



*The Wisdom
of the Lord Teaches us*

Mary MacKillop College

Newsletter

Term 1
22 February 2019



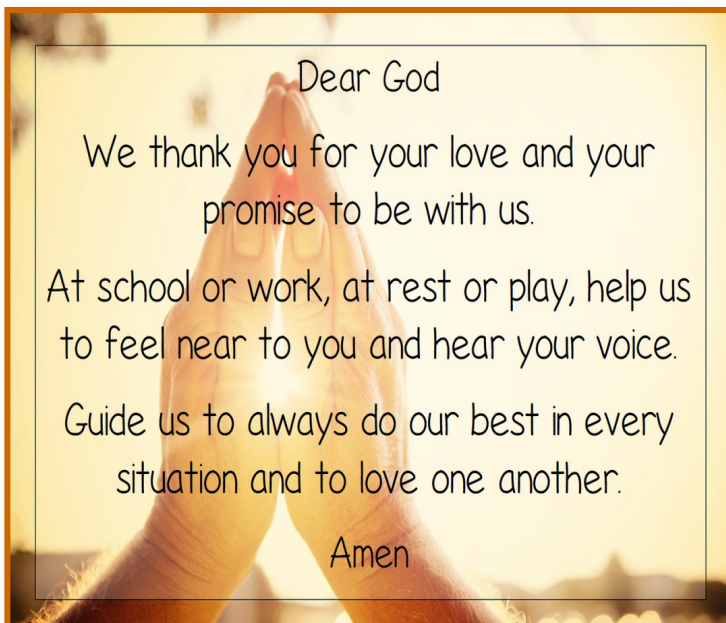
*"The strongest trees
are the slowest
growing".*

*Julian Tenison Woods
1875*

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

This Weeks Prayer



Dear Parents and Families,

The church season of Lent begins the week after next. Lent is the time of preparation for Easter, the key event of the whole of Christianity. We will celebrate Mass as a College on Ash Wednesday, 6 March. Parents and families are welcome to join us for the Mass, which includes the distribution of the ashes, where each person has the sign of the cross marked on their forehead. When we wear the ashes like this for the day we are taking part in a tradition that reaches back thousands of years. The ashes are the ancient symbol of repentance and purification, they are the outward sign of our inner intention to set aside the things that keep us from God and try to be better people.

The school year is well and truly running now and we have already had a number of key whole school events.

Last week saw our Swimming Sports at Korumburra followed by the Opening Mass and Commissioning Presentation held at the College. It was great to see so many parents and friends come along to support our students at both these events.

Our College Captains, Simone Dekker and Daniel Kavanagh spent 5 days in Sydney with Mr Wright along with 80 students from Josephite schools in Australia and New Zealand who are gathered for the Annual JJAMM (Joseph, Julian and Mary MacKillop) Student Leadership Conference.

Next week we have Year 9's and Year 7's all heading away on their respective camps. Year 9 are off to Fraser National Park near Lake Eildon for their outdoor education adventure. Year 7 head to Philip Island Adventure Resort, their camp is designed to help them settle in and develop friendships with their peers. Both are a great experience and always a highlight of the year. We wish them and their teachers well as they head off on their adventures.

You will be invited separately, but a quick reminder to Year 7 families the Mass of welcome and commissioning of Year 7 Student Leaders will take place on the evening of Tuesday 5 March. We look forward to seeing you there.

Our College Open mornings are coming up in March: Fridays 15, 22 and 29, between 9am -11am. We welcome everyone to come and have a look at the College in operation. There will be student-led tours on the day, information about the College available and Senior Staff on hand to answer any questions. If you have friends with primary school age children, do them a favour and suggest they come and see Mary MacKillop College at work.

David Leslie
Principal



"The strongest trees are the slowest growing" - Julian Tenison Woods 1875

ATTENDANCE

When your child goes to school every day they will achieve their best. Here are some tips for helping your child turn up, achieve more and maintain a good attendance habit:

Let your child know it is important to go to school every day

One of the best ways to encourage your child to go to school every day is to talk about school in a positive way. Tell your child it is important that they go to school, even on special days like their birthday or the last day of term. Occasionally, your child may need to stay home from school—they might be sick, or there might be serious family matters you have to attend to (such as a funeral). While these kinds of events are unavoidable, other events such as shopping trips, holidays, visiting family and friends, or appointments such as haircuts can be scheduled out of school hours.

Create routines for your child

Help your child get organised and prepare for their school day. Set a regular bedtime and morning routine. Encourage them to lay their school clothes out the night before and pack their bags in advance so they can get to school on time.

How can you help?

Talk positively about school with your child.

Create and maintain a routine.

If possible, make appointments out of school hours.

Avoid taking your child away for holidays during the school term.

The College can be notified of a child/s absence **by 8.45am** through one of the following:

- * Phoning the College on – 03 5662 4255 (leave a voice message)
- * Email – attendance@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au
- * Parent Access Module – PNA (Parent Notified Absence)

The Minister of Education has ordered schools to contact families when students are absent. If your child is absent and the College has not been notified, the College must:

- * Contact the responsible parent or guardian to seek an explanation of the absence. This will be via SMS text message.
- * If there is no response from you within 45 minutes, the College will telephone each parent, including at work, then any emergency contact/s nominated on the student's file held by the school.
- * If, following contact, the child/s safety has been established, but no explanation has been provided within 10 school days, the absence will be recorded as an unexplained absence and noted on the child's file.

The College asks that parents and guardians please notify all designated emergency contacts for your children of this change to procedure.

By always notifying us in advance when your child will be away, you are helping us to quickly determine if any child, including yours, is missing.

Child Safety

Mary MacKillop College is a Child Safe School. We have a zero tolerance stance on child abuse and are committed to the protection of all children from all forms of abuse.

Parents/guardians or other community members who have concerns that a child may be subject to abuse should contact the College and ask to speak with one of the School's Child Protection Officers. The College can be contacted on 5662 4255

If you believe the child is in immediate danger, please call 000

The College Child Protection Officers are:

- * Kieran O'Dwyer – Deputy Principal Wellbeing and Organisation
- * Melinda Licciardi – Student Counsellor
- * Jo Eady – Student Counsellor
- * Bron Kalos – Senior School Wellbeing Co-ordinator
- * Kate Dwyer - Middle School Wellbeing Co-ordinator
- * Nicole Dudman - Junior School Co-ordinator
- * Renae Scothern - Learning Adjustment
- * Jenny Damon - Administration

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL—WELLBEING AND ORGANISATION

In response to your concern, the College will:

- Ensure accurate records of discussions are kept;
- Ensure the matter is handled sensitively and in a confidential manner;
- Ensure any required mandatory or legislative reports required by the School are made;
- Take all reasonable steps to remove the risk of further harm to the child;
- Support you in understanding any other legal obligations you may have.

Youth Mental Health

Adults are often wary of discussing mental health with teenagers. Many have internalised pervasive myths about risks associated with talking about mental health. Others just do not feel confident that they can communicate well with them when it comes to sensitive topics. Generation Next provides education and information about the prevention and management of mental illness in youth to professionals, young people and the wider community. They provide free webinars, which highlight practical and simple tools, which will help you to talk effectively about mental health to the young people in your life.

Information can be obtained from the link below.

<https://www.generationnext.com.au/>

Kieran O'Dwyer
Deputy Principal
Wellbeing and
Organisation



YEAR 7 AND 8 STUDENTS

The things that have stood out for me at Mary MacKillop are all the different subjects that we get to learn. I enjoyed making new friends and getting to know new people. I have thoroughly enjoyed having Hannah Charlton in the classroom because she always makes us happy and Hannah always lifts the mood in our classroom. Having really long P.E sessions are so good, because in Primary School we only got 45 minute classes.

Molly Heber

I like being a student at Mary Mac because it's a welcoming, friendly school and all the teachers and students are kind towards others.

Sophie Phipps



I love Mary MacKillop because it has so many great options to help you choose your path for the future ahead.

Grace Berryman

I like being a Mary MacKillop student, because the teachers will help you if you are struggling in a certain subject, and everyone is very inclusive and kind.

Aimee Le Page

I like being a Mary Mac student because when I wake up every morning, I know I will be entering a clean and safe environment. I also love all the encouragement the teachers give you and how supportive they all are.

Sophie Enbom

As a student of Mary MacKillop the things I like about being a student here is how the teachers at this school help you with any problems you have and if you have any problems academically, etc. You can go and get help from teachers or more experienced adults that can help you and the sport programs here are really good. They have a good range of sports that you can do at this school and I also like the environment at this school that I feel safe and I don't need to worry about being bullied by others and if I have any problems I feel like I can talk to any of the teachers or staff.

Valentino Auddino



Swimming Sports

AGE CHAMPIONS

MALE

U13 - Rem Dal Pozzo
 U14 - Flynn Lord
 U15 - Patrick Duncan
 U16 - Kelsey Dal Pozzo
 U17 - Jed Bessell-Browne
 U18 - Patrick Holian

FEMALE

U13 - Makayla Krause
 U14 - Phoebe Hinds
 U15 - Lily Maxwell
 U16 - Jamillah Enbom
 U17 - Arlie Whiteside
 U18 - Tomei Dal Pozzo

50M FREESTYLE CHAMPION WINNERS

Alexander Duncan
 Tomei Dal Pozzo



HOUSE RESULTS	
1st	MacDonald - 670
2nd	Cameron - 513
3rd	Tenison - 453
4th	Chisholm - 362



CAPTAINS BADGE PRESENTATIONS



STUDENT MISSION TEAM

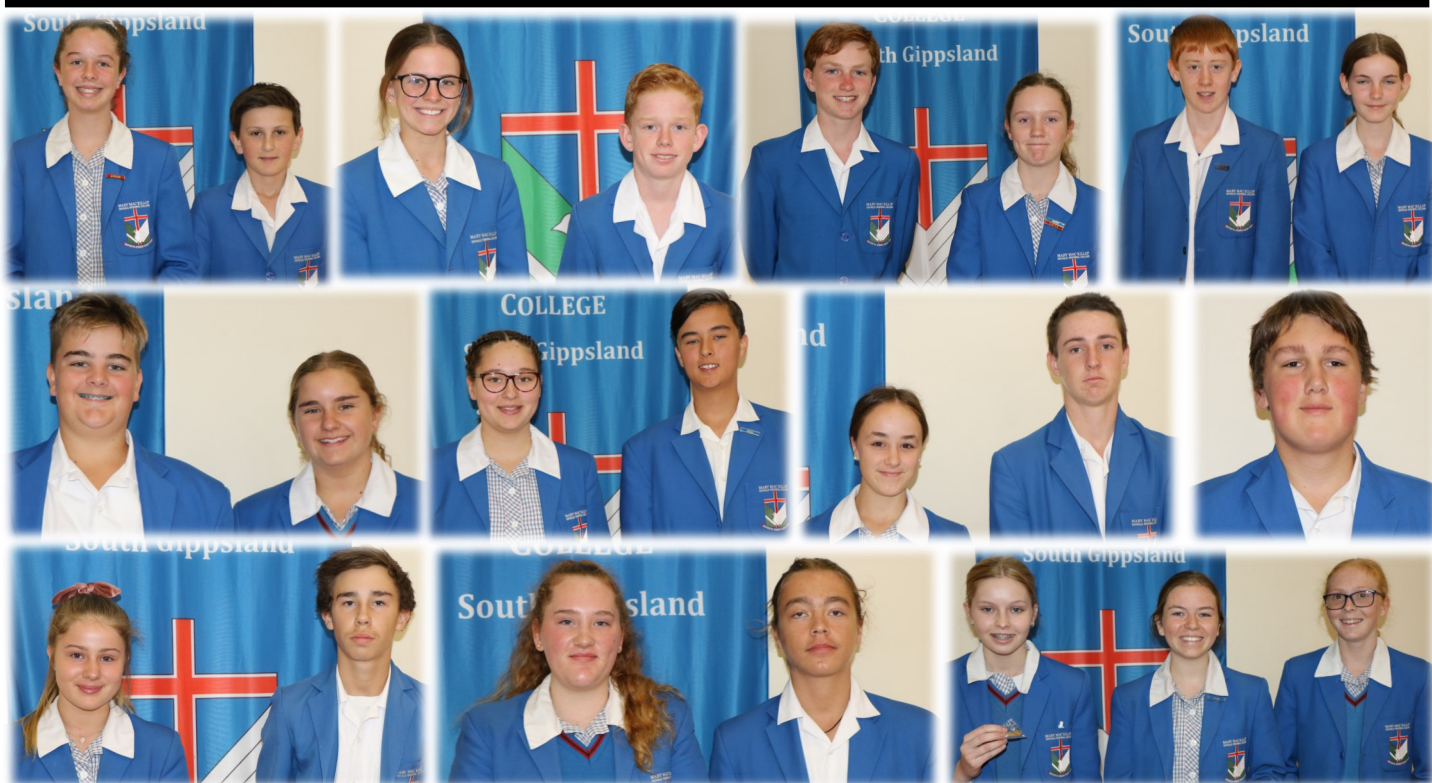
Pictured Left to Right:

Back Row: Joel Tom, Brooke Whiteside, Luca Riseley, Patrick Biro, Hannah Hartman-Averay, Caitlin Reid, Patrick Holian, Bryce Judd

Middle Row: Alyssa Wightman, Annabelle Williams, Tom Hudson, Imogen McInnes-Griffiths, Abbey Kirk, Tyson Hanegraaf, Beth McRae, Amelia Ellen, Sienna Falkingham, Aaron Farrell, Jemma Caithness, Leeah O'Meara, Chloe Maxwell

Front Row: Hannah Giliam, Bridget Keily, Siobhan Beecroft, Mitchell Bentvelzen, Daniel Kavanagh, David Leslie, Simone Dekker, Megan Thorn, Chelsea Funnell, Bridget Akers, Kelly Geary

On Thursday 14 February, after the Opening Mass we held a commissioning ceremony and presented all our 2019 College Leaders with their badges - Years 8, 9 and 10 Homeroom Captains, Justice Captains, House Leaders and College Vice Captains and Captains each received their badge. (Year 7 Captains will be decided on after their camp). These leaders then all read out a commitment statement.



WEEK 1 - 2019 SOUNDWAVE SERIES



In 2018 the Music Department started the Summer Concert Series. This initiative was created to give students of all levels of musical expertise a chance to perform in front of a relaxed audience, to encourage a love for music and to develop performance skills in all students. It was a huge success in 2018 and will be running once again in 2019.

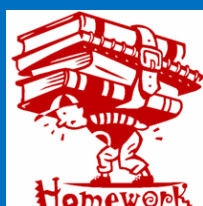
On Thursday lunchtimes students come down to the grassed area in front of the Music Department, they eat their lunch in the sunshine and watch their friends perform. It is a wonderful atmosphere that both performers and audience love. Crowds are growing rapidly each week and performers are filling the schedule list a week in advance. It is also an avenue for students with a keen interest in Musical Technology and Sound Engineering to develop their skills in setting up for a live performance and running the sound desk as the performance progresses. This too has generated a massive following and support.

We aim to encourage a love of music in every student, no matter their ability or expertise. The Soundwaves Summer Series is a place for everyone, where everyone is welcome and new talents can be revealed. It is very pleasing to note the amount of new talent which emerges when given the opportunity.

Students are developing their performance skills and growing as performers each time they present to the audience. We are uncovering a huge range of new talent from students who have a love for music and are being courageous wanting to perform in front of their peers.

Music really is alive and thriving at Mary Mackillop College and we look forward to seeing more students get up and perform.

Beth Winterhalter
Music Specialist and Band Director



Homework Club began on Tuesday 12th February from 3.30-4.30pm in the Learning Adjustment Centre.

All students from Year 7 – 12 are welcome to attend. Teachers available will be John McKeown, Hannah Charlton, Jenny Shea and Michelle Hackett.

Homework Club provides the opportunity for students to keep up to date with their work and ask for help. We are looking forward to seeing you all!



MATHS HELP

Year 7 - 12

Tuesdays - Room 17 - Lunchtime

ALL STUDENTS WELCOME

AGRICULTURE IS BACK AT MARY MACKILLOP



South and West Gippsland is arguably the garden of Eden when it comes to agriculture.

The rain and the soil, the proximity to the mountains and coast combine to produce one of the best growing environments on the planet.

Here at the College we have decided to invest some energy back into the study of agriculture and horticulture. We want our young people to be up to speed and to recognise the opportunities in the region. Our course combines practical work and theory - including career pathways.

Our first project has been to clean, repair and recommission the poultry house. We will raise chickens from egg to layer. Surplus cockerels will be sold to our community. We will also be selling point-of lay pullets.

We are recommissioning the glass house. Our first seedlings have sprouted and will be ready for planting out in 2 weeks!

We have removed a patch of kikuyu and fertilised it with chicken manure. It will be rotary hoed in coming days and then our winter vegetables will be going in.

The calf shed is in good shape and we will be raising some calves as soon as fencing is up to scratch.

Pictured here are some of the Year 10 Agriculture students. Special thanks go to Jack and Kath (outdoor staff) who have helped get the agriculture program off the ground. The students have embraced the new course and are so keen that they stay on site after the bell!

JACK PEARCE

**Year 9 & 10 Pathways Coordinator
Agriculture and Horticulture Teacher**



The Chess Club is continuing in 2019

We will be competing in the Cardinia Interschool Chess Competition. Training will commence on Mondays and Wednesdays in the Library at lunchtime. Competition days are the 22nd and 26th of March

All are Welcome: Novice, Experienced Players and Mentors

The sign-up sheet is in the Library



**Shibuya Junior High School are planning a
return visit to Mary MacKillop College !**

**12 Japanese Students and 1 Teacher will be arriving
on Friday 8th March 2019 for 12 days
(departing Wednesday 20th March)**



Would you like to be a host family ?



**If you are able to homestay a Japanese student,
please contact Carly Kitchingman at the Office.**

A payment to cover hosting expenses will be offered

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund payment arrangements

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card as at the 29th January 2019 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.

Application forms to be completed and lodged with schools. However, the schools will be able to accept and process applications up until the end of term two.

Regular payment runs will occur throughout terms one and two.

Families wishing to apply for the payment should visit the CSEF website at www.education.vic.gov.au/csef and download an application form, complete and return to school by **21st June**, or alternatively pickup an application form from the College office.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the College office on 5662 4255.

IMMUNISATIONS

Immunisation cards have been distributed to Year 7, 10 and 12 students and are due to be returned by Thursday 28th February.

Year 12 students who would like to get their flu immunisation please make sure your card is returned to the Office with the correct money enclosed by Thursday 28th February.

Immunisations will take place on Friday 3rd May and Tuesday 12th November.

Any queries please contact the Shire of South Gippsland Immunisation Team.

AMBULANCE MEMBERS

All families are encouraged to be members of the ambulance service. At times of accidents or illness, the First Aid trained staff member/s in attendance will make a decision as to whether or not they should request the attendance of the ambulance service.

In doing so, the health and safety of the patient will be the only determining factor. **Ambulance membership, or potential costs to families will not be a point of consideration.** Such a decision will always be made with a conservative 'better safe than sorry' attitude. Parents (or next of kin for an adult) will always be contacted as soon as possible so that they may be in attendance when the ambulance arrives. A familiar staff member will always accompany a student to the hospital if the attending ambulance officers approve. Thank you.

IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

ATTENTION



**MMC Parents and Friends
NEED YOUR HELP!**

**We need volunteers to
help in our Canteen and/or
Uniform Shop.**

**Please contact the General
office with your details.**

Phone 56624255

Thank you!

UNIFORM SHOP & CANTEEN

Uniform Shop is open each Friday
from
12.50 pm - 1.35 pm

Canteen is open Monday - Friday

IMPORTANT REMINDER

FOR UNIFORMS

Please ensure that all items or
uniform are labelled with the
students name.

**We have had some items go missing -
if you could please check that you
have all your own items. If you have
anything that isn't yours please
return it to the Office**

2019	
Mon 25 Feb	Gippsland Swimming Carnival
Thur 21 Feb	SSV Year 11/12 Boys & Girls Cricket
Wed 27 Feb - Fri 1 March	Year 7 Phillip Island Camp
Mon 25 Feb - Fri 1 Mar	Year 9 OEG Camp
Fri 1 March	SSV Year 7,8,9/10 Super 8's Boys SSV Girls Tennis SSV Boys and Girls Volleyball
Tues 5 March	Year 7 Welcome Mass and BBQ
Wed 6 March	Ash Wednesday Mass - Pioneer Hall
Fri 8 March	SSV Year 7,8, 9/10 Super 8's Girls SSV Boys Tennis
Fri 8 - 20 March	Japanese Exchange Students
Tues 12 March	Parents & Friends Meeting 7.30PM Board Room
Thurs 14 March	Regional Swimming
Thurs 19 Mar	School House Athletics
Thur 21 Mar	Parent Teacher Interviews - Leongatha
Tues 26 Mar	Parent Teacher Interviews - Wonthaggi
Fri 5 April	Easter Liturgy LAST DAY OF TERM 1

Student Absences

Please contact the College before 10:00am.

Messages can be left on our answering
machine

Please telephone 5662 4255 or
email:-

attendance@mackillopleongatha.catholic.edu.
au or on the flexibuzz app

Please also complete an absence note (in the
back of your child's planner) on his/her return
to school. Please see your child's planner for
more information. Thank you

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.

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.

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.**

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. Most buses are at capacity therefore passes cannot be issued. We appreciate your help with the above, thank you.

A reminder that 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 \$12.00. Hats are available from the uniform shop.**

We have had two cases of Impetigo (school sores) reported to the College

Affected students are to stay at home. If your child has sores or blisters anywhere on their body please contact your GP



GymPT is coming to your local gymnastics club

Call 0400 273 658 to book your place

Leongatha Gymnastics Club
Date/s: Thursday 21st, 28th March & 4th April
Time: 7.00pm-8.00pm
Address: St Laurence O'Toole Primary School; 33-35 Ogilvy St, Leongatha VIC

Visit vic.gymnastics.org.au for more information