Mary MacKillop College
Newsletter
Term 1
Week 3 - 17 February 2017

“Find happiness in making others happy.”
Mary MacKillop
20 November 1870

The Wisdom
of the Lord Teaches us

Newsletter on our website
www.mackillopleongatha.catholic.edu.au/newsletter
also available on the College Parent Portal - PAM

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

In our Academic Awards, the Cardell group prize for Humanities and Social Sciences was awarded to Bree McRae (ATAR 93.7) and the Leongatha Medical Group prize for Maths & Science was awarded to Isaac Frith (ATAR 94.9) We were pleased to present our Dux for 2016, Matilda McNeil. (ATAR 96.6) Matilda commences Law - Honours/Global Studies at Monash University this year. We congratulate all our high achievers – they have set a great example for our students to follow.

The other special award presented was the Rhonda Malone Memorial Bursary. Gifted by her husband Michael & family, the award is to support the studies of a student who will commence in Nursing or a related field the following year. It is hoped that the recipient will go on to contribute to the community just as Rhonda did. The award was presented by Rhonda’s five year old grandson Alfie, he will have a great story to tell next time his Prep class does show & tell! I am delighted to report the awardee is Gemma Philips, who will be studying nursing at Federation University this year. We wish Gemma, Bree, Isaac, Matilda and all our graduates every success in their studies.

This week we have had two very successful whole school events. On Thursday we held our annual Swimming Sports at Mirboo North. The day went very well, with enthusiastic leadership by the House Leaders and senior students and excellent participation by all students. A full report follows.

On Friday we have held the launch of our Active Learning project with a day of special activities for the whole College. This is a great initiative, which promises to enhance not just what our students learn but to develop & make more explicit how we learn. Our vision for learning is that Mary MacKillop Learners Take Ownership, Think Deeply, Make Connections and Be Courageous. You can be part of helping your child be an Active Learner; please come to the parent information night on Monday 20 February – I hope to see you there.

David Leslie
Principal
Hit the ground running:

The dust has settled for the New Year and by now the new Year 7’s and their families are coming to realise secondary schooling is a whole new ball game. These times of adolescent’s and emerging adult hood focus more on the individual and the effective relationships that they will be forming over the years with us. Part of our role of at the College is to assist parents with this transition in this new learning environment.

If you want the best outcomes for your child or young person then it’s important that you become involved in as many aspects of your child’s education as practical. The involvement of parents helps break down the mystique about school that can exist for some children. Their chances of success are better when they see school as an extension of home rather than merely an institution for learning.

Positive parent participation demonstrates to children that you value learning as well as their school. Children copy many of their parents’ views so your positive attitude to school and learning is catching.

Participating as a parent can be much broader than helping out in the classroom. There is a range of simple things you can do at home that will assist our teachers to maximise the learning of your child. These include: talking with your child about their day, hearing young learners read, helping with homework and making sure kids go off to school happy, healthy and having had plenty of sleep.

Another positive show of support would be to come along to our Active learning Parent Session Monday at 6:00pm in Pioneer Hall. By the time of reading this you should have received a personal invitation to this wonderful event.

Active learning @ Mary MacKillop College

Over the last couple of years the College has been working with the Catholic Education Office collecting data through surveys and consultation on student performance, transition, literacy and numeracy, student engagement, wellbeing and learning relationships. What has clearly emerged from our story is we need to assist all our students in growing their resiliency and capacity to be more active in their own learning journeys. The journey from adolescents to emerging adults is fraught with trials and tribulations both in and out of the classroom and if we as a school can build our students up to take more of an active role in their education the benefits will be great.

On Friday 17 February (today) the College is launching a new initiative called Active Learning in 2017. Through this launch and framework we hope to help student undercover the path to achieve their personal best and to encourage them to become lifelong learners. The keynote speaker for our launch is Darren Pereira from Success Integrated. He presents many workshops to many schools across the state and to university students including University of Melbourne.

During this launch we will be focussing on four approaches (Characteristics of Active learners) which our consultative process has highlighted as major priority to embrace this new way of thinking and behaving.

- Taking Ownership
- Thinking Deeply
- Making Connections
- Being Courageous

We will be following up our launch with a parent evening on learning and student personal success. All families are invited to this evening on Monday 20 February:

6:00pm - 7:30pm in Pioneer Hall.

By simply attending, this is a great way for parents to learn more about the initiative and show the students how much they value the learning of the student.

Student Planner:

Unfortunately our student planners where not ready for distribution in the first week of school this year. One positive observation to emerge from this situation has been the overwhelming requests for the planner from the student body. I spoke to many students who had commented on feeling lost and unorganized with the absence (albeit for a week) of this planning resource.

The planner is a vital link in the communication with the whole Mary MacKillop community as well as a passport to the rights and responsibilities, calendar, policies and expectations of our students. Although not needing much encouragement, I urge all students, even in this time of technology to use the planner as an organisational tool to be more accountable and responsible for their individual learning.

Staff learning this fortnight:

17 February
Mr Pellin, Mrs Roscoe-Smith, Ms Viljoen & Mrs Bland will be attending the Year 12 English Teacher’s conference

20 February
Mr Sheehan, Mr Pearce & Mrs Nyamunduru will be attending the Year 12 Maths Examiners briefing at Federation University

21 February
Mr Myors will be attending an Apprenticeship and Pathways briefing in Melbourne.

24 February
Mr McManamon will be attending the VCE History teacher’s Conference.

27 – 28 February
Mrs Steenholdt & Ms Kalos will be participating in a Middle Leaders Course in Melbourne
This year’s production of Will Russell’s Blood Brothers is well underway. Blood Brothers is the hilarious, provocative and heartbreaking multi-award winning musical that tells the unforgettable story of the Johnstone twins. Separated at birth when their mother cannot afford to keep them both, Mickey and Edward grow up streets apart, becoming best friends but never knowing the truth of their heritage.

The cast and band have been rehearsing feverishly under the Direction of Ms Bron Kalos, all the high energy musical numbers which will prove to be a hit with the audience. The construction of the sets have almost completed under the guidance of Mr Ken Myors and Mr Michael O’Keeffe and various student groups.

Blood Brothers will be showing on Friday 21 and Saturday 22 April (First week in Term 2) at the Wonthaggi Arts Centre. If the last two College productions have been any indication tickets will see fast and the shows will sell out!

At next week’s whole school assembly the ticket information will be launched and distributed to the College community. (Pictured below are some of the cast rehearsing in the College Theatrette one of the many large musical numbers)
In light of the school’s rollout of MacBook Air’s to the students, I find it pertinent to discuss the issue of Cyberbullying.

Cyberbullying is the use of social media, email, instant messaging, chat rooms, mobile phones or other forms of information technology to deliberately harass, threaten, or intimidate someone. The problem is often compounded by the fact that a bully can hide behind an electronic veil disguising his or her true identify. This makes it difficult to trace the source, and encourages the bullies to behave more aggressively, than they might face to face.

Cyberbullying can include acts such as posting or texting mean comments or unwanted photos, making threats, sending insults or racial or ethnic slurs.

As most cyberbullying happens outside school hours, parents can often feel helpless with nowhere to turn and students can feel scared because if they tell parents or teachers they might become more exposed. Or worse still they will be taken offline. Mobile phones and social media sites such as Facebook, Snapchat and Instagram are their connections to the world. We used to watch TV shows so that we had something to talk about the next day; nowadays talk is about what happened on Snapchat or the pictures that someone uploaded and who said what to whom on Facebook. Sometimes as strange as it might sound children will often endure the bullying rather than risk being cut off from their peers. So often nothing is done and the bully is free to continue or threaten someone else.

Because cyberbullying is covert, it can be difficult for parents to detect. For this reason, parents, guardians and care givers need look out for any overt changes in a child’s behaviour which may give some clue that they may be being bullied. These signs may include some of the following:

- Unusual reduction in socialising with friends and/or family.
- Sudden aversion to using their online or mobile devices
- Avoidance of school
- Nervous or apprehensive when a mobile text message or email is received.

Your child can take action to protect themselves including:

- Blocking the perpetrator
- Limiting computer connection time
- Not responding to threatening or defamatory messages
- Never opening emails from sources they don’t recognise

There are several things that parents can do to help counteract the dangers of the internet while allowing your children to use its benefits.

- Learn more yourself*
- Discuss the issue with your child. This helps children understand that it is unacceptable and that they do not have to put up with it.
- Establish how long it may have been happening, how often and how it is effecting your child
- Save all conversations, pages, images that can be used as proof that the cyberbullying has occurred.
- Don’t threaten to ban or restrict access to the internet.
- Call the school and discuss it with your child’s Sub-School Director or Wellbeing Coordinator.

*The Australian parenting website raisingchildren.net.au provides up to date information and helpful hints for parents to increase their knowledge in the area of cyberbullying. The video Cyberbullying: Talking with Teens may be of particular interest.
Our 2017 College Captains for 2017 are:

**College Captains:** Nathan Rowley and Julia Enter

**Vice College Captains:** Rani Knight and Billy Wilson

2016 Year 12 Academic Award Winners

**Matilda McNeil**—College Dux with an ATAR of 96.6. Matilda will be studying Law Honours Global Studies at Monash University

**Bree McRae**—Cardell Accountant’s Humanities and Social Science Award. Bree received the highest ATAR in the Humanities Stream with an ATAR of 93.7. This year Bree is studying Professional Communication at RMIT

**Isaac Frith**—Leongatha Medical Group Science Award. Isaac received the Highest ATAR in the Science and Mathematics stream with an ATAR of 94.9. This year Isaac is studying Engineering Honours and Science at Monash University

**Gemma Phillips**—Rhonda Malone Award. Gemma is undertaking a Bachelor of Nursing at Federation University Gippsland
Year 12 Retreat

On Wednesday the 1 February, while the rest of the school commenced their year as students at Mary MacKillop, the class of 2017 began their journey on retreat at UC Camping Lodge in Grantville.

The joy of catching up with one another for our first day of year twelve was exciting and it set the tone for what we hope will be a very happy and successful school year.

Retreat provided all year twelves with an opportunity to connect spiritually, emotionally and socially. The spirit and values of Mary MacKillop were embodied in all of our small group activities, with the themes ‘Where you are you will find God’ and ‘Finding Happiness in making other Happy’ a core focus throughout the retreat experience.

The retreat provided us with some excellent tips, practices and strategies to help us get through the challenging year ahead. We were able to come back to school with a positive mind set and feeling refreshed and ready to hit the books and continue where we left off during Term 0.

The class of 2017 feel so grateful for the wonderful experience the retreat provided to us, and it couldn’t have been possible without the staff. They provided us with knowledge and guidance which we know will help us get through the final year of our schooling and for that, we cannot thank them enough.

We are all pumped for the year ahead, and we hope that our retreat experience will assist us on our final school journey that we will accomplish, together.

Rani Knight and Billy Wilson
Mary MacKillop College
House Swimming Sports
Thursday 16 February
Mirboo North Swimming Pool

Team Score:
Cameron House          599
MacDonald                  466
Tennison                     451
Chisholm                    366

U13 Female    Lily Maxwell
U/13 Male        Patrick Duncan
U/14 Female   Merrin Giles
U/14 Male       Kelsey Dal Pozzo
U/15 Female  Arlie Whiteside
U/15 Male      Tyler Newton
U/16 Female  Tomei Dal Pozzo
U/16 Male      Will Little
U/17 Female  Brooke Whiteside
U/17 Male      Jarvis Pryor
U/21 Female  Claire Wylie
U/21 Male     Luke Malherbe
Medical Action Plans
Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes & Epilepsy

If your child has a medical condition including anaphylaxis, asthma, diabetes or epilepsy and you have not already supplied us with an up-to-date medical action plan, please contact the office.

Medical Action Plans are required as soon as possible (these need to be completed and signed by your doctor) and supplied along with any spare medication required, in a named plastic container. i.e. Ventolin with spacer, insulin/jelly beans, epipens etc.

The Medical Action Plans will be reviewed on any of the following occurrences (whichever happen earlier):
- Annually
- If the student’s medical condition changes
- When the student takes part in an offsite activity, such as camps and excursions, or at special events conducted, organized or attended by the college.

The college requests that spare medication is left in the college office for emergency use. i.e. Ventolin with spacer, insulin/jelly beans, epipens etc. These must be in date and clearly labelled with your child’s name and supplied in a plastic/Tupperware style plastic tub.

Thank you

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College Hats

The college hats are compulsory for students/staff to wear in terms 1 and 4. Students and staff will also be encouraged to apply sunscreen. This policy applies at all times, both timetabled outdoor activities, recess and lunchtimes.

Hats are currently available for the price of $10.00. Hats are available from the uniform shop.

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MEALS ON WHEELS

The college takes part in the local Meals on Wheels program which needs parent volunteers to collect students from the College at 11:20am taking them to the hospital collecting meals and delivering around the town. This generally takes about 1 hour. If you can help with this and have a current Working with Children’s check please contact the College reception on 5662 4255.

6 - 10 March, 1 - 5 May and 19 - 4 June

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Senior Maths After School Help

Anyone who would like extra help with Mathematics in Years 11 and 12 is welcome to attend in the library on Thursday from 3:30pm - 4:30pm

Year 7—12 Maths Help

Every Tuesday at lunchtime in Room 18

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Homework Club

Who? Everyone is welcome

Why? Help with homework, clarification of tasks, supportive study environment where you can get some homework completed before leaving school.

When? Tuesdays from 3:30pm–4:30pm commencing on March 7th.

Where? Learning Support Centre

Students attending must be respectful of others and the homework environment.

A small snack will be provided for afternoon tea.

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Bell Times 2017

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Homeroom</th>
<th>Period 1</th>
<th>Period 2</th>
<th>Recess</th>
<th>Period 3</th>
<th>Period 4</th>
<th>Lunch</th>
<th>Period 5</th>
<th>Period 6</th>
<th>Homeroom</th>
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### IMPORTANT DATES

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td><strong>2017</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 27 Feb</td>
<td>Year 9 OEG Camp</td>
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<td>Mon 27 Feb - Wed 1 Mar</td>
<td>Year 7 Camp</td>
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<td>Tuesday 7 March</td>
<td>Year 7 Mass of Welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 14 March</td>
<td>Parent and Friends Meeting 7.30pm Boardroom</td>
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<td>Wed 15 March</td>
<td>Summer All School Photos</td>
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<td>Mon 20 March</td>
<td>Year 7 Round 1 Immunisation Year 12 Optional—Flu immunisation</td>
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<td>Tue 21 March</td>
<td>House Athletics</td>
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<td>Tues 28 March</td>
<td>Parent teacher Interviews—Further information to follow</td>
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<td>Thurs 30 March</td>
<td>Parent teacher Interviews—Further information to follow</td>
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<td>Friday 31 March</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1</td>
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<td>Tuesday 18 April</td>
<td>Student Free Day</td>
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<td>Wed 19 April</td>
<td>First day Term 2</td>
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<td>Tuesday 2 May</td>
<td>Parent and Friends Meeting 7.30pm Boardroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 30 May</td>
<td>Parent and Friends Meeting 7.30pm Boardroom</td>
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<td>Tuesday 1 August</td>
<td>Parent and Friends Meeting 7.30pm Boardroom</td>
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<td>Tuesday 29 August</td>
<td>Parent and Friends Meeting 7.30pm Boardroom</td>
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<td>Tuesday 24 October</td>
<td>Parent and Friends Meeting 7.30pm Boardroom</td>
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<td>Wed 22 November</td>
<td>Parent and Friends Meeting 7.30pm Boardroom</td>
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### PAM ACCESS

End of Year reports can be found if you log-in to your PAM account. Reports are no longer printed. Please contact Sibby Wilson via email: swilson@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au if you need your login code.

Please note if anyone is having issues with logging into PAM please go via the College website and click on the link or try the following:

- pam.mackillopleongatha.catholic.edu.au  OR  pam.mmcrc.catholic.edu.au

Year 7 and new parents to the College will receive their PAM (Parent Access Module) Username and Password shortly.

### Shibuya Junior High School (Japan)

Are planning to visit Mary MacKillop College

**Wednesday 8 March to Monday 20 March 2017**

20 Japanese students aged 14 -15, girls and boys

Students are in need of a Host Family

If you are able to home-stay a student for this short time, please contact

Mrs Jenny Damon on 5662 4255 or jdamon@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au

An information sheet is available.

A payment will be offered to cover hosting expenses.

### UNIFORM SHOP

Uniform shop is open each Friday from 12:50pm - 1:35pm.

Helpers are needed for uniform shop Fridays 12:50pm to 1:35pm.

### Reminder to all College Visitors

PARENTS AND COLLEGE VISITORS ARE REMINDED THAT YOU ARE REQUIRED TO SIGN INTO THE OFFICE FIRST BEFORE ENTERING THE COLLEGE GROUNDS
News from Alikadam – Your gifts that keep on giving

In the 2013 Walkathon the College community raised $5,000 to buy the Hostel for poor tribal Children in Alikadam, Bangladesh, the leasehold on a fifteen acre fruit orchard. This orchard last year produced enough bananas for sale to buy the children their meals for almost ten months of the year.

There is little chance of the Government of Bangladesh funding this hostel as the children are mainly Christian - so the hostel needs to fund itself. Next year the mangoes and lychees planted, along with the bananas that are already bearing fruit, should be able to pay the costs of food, books and school fees for all students. This is a gift from our College community that will just keep on giving.

Many years ago, a Father of the early Church, St John of Chrysostom, wrote this about our obligations as Catholics to carry out works of charity:

“Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours but theirs.... The demands of justice must be satisfied first of all; that which is already due in justice is not to be offered as a gift of charity”

The next task for the Hostel and the group of tribal men who run it, is the construction of a dormitory building to replaced the rented building they currently use. They have already built a store room and kitchen and the dormitory accommodation will complete the work our College commenced in 2013.
IMPORTANT REMINDERS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Did you know .... Students are not to text their parents if they are ill

All students are to please follow the procedure below, do not text parents directly as this leads to class disruption.

A student who requests to go to the First Aid room must have a note in his/her planner from the classroom teacher explaining the ailment. The planner must then be taken to the office where the office staff will sign the student into the First Aid room and enter the time of entrance and exit. The office staff will call parents if your child needs further attention. Please do not contact parents directly via SMS/email etc. If your child contacts you then please ask them to tell their teacher that they are unwell and we will call you.

Did you know .... A note must be supplied in the event of an absence

Student Absences - In addition to notifying the school if your child is absent, parents or guardians must send a note to the Homeroom Teacher upon his/her return, providing an explanation for the absence. All schools are obliged to record a reason for EVERY absence from school.

Did you know ... We are unable to make announcements during class time

Early Dismissal - Please note that we cannot call classes for parents to collect students or pass on messages. This interrupts classes which may be running tests, exams etc.

Parents need to complete the early dismissal note in the back of the student planner or send a note. This note is to be given to the Homeroom Teacher in exchange for a class pass. This will allow students to leave at the required time, preferably not during lessons. We are unable to make announcements during class time. More details regarding Communication Procedures are in the front of your child’s student planner.

Did you know ... Bus Passes

Bus passes must be applied for through student reception with 48 hours notice. Bus drivers will not accept a note from a parent—the pass must be issued by the College. Just handing a note in at the office does not automatically mean a bus pass will be issued. Please note that Bus passes will not be issued for sporting or social purposes. This year passes to Korumburra, Nyora, Outtrim, Arawata and Mirboo North will not be issued under any circumstances due to the buses being full. The capacity of other buses may also change throughout the year.

We appreciate your help with the above, thank you.

WAYS YOU CAN RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER

You can view the weekly newsletter in one of the following ways …

1. On the College Website or on PAM (Parent Access Module)
2. You can request an emailed copy be sent to you by forwarding your preferred email address to Info@mmcrcc.catholic.edu.au
3. Or requesting a hard copy to be sent home with your student

If we don’t hear from you regarding option 2 or 3 it will be assumed that you are happy with option 1.
This Friday 17 February is Active Learning Day at Mary MacKillop College. It is the launch of the four Active Learning areas the College will be focusing on in classrooms for 2017.

The following Monday evening there is an information evening for College parents about Active Learning and how you can further support your child’s learning. We would love to see you there.

Active Learning Parent Evening

We invite you to experience this exciting journey with us

Monday 20 February
6:00pm - 7:30pm
Pioneer Hall
Mary MacKillop College

The keynote speaker is Darren Pereira from Success Integrated