

ISSUE 32 | TERM 2 2022

# COLLEGE**Matters**

**Take a bow, MacKillop**  
*Celebrating two musicals*



**MACKILLOP**  
Catholic College  
WARNERVALE

**MOTHER'S DAY MASS & BBQ**

**WINTER SLEEPOUT**

**SORRY DAY & RECONCILIATION WEEK**



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# College Principal's message

College Principal, Jason Hanrahan, shares the highlights of a jam-packed term.

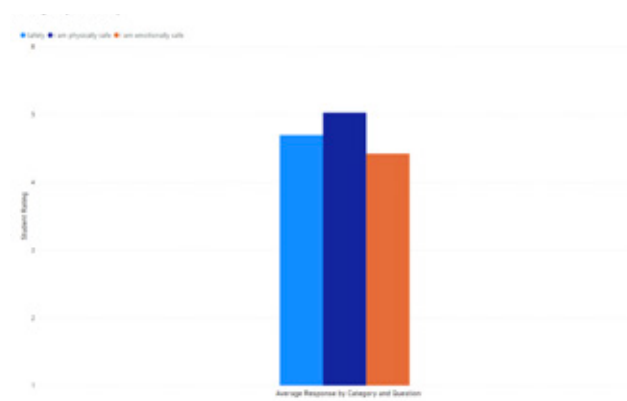
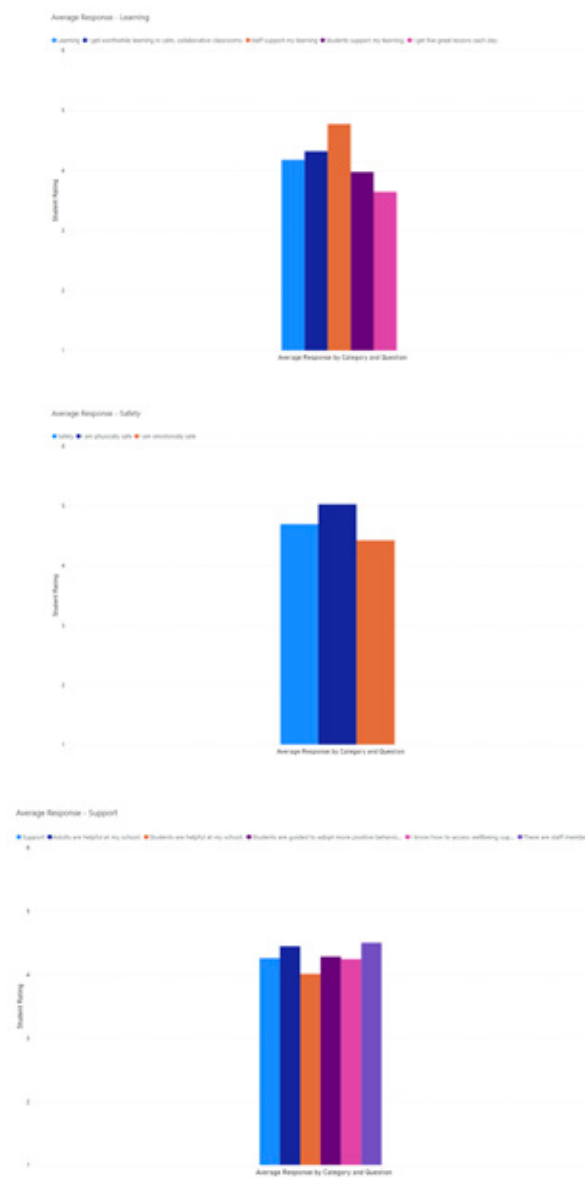
**IT HAS BEEN** a whirlwind 10 weeks as we began term 2, with so many things happening in the College. As I become accustomed to the culture and day to day at MacKillop, I am constantly amazed by the generosity and spirit of staff, students and families that ensures these events take place. A list of these events includes the Year 6 Canberra Excursion at the end of Term 1, the Year 12 Retreat, Year 7 Camp at Tea Gardens, JJAM Experience, Secondary Academic and High Commendation Awards Ceremony, re-scheduled and modified cross country carnivals, Mother's Day Breakfast and Mass, Battle of the Chefs, Bell Shakespeare, NAPLAN Testing, Year 7 Taster Day, Madagascar Kids Musical, Sorry Day and National Reconciliation Week events, Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, Forensics Incursion, Year 10 Retreat, Kindergarten Excursion, Year 11 Leadership Speeches assembly, The Lion King Kids Musical, Leadership Camp, Parent-Teacher Interviews, a host of school representative sporting events, youth ministry and other excursions/incursions. This is all on top of the programming and preparation for learning in classrooms, assessment, marking and reports for students our teachers and support staff are doing every day.

MacKillop is a busy place, where we all work to provide experiences for our students that might provide them with increased life opportunities once they finish at MacKillop. At the time of writing, we had recently witnessed the Year 11 Leadership speeches, speeches that were all outstanding in their own ways. So many of these young women and men spoke about how they now wanted to use the opportunity for leadership to give back to the community that has already given so much to them. It was reassuring to see young people speak about how grateful they were for what they have

received here at MacKillop, and how they were grateful that their parent(s) had chosen our school for them. It ensures that we, as a staff, feel grateful that our students recognise the opportunities that are provided for them.

Early in term 2 we conducted a student Connection, Participation and Learning survey with our Secondary students. The anonymous survey was designed to measure student feelings from a scale of 1-6 over 16 questions, grouped into 5 categories – Student Voice, Student Learning, Being Cared for, Being Supported and Student Safety. The results were outstanding, with the students showing they had a positive perception of the learning and support they receive here at MacKillop. A result over 4 is a good result, with a result at 5 is elite for secondary schools. The results are shown in the images below:





At the time of writing, our Secondary staff have been engaged in a process of analysing the results, being involved in improvement conversations by engaging in the research that underpins the survey design and correlating the student perceptions with learning data available. We have also discussed the results with a cross section of the students, gaining further feedback and insights into the results. From these discussions we are developing an area of greatest positive influence, where we feel we can further improve what we do well, have identified area(s) of challenge that we need to take the next logical step in improving the school for the students. For our students, we have been feeding back to them the results of the survey, and they have seen some action in addressing areas they feel need to be done. There will be more conversations and an opportunity for parents to be involved in our improvement conversations during the second half of the year.







# Change is good

*A new way of doing things has taken root in Primary, shares Frank Cohen, Primary Principal.*

**THE HANGOVER OF** COVID still has a small hold on daily school life. Throughout the term many students, parents and staff were impacted by COVID, and an unusually high absenteeism rate was recorded. Proving most challenging was having enough quality staff to replace the isolated sick. This was repeated in schools across the globe, and the teacher shortage suddenly became a real political issue at the recent general election.

Nevertheless school life never remains static, and we continued our push for change and innovation. The Professional Learning Teams focused heavily on getting the Year 3 and 5 students very well prepared for NAPLAN. Building on the best ever results from 2021, we are waiting in anticipation for the results to come back to progress the learning further for these cohorts.

Our gifted and high potential students have been partially accelerated into English and Maths classes. We have had one Kindergarten student working alongside Year 3 students for Maths sessions. The uptake of more and more children nominating to participate in Tournament of the Minds, ICAC tests and Video Gaming Challenges has been heartening to witness. The video gamers totalled close to 90 students and the coding curriculum is being embedded into what we do at MacKillop through the great work of our librarians.

The Lion King Kids musical, our first ever for Primary, was a roaring success. Over 200 children tried out for parts in the performances and already creative arts staff are gearing up for something even bigger for 2023. We have begun to enter teams into dance competitions and other creative arts pursuits. This provides great balance for the children who

represent us so successfully at all sporting team and individual events.

We are really excited to learn that funding has been made available by the Commonwealth Block Grant Authority and the CSBB to build 8 new classrooms in the Primary school section of the College. This will allow us to remove portable rooms that have been a feature of the school since its beginning. We can then create a massive new playground and outdoor learning spaces.

Our school continues to enjoy a good reputation in the local community where we have been inundated with enrolment applications for Kindergarten 2023 from existing and new families.

The Mother's Day Liturgy, breakfast and open rooms was a wonderful hit. The children loved having Mums and Grandmothers wandering through the classrooms.

Throughout term 2 the staff continued to work extremely hard to cater for the multiple ability levels of the children in our care. The experiences of excursions, incursions, Reconciliation Week Clan events, a multitude of sporting event, dancing and theatre on top of the normal teaching load are all areas where we need to be thankful for the good work teachers are doing.

The welcome mass for Kindergarten, Year 7 and new families took place only recently. COVID among many other factors forced the annual event to be held in mid-winter. At any rate it was a wonderful celebration for all concerned.

It is our hope that as full restrictions are eased that more and more parents can be welcomed back into the classroom to help with the learning. Term 2 was a wonderful success!



# A new day has come

**Secondary Principal, Debra Ferguson, shares how we are progressing out of COVID.**

**THIS TERM HAS** been the most 'normal' we have had in two years. We are back in class, without masks with the number of absences starting to lower for both students and staff. However, we are still experiencing community members contracting COVID and now, also, influenza as we continue to use sanitiser and keep our classrooms well ventilated.

The teachers are very aware of the effect of COVID on our students over the last two years. Many students are still struggling to be focussed in the classroom, others are having issues with having good routines, some are finding friendship issues and others simply finding there are some holes in their knowledge from difficulties they had with Home-Based Learning. This might sound very discouraging but in actual fact we are finding that most of our students are aware of the issues and working really hard to attain more control over all these things.

The COVID Tutoring occurring, now mainly in classrooms, is addressing some of the learning gaps and teachers are patiently working with students to catch up. Behaviour and attitude by the vast majority of students are respectful and cooperative and the wonderful friendliness between staff and students is definitely returning. Organisational skills and completing their learning projects on time has improved and the friendship issues are patiently being worked through.

There has been an understanding that we also need to look closely at how we approach learning and discipline in the College to provide for those students who are still struggling within the school. The Wellbeing Survey and the Bully Survey have provided the teachers with a great deal of data to consider. In the surveys it showed great positivity by the majority of the students about how they feel about the College, how they are taught and how safe they feel. However, to even have one child who may not feel safe at school or not know who to see if they need help is a concern. Our Professional Learning Days for the Staff are all based on the data and how to improve all aspects at MacKillop in Wellbeing and in Learning.

We highly appreciate the assistance of our parents who work in partnership with us to encourage all students to do their very best, to prioritise what they do so that learning is not affected and ensuring that their children are at school every day possible.

This term is one where we can all work closely when parents, students and teachers are able to talk face to face at Parent Teacher interviews and to make plans and goals to continue to assist all our students' progress. Thank you to all parents, students and teachers alike for their patience and diligence to assist every child at this great school.





# Game on!

*As the ref blew his whistle, the players took the field, mouthguard in place, socks taped high and focus in their eyes. Game on, writes Sherylyn Kenney, Primary Assistant Principal.*

**IT IS DEFINITELY** life and learning by bringing one's A-game to school every day for students, teachers and parents at MacKillop. This semester has seen many new initiatives take place as well as cementing the same playcard in many senses as last year.

With the introduction of our Leader of Pedagogy, Mrs Chris Shilling, and Numeracy Coach, Mrs Cathy Whitmore, we have been able to support more teachers and students at their point of need. Originally, this idea was to support students in the preparation of NAPLAN, however, we have found that this system works extremely well for all students in all grades. It is about meeting students at their point of need and scaffolding their learning so they are stretching their brains to achieve their next learning outcome.

NAPLAN came and went and over 90% of students completed the nation-wide assessment and I am proud of each and every one of them for the diligence and respect they afforded the tests. The teachers worked hard and, as a result, the students were well prepared and focussed during the two week period.

For the first time in our College history, Ms Leanne Schillert, our very own Music teacher, is leading the way with the Primary Musical, Lion King Kids. It was performed by over 100 children in conjunction with support from our wonderful Secondary Creative Arts faculty. The children were ecstatic, the tickets were sold out and excitement was definitely in the air! A huge congratulations to all the children, staff and parents

that were involved to make this inaugural performance such a hit!

This term, TimesTable Challenge happened before school in the library, although not many starters, the students who participated saw a positive growth in their rapid recall of all multiplication tables. I do hope that our numbers will grow as we further develop our culture of loving Maths.

Through the introduction of lighthouse points and the Assistant Principal Awards, we have seen over 50 students achieve this award. The playground DOJO point system has seen Gesu enjoy pizza for lunch and, on the whole, our positive behaviours in class and on the playground has increased while Long Time Outs (LTOs) have significantly decreased: Go team!

Although COVID is not playing havoc as much as it once did, we are still feeling the effects of a casual teacher shortage. This is having a positive effect on our children as they are learning to be more flexible, more resilient and more accepting of different teaching styles. While we, as teachers, do not aim to be absent, illness and family occurrences do happen and as a result, casual teachers are required.

For some of us, we eagerly await the ref to blow his whistle once again, to hang our boots, remove our mouth guard and squirt water down our throats, until then, we bring our A-game, dig deep and play as hard as we can until our two week break is upon us. Good game.



# Reinstating community

**Secondary Assistant Principal, Mel McGuinness, says we are so grateful that we were able to reinstate so many of our traditional rites of passage for our community, and particularly for our student body.**

**DESPITE THE RESTRICTIONS** in term 1 and the weather which has been a factor in and of itself, we were able to hold a Swimming Carnival, several excursions, retreats, camp and Athletics Carnival among the host of other activities; sporting, curriculum and co-curriculum. Furthermore, teaching and learning is continuing to be the centre of all we do. Staff are working consistently with our students to shape them to be self-directed, life-long learners who will be well-equipped for the world beyond school.

In term 1, Year 12 went on retreat, Year 7 on camp and in term 2 Year 10 went to Collaroy on a retreat.

In May, Years 7 and 9 undertook NAPLAN tests and this went well with all tests being taken in an online environment, for the first time. When the results arrive, we will undertake our usual analysis to gauge what further support is needed to help our students to reach their full potential in numeracy and literacy.

In term 2 students across the College have had Elevate sessions to support their learning and study habits, and we have also surveyed the students about their thoughts about all aspects of their schooling experience. This survey has been

unpacked with the student body and is being analysed by staff, supported by Mr Hanrahan.

The Mothers' Day Mass and barbeque was a wonderful occasion where our community was well-represented, and the atmosphere was joyful and warm. Our thanks to all who attended and to the staff who supported the event in many different roles, not to mention cooking about 800 eggs on that morning- what an amazing feat.

Traditionally we have held a Welcome Mass for our Kindergarten and Year 7 students and families along with all families of students who are new to the College. This has always occurred in Term 1. This year we have had to delay it, for many reasons. We are pleased that we are holding this event on 19 June and look forward to celebrating community engagement once again.

We are looking forward to meeting with our parent body later this term at our Parent Teacher event to discuss the learning of each child. We are so committed to learning gains for each and every student, in a safe and happy school where all can thrive. Together we can enrich the lives of our students and as always, we value our partnership with the community





# Year 7 Taster Day

**Kathleen Black** says *Taster Day* gave Year 6 students a good understanding of Secondary school life at MacKillop.

**ON FRIDAY 13** May, the Year 7 Taster Day started with approximately 180 Year 6 students buzzing with excitement in the COLA. On this day, students were introduced to the school executive staff and were given insight into the meaning of being a MacKillop student. Following this introduction, students participated in a beautiful Liturgy and ice-breaker games. Students were divided into groups and were eager to be involved in the activities of the day. This year Science and PDHPE were the faculties who led the lessons and students engaged in activities within these subject areas. In Science the students participated in an experiment of separation of substances. In PDHPE the students developed a deeper

understanding of the meaning of health as they investigated the 5 areas of health and wellbeing. After lunch students were involved in sporting activities of gymnastics, rugby league and basketball. These activities had to be altered slightly due to the extremely wet weather but lots of energy and excitement from all students.

A huge thank you to the Science, PDHPE and Religion teachers who were involved in the day as well as the wonderful Year 10 Peer Support Leaders who assisted with groups and helped with some nervous students. I am looking forward to meeting all the students again at the Orientation Day on the 25 November 2022.











# Being alive in the Spirit

**Father Philip Thottam** *writes how being alive in the Holy Spirit enables us to share the Good News of Christ with family and friends.*

**IN OUR CATHOLIC** Liturgical calendar, Easter is the most important celebration in the Church, which is the foundation of our Christian faith. The Easter season has fifty days and it ends with the Solemnity of the Pentecost, this year it was on 5 May. The advent of the Holy Spirit marks the beginning of the church's mission of proclaiming the gospel of Christ by the Spirit filled apostles and disciples of Christ and that mission is continued in the church by the baptised throughout the centuries and we the members of the MacKillop family is committed to that mission in all seasons. The focal point of our Easter proclamation, "Christ our Light", is the motto of our Campus, and we derive strength by being alive in the Spirit through the Liturgy of the Word, Celebration of the Sacraments, and para-liturgical celebrations. We have concluded the Easter season with meaningful celebrations, and we are back to ordinary time of the church calendar signified by the colour Green at the Altar and Mass.

Celebration of Sacraments and various Liturgical celebrations are part of our students' faith formation, and our RECs, Tim Snelling, Chrystal Price, and Youth ministry leader Maisie Tenev have been leading our staff and students to experience Christ in unique ways at different occasions during this Term. In an environment of religious indifference,

it is a real challenge. We had good participation for the Wednesday 7:30am Mass from the school community during Lent, and I encourage and invite every staff and student to continue joining on Wednesdays for 7.30am Mass as much as possible. We have already begun the process of preparation for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation for the Year 3 students, and it is scheduled for 30 July. Celebration of Confirmation is vital to our Catholic life wherein we are called to be aware of the gifts and fruits of the Spirit which enable us to share the life of Christ we have received through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Every year we count those attending the Sunday Mass during the month of May, and this year the average attendance was 90 for every weekend Mass. There is a steady trend of declining church attendance due to several factors and the pandemic has added to it. With the help of a new religious curriculum, and with more personal enriching activities, I hope we can create an impact in our community.

Being alive in the Holy Spirit lets us encourage one another to share the Good News of Christ with our family and friends. We are not alone in this process. The abiding presence of Jesus Christ is always with us as he promised in Mt.18:20, "where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them".

# The Holy Spirit at work

*The Holy Spirit has been active within our school throughout term 2, building positive relationships within our community, shares Tim Snelling*

**INSPIRED BY THE** Holy Spirit and the Feast of Pentecost, The Holy Spirit has been active within our school throughout term 2. Here are some of the inspirations of the Holy Spirit that have occurred across the primary community.

On Friday, 6 May,, the students and their families from across the College celebrated Mother's Day. The day began with an early morning BBQ breakfast in the COLA followed by a special Liturgy in the church that was organised by the staff and students of our school. It was wonderful to see the church overflowing with students and the special women in their lives that make up our fantastic community. The highlight of this celebration is often the Mother's Day slideshow that brings laughter and some tears of joy as we remember how special the women in our lives truly are. Thank you to the parents in our community who were able to find time to contribute to this presentation. Parents and carers were then invited into the classrooms for the morning to partake in the morning assembly and classroom literacy lessons. Here they were able to see the wonderful work that their children have been doing with their teachers. Community events like this have been so few and far between in recent years and we are truly grateful that so many people made time to celebrate with us on this wonderful day.

Between Week 5 and Week 6, the students recognised Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week. Throughout this time at MacKillop the students participated in a range of activities to recognise and acknowledge reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Beginning with Sorry Day on Thursday, 26 May, the students took part in a number of House activities with their designated teachers and students from across the primary school. These activities were organised by our school's Aboriginal Support and Education Teachers, Cindy Noah and Marilyn Fraser, with the support of

our library staff and well-being leaders. On Tuesday, 31 May, we were able to celebrate this special time in Liturgy, with almost all of the ministries of the celebration taken up by the numerous indigenous students in our primary school. Student representatives from St Peter's Catholic College, Tuggerah, were also in attendance on behalf of the Ngara Aboriginal Education Group to present the Central Coast Message Stick to our school community.

In Week 6 we also welcomed back Father Philip from his long overdue trip to India to visit family and friends. We thank Father Lourduswamy Arulappan from Woy Woy for his time with us.

Throughout this term, the Mini Macs groups in the primary have been working closely with Sister Marea Ross and Sister Jiji to help organise the food and supplies for the Winter Appeal. These donations have been received by a number of families on the Central Coast who are in need during this time of year. Thank you for all of your generous donations for this worthy cause.

As the term draws towards its end, the students in Year 3 have begun their preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation with Bishop Anthony. This will occur in Term 3, on Saturday 30 July over two sessions. If you are interested in your child making their Confirmation then please get in touch with the parish office for enrolment information; warnervaleparish@bbcatholic.org.au.

Finally, this term we have kept the health and wellbeing of a number of staff and students in our prayers. In particular, the students across the school have been praying daily for Year 1 Wattle student, Natalia (Bryanthe) Pornillos, who collapsed at school in Week 5 and is still recovering. We have been asking for God's strength and support for Bryanthe and her family during this difficult time.









# Year 12 Retreat Days

*Chrystal Price shares how our Year 12 cohort took some time to encounter Christ.*

**IN HIS APOSTOLIC** exhortation 'Christus Vivit' Pope Francis states that; '...we need projects that can strengthen them [youth], accompany them and impel them to encounter others, to engage in generous service, in mission' (#30, 2019). Thus, it is incredibly important that we as a College continue to provide our students with opportunities to encounter Christ and to engage in the Mission of our Church. Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions in 2020 and 2021, our Year 12 students had missed the opportunity for their Year 10 and senior retreats. They needed to have some time out of their regular routine to nourish their spiritual wellbeing in their final year left at MCC and hopefully have an opportunity of 'encounter'. So, in light of this, on Tuesday 26 April and Wednesday 27 April our Year 12 students and accompanying staff attended the Year 12 Retreat Days at Central Coast Camps Toukley.

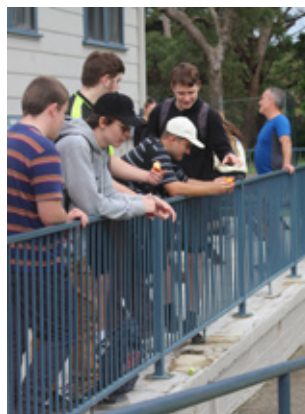
During these two days our students were able to take

time for prayer, to bond as a year group and to share in Eucharist. There were also presentations by our Youth Ministry Coordinator, Mrs Maisie Tenev, about the importance of spiritual nourishment, and how one's faith life can assist a person in their journey throughout life. Mr PJ Almendras also provided the year group with some advice on how to live a balanced lifestyle and how to make a place for Christ in their lives along the way.

Students were also challenged and encouraged to step out of their comfort zones by participating in some fun activities. These activities ranged from high ropes, archery, raft building, giant swing, snorkelling, stand-up-paddleboarding, beach games and a lighthouse walk. We thank the students and staff for their participation and hope that they continue to nourish their spiritual wellbeing throughout the year.











# Many parts in the one body of Christ

**Maisie Tenev** *explains a time of collaboration, bringing young people together in faith.*

**TERM 2 HAS** been an amazing time for YMCC. There was the launch of Connecting Catholic Coasties, various events and the election of a YMCC leadership group.

This term saw a new group of evangelisation come to fruition called 'Connecting Catholic Coasties' (CCC). The Youth Ministers of MCC, St Brigid's, St Peter's and St Joseph's wanted to work together to provide opportunities for our students on the Central Coast to come together to socialise, learn more about, and grow in their faith, in a positive and welcoming environment. In May, approximately 30 students attended the first CCC event, which was a Youth Mass at St Patrick's, East Gosford. The official launch of Connecting Catholic Coasties occurred in June where the YMCC team welcomed the other schools. There was a BBQ, testimonies, time for prayer and reflection, as well as music and dancing and we cannot wait for the next event.

YMCC students have attended a number of events this term and have represented the College so well. Praisefest at the beginning of Term 2 was the official launch of World Youth Day (WYD) 2023. The Broken Bay pilgrims will travel through parts of Italy before flying to Lisbon, Portugal for WYD and ending with a retreat in Fatima. This will be an amazing experience of the universal church for young Catholics from all parts of the globe. In May six students from Years 10 and 11 attended Venio, the two-night youth ministry weekend retreat in Kincumber. Besides listening to speakers, the students participated in adoration, walking a labyrinth, praying the

rosary, Reconciliation and liturgical movement. In June, over thirty YMCC students attended the Shine YM Day at St Peter's Tuggerah to listen to keynote speakers, attend workshops and sing and dance with other students from the diocese. Bishop Anthony Randazzo was present at all these events and the students were able to learn more about his personal story and faith journey.

This term we ran Connect every Tuesday afternoon and students participated in the Belong - Circles program. The focus was to pray together, unpack scripture and discuss thought-provoking questions on the theme of that week. Students in Years 10 and 11 also underwent preparation and training for the Youth Alive mentoring group that will run next term with students in Years 7 and 8. For the first time, YMCC went through the process of electing our first YMCC Leadership Team called 'Pharus'. Pharus is a Latin word for beacon, and just as the light of Christ is a beacon that guides us through life, our leadership team will be leaders and role models for the YMCC students at MacKillop. The successful applicants will be announced next term and will be commissioned with the Parliament students.

Thank you to all the teachers, staff and parents that continue to support and encourage our students to grow in their faith and develop their leadership skills. There is so much to look forward to and we look forward to welcoming old and new faces back to YMCC in Term 3!













## Helping others

*Volunteering has been hit hard during COVID, however, we have been JUMPing back into it this term, explains Michelle Baxter.*

**AS I REFLECT** on the term, it is quite amazing just how many outreach and service opportunities our students have been involved in. There is a strong sense of community with so many of our students signing up to the various initiatives and events on offer.

National Volunteer Week (NVW) was held between 16-22 May. While covid had a huge impact on many volunteer services, impacting our JUMP program and the ability to be of service to others in a face-to-face capacity. However, in 2022, we are seeing most volunteer opportunities returning to normal, or very close to. During NVW, we celebrated Charles Boyton, Service Manager at Coast Shelter. We are so very grateful for the wealth of knowledge Charles has passed on to our students, staff and the wider MCC community and wish him all the very best for his upcoming retirement.

The Care of Earth Retreat in the context of Laudato Si, was a highlight for the staff and students who had the privilege of attending. The Gathering was held at the beautiful Kincumber Spirituality Centre over three days, with this group coming together to prepare an action plan which will continue to be developed over the next seven years. Mr Hodgson and the students who attended the retreat are very keen to implement an EnvironMENTALS Group at the College and we look forward to seeing the effective change this group will take.

Our Mini Vinnies hosted the Winter Sleepout in Week 8.

On Friday 17 June, around 200 students and 25 staff attended the MCC Winter Sleepout. For the very first time, our Year 6 Primary students also joined us, as well as students from St Brigid's, St Joseph's and St Peter's. We had a number of special guest speakers including Regional Manager from St Vincent de Paul, Dennis Brady, Local Member of Parliament, Mr David Harris, as well as Coast Shelter, Safe Places for Children and Father's Table. Hearing the personal testimonies from some of our guests about their experiences with homelessness, domestic violence and other related issues was so powerful and we thank them for their courage and bravery in being able to provide an insight into their lives, the hardships they have faced, but also for offering ways that we can make change happen. We look forward to this challenge and seek to do our best to ensure there is justice for all who are most vulnerable.

We had about 40 sleep over from Years 10-12 and 7 staff which is amazing too! It was very cold - and lot's of snoring! It was such a good experience, despite the uncomfortable conditions, providing a small snippet of what life on the streets looks like. But we were all very glad to go home to our nice warm beds and a hot shower... though we think it makes us all the more determined to want to do more for those who live in these conditions on a daily basis.

Now we look forward to term 3, and more opportunities to reach those in our community.











# Be Brave. Make Change.

*Marilyn Fraser reminds us that reconciliation means making change for the betterment of all Australians.*

**SIGNIFICANT DATES ON** the calendar bookends the week of Reconciliation Week, beginning with National Sorry Day on 26 May and ending with Mabo Day on 3 June.

Every year on 26 May, National Sorry Day, we remember and acknowledge the mistreatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who were forcibly removed from their families and communities due to government policies, which we now know as 'The Stolen Generations'. Aunty Pat Townsend, a proud Gamilaroi, Dhinewan emu woman, shared her personal horrendous story of the Stolen Generation through slides that showed the devastating impact on her family for many generations. Aunty Pat's mother, Catherine, and grandfather, Richard, were a part of the Stolen Generation with both taken away from their families at a very young age. The secondary MacKillop students listened intently with deep respect for Aunty Pat. Once again, they made us proud. Aunty Pat commented that MacKillop was a great school.

In Primary, our students participated in a beautiful 'Sorry Day' Liturgy displaying the Aboriginal flag, Torres Strait Islander

flag, Aboriginal artefacts and native Australian plants. St Peter's students, Ruby and Zsa Zsa, proudly handed over the Ngara AECG 'Message Stick' to MacKillop Primary students, Axel and Jax, as a part of the liturgy. It was a nice touch to the whole service. Primary students also enjoyed Reconciliation activities in their classrooms throughout the day.

Our lovely Library staff ran a Reconciliation colouring competition. The proud prize winner was Elijah Wilks from Year 5 who won an Indigenous bike helmet. The librarians also created an activity for all clans to participate in, each student had a link to write what Sorry Day and Reconciliation meant to them. Each link will form the chain connecting our houses together, in our true MacKillop spirit of Reconciliation and will be displayed in the Library. Every MacKillop student also viewed the heart rendering 'Sorry Day' video on Story Box written by Coral Vass and Dub Leffler.

Our history is incredibly important. The more we learn the more we grow as one for true reconciliation.







# Lost in Madagascar? Hakuna Matata!

**Sharon Baird** *praises the hard work of our students, staff and parents on the success of our two musicals this Term.*

**WE HAVE COME** out of the Pridelands and the 'wild' of Madagascar beaming with pride for all of our student actors, crew and staff who worked on the Secondary and Primary musicals this term. The Secondary campus presented *Madagascar: A Musical Adventure Junior* in May and the Primary Campus presented *The Lion King Kids* in June. Over 150 students were involved in these musicals as either actors, crew members, choreographers, technical operators or ticket sellers and ushers and they were all absolutely amazing! They supported each other and worked hard to ensure that everyone was able to show their gifts and talents, whatever they may be. I am very proud of all the students who were involved. I would like to particularly acknowledge the high

school students who assisted with the Primary musical including the Entertainment students under the guidance of Mr Shane LeBreton who ran lights, audio and backstage operations.

I would like to extend congratulations to Iolanda Caruana, Rochelle Calder, Leanne Schillert, and Cassie Phillips for their amazing work on the shows and to the teachers who supported them.

I would also like to thank all the parents who helped out in both musicals making costumes, applying makeup, running canteens and generally supporting the students and the productions in any way possible.



















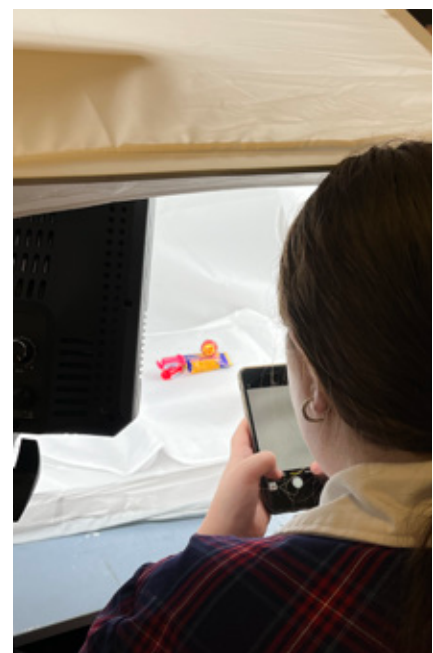






# Artists of excellence - the finger points of colour pencil drawing

*Delicious subject matter for still life drawing as Year 9 explore the art of colour pencil drawing, shares Jillian Young.*





# Fun, Food and Family at the Library

Jackie Crowe *shares about storytime, pizza and raising money for Cancer Council.*

**WE HAVE HAD** a wonderful time this Term planning for and holding a number of annual Library events. We began with National Simultaneous Storytime. Every year a picture book, written and illustrated by an Australian author and illustrator, is read simultaneously in libraries around the country. This year's book was *Family Tree*, written by Josh Pyke, illustrated by Ronojoy Ghosh. Each of our K-6 classes made a branch with a leaf decorated by every student. These were collected and made into a Family Tree on display in our Library showing our connectedness.

Once again we opened the Library for an evening of fun, food and family reading with our Family Reading and Pizza Night to celebrate the Family Reading Month of May. This year was HUGE! Our event saw 80 families in attendance, ordering

almost 200 pizzas! Thank you to the wonderful parents who helped organise and serve the pizzas. We were very grateful for your support. It was a joyous experience to see so many families spending time together making this a special event to support the love of reading. One of our major fundraisers, Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, was another very successful event this term which raised more than \$1200. This year was our 10th BMT event. Staff at MacKillop generously donated baked or bought cakes, slices and biscuits making it possible to raise much needed funds for the Cancer Council of Australia. Many members of the school community came to enjoy a cuppa and yummy treat in the Library. A special thanks to the JUMP students, parliament students and staff who helped serve before school and during Break 1. We are truly blessed to have such a generous community.







# Primary sport update

**Kellie Denneman** *provides an update on the sporting achievements in Primary.*

**TERM 2 HAS** seen some amazing results in Primary sport.

## PRIMARY ATHLETICS

Late in Term 1 we had the pleasure of a wonderful community day at Mingara for our Primary Athletics. We were delighted to have our parents back in full force supporting the children along with our Secondary PASS helpers. A special thanks to our BBQ crew who worked tirelessly all day to feed us all.

The children were not to be outdone on the day with some magical performances. We celebrate 3 new event records: Madison Agar (Year 6) who set 2 individual records 12 Year Girls 100m and 200m.

Ethan Ampoma-Gyamfi (Year 5) who set a record in the 11 Year Boys 100m.

Our 2022 Age Champions are as follows:

|                    | GIRLS           | BOYS                |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| <b>8 Years</b>     | Aria O'Keefe    | Carter Hill         |
| <b>9 Years</b>     | Amelia Smith    | Cameron Falconer    |
| <b>10 Years</b>    | Aoibhinn Twomey | Lochie Farrugia     |
| <b>11 Years</b>    | Danika McGovern | Ethan Ampoma-Gyamfi |
| <b>12/13 Years</b> | Madison Agar    | Harvey Fox          |

Temuka were successful in winning the House Points Trophy this year in a close contest

The finals results were:

|           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| Temuka    | 142 |
| Gesu      | 135 |
| Kincumber | 126 |
| Alma      | 108 |
| Penola    | 104 |
| Fitzroy   | 63  |

## PRIMARY CROSS COUNTRY

After 3 failed attempts it took until the first week of term 2 to complete our Primary Cross Country at Hamlyn Terrace

Sporting Fields – albeit with a few modifications to the course due to rain.

The children ran their hearts out and were deserving of their 'Zoooper Dooper' back at school.

|                    | GIRLS          | BOYS             |
|--------------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>7/8 Years</b>   | Isla Donahue   | Carter Hill      |
| <b>9 Years</b>     | Caoimhe Twomey | Cameron Falconer |
| <b>10 Years</b>    | Lara Murphy    | Lochie Farrugia  |
| <b>11 Years</b>    | Scarlett Clark | Bayley Michael   |
| <b>12/13 Years</b> | Rahni Deeley   | Ben Newell       |

Gesu took the honours in the Colour House Points Trophy nudging out Fitzroy in a close contest The finals results were:

|           |    |
|-----------|----|
| Gesu      | 77 |
| Fitzroy   | 74 |
| Penola    | 62 |
| Kincumber | 58 |
| Temuka    | 47 |
| Alma      | 42 |

The top 6 placegetters in each event progressed to the CCC Cross Country in Gosford. We congratulate all 60 children who along with many parents braved the wintry and rainy conditions to complete this event. A huge effort and one event to remember! Special mention to Scarlett Clark (11 Girls) and Rahni Deeley (12 Girls) who both won medals finishing 3rd in their individual events.

12 children qualified to then represent the College & the Central Coast at the Broken Bay Cross Country at Fagan Park Galston. Unfortunately with yet another 'washout', only 10 of our students were able to actually attend this event on the new date. Congratulations to Carter Hill, Lillian Weary, Amelia Smith, Cameron Falconer, Georgia Harris, Lara Murphy, Lochie Farrugia, Scarlett Clark, Rahni Deeley, and Claudia Alcock who all ran personal best times in windy conditions on a super tough course.



In amazing individual efforts Scarlett Clark finished 6th in her event progressing to the Polding Cross Country & Georgia Harris 10th qualifying as a reserve for the next level.

Scarlett went onto the NSWCPSS Polding Cross Country to win a GOLD MEDAL in the 11 Year Team event with Broken Bay finishing 13th overall as an individual competitor. We are very proud of you Scarlett.

#### POLDING WINTER TEAM SPORTS

Following the Broken Bay Trials last Term, we had a small number of children attend Polding Winter Sport Trials in Bathurst during Week 1 this Term. We congratulate Rahni Deeley (Yr 6) who was successful in making the Polding Girls Soccer team to contest the NSWPPSSA championship in August & Malachi Soane & Slater Field (Year 6) who both made the Polding Open Boys Rugby League Team. The boys head off to the NSWPPSSA Championship in 2 weeks & we wish them the best of luck.

#### PAUL KELLY CUP - PRIMARY AFL GALA DAY

The Year 5 and 6 students represented the College with pride for the Paul Kelly Cup for the Northern Central Coast at Killarney Vale on Tuesday, June 14.

The girls team had their work cut out for them, with 9 other schools competing on the day, but they shone through during the competition, coming through undefeated and progressing through to the Central Coast final which be held in 2 weeks at Bateau Bay. The MacKillop girls AFL team for 2022; Olivia Ketley, Eva Whybrow, Olivia Burgess, Madison Agar, Abigail Casey, Rahni Deeley, Lily Baxter, Saoirse Twomey, Briana Alcidi, Alexandra Katalinic, Maya Truckner, Claudia Alcock, Georgia Harris, Lucy Dedman & Suzie Buse.

The boys had 11 other schools to compete with on the day and were close not to win all of their matches, coming away with one win and losing 2 games by only four behinds in total. The MacKillop boys AFL team for 2022; David Kobylarz, William Smart, Luke Parvey, Xavier Liston, Slater Field, Seth Regado, Josh Rowland, Caleb Tanti, Charles Alcock, Ben Newall, Sam Hill, JR Gillett, Byron Koop-Folkes & Ethan Stables.

Well done to both the boys and girls teams and thank you to all of the parents who supported us on what was an excellent day for footy.





# Success across the College

**Duncan Black** *shares how MacKillop has been immersed in representative sport.*

**MACKILLOP HAS BEEN** fully immersed in representative sport. The College has had a number of sporting teams and individuals trial for selection into Broken Bay, NSWCCC teams this Term.

We will recognise these students and the age champions of our carnivals at our sports assembly in Week 3 of Term 3 (5 August).

## BBSSSA

Congratulations to the following students that have been selected into Broken Bay and NSWCCC teams so far:

Touch – Opens - Anabelle Ross

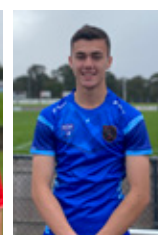
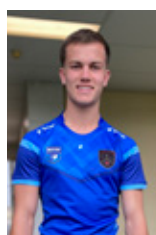
Netball – Opens - Maddison Sternbeck and Makenzee Ryan

Rugby League – U15's Boy's - Archie Black, Tayte Bayley, Tasman Smith and Blake Field

Opens – Lauchlan Bissaker

Rugby League - U16 Girls – Anabelle Ross, Chloe Keirs and Mille Timp

Soccer – Riley Bryn, Thomas Lucciantonio, Montana-Rose Currey, Zoe Karipidis, and Zachariah Waddell



Swimming – Tyson Scicluna

Cross Country – Mia Tongue, Brodie Slattery

Metropolitan Rugby League – Blake Field (15's) and Lauchlan Bissaker (Opens).

## NSWCCC

Congratulations to the following students on their selection into the NSWCCC teams for the upcoming Sporting Schools Australia Championships.

Hockey – Under 16 - Emma Jones and Alana Miller

Football – Open Girls – Zoe Karipidis

Open Boys – Zachariah Waddell

Rugby League – Under 15 – Blake Field.

## BBSSSA / Extracurricular Sport

With the weather playing havoc with the sporting fields across the Central Coast and the State, a number of sporting fields and dates have changed at the last minute. The following are the new dates and where possible venues. As usual these are subjected to change.

## BBSSSA DATES

| Term | Week | Event                               | Date     | Location      |
|------|------|-------------------------------------|----------|---------------|
| 3    | 1    | Netball                             | 21 July  | Pennant Hills |
|      | 2    | Jnr/Int Boys Basketball             | 28 July  | Terrigal      |
|      | 3    | U14 Girls and U13 Boys Rugby League | 2 August | Wyong         |

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR DATES

| Term | Week | Event                            | Date     | Location |
|------|------|----------------------------------|----------|----------|
| 3    | 1    | U14/15 Girls CS NSW Rugby League | 20 July  | Maroubra |
|      | 2    | 9/10 Oztag and Opens             | 28 July  | TBC      |
|      | 3    | 7/8 Oztag                        | 3 August | TBC      |





## Year 7 Camp

*Our Year 7 cohort had an amazing time at the Great Aussie Bush Camp, coming away more connected as a grade, writes Julian Legge.*

**IN WEEK 1**, Year 7 attended the Great Aussie Bush camp.

The focus of the camp was for the students to develop new friendships and a sense of connection, build on their skills of resilience and overcome new and challenging experiences.

We had an amazing three days away from school. We had multiple opportunities to do fun activities such as kayaking, high ropes and the giant swing. We also completed challenge

tasks that required teamwork and communication, like the survivor challenge and challenge night.

On the second night we enjoyed our Fluro themed disco. I am sure this was a highlight for many students (and staff).

Overall, we came away not only exhausted, but more connected as a grade. Together we have made many memories that will last us until Year 12 and beyond.











# Tackling the challenges of life together

**Natasha Harman** *encourages parents to consider everything you have achieved.*

**LET'S FACE IT**, this parenting gig is hard at the best of times. Then add in past lockdowns, COVID isolations, this new flu that's taken hold and a bunch of "other" stuff, and it is no wonder we are all coming out sideways now more than ever, including our kids.

However, let us look deeper into all this and just for a second, consider all you have achieved. I know, for me, I realised that there were so many things in my life that I didn't need or want anymore, including behaviours my kids threw at me and the fact that I hated cooking so much that it was the first thing I thought of when I opened my eyes and it stressed me out constantly. I identified the negative place it put me in and that it needed to change. I have now found simple and easy ways to cook meals that I enjoy making - Maggi is my friend, along with my slow cooker. We finally love each other, and we both couldn't be happier.

The attitude and behaviour of my kids toward each other needed to change, as did the value that they placed on us

as a family. We were stuck together, forced to get on and make changes or drown in the frugal attempts to be what we thought was a family. Mindsets were challenged and, for me, it helped to see what was important and what was not.

Sit back and think of the things you have changed since then, even if it was just cleaning out the linen cupboard or booking a few curbside collections to get rid of the junk in your garage so now you can park your car. No matter what it was, I am sure you can think of some good things to come out of the last two years? And if no changes have been made, I hope you are feeling like you have a plan, but just haven't executed it yet or just that you might not know where to start?

Feel free to come and chat with me and let me help you put your first, best foot forward and tackle all this so your life is easier, so you can enjoy the little things in life with your loved ones and take time to smell the flowers.

And remember: If nothing changes, nothing changes!





# A comprehensive guide to young people

*Young people today are facing a different world when it comes to the challenges of “growing up”, shares Samara Stark.*

**IN A FAST** paced, busy and evolving world, it is difficult to stay ‘up to date’ on everything. If you are reading this you are likely a parent, carer or someone who lives with, or spends a lot of time with a young person. A young person is usually aged between 12-18 years and will attend our secondary campus. If this sounds like you, then I highly recommend you do in fact stay up to date on current issues facing our young people.

The school and social landscape has changed over time, and young people today are facing a different world when it comes to the challenges of “growing up”. By staying up to date, it places you in a good position to be supportive as challenges and stressors arise for our young people. If you’ve ever found yourself wondering if the young person in your life is behaving in a “normal” way, or you want some tips on developing your relationship with a young person, some of these Australian resources may be of interest (scan QR code to the right).

These websites are a great starting point, and by navigating around them, you will likely come across specific topics you

may be interested in learning more about. While this article title is somewhat misleading, as no such comprehensive guide or handbook exists, I hope you find some tips in the resources below.



*Raising Children: Preteen and teenage development, what to expect*



*Better Health Channel: Teenagers and Communication*



*Reach out: Parent Resources*



*Parentline: Teenagers*



# The term in pictures

*Some more snapshots of an exciting term*

