The Wisdom of the Lord Teaches us

Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College
Term 1
Week 5 - 4 March 2016

This Week’s Prayer

Almighty and Everlasting God, You have given the human race Jesus Christ our Savior as a model of humility. He fulfilled Your Will by becoming Man And giving His life on the Cross. Help us to bear witness to You By following His example of suffering and make us worthy to share in His Resurrection. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen.

Message from the Principal

As of Monday, there are only three weeks until Easter. Term one this year is certainly flying. It has been very busy, but also very productive.

On Tuesday we held our Year Seven Mass of Welcome in the College Hall. We changed venue from our Chapel because of the increased numbers this year. There were well over 200 people present for the evening, which was very encouraging. Parents, students and staff all enjoyed a barbeque meal afterwards and a chance to chat and meet informally, with many staying until dark. It was a most enjoyable evening and I thank all those families who attended and made the night such a success. The strong spirit of co-operation between the College and its families is one of the enduring strengths of Mary MacKillop College and one we should all be rightly proud of.

Parent/Teacher/Student interviews are coming up. As advised elsewhere, the Leongatha night has been changed to one day earlier, it will now be on Wednesday 16 March. The Wonthaggi night remains on Tuesday 22 March. Parent/Teacher/Student interviews are a great opportunity to meet your child’s teachers, discuss his or her progress and build on success. Taking an active interest in your child’s academic progress is a powerful way that parents can support your child’s future success. When there is a good relationship between home and school, the student always does better. Information on how to book appointments will be coming home soon.

On Friday 18 March we will celebrate St Joseph’s day. This is a very special occasion – it is the 30th Year of our College and the 150th year of the founding of the Sisters of St Joseph by St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Mass will be led by Fr Rob Galea, who is a noted musician and performer in his own right. This Mass will also be the first of our special events to mark this anniversary year. Parents and friends of the College are warmly invited to join us for this celebration. Mass will commence at about 9.10am in the Hall.

Our students have been doing very well in our new sporting competition, Schools Sport Victoria (SSV). We are pleased that our teams are proving competitive. We are even more pleased that our students are enjoying themselves and showing good co-operation and sportsmanship when they represent our College. There are reports in this newsletter of our recent successes.

I look forward to seeing you at a College event soon.

Mr David Leslie
Principal

Private Bag 7 Leongatha Vic 3953
Email: info@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 5662 4255
Website: www.mackillopleongatha.catholic.edu.au

The newsletter can be found on our website at www.mackillopleongatha.catholic.edu.au/newsletter
School captains, Kaj Patterson and Janie Gordon travelled up to Sydney a couple of weeks ago for the JJAMM leadership camp.

“We met with another 50 student leaders from around Australia and New Zealand that come from Josephite Catholic schools. Throughout the 5 days, we learnt a huge amount from other schools and new ways to further enhance the wonderful school we have here at Mary MacKillop. With the help of teachers, Sister Jan and students, we were able to share ideas and learn about Joseph’s, Julian’s and Mary MacKillop’s life and how we as a community can implement their characteristics and charism in our school.

Inspired by the other leaders we met with on JJAMM, both of us, as well as Miss Blair, came up with a few ideas to raise awareness for a chosen social justice issue we see in our Country today.

Over the next week we will be meeting with the Student Mission Team to discuss having a theme or chosen social justice issue to raise awareness for each term this year.

In Term 1, our focus is on asylum seekers and refugees, term 2 we want to focus on the environment, term 3 acceptance and equality and term 4 mental health. Each term we want to run activities that help raise awareness on the chosen social justice issue.

At the Swimming Sports we introduced the #letthemstay. This was an initiative discussed whilst at JJAMM. It is about raising awareness and educating young people and the wider community on the refugee and asylum seeker crisis.

We encourage the School community to get involved and make the most of the activities and awareness raising events so that we all can be leaving a legacy that future students of Mary MacKillop College will want to be a part of.”
Message from the Deputy Principal - Wellbeing & Organisation

This year’s production of the Elvis Presley inspired musical ‘All Shook Up’ is well on the way. The cast and band have been rehearsing feverishly 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 Michael O’Keeffe and his VCAL class.

At next week’s whole school assembly the ticket information will be launched and distributed to the College community. (Pictured below is some of the new constructed sets in our New Trade Skills Building and some of the cast of All Shook Up testing out the sets)

Responsible Cyber-safety:
The issue of responsible ‘e-citizenship’ is one that our school takes seriously and is an issue that has been and will continue to be addressed across several platforms including whole school assemblies, pastoral care lessons and through guest speakers.

Earlier this week the Pastoral Team have been dealing with a number of incidents which have required us to re-think our current procedures around student use of mobile phones. Though my conversations with the sub-schools the emerging trend is that more and more students have these devices and have them at school. The reality that a mobile phone these days are more than just a phone can lead to the temptation to their misuse, especially the camera function.

We will be currently be reviewing our processes around the student use while at school. Ideally we would like to encourage students to use their recess and lunch times to socialize, recharge with food, build on the art of face to face conversations. We will be seeking input from parents about this in the near future. Possibly in the form of a survey (ironically sent via text message!!)

Daily Organisation Update:

Staff Professional Development this week:
7 Mar Mrs Johnston will be attending the Year 12 Legal Studies Teacher’s Conference
8 Mar Mr Maskell and Ms Blair will be attending the Senior VCE coordinators seminar in Melbourne.

Students Excursions/Incursions this week:
9 Mar Japanese exchange students will be on excursion to the Phillip Island Nature Park
10 Mar Year 7 Immunisations (9am)
11 Mar SSV Junior & Intermediate girls cricket/boys Tennis compete
 Year 9 French class excursions to Melbourne for the French Film Festival

Launch of PAM and Parent Teacher Interviews

The College is delighted to be launching its new Parental Access Module (PAM) which will bring a new range of features that will allow Parents to see live assessment tasks, results, feedback and homework for students. The system is now live and available for parents to see how their students are progressing at Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College. The College has posted parent login and passwords and parents should receive these shortly.

PAM brings together a number of different systems the College used for student management in the past, these now brought together allow Parents access to a range of student information that was not previously available away from the College. Parents will now be able to gain access to students work when marked, see dates students submitted work, view teacher feedback and book Parent Teacher Interviews.

Semester 1 Parents-Teacher interviews are available for booking on the following dates:

Leongatha – Wednesday 16 March 2016 at Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College Multi-Purpose Hall
Appointment Times: 3:50pm – 6:00pm and 7:00pm – 8:55pm

Wonthaggi – Tuesday 22 March 2016 at St Joseph’s Primary School Hall Wonthaggi
Appointment Times: 4:50pm – 7:00pm
Bookings for both these evenings are made via PAM (Parental Access Module) using the Username and Password allocated by the College
http://pam.mmcrc.catholic.edu.au/
SSV South Gippsland Regional Sports

Celebrating 30 Years

T20 Blast Year 7 boys Cricket, coach Mr Lumsden.
At back, from left are: Cambell Riseley, Darcy Berryman, Brock Stefani, Billy Mancario and Joseph McNeil.
From left at front is: Ryan Gilliam, Kiernan Vandenber, Tom Crocker, Campbell Ion and Elijah Spaull.

T20 Blast Year 8 boys Cricket, coach Mr Lumsden.
At back, from left are: Sharon Sabu, Alfred Herbert, Charlie Adkins and Jed Bessell-Browne.
From left at front is: Aljon Miel, Rory Hanks and Patrick O’Keefe.

Girls tennis team, from left at back are: Jocelyn Ashley, coach Ms Rostolis, Merrin Giles, Maeve Muldoon, Emma Carlisle, Zara Littlejohn and Hannah Perry.
At front from left: Shae Kyle, Janie Gordon, Bridget Kelly, Lily Worsfold, Simone Dekker, Alicia Marshman and Maddie Wright.

Senior Girls volleyball team, coach Mrs Damon.
At back from left are: Morgan Bolam, Georgia Deenan, Jonti Westaway, Brianna Wightman, Elicia Garnham and Sonia Basten.
At front, from left: Bernadette Fitzgerald, Sophie Clarke, Claudia Lewis and Tessa Zuidema. Absent: Chelsea Hulls.

Intermediate boys volleyball, coach Mr McCarthy.
The team consisted of, at back, from left: James Rowley, James Lowater and Tim Hardacree.
From left at front is: Kyrin Ward, Ben Gibbins, Douglas Mancarella, Michael Brandon and Ethan Bath.

Intermediate Girls volleyball, coach Mrs Damon.
At back from left are: Jazmin Busana, Ella Findlay, Chloe Ollington and Chantelle Petrie.
At front from left are: Molly Clark, Brielle Cox, Alex Cecil and Bridget Eldred. Absent: Tori Sanderson.
Interschool Showjumping

On 19 February, Mary MacKillop’s equestrian team travelled down to Ayr Hill equestrian park to compete in the summer Interschool showjumping.

The ISJ was a wonderful experience, with all our team competing exceptionally well. There were many people attending the day from different schools across the area. The day ran smoothly thanks to Hillcrest Christian College providing the facilities and judges. Everyone competed to the best of their ability, with many other amazing riders and everyone managed to do well.

Courtney Fletcher was able to place 6th overall in a field of over 50 talented riders. Everyone else competed well but unfortunately did not place overall.

We would like to extend our thanks to all the parents who made time in their day to get up early and transport horses to the event and stay throughout the day to support the team.

Brielle Cox
“All Shook Up” - another great musical opportunity for our College!

Following the outstanding success of “FAME” as our College’s re-entry into the tradition of a School musical, our stellar Production team have taken on another challenge for 2016 with the choice of an Elvis Presley themed show that has all the energy and dynamism that will have us all rockin’ and rollin’ in our seats.

“All Shook Up” is the story of how a guitar playing roustabout, Chad, rides into a square little town in a square little state and changes everything and everyone he meets.

He brings music and “wild” behavior to the staid little settlement and raises the eyes of some of its more conservative citizens.

There are love stories involved as well and the whole show is a hip-swiveling, lip-curling musical fantasy that’ll have you jumpin’ out of your blue suede shoes with such classics as “Heartbreak Hotel”, “Jailhouse Rock” and “Don’t Be Cruel”.

Rehearsals have begun in earnest with the opening night less than 6 weeks away and already it promises to be a wonderful production.

We hope that the reports of the rehearsals and the “bios” of the cast will help to entice you to book early and come along with family and friends for a fantastic night of entertainment.

Wonthaggi Arts Centre,
McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi
Friday 15 April and Saturday 16 April

Alliza Miel is no stranger to the audiences of “FAME” last year with her amazingly strong and mature voice and natural acting ability, all pointing to another stellar performance this time round. Aliza plays the role of Sylvia, a mid-40s African American who runs a local honky-tonk in the small mid-west town. This promises to be a perfect role for Alliza and she is already loving rehearsals and mixing with the new cast.

It is impossible to see Olivia Winchcombe as anything other than one of THE most enthusiastic members of “All Shook Up” – her love of acting, dancing and singing pours out of every move and every expression! The character of Matilda, the strict and upright mayor is not Olivia’s natural demeanour, and yet she enjoying learning to have an authoritative air about her. Olivia has years of experience in musicals and has participated in the Victorian League Drama Camp.

“All Shook Up” is Julia Enter’s first school production, but she has previously been in Lyric Theatre’s “Wizard of Oz” and has attended dance school for many years. Her dual roles in the show involve singing and dancing and she is enjoying watching the early scenes come together so quickly. Julia thinks that the show is such a comical musical, parts of which should leave the audience “in stitches”.

Lachlan Verdon has no formal arts training but is very grateful to Ms Kalos for seeing some hidden potential in him that has emerged in his role of Earl, the town sheriff in the production. His character is quiet and rarely speaks until the end of the show – perhaps rather like Lachie himself! He is very much enjoying the company of the cast and thinks the amount of effort that is going into rehearsals will make it a performance, not to be missed.
In 2015 Ms Mills and Mr Blenscowe again looked after the College fowls. Eggs were sold both to the staff and to Parishioners at St Laurence’s Church. The money from the sales was used to support the pre-med studies of a young Christian tribal man in Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh. This is what he wrote (with slight amendments for the different education systems) to his sponsors (that is you) in a recent letter:

‘Dear Sponsors

I hope you are doing well by the grace of God. I am also well as you are praying for me. Sponsors, today I am going to write about myself. My mother passed away when I was only four years old. Two years after her passing my father got married again. That time I was in year two (primary school). My father was a landless labourer. After the final year four examinations I was told to stop studying. My elder sister had a fight with my stepmother on this issue. My elder sister got me admitted to year five. She was fifteen years old. She worked as a day labourer to bear my schooling expenses but I couldn’t attend school as I had to tend the cows daily, so I sat the examinations only. I used to read my books while the cows were grazing in the field. If my stepmother saw me reading she used to scold me. But I still got a good result in the year five examination. My school headmaster told me to take part in the Primary Scholarship Examination and I got a Primary Scholarship. The following year, when I was in year six, my elder brother Samuel put me in an orphan hostel. The founder of the hostel is an Italian Father named Pietro Luzzi Lupi. I was there free of cost from year six to year eight. Again I got a Junior Scholarship in year eight. So Samuel sent me to the Cox’s Bazar District School. After year 10 I successfully passed my Secondary School Certificate examination. To study in year 11 and 12 I came to Dhaka, where initially Samuel bore all the expenses for my education.

I thank you for your financial assistance for 2015 and 2016. I want to be a good doctor. My mother died for lack of treatment so I want to help the poor people who don’t get medical help in my home district. My Medical Entrance Examination will be held this September and I want you to pray that I can get admitted to a good Medical College. I will also be praying for you. God be with you always and keep His blessings on you.

With thanks, Manuel Tripura’

Manuel’s short life story has not been an easy one and it may be held in mind when we feel that things are hard at home or school. We must also note the sacrifice made both by Samuel and his sister to keep Manuel, a gifted student, at school.

A day labourer in Bangladesh usually works for a Bengali contractor on tasks like breaking bricks into road mettle. This is a terrible task which in our society would have up to some years ago been associated with a long prison sentence and ‘hard labour’.

The difficult physical effort, the hot sun and the choking brick dust are bad enough, but the almost invariable advances made on a young tribal woman by her employer would compound the difficulty. But Manuel’s sister endured all that to put him through school.

The activities of Ms Mills, Mr Blenscowe and the people who have purchased eggs may not seem as extreme as these, but nonetheless are a real sacrifice made in solidarity with the poor. Every carton of eggs purchased, every time the fowl shed is cleaned or the chooks are locked up for the night, is another brick crushed to pave the road for Manuel’s education.

Alan Vaughan
Religious Education Teacher

Homework Club 2016

Who? Students at any level are all welcome.
What? Help with homework, clarification of tasks, supportive study environment where you can get some homework completed before leaving school.
When? Tuesdays from 3:30–4:30 pm commencing on 1 March.
Where? Learning Support Centre.

Students attending must be respectful of others and the homework environment.
A small snack will be provided for afternoon tea.
Important Notices and Dates

**NEW COLLEGE EMAIL ADDRESSES**
The College has now set up the following email addresses

**For absences:**
attendance@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au
Absences can also be sent through the College app Tiqbiz

**General emails:**
info@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au

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**HAIRDRESSERS**
Wanted for the Mary MacKillop College upcoming production of “All Shook Up”.
The dates needed are Thursday 14 April 10.00am – 1.00pm for a practice run through of the show, then the actual shows which are Friday 15April, (two shows) and Saturday 16 April (2 shows).
It will all take place at Wonthaggi Cinema.
You don’t have to commit to all the shows, any help would be greatly appreciated.
Parents and helpers can contact Lisa Hogan at the College on 5662 4255 if they are interested.

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**CHANGE OF LOGON DETAILS FOR YEAR 9 OEG WILDERNESS CAMP**
1. Access through www.oeg.org.au
2. Schools Login button (top right)
3. Search for Mary MacKillop and click tab in the drop down menu
4. Password is: @Eildon (case sensitive)

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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 Thursdays from 3.30pm - 4.30pm.

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**ATTENTION PARENTS**
If you haven’t already done so, could all parents please sign and return the Update Family Details forms to the office asap

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**ENGLISH HELP**
Tuesday lunchtime
Room 19
Help is available for all 7-12 students who are wanting to improve their English skills.
Even when we are achieving we can still do better.
Success doesn’t come to you, YOU GO TO IT!