she begins her work as a strongly credentialed leader of learning. We have also welcomed into our school community Mrs Samantha Mohan on Year 6, Mrs Bridgette Wilson-Bemet as professional release and Ms Leanne Schillert our new Music teacher.

The students are very excited to have music back in the classrooms taught by a specialist and there are an abundant amount of opportunities coming up for the children in band, ensemble, choir, and musical theatre. Leanne also has a very happy outlook and has brought a new freshness to the school.

Mrs Jones has begun in her new role as Diverse Learning Coordinator providing opportunities for many of our students

who have been identified as Gifted and/or High Potential. Cluster groupings of students across the stages of learning has begun where students are being extended in Maths and English.

The main theme of the year is high expectations. One way we are aiming to be the very best we can be is the introduction of Team-Teaching cohorts which teach small group instruction to identified groups of students based on Mathematical Assessment Interviews and diagnostic data. This means 3 teachers and not one, applies direct instruction to groups of students who need attention in reaching the next step in the learning process.

The school will participate in many external academic challenges this year. Students will represent our school in Robo Challenge, STEM and Tournament of the Minds.

We will also teach Social and Emotional Skills to all students through specialized programs such as Girl Power and Rock N Water. It is our eternal goal to develop the whole person which means academically, spiritually, emotionally, socially, and personally.

High expectations will mean stepping into the unknown for some, but with God on our side the wise words of Seneca act as an inspiration for the year ahead: "It is not because things are difficult that we do not dare; It is because we do not dare that they are difficult."



Secondary Principal's welcome

2021 is a year to be grateful, explains Secondary Principal, Debra Ferguson.

LET US START the new year with a challenge! Brad Gerrard, an outstanding professional with exceptional ability and talent in business development, executive leadership, operations and fiscal management, once said, "Believe in yourself, be strong, never give up no matter what the circumstances are. You are a champion and will overcome the dreaded obstacles. Champions take failure as a learning opportunity, so take in all you can, and run with it. Be your best and don't ever, ever give up."

In a time where we have all had to deal with so many challenges and changes in the past 12 months, I think this is great advice and should be a theme for us all this year. Let us start with a grateful heart that we live in a land where COVID-19 was not as deadly as it was in so many countries and that our students' education was only interrupted with home-based learning (HBL) for a short time here in NSW. Be grateful for the changes occurring to try and unite our country with our first people, be it a very slow process, and be grateful for each other in this school where we have kindness as a catch cry with teachers who truly care for their students.

We are all very hope-filled about 2021 and a slow return to some form of normalcy. Our students have commenced the school year well and have been able to re-commence some of our past activities and events with some changes. We have had assemblies, liturgies, and Period 6 conversations with some year groups in the Hall and live streamed into the

other year groups. Our Swimming Carnival and other sporting competitions were all organised around COVID-19 restrictions but a real relief to us all that our students may compete again.

We have welcomed a few new teachers and returning teachers. Ms Sarah Walton has joined us in the English and RE faculties and Ms Amelia Goodwin in the HSIE and RE faculties. Mrs Rochelle Calder and Mrs Liz Reynolds have returned from maternity leave and Mr John Hepworth and Mr Alan Evanson have returned after being away for some time. We also welcome Ms Darby Clark and Mrs Rebecca Hale who have joined us in a more permanent capacity.

For our students we challenge them again this year to never give up and realize the importance of the word, 'yet'. They need to keep working hard and persevere until they overcome any obstacles. We are still emphasizing visible thinking and their need to take responsibility for their learning. We are asking that all our parents take a strong interest in their child's learning and encourage them to be the best they can be.

2021 is a celebration of 200 Years of Catholic Education and we should all be so proud of our contribution to this wonderful achievement. Catholic schools have grown to become the largest provider of schooling in Australia (outside government schools) with one in five school age students attending a Catholic school. Let's make this year a year of celebration where we work closely as a community with acceptance for everyone.

We all belong here!

Steve Todd *introduces the new House stories booklet.*

AT THE START of this year, the College was proud to release our new House stories titled, 'We All Belong Here: A message from the Australian Heart.' It is the culmination of the work in establishing a stronger sense of 'Belonging' at the College that has taken six years of sharing, researching and creating. The process began in 2014 when the College selected six Houses that connect to the life story of Mary MacKillop. The Houses are among the places where Mary MacKillop lived or visited in her life that offered a great message of hope to the people of Australia. The colour for each House simply follows the alphabetical order of Blue, Gold, Green, Red, Purple and White. The Gospel Values and associated Scriptural link offered the connection to our Catholic heritage and College motto of 'Christ our Light'. Mascots and Indigenous stories were then researched allowing us to create and bring the connection of belonging to each House. It might be best described as a 'labour of love' and, it just underpins how special MacKillop Catholic College, Warnervale is.

'We All Belong Here' now brings together the threads for further developing our College's culture of belonging. Each chapter represents a place where Mary MacKillop's life took her, as well as for connecting with the Indigenous people of the land. The message from the Australian heart is to live with a deeper understanding and respect for both Mary MacKillop's story and for the rich heritage of Indigenous people.

There is the need now to bring to all Australians, the hope

of living harmoniously together respecting all of the stories and peoples of this Nation. Hopefully, this book inspires all our students, staff and families with a spirit of 'Belonging'.



INTRODUCTION

In 2003, MacKillop Catholic College was founded on Darkinjung Land at Warnervale on the Central Coast of NSW. The connection with the story of Mary MacKillop (St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop) had begun for students, staff and families of the College. This was to become our way of life.

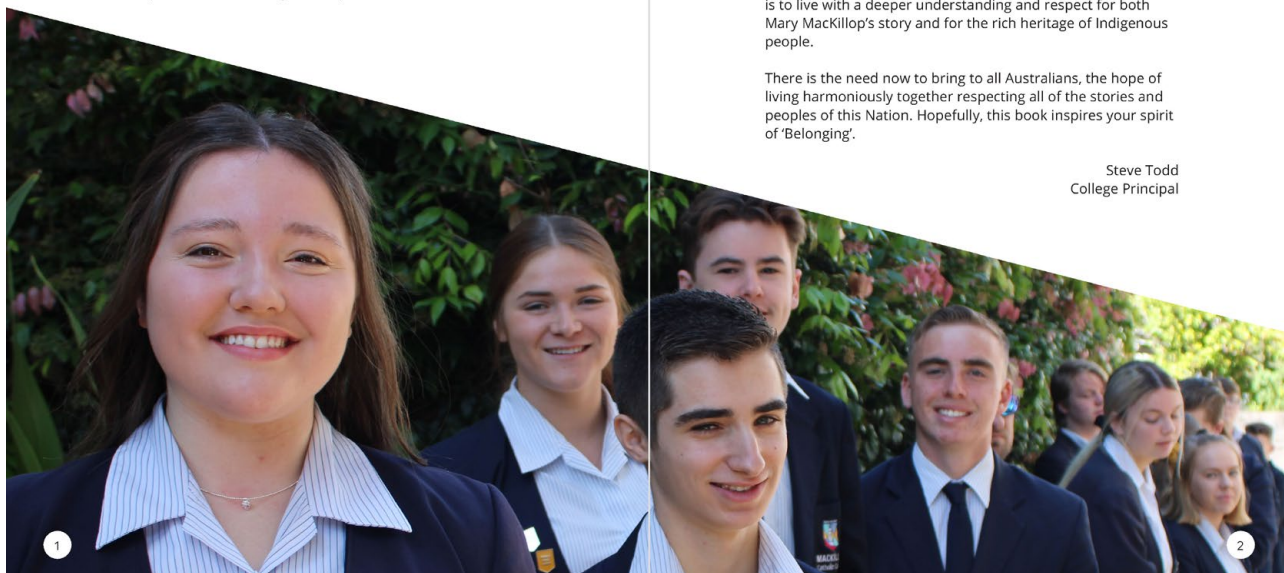
The history of the College from its very beginning has seen it grow and become a unique and special place. It was important that the College community embrace its Catholic heritage by developing a deeper respect for the Darkinjung People and for all Aboriginal People.

Along the way, six House groups were founded to celebrate the inspiring life of Mary MacKillop. There was a belief in offering a culture of hope that celebrated the College's motto of 'Christ Our Light' following in the footsteps of Mary MacKillop with a deeper respect for our Indigenous Peoples.

This book titled, 'We Can All Belong Here' now brings together the threads for further developing its culture of belonging. Each Chapter represents a place where Mary MacKillop's life took her, as well as for connecting with the indigenous people of the land. The message from the Australian heart is to live with a deeper understanding and respect for both Mary MacKillop's story and for the rich heritage of Indigenous people.

There is the need now to bring to all Australians, the hope of living harmoniously together respecting all of the stories and peoples of this Nation. Hopefully, this book inspires your spirit of 'Belonging'.

Steve Todd
College Principal



Farewell to Father Vince Casey

Steve Todd *offers our thanks to Father Vince.*

THE COLLEGE AND Parish were surprised to hear the news in mid-December that Father Vince had been appointed as Parish Priest of Terrigal and would be relocating to Terrigal in mid-January. This news came close to the end of the school year and our Yearbook publication had already been distributed and so, an appropriate acknowledgement could not be offered until the start of 2021.

The staff were able to farewell and thank Fr Vince at our end of year Christmas Mass and Fr Vince spoke of the privilege it was to work closely with the College community over the past six years. He saw MacKillop as a very special and blessed place and thanked everyone for their cooperation and assistance during his time as our Parish Priest.

Warnervale has now had three exceptional leaders as Parish Priests over the years. The foundation Parish Priest, Fr Brian Maloney, set the scene and oversaw the building of the Parish Church dedicated to Blessed Mary MacKillop. Fr John Hodgson CSsR took the fledgling Parish on reaching out into the community to establish tremendous bonds of friendship and compassion. Fr John had the Church rededicated to St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop after her canonisation as Australia's first Saint in 2010. Fr Vince Casey as a highly

regarded administrator set about overcoming many of the financial issues and wanted to allow the Parish to grow as a welcoming beacon to the rapidly growing local community. He often spoke about how people from far and wide travelled to Warnervale for Mass and that the local Parish was yet to arrive.

On behalf of the entire MacKillop family of Parish and College we thank Fr Vince for being our Pastor these past six years and we wish him every blessing for his new role at Terrigal.



Welcome Father Philip Thottam

Steve Todd *warmly welcomes Father Philip to the College.*

The College and Parish community were very pleased to welcome Father Philip Thottam back to Warnervale as Parish Administrator at the start of the year. Part of welcoming new people is about getting to know their story and working out what their particular gifts are. For us, to already know Fr Philip who had looked after the Parish in 2019, whilst Fr Vince recovered from knee replacement surgery, we had already established a good working relationship between Parish and school. So, it was a matter of reacquainting ourselves and working together in partnership once again. The warm and friendly nature of Fr Philip made this task quite easy.

Fr Philip has returned to us in a very positive and engaging way. He adapted to the COVID-19 changes and supported us by celebrating many beginning of the year liturgies. The thoughtful way that Fr Philip goes about preparing his homilies has impressed us all, as he goes out of his way to connect to the needs of each specific group. Fr Philip's homily at the Senior Mass in February was inspiring as he gave the students a clear understanding for how they could approach the year ahead.

Fr Philip possesses a terrific sense of humour, as he took much satisfaction from his homeland's cricket team of India



giving the Australian Test Team a timely lesson in winning Test Matches. He also knows how to challenge our thinking and to look at things in a way that respects all people.

We also know Fr Philip has a great affection for Mary MacKillop and his support for this Catholic community as our Pastor will offer us a growing connection to the love of God and his Church. We wish Fr Philip every blessing for his time in our Parish and College community.

Introducing Mrs Sherylyn Kenney

Frank Cohen *explains how a new energy and zest for learning are the hallmarks for our new Primary Assistant Principal.*



MRS SHERYLYN KENNEY was selected over a strong field of applicants to become our new Primary Assistant Principal. She is an experienced educator who most recently was Acting Assistant Principal at Our Lady of the Rosary School, Wyoming.

Sherylyn is bubbling with enthusiasm and her energy rubs off on everyone she meets. Her passion is to meet the needs of every child and that every child is valued and appreciated.

Her qualifications include a post graduate degree in Diverse Learning, where she has worked as a Learning Support Teacher and Gifted and High Potential Educator.

The main thrust of Sherylyn's work is to lift the academic standards across K-6. She is working closely with our new Diverse Learning Coordinator, Mrs Karen Jones, and is establishing cluster groups of students who are being enriched and extended in English and Mathematics.

Professional Learning Teams have been established across the Primary School where Sherylyn will work closely with class teachers on planning, modelling and team teaching to bring about the best results for all students. A key plank to improving results is a thorough interrogation of student data which began at the beginning of this school year with one on one assessment interviews for each student. Sherylyn is big on teachers knowing the Zone of Proximal Development for each student and designing explicit lessons for improvement in learning outcomes.

The school is very pleased to have Sherylyn on board. She is a breath of fresh air and has brought a new zest and energy for learning across K-6.

Farewell and thank you

Debra Ferguson *farewells one of our College's original staff, Kerrie Calphy.*

IN 2003 MACKILLOP was founded with 13 staff members and 131 students. These staff members are often referred to as 'The Originals' and it is always with a sad but grateful heart when we say goodbye to any of these thirteen people. Our next 'Original' to depart will be the very much loved Mrs Kerrie Calphy who is retiring at the end of Term 1 this year.

When people think of schools, they think of teachers but every teacher knows that schools only run as well as the support staff who work beside them every day to look after all the many duties that are required for an efficient and caring school. Kerrie has served us all for the past 18 years, originally setting up our Canteen in a demountable, making it a welcoming place for our students and staff and also all the parents volunteers. Her canteen area was often used for assemblies, dance rehearsals and a place to retreat when it was raining, and she always welcomed everyone with a warm smile and a desire to help in any way she could. Kerry then moved on to become our beloved 'photocopy lady'.

These jobs truly require someone with patience, integrity, good humour and a wish to serve others. She has always been ready to participate in anything the College was trying to do and any event held and she has been a great listener



to all the staff as they tell her about their day or what has been happening at home whilst depositing their photocopying requests.

Kerrie's retirement is not just from MacKillop, but she has also faithfully served in Catholic education at both Mater Dei and St Peter's before coming to us. She has been a treasure for decades for hundreds of teachers and students and we wish her every happiness for her future and a well-earned rest to be able to spend with her family. God Bless you, Kerrie!

Welcome to Kinder and families

Frank Cohen *extends a warm welcome to our Kindergarten families.*

KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS OF today are known as the Alpha generation and are the children born to Millennials. The students entering our schools for the first time will be entirely born and shaped in the 21st Century and will see the 22nd Century in record numbers. Any children born after 2010, which very much includes Kindergarten, are the most materially provided and technologically literate of all the world's citizens.

The most popular names of the Alpha kids for a boy is Noah, Oliver and William and for a girl it is Olivia, Ava and Amelia. There are 2.8 Million Gen Alpha babies born each week around the world!

Understanding the generation helps when it comes to designing learning that will meet the needs of these learners not only for today but for the future ahead. We live in exciting times and what we did not think was possible 18 months ago is often a reality of today.

86 Kindergarten students have begun their educational journey with us here at MacKillop. We are blessed to have you as part of our community and welcome you with open arms as we travel the school education journey together.

There are so many rich learning opportunities ahead in 2021 and with dedicated and caring teachers you are all in firm, secure and nurturing hands.

In the words of Dr Seuss: "You're off to great places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting, so ... get on your way!"



Welcome to Year 7 and families

Debra Ferguson *reminds us that every child is important at MacKillop.*

'YOU ARE WALKING into the school gates with your backpack on, wearing a stiff new uniform, your shiny new shoes still need breaking in, you do not really know everybody or anybody, and your hands are slightly sweaty... Starting a new school is a big deal! You are going to meet lots of new people and be thrown into new situations. That is bound to make you feel lots of different emotions. It could be exciting and fun, but for some, it could make you feel scared and worried." Sound familiar?

This year we have welcomed many new students and families into not just Year 7 but throughout Years 8-11. We are so excited to welcome everyone that has joined our community and truly hope that by now all our students have made friends and are feeling part of this wonderful school. We also hope that all our parents are feeling secure and happy with their choice to send their child to our College and that we all move forward together to assist your children to fulfill their dreams for the future.

Being new is a challenge and we invite all parents to contact the staff if they have any concerns or questions and that you stay abreast of all events and your child's progress by being connected through Compass, the College website, our App and through the College Facebook page and Facebook

parent groups. If you do not know how to access these, please contact the College for assistance.

Every child is important to us. Please also contact the College if there is information about your child that could assist us to support them. We are an inclusive school where all are welcome and the more we know about your child, the more we can help them to thrive. God bless you all for a great 2021.



Year 6 2020 Graduation

Jeanette Noonan, Luke Bondfield, Simone Merrotsy *and* Karen Jacobs congratulate and celerate Year 6 2020.

WHAT A POSITIVE way to end the year with the Year 6 Graduation. It was lovely to have two family guests to attend for each student, making the final celebration even more special. The children particularly enjoyed watching special tribute videos made for them by their family and teachers who were not able to attend due to COVID restrictions.

The evening celebrations saw the Year 6 children and their teachers come together to enjoy a feast of burgers and other tasty delights. The photo booth was a fantastic way for the children to capture lasting memories of their Primary friends. The DJ played awesome music and saw many new dance moves! What an exciting future these students have as they step into Secondary school life









Our 2021 Primary Leaders

Blessing our leaders for a wonderful year, Tim Snelling.

THE MACKILLOP PARISH community officially welcomed our Primary leaders and Student Representative Council (SRC) members on 19 February at a special Commissioning Mass celebration. Students from Years 1 to 5, as well as the 20 House and portfolio leaders of Year 6, were welcomed and blessed by Father Philip, the College Executive and the parents and parishioners who also attended the Mass. Each student received their badge during the celebration and were then welcomed by the school community during our afternoon assembly. Congratulations to all of our school leaders and SRC representatives.

Year 6 House Captains

Alma	Antal Josy, Dalia Hancock
Fitzroy	Brea Wilson, Olivia Abraham
Gesu	Seleena Dao, Maddox Morley
Kincumber	Cora Logan, Tahlia Sanders
Penola	Jackson Grace, Jade Norton
Temuka	Ryan Hain, Angelina Katalinic

Year 6 Leaders

Captains	Connor Farrugia, Abbey Seaman
Mission	Lara Stanford, Abbey Robertson
Learning Culture	Jaimen O'Donnell, Sasha Wolfenden
Wellbeing	Levi Park, Joshua Norris

Student Representative Council (SRC)

Year 1	Giulia Caruana, Jax Sales, Reagan Moore, Bentley Tammekand, Bethel George, Dean Bond
Year 2	Max Seaman, Jett Franke, Daizy O'Keeffe, Louis Williamson, James Stockwell, Isabelle Lee
Year 3	Macy Greentree, Noah Kilham, Keeley Murphy, Axel Sales, Audrey Hill, Nate Bond
Year 4	Bronte Borg, Ryder Ventura, Ethan Bridgett, Mikayla Jones, Georgia Harris, Ethan Ampoma-Gyamfi
Year 5	Riley Murphy, Brianna Alcid, Claire Schumacher, Anatalia Jarrett, Heath Vassallo, Alexis Johnson



Senior Mass and Luncheon

Celebrating our senior students with a Mass, a meal and some words of wisdom, Chrystal Price.

ON 8 MARCH, Year 11 and Year 12 students and staff celebrated the Senior Mass and Luncheon. The day began with a beautiful celebration of the Eucharist in the Stephen Aiken Hall. The Mass focussed on praising God for the various gifts and talents of our senior students and asking for His blessing as we began a new school year. During his homily, Fr Phillip enlightened the students about the need for courage, perseverance and prayer in their lives as they journey throughout their last years of the College. The Year 11 students received their senior student badges, and all the students affirmed their role as senior students of MCC by saying the Senior Student Pledge.

Students in Year 11 and staff then travelled down to the Wyong Leagues Club where they attended the Senior Luncheon event. The Year 11 students were accompanied by special guests including: the two past College Captains, students who receive the top ten ATARs in the College, students who come first in the Diocese in a particular subject or students who receive call backs from on-stage and the like. Those students are presented with awards and inform us on what they will be doing after having left the College and all enjoyed a two-course sit down meal.

Throughout the Luncheon Year 11 students listened to a variety of speeches about how to be successful in their senior years at MCC. It was great to hear from our College Dux, Ryley Small. In his address he encouraged the students to make the most of all the opportunities presented to them in order to maximise their success. Our special guest speaker Kyle Beaver, an ex-student of the College, discussed his journey of study and work beyond MacKillop. He reiterated to the students that there are many paths one can take to get a

person to their intended destination. He also emphasised to our Year 12 students to enjoy every moment of the last year of High School. We were fortunate to have Mr Danny Casey, the Director of Schools for Broken Bay attend the Luncheon. He finished up the Luncheon informing students that they too can be the 'very best of the best' if they take on board the advice given throughout the day.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions Year 12 were not able to be present at the Wyong Leagues Club. However, the speeches were recorded and shown to Year 12 at a pastoral period. Year 12 did participate in their own luncheon on-site in the Aiken Hall and below is a snippet from the Year 12 Pastoral Leader about what occurred for the Year 12 students.

Overall, this was a great way to begin the year and we are grateful to the College Leadership team for providing the senior students with such a wonderful experience.

Mrs Rachael Elcoate, Leader of Pastoral Care - Year 12:

"The Senior Luncheon had a different flavour for Year 12 this year. A special, more intimate lunch was planned for Year 12 on-site. The theme for Year 12 was launched as 'Think outside the box, spread your wings and shine' and the focus of the day was geared towards motivation and maximum achievement. Special guests from two charities also attended: Central Coast Kids in Need and The Ronald McDonald Family Room at Gosford. Students heard about the wonderful work these charities do and how we can best support them. Students were treated to a pizza lunch and ice cream. At the end of the day, students received their hoodies to celebrate the start of their final year of schooling".





Voices of hope and change

Reminiscing and reflecting on the JJAMM experience, Chloe Benson and Jesse Slattery.

ON 13 FEBRUARY, we attended a 5-day leadership camp called JJAMM (Joseph, Julian and Mary MacKillop). Over the past few years, JJAMM has served as a way of inspiring and developing senior school leaders through Josephite values and current world issues. The Josephite schools that attend JJAMM usually come from all states and territories around Australia and New Zealand. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, only nine Josephite schools from New South Wales and one school from Queensland could attend. During our time at JJAMM, we collaborated with other school captains and our very own Mrs Baxter in the effort to implement strategies to help our community and raise awareness of current social justice issues.

We began our journey at Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney where we met with the other nine Josephite schools and gathered as one community to begin our JJAMM journey. Here we learnt more about each other and about Mary MacKillop's life and her legacy as a leader. After a long day in the city, we travelled to Kincumber where we called it home for the next four days. Over our JJAMM experience we were

able to reflect as leaders through Josephite values and how we can contribute our own unique gifts and talents throughout our school as well as life outside of the College. We feel so fortunate to have been given the opportunity to attend JJAMM and form friendships we hope will last a lifetime. We both feel so honoured that we were allowed to represent our College at such an important event amongst the Josephite community as it opened our eyes to brand new possibilities for our schools future.

At JJAMM we both have pledged to regain our community spirit which has been affected through these turbulent 12 months and are currently implementing strategies to make this possible. This experience would not have been possible without the support we have received from Mr Todd, Mrs Ferguson and Mrs McGuinness. We are so grateful for the support you have given us by allowing us to go to JJAMM and become more inspired as leaders. We would also like to thank Mrs Wells and Mrs Baxter for accompanying us to and from JJAMM safely and being there to experience this journey with us.



JUMPers begin 2021

We have well and truly started 2021 in the world of JUMP, Michelle Baxter.

THE JUMP (JOSEPHITES Undertaking Mission Projects) program has seen a busy Term 1 for our JUMPers with many events taking place in the first few weeks of term. Many students across Years 7-10 volunteered at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Stall, as well as during the Swimming Carnival to assist with our Clean-Up Australia Day event. Year 8 students, in particular, have shown their eagerness and excitement for JUMP, with many participating in numerous community service and initiatives the College has to offer with some students already having participated in over 50 hours of service!

The JUMP Variety Group attended Camp Breakaway as part of Thursday Afternoon Sport in Week 4. Camp Breakaway specializes in providing respite care for people with disabilities and their carers. During their time at the camp, our students played ball games including cricket, tennis and basketball, some tried their luck at ball toss, while others enjoyed time

socialising. Angelina from Year 9 described her experience, "Although it was a little confronting at first, I had a great time and I'm really looking forward to coming back here again."

The Mini Vinnies have regrouped, meeting on several occasions already this term to plan for our Winter Appeal which will take place in Term 2. A number of excellent ideas have been put forward as part of this initiative. A large number of Year 7 students have joined, bringing the group to over 30 members which is very impressive. We look forward to the upcoming commissioning ceremony next term where our Mini Vinnies will be fully inducted as part of the group and receive their badges and certificates.

It is truly inspiring to see the hard work and initiative of our students making a difference in our College and local community.



YMCC: Leaders in the making

Maisie Tenev *highlights the students striving to develop their skills through Youth Ministry.*

STUDENTS WHO GET involved in youth ministry do not often know what to expect. Students who get involved in youth ministry will often participate in multiple groups, because they really enjoyed their first experience. Students who get involved in youth ministry do not necessarily plan to develop their confidence and leadership skills, but this is what has been happening with the YMCC students.

The Year 9 Alpha group has been meeting every Monday afternoon and although these students have already completed Alpha multiple times, they are developing their communication and leadership skills. The students are taking it in turns to lead icebreakers and the group discussions with each other. They also discuss potential challenges that may arise when leading their own group and how to address these issues in an appropriate and positive manner. Please pray for our Alpha students, as they continue to develop as leaders throughout the term.

In Week 5 this term, Year 7 students participated in a two-day RE excursion. A group of Year 10 students assisted as leaders during the Year 7 Spirituality Days. The YMCC students led games and icebreakers and worked with the teachers and students over the course of the two days. Our Year 10 helpers were Maddyson Cobb, Georgia Armstrong, William Hagan, Zara Christensen, Brayden Johnson and Charlie Sewell. Congratulations and well done for the great work you did with Year 7!

On Friday 19 February, students from Years 8-10 participated in a Virtual Praisefest. This youth-based event is run by Catholic Youth Broken Bay once a term and the theme for this Praisefest was on Lent. The students played different games before having pizza for dinner and then viewed the actual Praisefest. Thank you to those who attended and to Mr Legge and Mrs Price for their assistance. It is a true blessing to be a part of this community!



Understanding our MacKillop history

Corrine Patil *reports on how Year 7 have begun their spiritual journey.*

ON 23-24 FEBRUARY, our Year 7 students attended the annual RE excursion to St Joseph's Spirituality and Education Centre at Kincumber. This excursion is an opportunity for students to learn about Saint Mary MacKillop and her connection to Kincumber. It provided a place and space for students to engage with the culture and mission of our College through a range of activities and games that solidified what it means to be part of MCC and the individual role as a member of our College. Students learnt what it means to be a light to the world and how they might demonstrate this in their day to day lives.

Students valued the museum tour, in which they were exposed to the history of our area through a range of historical

sources and artifacts. The tour of the grounds gave students the opportunity to see what life was like for the boys who lived and learnt at Kincumber. The afternoon saw students enter the Church where Sr Jiji ran a Q&A session. The students had many relevant and interesting questions about the Catholic faith and learnt lots about Sr Jiji.

Myself and other staff were very proud of the behaviour and engagement of our Year 7 students. We hope they enjoyed their first excursion at MacKillop Catholic College and that this opportunity opened the students to the culture of the school and started them well on their path of shining bright in Mary MacKillop's image.



An assuring HSC performance

Mel McGuinness proudly provides a snapshot of the 2020 HSC results.

DATA IS A useful tool for reflection and is best used when we ask ourselves questions and know the narrative behind that data. Across the globe the narrative is the same. It is a story of challenge in a time of global pandemic, social distancing and isolation. In the face of this adversity, our students, with the support of their teachers, have continued the fine performance of honour listings. We extend our congratulations to the entire HSC Class of 2020 and all our staff, as these achievements reflect the impressive reputation of the College's learning culture.

A significant proportion of the candidature of the HSC Class of 2020 has recorded a credible HSC performance with 88.9% of all HSC entries achieving Band 3 and above. The statistics are even more impressive with close to 61.9% of all listings representing Band 4 and above with a most commendable level of 20.9% of all listings representing the top two bands.

HSC Results 2020 All Courses N= 103

Bands	6+E4	5+E3	4+E2	3	2	1
Listing	8	113	238	157	56	8
%	1.4	19.5	41	27	9.6	1.4
Variation from 2019	-1.6%	-3.5%	3%	1%	2.6%	0.6%

A significant number of HSC Courses achieved above the State Mean, 35.7% courses in total. A range of courses continue to be among our best performed courses with over 2 average marks above the State mean. MacKillop HSC students have performed above the State mean in these courses:

Community and Family Studies	5.6
Dance	0.3
English Standard	0.1
Industrial Technology	4.7
Mathematics Standard 1	8.2
Society of Culture	1.8
Studies of Religion II	2.9

Business Services	1.6
Construction	6.7
Hospitality	3.8

The College proudly acknowledges the top performing students with 6 students achieving 8 honour listings across 6 subjects. Ryley Small achieved 6 units at honour listing level. There were three honour listings in Community and Family Studies, and one each in Ancient History, Society and Culture, Biology, Visual Arts and Industrial Technology. Many of our students achieved first in the Diocese of Broken Bay in the following subjects: Biology, Dance, Construction, and Hospitality - Kitchen Operations.

We congratulate the following students for receiving 8 honour listings in the 2020 HSC:

Ryley Small	Ancient History, Community and Family Studies, Society and Culture
Pyper Denneman	Community and Family Studies
Thomas Drake	Biology
Abbey Fitzgerald	Visual Arts
Brodie Witt	Industrial Technology
Mia Thomas	Community and Family Studies

TOP TEN ATAR STUDENTS

Congratulations to Ryley Small who achieved the highest ATAR of 92.4 and so deservedly becomes the College Dux. We join in congratulating the top ten ATAR students:

Ryley Small	92.4
Nathan Vassallo	
Thomas Drake	
Pyper Denneman	
Kaila Andrews	
Benjamin Fleming	
Olivia Knight	
Connor Liston	
Joshua Burgess	
Ebony Glynn	



Proudly embracing culture

Marilyn Fraser *provides an overview of Indigenous culture and looks forward to watching our students grow in 2021.*

THE DEADLY DIDGE Group has returned for 2021 at MacKillop, practicing in the Secondary Japanese kitchen. Dominic Bunyan, a proud Year 9 student, will be leading the group and teaching didgeridoo skills. The group welcomes all Primary and Secondary boys, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous. The Deadly Didge Group have performed for our College Open Day, Masses, Acknowledgement to Country, and other special events.

Ember-Rose Rutherford, Year 11, was one of several MacKillop students who were nominated for the Central Coast Australia Day Youth Award and she also received a personalised letter from Emma McBride for her 300 hrs of community service with St John Ambulance.

Blake Escott, Year 11, has gained a place in the pilot new musical through International Junior music theatre. He auditioned and was selected for the Aussie All-Stars which will see Blake travelling to New York and Atlanta in 2022!

We were blessed to receive a donation of Indigenous

artefacts from Chael Clementson's grandfather, Cliff Spencer, these included a woomera, spear, paintings on bark, didgeridoos - all over 100 years old. The artefacts will be honourably displayed in our Library.



In the studio... Art Club

Jillian Young *gives us an insight into Art Club during Thursday Afternoon Sport.*

ART CLUB IS a popular activity to do during sport and activity time on a Thursday afternoon. Year 8 students have been in the studio, planning and making ceramic bowls, cardboard box

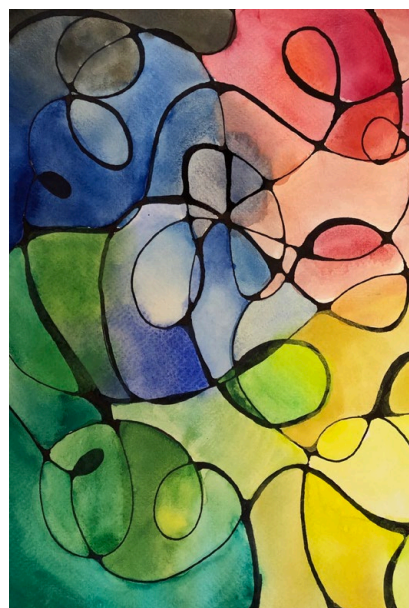
masks and completed a session on Neurographic Art. A very relaxing and mindful time for students as they used sharpies and watercolour paint to create their works.



Evie Davies-Fullick of Year 8.



Students mindfully working in the studio.

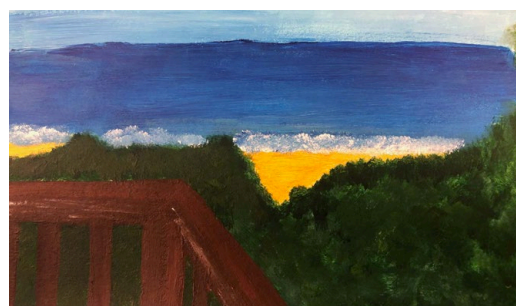
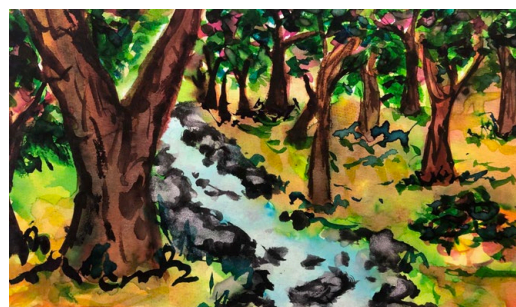
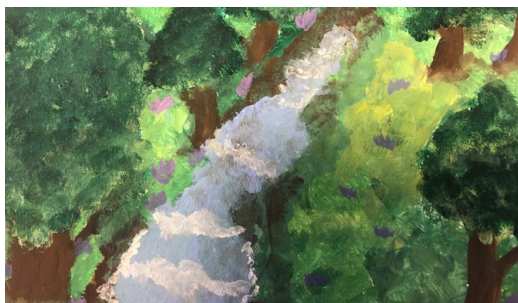


Neurographic Artwork: The Art of Positive Change.

Artists of excellence

Jillian Young showcases how Year 11 Visual Art students respond to the landscape.

THIS TERM, YEAR 11 have been exploring and responding to the natural world using a range of materials and local environments. Students have investigated Impressionism's use of the landscape and light and its influence on Australian artists landscape painting. It has been great to see students develop their own art making practice at a senior level.



Bugs that need debugging

Jackie Crowe *assures us there is no insect plague in the Library!*

DURING LIBRARY LESSONS this term, all Primary students have spent time with our Teacher Librarians and their classroom teacher, developing their coding skills using code.org. Students are learning that coding is a method of communicating with a computer in a language that the computer understands. Coding allows us to create things such as computer software websites, apps and video games. We assure you we do not have an insect plague in the Library! If your child has come home talking about bugs and debugging after their Library lesson, they are using coding terminology for finding errors (bugs) in their coding and fixing (debugging) it.

The benefits of computer programming include improved logical and critical thinking, developing persistence and resilience, improved communication skills, improved problem solving and mathematical skills, and provides satisfaction.

Groups of students have started using the new Library STEAM Learning Area this term. This space is equipped with:

- 3D printers

- Laser cutter
- LEGO Spike Prime
- Robotic Spheros and BeeBots
- Green Screen
- Art/craft materials

The NSW Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) has officially begun (1 March to 20 August) and there are many PRC books available in our library, or your local library.

The Australian STEM Video Game Challenge has also started this term and we already have teams registered for the Year 5-8 and the Year 9-12 competition. The goal of this competition is to create a playable video game in teams of up to four students. This year's theme is 'scale'.

At the time of printing this edition, our annual Secondhand Book Sale is running in the library, to raise funds for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. The Foundation helps to provide books and literacy programs to remote communities where they are needed most.



A new year of Primary sport!

Kellie Denneman *highlights the sporting achievements of Term 1.*

THE BEGINNING OF 2021 shows some promising results in sport!

Primary Swimming Carnival

We were able to recognize the outstanding achievements of our swimmers early this term following the 2021 Carnival held in December. Congratulations to Penola who were convincing winners of the House trophy and Cora Logan and Lauren Baird who both set individual records.

We congratulate our Age Champions:

8 Years	Nixon Masters and Sophie Norris
9 Years	Jacob Jarrett and Georgia Harris
10 Years	Krystal Lees and Riley Norris
11 Years	Jackson Grace and Claire Schumacher
12/13 Years	Levi Park and Lauren Baird

CCC Swimming Carnival

A wonderful team of enthusiastic swimmers represented the College at the CCC Swimming Carnival at Mingara on 22 February. MacKillop finished 5th place overall on the points tally with 7 swimmers qualifying to swim at the Broken Bay Twilight Carnival on 9 March. Congratulations to individual swimmers Lauren Baird, Krystal Lees, Nixon Masters and Levi Park, and our senior girls relay team consisting of Lauren Baird, Tegan Leslie, Cora Logan and Claire Schumacher.

Cross Country

We had been working hard in PE this term to prepare for this year's Cross Country and the personal best performances on the day showed how worthwhile the effort was. Congratulations to everyone who set achievable goals and ran so well – you should be so proud of your efforts. The top 8 finishers in each age group have qualified to run at the CCC Cross Country next term. We congratulated them at assembly and will publish the names on the sport noticeboard.

We give a special mention to the following Age Champions for this event:

8 Years	Lillian Weary and Cameron Falconer
9 Years	Georgia Harris and Lochie Farrugia
10 Years	Scarlett Clark and Ethan Ampoma-Gyamfi
11 Years	Rahni Deeley and Ryan Hain
12/13 Years	Madeleine Felton and Joshua Norris

Yet again we handed the perpetual trophy to Penola who accumulated the most points per house.

Sporting Schools AFL

After receiving Term 1 Sporting Schools funding we have been delighted to have the AFL visit us and deliver a 4-week skills program for Years 1-6 inclusive. Fridays have been a lot of fun for everyone with each grade spending 40 minutes together. We have played lots of engaging games and learnt many transferable skills. Well done to the children on their enthusiasm and participation.

NRL Roosters Assembly Visit

We were delighted to have two local girls currently playing for the Roosters visit our school in Week 6. Together with an NRL development officer the children in Years 3-6 took part in a presentation called Inspire. The presentation was engaging and had lots of great health and wellness messages. A lucky number of children took part in an activity and earned themselves a prize. Many took home autographs of some future stars.

Broken Bay Twilight Swimming

We had 7 swimmers represent our school and the Central Coast at Broken Bay Swimming on Tuesday evening. Our Senior Girls Relay team (Lauren Baird, Tegan Leslie, Claire Schumacher and Cora Logan) finished 4th and narrowly missed qualifying for Polding. With outstanding swims 4 individual swimmers have qualified to progress to Polding Swimming in Week 9: Congratulations Levi Park (2nd 12yr 50m Breaststroke), Lauren Baird (2nd 12yr 100m Freestyle), Kystal Lees (3rd Junior 50m Breaststroke) and Nixon Masters (2nd 8yr 50m Freestyle).





Representative sport has returned!

Duncan Black *provides an update on the opportunities to represent the College.*

WELCOME TO 2021, with the start of the new year comes new opportunities to represent the College in sport at MacKillop Catholic College. As we near the end of term, students have had some excellent results. While the College's major carnivals have not all been completed at the time of printing this edition, we await the results of our age groups champions and House champions which will be finalised by Week 9.

The College has had four Touch teams that have represented at BBSSSA tournaments. While at these tournaments, the students can have the opportunity to be selected into Broken Bay Secondary Schools Sport Association (BBSSSA) teams and the New South Wales Combined Catholic Colleges (NSWCCC) teams.

This semester the College will be entering several BBSSSA competitions including the Opens Touch Football, 13 and 15 Girls and Boys Touch Football, Swimming, Cross Country and Open Boys/Girls Soccer.

BBSSSA Opens Touch Football

Both the boys and girl's teams played extremely well. With girls making it through to the semi-final against Mount Saint Benedict, who were the eventual champions. Our boys team played gallantly against stronger oppositions, all day with very close losses.

The gala day is also selection trials for the BBSSSA touch football teams. I would like to congratulate Samara Ross of Year 12 on her selection into this team. Samara will now travel to Port Stephens later in the term.

BBSSSA 15 Girls/Boys

The gala day was played in Manly, so it was a long trip, and an early start. On arrival the teams got stuck into their competitions. All teams played well and had a very positive experience, despite the hot weather, and their sportsmanship was of a high standard.

I would like to congratulate Annabelle Ross of Year 9 on her selection into the Under 15 team. Annabel will now travel to Port Stephens later in the term.

BBSSSA Rugby League

The Rugby League trials were held in Week 5. We congratulate Blake Field (Year 9), Tayte Bayley (Year 8) and Josiah Fesolai (Year 9) on their selections into the Under 15 team.

BBSSSA Swimming

The College swim team travelled to the Sydney Olympic Aquatic Park Centre in Homebush in Week 6. The students that attended compete at a very high level and several personal bests (PBs) were achieved. Congratulations to Tyson Scicluna, Noah Sanchez (U16 Boys Age Champion) and Cooper Burgess (U12 Age Champion) on their selection into BBSSSA swim team.

NSW CCC

NSW CCC also have individual selection trials for their teams, many students take this opportunity to trial for their chosen sport. Congratulations goes to Karan Katli of Year 12 on being selected into the NSW CCC Open Mens Cricket Team.





A bright start for Kinder

Cath Paholski, John Sullivan and Cathy Whitmore *describe the wonder, awe and excitement from Kindergarten's first day.*

WITH ABUNDANT ENERGY and excitement, a few tears and a big wave goodbye to parents, Kindergarten 2021 arrived in the College. Entering big school in their special new uniforms, with black shoes and bags bigger themselves, we realised that the first day of Kindergarten is something to be treasured and remembered. We did not let COVID-19 interfere with our plans to make the first day special and memorable for students and parents alike. We are so blessed to be a part of their journey.

With many questions and big smiles we settled into the first day with a story, song, colouring in a 'first day of Kindergarten' crown and a fruit break. As they settled into big school, nerves were left behind. Interacting with each other, social play and talking with one another with kindness is such an important part of Kindergarten and one they started exploring from day one.

Students quickly settled into Kindy life making many new friends, learned about daily routines, what to eat and when, the 5 L's and how to be a Bucket Filler! They have also understood the importance of how to share with friends, speak kindly and help others.

During our first few weeks, we have had Music with Ms

Schillert, visited the library, looked at coding and borrowed books enthusiastically with Mrs Martin. We have enjoyed PE with Mrs Denneman where we have been learning to play with cooperation and ball skills. A highlight was meeting our Year 6 buddies for the first time and being able to sit, chat and play with them during recess and lunch. Although COVID-19 restrictions saw our Welcome Mass celebrated a little differently this year, attending Mass with our buddies, who proudly modelled how to behave in church and guiding our Kindy kids to copy their reverent behavior was a warm and welcoming experience. We were so proud of their ability to sit quietly, following the lead of their buddies and listening to Father Philip.

As we settle into Kindy life, we have joined with the K-12 community via Zoom to celebrate Ash Wednesday and we look forward to being able to get together as a College for future special celebrations.

It has been a happy, engaging and exciting start to our new Kindergarten year. We have many new experiences for our Kindy students to try and engage with and we cannot wait to see our students grow through this year.



A new chapter beings for Year 7

Year 7 enjoyed their first day of High School, explains Corrine Patil.

ON FRIDAY 29 January, a new chapter began for 157 young men and women as they walked through the gates of MacKillop Catholic College as our new Year 7 cohort. It was wonderful to see the excited, albeit nervous faces of our students as they bid farewell to their loved ones and proceeded to the hall dressed in their new high school uniforms.

Our Executive welcomed the students and spoke about what it means to be a member of our wonderful MacKillop community. I introduced myself as the Leader of Pastoral Care and explained how blessed we are to have a strong and experienced pastoral team who will support the growth and development of the year group as they travel towards Year 12.

The pastoral teachers spent time with their classes explaining how our College runs and went through our expectations regarding uniform, behaviour and how students can learn to the best of their ability. Many iPads were connected, enabling students to start to engage with our

online Compass system.

The students then moved into their peer support groups, led by Mr Legge and his team of Year 10 Peer Support Leaders. Year 7 played games and undertook activities aimed to build positive relationships among the year group and to understand life as a Year 7 student in High School.

The students enjoyed breaks and were thrilled to compete in a giant game of heads and tails. The afternoon saw the students move to our theatre where our Leaders of Learning and Teaching (LoLTs) spoke about the many opportunities available at the College, including sport, the arts and academic programs.

Year 7's first day was a day filled with emotion and much information, however it was wonderful to start to get to know these amazing students and see them work together as a year group. Well done Year 7, a wonderful journey awaits you!



Parent news

Natalie Tunstead *begins the new year with fresh hope for a wonderful 2021 with our parent community.*

WELCOME EVERYONE, WE are off to a great start with an easing of COVID-19 restrictions with parents now allowed back on the school grounds.

We started the year with a Primary parent meeting open to all parents to introduce our new Primary Assistant Principal, Mrs Sherylyn Kenney, and discuss COVID-19 restrictions, the Diverse Learning Coordinator position, Kiss and Drop/traffic and communication.

We were fortunate to be able to hold our first PAST meeting for the year in person and those vulnerable members joined via Zoom. During this meeting we discussed the Diverse Learning Coordinator role, traffic issues, Catholic School Parents (CSP) Grant Art Project, Tell Them From Me (TTFM) survey update and school fee structural changes.

Thank you to our MacKillop CSP representatives Kirsty,

Karina and Hayley, for all you continue to do to support our College and represent the needs of our families. The planning of our CSP funding grant project from 2020 is moving along and we are now at the stage of finalizing the plan for a living artwork with succulents incorporating the house colours and some meaningful words and pictures. Keep an eye out on College communication for opportunities to be involved.

Thank you to all our Grade parents who volunteered for 2021. We now have Grade parents from Kindergarten through to Year 10. Their role includes supporting new families, sharing information with other parents in the grade and coordinating parent volunteers for school events.

A reminder to parents that part of my role includes family support, so if you are struggling with mental health, financial issues, domestic violence or parenting feel free to contact me and I can help with referrals to appropriate supports.



