

*The Wisdom
of the Lord Teaches us*

Mary MacKillop College

Newsletter

Term 2
5 June 2020



*"So great is the
strength we possess
in our unity".*

*Mary MacKillop
1874*

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

MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING PRINCIPAL

This Weeks Prayer

*Heavenly Father,
walk through my house
and take away all my
worries and any illnesses,
depression and sadness.
Watch over and protect
my family and friends.
Bring quiet where there
is chaos, bring light where
there is darkness and put
love in our hearts. In
Jesus' name, Amen.*

The joys and hopes, the nervousness and the anxieties, as well as daily moments big and small over the last fortnight, provided rich opportunities for our College to celebrate the mystery of Christ truly present in our midst.

I'm grateful for the entire staff at our College, who last week walked alongside our students and ensured that both their learning and wellbeing needs were met, as they returned to onsite learning. It was fantastic to feel that sense of connectedness and belonging back in our College. There was a lovely energy as the students filtered through the hallways on Tuesday 26th May and we got a sense of the new context of education at the College.

I had the opportunity to sit and speak with a number of our Senior students as a part of reviewing the processes the College had put in place for their transition back to face to face learning. These young people spoke honestly and authentically about their experiences with online learning – the highs and the lows, the successes and the struggles. It was a real window into what the past six weeks has been like for them. The gratitude they expressed in regard to the support they had received from their parents, carers and teachers was heart-warming.

2020 marks the 20th Anniversary of the Reconciliation Walks of 2000, when people came together to walk in demonstration their support for a more reconciled Australia. As always, we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us, and Australians now benefit from the efforts and contributions of people committed to reconciliation in the past.

As a College, we strive towards a more just, equitable nation by championing unity and mutual respect as we come together and connect with one another. On this journey, National Reconciliation Week allowed the staff and students the opportunity to stop and stand, in an act of solidarity. The College reflected on the role each of us play when it comes to reconciliation, and in doing so strive to collectively build relationships and communities that value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories and cultures.

We look forward to welcoming our Year 7 – 10 students back to onsite learning on the 9th June. If you have any questions in relation to your child's return to onsite learning please don't hesitate to contact the College.

Once again, I would like to congratulate our entire College Community for their effort in making our Remote Learning Program such a great success. Our teachers and those who support them have been very dedicated and creative, the students have embraced the model with enthusiasm and our College families have been a great support along the way.

Kieran O'Dwyer
Acting Principal



WELCOME
BACK TO
SCHOOL



"So great is the strength we possess in our unity" - Mary MacKillop 1874

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL - TEACHING AND LEARNING

Last week we welcomed back the Senior School Students, they have quickly adjusted and adapted to the new norms of school life. The school looks different physically with the recent landscaping that has commenced and the work that continues each day on the New Senior School Building.

We look forward to seeing all the Years 7-10 students return on Tuesday 9th June. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the majority of you for adapting and successfully thriving through remote learning.

COVID 19 has been a trying time for all in society. We have had to adapt to many new norms; staying home, working from home, changes in how we socialise with others. It has also been a turbulent time, and many of us at times may have felt angry about the things that have been taken away from us, not being able to celebrate Easter with family and friends, having birthdays in isolation, not playing local football or netball. Many of us have questions about when will things go back to normal? What is normal? The return to school on Tuesday brings us a little closer towards a return to normality, but we all know that it's a new normality. As we prepare to return to school, I offer the following advice from Andrew Fuller, Clinical Psychologist who specialises in the wellbeing of young people and their families.

Seven things for a smooth transition back to school-based learning

1. **Regular Sleep habits** - Sleep changes are a common affect of the recent times. Many of our students may have got used to having a little sleep in and a later start to their morning routine. It is time to re-establish a more usual sleep cycle. Depending on how out of whack your sleep has been, try to give yourself the time to re-adjust your sleep cycle before returning to school.
2. **Reaching Out to Friends** - One of the main things that helps us all to transition back is knowing there is someone there who is wanting to see us. We all look forward to catching up with good people and having some fun. Reaching out and making contact with school friends sets this up.
3. **Safe and certain** – The College has changed a number of practices to ensure that students are safe. We have increased the number of hand sanitiser stations around the College, we have cleaners on site constantly cleaning and sanitising high traffic areas. We have adapted practical classes and operations in these areas to ensure that students are able to social distance in these areas, as well as how we manage the sharing of resources and equipment in these work spaces. We intend to keep everyone safe and well and have planned as much as we can, for this outcome.
4. **Restart** – We are looking for a whole fresh start. During the turbulence, priorities and lives have been re-structured. Social connections have changed. The orientation we need to do now is to form new connections, and to renew our attitude towards learning and success.
5. **Plan for success** – this year has changed more than any of us could have anticipated. We need to plan for success. For Senior Students the risk is feeling that the year has got away from them and they feel they cannot succeed. Clearly this is not true. Firstly, they have all experienced the same setbacks. Secondly, there is plenty of time to catch up and succeed.
6. **Less is more** – It is understandable that some people will feel in a rush to make up for the time and opportunities missed in the early part of the year. Given the upheaval of past months, rushing too much or putting too much in place too early is a recipe for exhaustion, disenchantment and disengagement. While we are back in business, easy does it. Taking our time now to slowly rebuild a sense of success will pay off. Take it slow and make it fun!
7. **Review** – the imminent school holidays gives us the opportunity to reflect back on the process of re-integration. What were the pluses and minuses of the experience, what has worked well (as well as what hasn't), and a re-assessment of what we think is going to help in the future.

https://theparentswebsite.com.au/andrew-fuller-seven-things-for-a-smooth-transition-back-to-school-based-learning/?fbclid=IwAR3vmBcldkjmKirDOytvBpEnoa7rQoNlpQPCx5K0_NH_CL8EXUh50201q8

VCAL – Structured Workplace Learning (SWL)

Structured Workplace Learning has resumed as of Thursday 28th May. **Students who do not have a SWL in place are expected to attend the College on Thursday until they secure and start their placement.** The College is grateful to all workplaces that are able to assist with this important element of their learning. If there are any workplaces that are able to offer a student a day's work we would love to hear from you. Please contact Jo Knox at the College if you are able to assist.

Offsite VET Arrangements

Gipps Tafe have put a number of measures into place to support students returning to on campus learning from 10th June.

- Social distancing will apply in all classrooms. Students not following social distance rules will receive one warning, and then if they re-offend will be asked to leave.
- If students are sick or feeling unwell, they are asked not to attend TAFE. Please ensure you advise the TAFE and the College that you are unwell and not attending.
- Gipps Tafe have appointed a number of concierges that will monitor social distancing in the classroom as well as cleaning high traffic areas.
- Students will have staggered morning and lunch breaks. In some groups the lunch break will be reduced from 1 hour to 30 mins and an afternoon break will be added in.
- Second year students have been prioritised.
- Leongatha Campus - all VET classes resume face to face on campus **except for Animal Studies and Agriculture**. Animal studies and Agriculture will continue with remote learning via ZOOM.

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL - TEACHING AND LEARNING

- Some groups may have split attendance to reduce class sizes to enable social distancing in the classroom. These students will be advised by Gipps TAFE. They will attend campus once a fortnight, the other week will continue with remote learning via ZOOM.

AGA

Have returned to face to face teaching, however some groups have been split, so one week is remote learning and the other is practical class on site.

VCE Subject Changes

Students wishing to change subjects for Unit 2 will need to speak with the Senior School Team to collect a subject change form. Subject change forms need to be submitted to Ms Connell via the Office by Friday 19th June.

Years 11 Exams

To assist with social distancing students who do not have a scheduled exam are not required at School. If parents are not able to provide supervision at home, or students are not able to get home, the College will provide a supervised study venue for any parents at school without an Exam.

Year 11 VCAL students will continue their classes as per normal.

	Tuesday 23rd June (Week Two)	Wednesday 24th June (Week Two)	Thursday 25th June (Week Two)	Friday 26th June (Week Two)
Exam Session 1 (Periods 1 & 2)	Normal Classes	General Maths Maths Methods #1	Biology	Chemistry Legal Studies Visual Comm
Recess	Recess 10.45 am to 11.10am			
Exam Session 2 (Periods 3 & 4)	Normal Classes	Health & HD Psychics Economics	Business Manage Geography History Physical Education Vet Music	Psychology
Lunch	Lunch 12.50pm to 1.35pm			
Exam Session 3 (Period 5 & 6)	English	Literature VET Sport & Rec	Art Math Methods #2 Theatre Studies	Normal Classes Period 5

Confirmation of VCE Examination Schedule for 2020

- The date for the General Achievement Test has now also been confirmed as Wednesday 9 September 2020.
- Written exams will be conducted between 9 November and 2 December 2020, so far that ATAR scores can be calculated and VCE and VCAL students will receive their results before the end of 2020.
- Specific information on the VCE exam timetable will be provided before the start of Term 3.

I hope everyone enjoys the long weekend and has a well deserved break. We look forward to seeing everyone back at the College on Tuesday.

Jodie Connell
Deputy Principal
Teaching and Learning



FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL - WELLBEING AND ORGANISATION

It is with great anticipation that we welcome our Year 7-10 students onto College grounds for the remaining 3 weeks of Term 2. We wish to acknowledge the achievements attained and challenges of every student and family during the remote learning period which has built the capacity and self-efficacy of our College Community.

Thank you to the students, families and staff who have ensured communication was positive, solution-focused and supportive, each displaying their dedication to the wellbeing of every student. Many have embodied the College Framework areas of Taking Ownership, Thinking Deeply, Making Connections and Being Courageous.

As students join their peers in classrooms on Tuesday 9th June we want to remind each student that every student should experience a safe and respectful environment at school. The College has implemented a Whole School Approach to Positive Behaviour over the past 18 months, celebrating the positive behaviours of our students and providing a benchmark for wellbeing, safety and respect within the College. We encourage families to partner with the College and discuss with their children.

- How they as a student can contribute positively within the classroom
- What language and behaviours support respectful school relationships
- How to communicate concerns when positive respectful and safe behaviours are not evident.

Students may feel most comfortable to approach their homeroom teachers, classroom teachers or the Wellbeing Co-ordinator for each Sub-school:

Junior School: Ms Georgia Townley

Middle School: Mrs Kate Dwyer and Mrs Sarah Roscoe-Smith

Senior School: Mr Cade Maskell

The Director of Junior School, Mr Chris Spencer provided the below email to Junior School Students and I thought it may be a helpful snapshot for all families this week.

"We must remember that school will still look and feel a little bit different for the remainder of this term and next. There will be a full school digital assembly Tuesday morning to go through all of the protocols and guidelines with you. But I wanted to pass on the following to you before you arrive on Tuesday.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Where possible you will be asked to adhere to social distancing guidelines both in the school yard and classroom. Students will be asked to respect other student personal space.

WINTER UNIFORM

Please ensure you are in your school winter uniform. No beanies will be allowed to be worn throughout the day and scarves are to be navy.

LOCKERS

You will have access to your lockers. Please **don't** try to bring all your books and class materials on the first day back. Just gradually bring your materials in for what you need each day.

PE UNIFORM

When you have a PE class you may come and leave school in your Full PE uniform for Terms 2 and 3. Please do not wear long sleeve tops under your polo shirt. New warm sports jackets are available to purchase through the College Office (see order form at the back of this newsletter).

HAND SANTISER

Hand sanitisers are now available at various locations in classrooms and hallways. During movement between classes students and staff are required to use sanitiser upon entering a classroom.

CANTEEN

The canteen will be open. There will be time restrictions for each year level and social distancing will apply when lining up."

Meg Steenholdt
Acting Deputy Principal
Wellbeing and Organisation



FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL CATHOLIC IDENTITY AND MISSION

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

This week gave us an opportunity to demonstrate the actions of our tradition and beliefs. By involving ourselves in **Sorry Day** and **National Reconciliation Week** liturgies, we as a College Community commit to truth and reconciliation. We need to say sorry to enter a space of reconciliation. As Catholics we are active in our forgiveness to be authentically sacramental. Some of the senior classes viewed the award winning film "In my Blood it Runs". At Mary MacKillop we will always try to educate our students to rights the wrongs of social injustice.

Twice in reconciliation our whole staff shared the Aboriginal Our Father.

Here is what the staff prayed.



Our Father you are in heaven

May we talk about your name in a good way

May you be boss in our lives

May we follow your feeling here

As they do above

Give us bread today

We have hurt your feelings, feel sorry for us

Others have hurt our feelings

We feel sorry for them.

Stop us from doing wrong

Save us all from the evil one

Amen.



John Ryan
Deputy Principal
Catholic Identity and
Mission





everyone's family

Student2student is The Smith Family's flagship peer-to-peer reading program and this year 29 Mary Mackillop students have decided to get involved. They now volunteer their time and are making a huge difference in the life of a young person who struggles to read at their appropriate age level. They have committed to listening and supporting a young person read 2–3 times a week for 18 weeks.

The young people, our students support, are identified as having a reading age at least 2 years below their actual age. The amazing thing is that at the end of the 18 weeks the young readers' reading age hasn't just gone up by 18 weeks but for some by over 2 years! This leads to a massive improvement in the young person's confidence in life and educational outcomes.

This is so important because the ability to read is crucial to being able to participate in all aspects of society – economically, socially, culturally, and digitally. Poor literacy skills at a young age can lead to school dropout, and poor long-term outcomes.



Our students have been listening to their young reader, from a different region of Victoria, read online using the Chatty Kids app. As well as the young readers benefitting greatly our students also gain a lot from being reading mentors. They gain communication skills, interpersonal skills and demonstrate huge commitment by sticking with the program for the 18 weeks. All of these qualities are exactly what prospective employers are looking for if our students decide to find a part time job and also give students skills and confidence to become future school leaders.

A gigantic thankyou to these wonderful students for volunteering their time!

Tiana Forrest
Milli Mackay
Callum Carter
Tahlia Seymour
Lottie Sproson
Sara Smairl
Sage Anderson
Penny Clarke
Oliver Barrett
Madison Lazaroo

Gretchen Clarke
Savannah Foster
Livinia Mandemaker
Kira Waldron
Dinisty Francis
Celeste Robinson
Anna Santhosh
Eileen Tanaka-Morrison
Reuben Foster
Stella McGannon

Tayla Gollop
Sarah Ellery-Burke
Niamh O'Connell
Maddison Delaney
Ella Jarvis-Geddes
Hannah Cole
Emily Glasgow
Divya Njarukulam
Elizabeth Stephan

Shayne King
Teacher Librarian

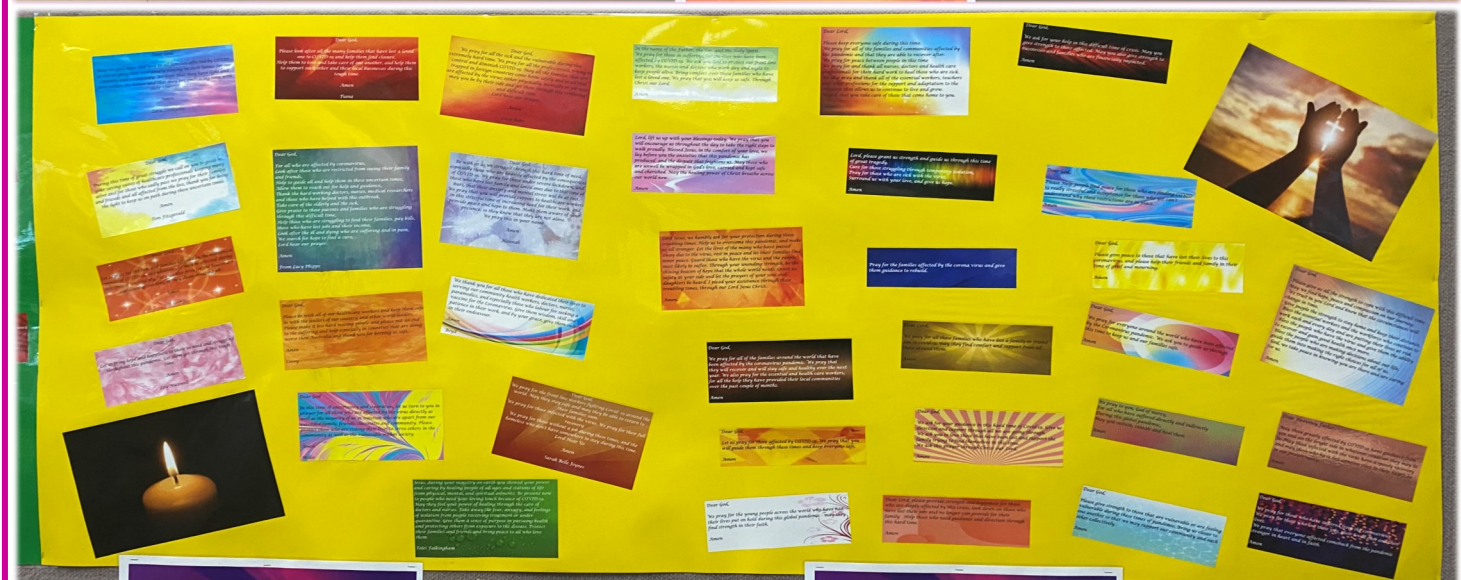
PASTORAL ACTIVITIES

One of the pastoral activities during Remote Learning was for students to write a prayer of reflection about what was happening in the world. These have all been collated and presented on a wall in the College for all to see.





YEAR 10



YEAR 11

YEAR 12



ONLINE CHESS TOURNAMENT - 27TH MAY



The Mary MacKillop Catholic College Team A, played in their second online tournament on Wednesday 27th May.

The MacKillop team played against other teams who held high rankings, but with some good wins the team placed second.

Well done to Harrison Herbert, Ryan Ramsay, Will Davies, Andrew Martin, Jeffrin Mathews and Lachlan Aulich.

Special mention to Ryan Ramsay for doing so well and this is only his second tournament with 3 1/2 wins and Will Davies who is also still new to the team with 3 wins. Lachlan Aulich is also our newest member of the team and it is great to see him taking on the Chess World.

ONLINE INTERNET CHESS TOURNAMENT - DAREBIN - WEDNESDAY 3RD JUNE



Our Mary MacKillop team placed 4th on the day in a competition based in Darebin which is north of Melbourne. This is a competition that we would not have been able to participate in without the online capabilities. Included in the competition was a team from Perth.

Harrison played well with 4 wins. Zephyr, Will, Andrew and Lachlan all had 3 wins. Well done to Zephyr who competed in his first online tournament. Well done to Will for two great wins against players with a much higher rating than his own. Andrew is demonstrating his enthusiasm for chess by playing in numerous online competitions during the week to build up those skills. Lachlan has now competed in two online tournaments. Jeffrin and Ryan great to see you being part of the team.

Colleen Herbert



BUILDING SITE

Our Building Site is looking great ! The building is almost ready for the roof, soft fall rubber installation is complete, synthetic turf has gone in and planter boxes are almost ready for some trees.





Mary MacKillop CATHOLIC REGIONAL COLLEGE Parent Access Module

With the increased use of PAM at the College to provide you with important information, we ask you to advise the Office of any changes to your email address or personal details.

You are able to request assistance with PAM or update your details by sending an email to info@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au.

Please include the name of your child in the email.

**Mary MacKillop College
South Gippsland
5662 4255**



**PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL
WHEN YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT
PRIOR TO 10:00AM BY:**



Phone



Flexibuzz



PAM by 8:45am



Email

attendance@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund payment arrangements

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card as at the 28th January 2020 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 school will be able to accept and process applications up until 26th June 2020.

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 26th 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.

PARENTS & FRIENDS MEETING

Due to Covid-19, and with Social Distancing rules in place, P & F Meetings will be suspended until further notice.

Keep watching the Newsletter and Facebook for further information regarding when the next P & F Meeting and AGM will be held.

BUS PASSES

A decision has been made to suspend the ability to issue new bus passes for irregular travel for the immediate future in response to the ongoing COVID-19 situation. This is designed to minimise the mixing of students who normally wouldn't be in the same immediate vicinity.

We understand that there may be cases of absolute emergency where a student needs to travel to an alternative place of accommodation, and in these situations we will do our best to support these families. Please contact the College if this is required.

Bus passes for students who are getting off at a different stop on their normal bus will still be available.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS UNIFORM SHOP RE-OPENING

The College uniform shop is re-opening. It will be done under strict guidelines and by appointment only.

Parents must call the office on 03 5662 4255 to make an appointment. Appointments will be on Friday's (commencing on Friday 22nd May) between 12:50pm and 1:30pm, (10 minutes each). All visitors must enter via the office, sign a declaration, use hand sanitiser and observe social distancing.

New College Sports Jackets have arrived!



Jackets are now available! To assist families and reduce traffic in the uniform shop you are able to order the jacket by completing and returning the form below to the office.



NOTE: The boys pictured are both wearing size small

Student Name: _____ **Homeroom:** _____

I wish to purchase a College Sports Jacket for \$90.

Size: (please circle) **Kids:** 10, 12, 14 **Adults:** XS, S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL

Parent Signature: _____

Please note payments made via Cheque or Credit Card will be processed within 7 days of receiving this form.

☐ Cash

☐ Cheque enclosed

☐ Payments by Credit Card

☐ MasterCard

☐ Visa

Amount Paid: **\$90.00**

Card Number: _____ Expiry Date _____ / _____

CVV: _____

Name on card: _____ Signature: _____

A receipt and jackets will be given to the student at school. Forms are to be dropped off at the office or they can be emailed to ckitchingman@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au

OFFICE USE ONLY: Payment Processed Receipt No. _____ Date: _____