Message from the Principal

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

Welcome back for 2016! There has been an excited buzz around the College all week as Mary MacKillop College resumes for the new year. This is a special year – we celebrate 30 years of our College this year and the spirit of celebration will be part of every College event. Our College theme, chosen by the student Mission Team, is “Let God’s Spirit guide us in our choices”.

This year we have started one of the largest year 7 intakes the College has seen, with 110 year sevens spread over five classes. The new year 7s have settled in well and will enjoy their new air conditioning, as soon as the weather warms up. We are also starting our largest year 12 group. We hope that this year’s senior students will do as well in their final exams as last year’s did. Our VCE results were excellent and there were many happy & proud parents & teachers at the end. Next week sees our Opening Mass and the presentations to the Dux of 2015. You are welcome to join us on the day.

Around the world and closer to home, the start of the school year has been marred by the rash of bomb hoaxes. Mary MacKillop College has a comprehensive emergency plan which caters for evacuation and other contingencies. Our plan has been prepared with the help of the Dynamiq consulting group and is reviewed regularly by the Catholic Education Office. We usually have two practice drills, one early in the year and one in second semester. The first drill will be held sometime in the next few weeks. After the drill is completed, we will notify families as part of testing our system.

Early this year a great benefactor of Mary MacKillop College died. Mr Bob O’Malley was buried from St Lawrence’s Church Leongatha on Wednesday 27 January. Bob was a life long, active parishioner in Leongatha and very well known in the community. His role in the foundation of what was to become Mary MacKillop College deserves to be remembered.

When plans for a Catholic College were in the very early stages, Monsignor Cunningham and the steering committee realized that a larger site would be required. When the current site of the College came on the market, the Parishes were not in a position to buy it, being stretched with other commitments. Other properties had to be sold to fund the purchase, which could not be done quickly.

In discussion with the Monsignor, Bob O’Malley generously offered to buy the land himself, using his own money, in order to secure it until the Parishes could raise the funds. It was all done on a handshake and by mutual trust. Mary MacKillop College owes a great debt to Mr O’Malley’s foresight and generosity. To show the respect and regard of the College, the College Captains and I attended his funeral. Mr Bob O’Malley was a true friend of Mary MacKillop College, one of the people who made our College possible. Please join me in praying for his family and for the repose of his soul.

Mr David Leslie
Principal
Welcome to the start of 2016 and to that of another new school year. I hope all the members of our Mary MacKillop community have had a well-rested break and are ready to engage in another full year of challenging educational experiences both in and outside the classroom.

2016 has brought with us so many new and positive changes. The shackles of building works has almost left us and emerging from that ‘lesson in patience and resilience’ are some wonderful new facilities to better serve the school community. Internally there has been a number of positive changes to pastoral co-ordination for students. These teams are listed below:

**Junior School (Year 7 & 8)**
- Director of Junior School: Mr Richard Muranty
- Wellbeing Co-ordinator: Ms Cassandra Roberts
- Transition Co-ordinator: Mrs Jacinta Johnston

**Middle School (Year 9 & 10)**
- Director of Middle School: Mr Gerard Gordon
- Wellbeing Co-ordinator: Ms Merrin-Jane Viljoen
- VET Pathways Co-ordinator: Mr Michael O’Keeffe

**Senior School (Year 11 & 12)**
- Director of Senior School: Miss Courtney Blair
- Wellbeing Co-ordinator: Ms Bron Kalos
- VCE Co-ordinator: Mr Cade Maskell

**College Planner**
By now each and every student should have received a Mary MacKillop Student Planner. This 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. Contained in this year’s planner is a Wellbeing section dealing with several help-seeking strategies for students and parents. I encourage all member to peruse these new additions.

**Uniform**
Of particular note I draw your attention to the uniform policy. A major point in the development of good self-esteem and respect is the presentation of a person. If students can feel pride in their appearance then there is a greater sense of self-worth and belonging to a community. Connectedness to a community is paramount in student’s well-being and overall “success” at school.

Pride in their place of education also assists in the aim to create students of character and self-discipline.

Our students represent 560 walking Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College ‘billboards’ for the promotion of our ethos, values and mission of the College and for this we ask for parental support in ensuring that students have the correct uniform and wearing it in an appropriate manner. This will obviously include wear of the College hat while in the sun at recess and lunch during Terms 1 and 4.

**Staff Professional Development**
The start of the year is an important time for students and staff alike to get into routines and establish good practices around learning and teaching. We believe our staff are well versed in the sound pedagogical knowledge and practice to help your children achieve. We have an excellent mix of young and enthusiastic teachers along with experienced and dedicated teachers. On a regular basis we will be updating the College community, via the newsletter on the vital professional development that our teachers are currently undergoing.

Unfortunately some of this professional development occurs while classes are held. In this case replacement teachers are placed in classes and every effort is made to ensure staff taking over the classes in the short term are similar teaching experiences and that work left is engaging and pertinent to the current semester planners for each subject.

**Daily Organisation Update**

**Staff Professional Development next week:**
- **8 Feb** Mr Pellin, Mrs Roscoe & Mrs Bland will be attending the Year 12 English Teacher’s conference.
- **10 Feb** Mr Gordon & Ms Viljoen will be attending a Youth Mental Health training two day course.
- **11 Feb** Mr Pellin & Mrs Bland will be attending the Year 12 Literature Teacher’s Conference.
- **12 Feb** Mrs Bland, Mr Pellin, Mrs Roscoe & Ms Viljoen will be attending the VCE English Teacher’s briefing discussion the new 2016 course outline.
- **Mr Gordon will be attending the VCE History Teacher’s Conference.**

**Students Excursions/Incursions next week:**
- **8 Feb** 7E will be involved in the junior orientation program after recess.
- **9 Feb** VCE Youth Ministry class involved in the Shrove Tuesday launch of Project Compassion.
- **11 Feb** Year 8 classes engaged in an internal ‘Providence Retreat’ after recess.

Mr Sam Wright  
Deputy Principal - Wellbeing and Organisation
Meet the 2016 Pastoral Team

Junior School (Years 7 & 8)

Richard Muranty
Director - Junior School

Cassandra Roberts
Year 7 & 8 Wellbeing

Jacinta Johnston
Year 7 and 8 Transition

Middle School (Years 9 & 10)

Gerard Gordon
Director - Middle School

Merrin-Jane Viljoen
Year 9 & 10 Wellbeing

Michael O’Keefe
Year 9 and 10 Applied Learning and VET

Senior School (Years 11 & 12)

Courtney Blair
Director - Senior School

Bronwyn Kalos
Year 11 & 12 Wellbeing

Cade Maskell
Year 11 and 12 VCE & VCAL Admin

Mr David Leslie, Principal
Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College
cordially invites
Parents and Friends
to
Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College

2016 Opening and
Ash Wednesday Mass

Wednesday 10 February 2016 ~ 12.30pm
Multi-Purpose Hall
Followed by light refreshments

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS

Changed Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund payment arrangements

The CSEF has changed to a term one application process and payment cycle.
Families holding a valid means-tested concession card are eligible to apply for a payment of $225, which will be paid directly to the College to be used towards camps, sports and excursion costs.

Critical dates --
27 January, 2016 -- the CSEF web system will perform an automatic check on this date whether a parent’s concession card is valid.
29 February, 2016 -- Application forms to be completed and lodged with schools. However, schools will be able to accept and process applications up until the end of term two.
1 March 2016 -- CSEF payments to school will commence from this date onwards. Regular payments runs will occur throughout terms one and two.

If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to contact the College office on 5662 4255.

ABSENCE PASS (As in the Student Planner)

If it is necessary for a student to leave the school for part of a school day, there must be a written request in the student planner from parent/guardian. This is given to the Homeroom teacher and exchanged for a ‘Pass’ which must be presented to the office before signing out at the appropriate time. Students returning to school on the same day after such an absence must sign in at the office. Parents must also sign the student in/out of the office. Students are not to leave the College by themselves unless requested by their parents in a note.

LATE PASS

Students who arrive late to school must sign in at the office and collect a ‘Pass’ which will record the time of arrival. The ‘Pass’ must be given to the classroom teacher.

View or download at www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion/lent-calendar
**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 could you 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, epi-pens etc.

The Medical Action Plans will be reviewed on any of the following occurrences (whichever happen earlier):

- Annually
- If the students medical condition changes
- When the student is to participate 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 (spacers are required to be used at school), Epipen, hypo-kits/spare diabetes supplies 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, Melissa Preston - First Aid.

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**IMMUNISATIONS PACKS**

Have been sent home today to all Year 7 (Gardasil, Varilrix/Varivax and Boostrix) and Year 12 students (flu vaccine available for $24).

All packs are to be returned to the College by Wednesday 10 February.

The forms must be signed and returned whether you would like your student immunised or not.

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**We are a tiqbiz school**

Receive our newsletter and information by downloading the tiqbiz app to your phone, ipad or computer

Please update your child’s year level preferences.

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**2016 SWIMMING SPORTS**

Thursday 18 February at Mirboo North Pool

First race begins at 9.40am

All parents, grandparents and friends are welcome. More details in next week’s newsletter.

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**NOTICE TO PARENTS**

A reminder to parents that the drop off/pick up area for students is at the car park behind the multi-purpose hall only.

Leaving the College at the end of the day

The back car park

All parents are to wait until the buses have left the front of the College to leave the College grounds, someone is usually on duty at the T intersection stopping the traffic. This is to avoid a bank up of cars at the corner of Ogilvy Street and Horn Street. We need to get the buses to the Secondary College asap after the end of the school day.

Also a reminder to staff, parents and students of the following:-

- ALL students leaving the College on foot must use the footpath to exit the property via the main gate. It is not safe to be crossing Horn Street between the main gate and Strzelecki Highway. Nor is it safe for a parent to stop and collect or drop off students in this section of Horn Street.

In order for buses to run to schedule, no student, parent or staff vehicles (with the exception of the teacher on bus duty at the Leongatha Secondary College) should leave ahead of the first group of buses.

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**Parents & Friends Raffle winners which was drawn at last year’s Closing Mass and Awards Ceremony were —**

1st Prize — Richard Luycx
2nd Prize — Tim Damon
3rd Prize — Van Lieshout family
4th Prize — Deb Carmody

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email please email lfowles@mackillopleongatha.catholic.edu.au with your email address.

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**Important Notices and Dates**

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Wed 10 Feb</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday and College Opening Mass, MPH, 12.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 16 Feb</td>
<td>Parents &amp; Friends Meeting, 7.30pm College Boardroom</td>
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<td>Wed 17 Feb</td>
<td>Year 12 Chemistry Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 18 Feb</td>
<td>House Swimming Sports, Mirboo North Pool, from 9.30am</td>
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<td>Mon 22-24 Feb</td>
<td>Year 7 Camp, Phillip Island Adventure Resort</td>
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<td>Tue 23 Feb</td>
<td>SSV Interschool swimming Advisory Council Meeting</td>
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<td>Thur 25 Feb</td>
<td>Melbourne Soup Van, 4.30pm</td>
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<td>Fri 26 Feb</td>
<td>SSV - Senior Cricket B &amp; G</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 29 Feb</td>
<td>SSV - Super 8 Cricket B 7-10, Tennis G 7-10, Volleyball 7-10</td>
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<td>Tue 1 Mar</td>
<td>Year 7 Mass of Welcome and barbecue, 6.00pm</td>
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<td>Mar 5-17</td>
<td>Students from Shibuya Junior High School, Japan</td>
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<td>Thu 10 Mar</td>
<td>Immunisations Years 7 and 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 11 Mar</td>
<td>SSV Super 8 Cricket G 7-10, Tennis B 7-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 15 Mar</td>
<td>Student free day Parents &amp; Friends Meeting, 7.30pm College Boardroom</td>
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<td>Thu 17 Mar</td>
<td>Parent, Teacher, Student interviews, Leongatha</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 18 Mar</td>
<td>St Joseph’s Feast Day, guest Father Rob Galea</td>
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<td>Mon 21 Mar</td>
<td>House Athletics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 22 Mar</td>
<td>Parent, Teacher, Student interviews, Wonthaggi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 24 Mar</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1, school finishes 2.05pm</td>
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