



*The Wisdom  
of the Lord Teaches us*

# Mary MacKillop College

## Newsletter

Term 1  
8 February 2019



*Julian Tenison Woods  
1875*

Newsletter on our website  
[www.mackillopleongatha.catholic.edu.au/newsletter](http://www.mackillopleongatha.catholic.edu.au/newsletter)  
also available on the College Parent Portal - PAM

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

#### *This Weeks Prayer*

##### A New Year's Prayer

Lord, You make all things new  
You bring hope alive in our hearts  
And cause our Spirits to be born again.

Thank you for this new year  
For all the potential it holds.

Come and kindle in us

A mighty flame

So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God  
And live forever to praise Your glorious name.

Amen

Welcome back everyone to all families and students after the long summer holidays. It was great to welcome back to school all those happy smiling faces. Once the students return, the College truly comes to life. A special welcome to our 118 new Year 7's and to all the students who have joined us at other year levels as well. We hope your time at Mary MacKillop is happy and successful.

Congratulations to our graduating Class of 2018. They did very well with University offers, apprenticeships and in gaining employment. Many of them will be heading off to commence studies in the next few weeks, many have already started work in their chosen fields. We wish them all well on the next stage of their adventure.

You would be aware that the founding Principal of Mary MacKillop College, Mr. Ed Carmody, died in the holidays after a long struggle with cancer. Ed's funeral in Pioneer Hall was a fitting tribute to his legacy. Many past students, families and staff came back to pay their respects. In all some 1000 people attended. The family have expressed their gratitude to all who came together to celebrate Ed's life so beautifully. I wish to expressly thank the many staff, parents and friends who volunteered their time so the College could successfully host such a large function. Ed deserved no less.

We start the year by welcoming five new staff: Trainees and recent graduates Hannah Charlton and Anna Kirk; new teacher Sally Newton, VCAL Leader Joanne Knox and Learning Adjustment Leader Julia Strentz. We look forward to each of you having a long and happy association with the College.

School has started quickly: we have already seen a successful Year 12 Retreat and school photos for 2019 were taken on Thursday. A special feature is the "Children of Alumni" photo. This has grown rapidly to 72 students, it is a living testament to the growth and success of Mary MacKillop College.

Wishing all our students and families every success as we begin the new year.

David Leslie  
Principal



YEAR 7 ACTIVITY DAY



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

## FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL - LEARNING AND TEACHING

### Hit the ground running:

Welcome to the start of 2019 and to that of a new school year. I hope all the members of our Mary MacKillop College community have had a well-rested break and are ready to engage in another full year of challenging educational experiences.

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 is 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. The sheer packed seating evident at this weeks Year 7 MacBook Evening is a fantastic show of the support for the College community.

### Positive Parent Participation & PAM:

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.

You would have hopefully realised by now the importance of good communication to assist in your child's learning journey. It is therefore imperative that there are open channels of communication between home and school. At Mary MacKillop College students access their work and assessment tasks through the online portal called SIMON. This wonderful resource informs students of their daily timetable, lists the daily notices and ensures that students have quick and ready access to key learning materials. PAM...the "Parent Access Module" allows you, as parents and guardians, access to much of this information as well.

We also use PAM for progressive and continuous reporting and any information that we are wanting to send home to parents/guardians. Parents will now be able to gain access to students work when marked, see upcoming work submission dates, view teacher feedback and obtain school reports.

Parent-Teacher interview booking will also be run through PAM and further information regarding Parent Teacher Interviews and when bookings become open will be sent home shortly.

### 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.

In 2019 we will be continuing our focus on creating opportunities to help student uncover the path to achieve their personal best and to encourage them to become lifelong learners. We will to continue to focus 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

Best wishes for all educational pursuits.

**Sam Wright**  
**Deputy Principal**  
**Learning and**  
**Teaching**



## FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL—WELLBEING AND ORGANISATION

It's that time of year again. The holiday season has ended and we have been bombarded with back-to-school messages—at the supermarket, on our social media feeds and on the TV.

New shoes, school uniforms, stationery and devices have been purchased by busy parents trying to juggle between family time, final holiday activities, going back to work and getting kids ready for the start of a new school year.

While these items help ensure your child can participate in class and sport activities, the back-to-school period can also be a great time to review your online safety and get ahead of any issues that may come up through the year.

Your children's online world is as much a part of their life as offline, so it is crucial that you are as involved in supporting their online wellbeing as you are their physical health.

Your skills in rule setting, support, guidance and respect are just as important to helping ensure your kids enjoy positive digital experiences and to help them gain confidence in asking for advice and support.

Knowing they are equipped to make sound decisions and manage risks online is extremely important, especially with the number of internet-enabled devices that can be used without adult supervision.

As a parent what can I do?

**Know the signs for cyberbullying**—school can be a particularly challenging time for kids, especially if they're being bullied. Data show's most cyberbullying stems from the school yard. So watch out for signs that your child may be affected, like being secretive with their online activities, avoiding school or social outings, a decline in school grades, or a sudden change in friendship groups.

**Set screen time limits**—research shows more than half of parents are concerned about the amount of time their kids spend online. With screens increasingly being used at school and home, it's important to ensure your child has a healthy balance of offline and online time. Setting screen-free zones in the home and negotiating switch off times are useful ways to do this. Don't forget, quality over quantity!

**Use tools**—parental controls on smartphones, TVs and computers can help limit your child seeing inappropriate content and help manage their time online. Make sure the privacy settings on their apps and games are turned on and help show them how to block and report people online.

**Stay engaged**—as soon as we hand our child a device, we should be talking to them about the do's and don't's of the online world. It's also important to let them know we'll be there to support them if anything goes wrong. There is no substitute for taking an interest in our children's online lives from an early age, to help establish strong foundations and open lines of communication.

**Raising children.net.au** – offers a range of email newsletters that keep you up to date with practical information about raising children and looking after yourself as a parent.

**iParent** – A digital platform where you can learn about the digital environment and how to help your child have a safe and enjoyable online experience.

**The Lost Summer** - One interactive way to review online safety as a family could be through the game The Lost Summer. The Lost Summer, is a fun and engaging way for young people to improve their online safety by learning and practising important skills like respect, empathy and resilience.

The Lost Summer is a great way to encourage online safety conversations at home. You can download the game and play along with your child today.

Please at any stage throughout the year and your child's secondary education, do not hesitate to contact their Sub School Director or Wellbeing Coordinator to discuss any concerns you or your child have.

**Kieran O'Dwyer**  
Deputy Principal  
Wellbeing and  
Organisation





# Introducing our new staff!



**Anna Kirk**  
**AFL Sport Ready**  
**Trainee**

## **What is your previous experience?**

Prior to working at MMC I spent 6 months in Italy teaching English to an Italian child.

## **What is your role at MMC?**

My role is a sports trainee involves assisting in the general maintenance of equipment and facilities, in the coordination of inter-school sport and recreation programs and attending camps and excursions.

## **Do you have local connections?**

Growing up locally, I have been apart of the local sporting community, participating in netball, basketball and swimming competitions in the area.

## **What are your first impressions of MMC?**

In my first few days at MMC, I have been warmly welcomed by all staff as well as students. As a past student, I was already aware of the positive, compassionate nature and strong sense of community amongst the school and becoming a staff member has only further established this.



**Joanne Knox**  
**Curriculum Leader -**  
**VCAL**

## **What is your previous experience?**

My previous experience has included Nursing, Hospitality, Dairy Farming, Teaching English, Humanities and VCAL.

## **What is your role at MMC?**

My role at MMC is VCAL Co-ordinator.

## **Do you have local connections?**

I have extensive local connections because I was the Workplace Learning Co-ordinator for South Gippsland & Bass Coast in 2015/16. My role was to engage with the community to find workplace opportunities for students.

## **What are your first impressions of MMC?**

My first impression of MMC is a supportive inclusive environment where wellbeing is paramount to students and staff. I am overwhelmed by the whole school approach to teaching and learning and the support I am getting from staff and students.



**Sally Newton**  
**Teacher**

## **What is your previous experience?**

2005-2011 St. Bernard's College Essendon  
2017-2018 Bacchus Marsh Grammar

## **What is your role at MMC?**

8E Homeroom Teacher  
Year 7 and 8 Science, Maths and Humanities teacher

## **Do you have local connections?**

I grew up in Korumburra as 'Sally Mackie'

## **What are your first impressions of MMC?**

Mary MacKillop's strong sense of community was apparent as soon as I stepped onto campus. I instantly knew that it was a place that I wanted to spend time at. I have been welcomed warmly by both staff and students and feel fortunate to be part of the Mary MacKillop team.



**Julia Strentz**  
**Learning  
Adjustment Leader**

### **What is your previous experience?**

I come to you with 10 years experience in Special Education (F-12) and Wellbeing/Learning Adjustment Leadership in various schools. I recently completed a Master of Clinical Teaching through the University of Melbourne and have also completed further studies through Melbourne University focusing on challenging behaviour management and building positive learning environments, which both fell under the 'Special Education' umbrella.

### **What is your role at MMC?**

This year I am Co-ordinating the new Learning Adjustment systems as they are rolled out across the school this year. These systems will support teachers in adjusting their teaching to support all students in maximizing their potential. 'Learning Adjustment' helps teachers to understand the variety of special needs in our classrooms including students who previously were supported through the Learning Support Unit. Under the new system, students who require assistance will have learning designed to meet their individual needs, so that they can access the curriculum and success at the same rate as their peers. This assistance will come to them in the form of supported programmes, altered teaching and learning systems and access to our team of highly experienced Learning Assistants to ensure that no one is left behind.

### **Do you have local connections?**

I have previously participated in the Mary MacKillop community as a parent and worked as a part of the educational community as a teacher at St Joseph's Korumburra. Here I co-ordinated connections between the two schools in the area of STEM, an area, which I believe is important in future -proofing our children.

### **What are your first impressions of MMC?**

I feel blessed to be joining such an inspired and encouraging team of professional educators. The staff have had to be open to the change that I bring, as I build new systems and supports, and I am impressed with their dedication to the students of this school, and their warmth for each other. The students have been unbelievably welcoming, and generous in their approach to me as a new staff member. I feel inspired by the communities palpable feeling of unity and care. St Mary MacKillop's spirit and ethos is indisputably pulsating through the hallways of this school.

### **What is your previous experience?**

I previously attended MMC, starting in 2013 and graduated in 2018.

### **What is your role at MMC?**

My role at MMC is to undertake a traineeship in the learning support area, which involves assisting teachers and students in the classroom.

### **Do you have local connections?**

I was brought up locally and attended St. Laurence O'Toole Primary School. I have been apart of the Foster Football/Netball Club and also Care2Dance located in Leongatha.

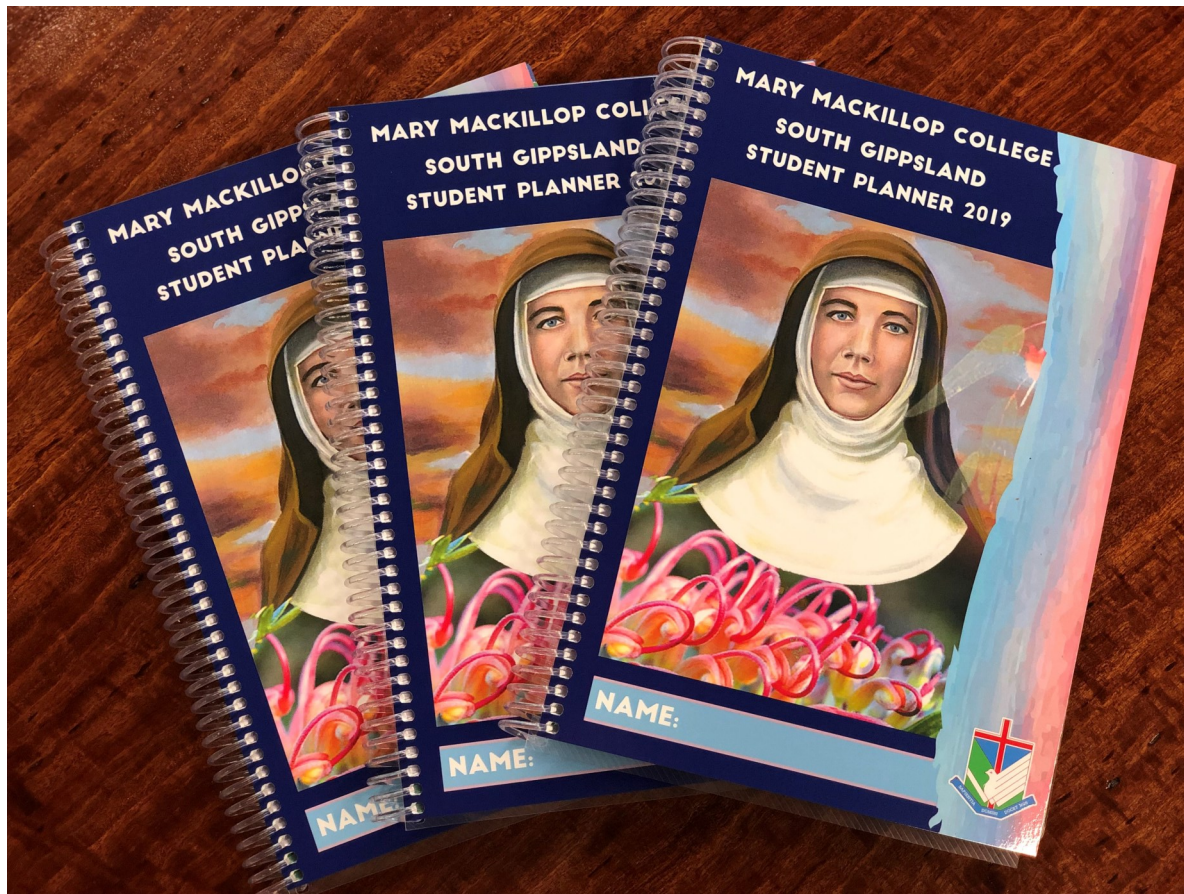
### **What are your first impressions of MMC?**

As a student I always felt safe and included whilst at MMC due to the sense of community that has been established throughout the college. The staff have all been very welcoming and have assisted in a smooth transition from student to staff member, re-establishing the sense of community felt around the college.



**Hannah Charlton**  
**AFL Sport Ready  
Trainee**





## CONGRATULATIONS

**EMMA TREASE**



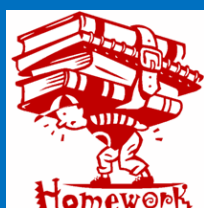
**In Term 4 2018, we ran a competition asking for a front cover design for our 2019 Planner.**

**Emma who was in Year 8 was chosen as the winner.**

## YEAR 8 LAUNCH



Action from Year 8 Launch at Leongatha Bowling Club with the help from club members Rod and Ollie



Homework Club will begin on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> 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**



# Year 12 - 2018 Achievers Assembly Awards



**COLLEGE DUX**

Molly Clark



**RHONDA MALONE MEMORIAL BURSARY AWARD**

Chloe Ollington pictured with Michael Malone



**CARDELL'S AWARD**

Emma Carlisle



**LEONGATHA MEDICAL GROUP AWARD**

Ellie Holmes



**ACADEMIC AWARD FOR ART**

Harriett Steenholdt



**ACADEMIC AWARD FOR BIOLOGY**

Aaron Farrell



**ACADEMIC AWARD FOR BUSINESS MANAGEMENT, PHYSICAL EDUCATION & PSYCHOLOGY**

Molly Clark



**ACADEMIC AWARD FOR CHEMISTRY**

Belinda Denbrok



**ACADEMIC AWARD FOR ECONOMICS**

Tara Pryor



**ACADEMIC AWARD FOR ENGLISH & GEOGRAPHY**

Emma Carlisle





**ACADEMIC AWARD FOR  
VET: APPLIED  
FASHION DESIGN**

**Bianca Phillips**



**ACADEMIC AWARD  
FOR HEALTH &  
HUMAN  
DEVELOPMENT**

**Tomei Dal Pozzo**



**ACADEMIC AWARD FOR  
HISTORY REVOLUTIONS,  
LITERATURE, MUSIC  
PERFORMANCE & THEATRE  
STUDIES**

**Michael Leah Stephens**



**ACADEMIC AWARD  
FOR VET: ICT CERT  
III**

**Luke Sands**



**ACADEMIC AWARD  
FOR LEGAL  
STUDIES**

**Jennifer Bals**



**ACADEMIC AWARD FOR MATHS  
METHODS & SPECIALIST MATHS**

**Kate Brennan**



**ACADEMIC AWARD FOR FURTHER  
MATHS**

**Ellie Holmes**



**ACADEMIC AWARD FOR PRODUCT  
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY AND  
VET: BUILDING &  
CONSTRUCTION**

**Jarvis Pryor**



**ACADEMIC AWARD FOR  
PHYSICS**

**Catherine Williams**



**ACADEMIC AWARD FOR  
RELIGION AND SOCIETY**

**Simone Dekker**



## YEAR 12 RETREAT



On Wednesday 30th of January the Year 12's headed off to Grantville for what would be our last school retreat. For many, we realised that this will be the first of many lasts for us at Mary MacKillop College and whilst we were apprehensive, we were looking forward to what the retreat would provide. The theme of the retreat was 'There where you are, you will find God' and we participated in a number of activities which provided us with the opportunity to reflect on how God is with us wherever we go, including throughout our remaining time at the College as Year 12 students.

A highlight of the retreat for many was sitting around the campfire on the first night enjoying valuable time together as a year level, as well as the concert on the last night when all the small groups performed the song they had created with Ms Poletti throughout the sessions. These songs required us to incorporate our knowledge and understanding of faith and Mary MacKillop and each group put on a great show.

On our final day, we rose early and with a majestic backdrop we all participated in a short liturgy. Taylor Mitchell and Ms Poletti welcomed us with a beautiful hymn which set the tone for the remainder of the retreat. The final day of retreat provided us with the opportunity to reflect on the things we are most grateful for and to set goals for the year.

On behalf of the Year 12's we would like to thank all the teachers who gave up their time to provide us with this experience. We look forward to the year ahead.

**Siobhan Beecroft, Hannah Gilliam, Bridget Akers, Kelly Geary**







**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](http://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.

### **WAYS YOU CAN RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER**

**You can view the fortnightly newsletter in one of the  
following ways ...**

**On the College Website or on PAM (Parent Access  
Module)**

**You can request an emailed copy be sent to you by  
forwarding your preferred email address to  
[Info@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au](mailto:Info@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au)**

**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.**

### **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



**MMC House**  
**Swimming Sports**  
**Wed. 13th February**  
**2019**  
**Korumburra Pool**  
**Snag in Bread**  
**\$2.50ea**

2019	
Wed 13 Feb	School Swimming Sports
Thurs 14 Feb	Opening Mass
Tues 19 Feb	Parents & Friends Meeting 7.30 PM Board Room
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 <b>LAST DAY OF TERM 1</b>

## 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!**

## VOLLEYBALL

**Leongatha SPLASH Stadium**

Summer/Autumn Junior Competition

**starts 6:00pm Thursday 14 February 2019**

Individuals welcome

For more details phone Mandy 0418 361 240

or email [korumburravolleyball@yahoo.com](mailto:korumburravolleyball@yahoo.com)

### PARENTS & FRIENDS COMMITTEE

We would like to invite any new or existing parents that would like to be involved with the Parents & Friends Committee that they are welcome to attend the first meeting being held on 19th February at 7.30PM in the College Board Room

## 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 Poowong, Nyora, Outtrim, Arawata, Nerrena 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.



### COLLEGE HATS

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.**

## 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](mailto: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

## WORKING WITH CHILDRENS CHECKS

It is compulsory for anyone coming into the College, including parents who volunteer in the Uniform Shop or Canteen, to have a current Working with Childrens Check (WWC).

You can apply to get a free one through this website <http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/> by clicking volunteer in the application process, and putting our College down as the school.

For further information please contact College Reception.