



*The Wisdom  
of the Lord Teaches us*

# Mary MacKillop College

## Newsletter

Term 2  
17 July 2020



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

*Mary MacKillop  
1874*

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*

*Lord,*

You are the wind in my sails.  
You guide me as I steer and find direction.  
You give me the strength to keep on going.  
You watch over me as I navigate stormy seas.  
You are the harbour where I stop for rest.  
You are my encourager when I lose hope.  
You are the lighthouse that keeps my path safe.  
You are with me always.  
Thank you.  
Amen.

Welcome back to all families and students for Term 3. I hope everyone had a good rest over the holidays and are feeling refreshed and ready for the term ahead. Last term was a particular challenge with remote learning and the Covid-19 pandemic. There certainly has not been a year like 2020 before. A special welcome to new teachers Mrs Ellie Margetts and Mr Kapil Bhargava who join us to teach for second semester. We hope that you enjoy your time with us at Mary MacKillop.

Personally, I am very pleased to be back after an extended period of rest and reflection. I look forward to catching up with everyone in due course. I wish to especially thank Mr Kieran O'Dwyer who has been Acting Principal in my absence. Mr O'Dwyer and the rest of the Executive – Ms Jodie Connell, Mr John Ryan and Mrs Meg Steenholdt who has been acting Deputy Wellbeing - have done a great job of steering the ship through a stormy time. To ease the leadership transition, Mrs Steenholdt will remain in the Wellbeing role for the remainder of term. Mr O'Dwyer will assist me whilst gradually resuming his Deputy Principal duties.

The Pandemic situation continues to be unpredictable. Our teachers are working hard to have students ready in case we have to resume remote learning.

We are taking extensive precautions to safeguard all students and staff from Covid -19. As an additional safeguard, we are now implementing daily temperature checks for all students. Families have been sent information regarding this.

At Assembly this week, I reminded students about the virtue of Charity. As Christians, we are called to exercise charity with one another. We show Charity in how we speak to and treat those around us. We also show Charity when we help those in need.....

Last year as part of our Walkathon fundraising one of the recipients of the funds was Sister Mary Dwyer in Peru, recently I received a letter from Sister Mary Dwyer thanking everyone for their donation,

*'I just thought I would give you some feedback on how we're spending the money your students raised for us. You cannot perhaps understand what a huge difference it is making to some of the families in our parish. It was so well timed.*

*You might be aware that Peru has a huge number of cases of Covid-19 cases, currently the 7th largest number although we have a much smaller population than all the countries above us, and all this despite a very early lockdown and curfew every night. Because so many have informal work and the underlining corruption at all levels, many have been left with nothing - no work, food or money and received nothing from the various bonuses that the government offered. Our health system just cannot cope, many medicines are unavailable or outrageously overpriced and people can't get treated for their chronic illnesses.*

*So the money we received from the students is basically keeping families alive. We fortunately have a mini market close by where we stock up on non perishable food and hygiene items. It's a godsend and when you have the chance I hope you'll be able to thank the students for us. Their generosity is making such a difference just when it's most needed.*

*Although some unscrupulous people are making the most of the opportunity to extract money from others, there is at the same time a great sense of solidarity with neighbours and strangers looking out for each other.*

*We get a sense of hope knowing that some countries like Australia have achieved so much in controlling the virus and we hope that it's disastrous effects animate people to work together to correct the inequality and corruption that is the basis for so much suffering at present.*

**David Leslie  
Principal**



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

## FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

### CATHOLIC IDENTITY AND MISSION

Living the Gospel calls for an openness that invites each person to experience a change of heart. Many years ago, I travelled to the Philippines and experienced a profound understanding of generosity. With several ex-students of Mary MacKillop, we ate dinner at the humble house of Pastor Dan who lived on top of a swamp with his extended family. Pastor Dan owned two pigs which were the only livestock he owned. To my shock, I found he was cooking one of these pigs for the young Australians visiting him on that day. This was an extraordinary feat of generosity. A few weeks later, I pondered the immense wealth I lived in when celebrating an extended family meal for Christmas Day. All sorts of sumptuous foods were prepared by two of my brother in laws, both of whom were chefs. I found it difficult to eat. I reflected about the actions of Dan, he had little and yet he gave half of what he owned to people wealthier than him.

In time of isolation, we find ourselves often thinking about our own situation. Are we thinking like Pastor Dan? In the book of Hosea 10:1-3, 7-8-12 we read that Israel had lost sight of the Promised Land. The story goes that Israel was wandering in desert of iniquity, abundance, prosperity and wealth, which caused their hearts to drift. Hosea's words reach us today as a renewed invitation to conversion. If we try to encounter Jesus Christ, we recognise him in the face of the poor and the sick.

This year our College will participate in the Walkathon differently. External events will require large numbers of students walking in close proximity are not possible. Therefore, we hope to walk differently in a relay type format in October to celebrate the tenth anniversary of Mary MacKillop's canonisation.

We will raise money for annual recipients and one local charity. One of the annual recipients is Mary MacKillop Today. Through Mary MacKillop Today, the vision of Australia's first Saint and of the Sisters of Saint Joseph is being realised. The core principles of Mary MacKillop Today are Human Dignity, Common Good, Participation and Subsidiarity, and Option for the Poor.

The core project principles of Mary MacKillop Today are grounded in Catholic Social Teaching and the work of Mary MacKillop.

#### **Their approach:**

#### **WOMEN AT THE HEART**

Inspired by a woman and led by the Sisters of St Joseph, women are central to our story and the communities served.

#### **REACH THE MARGINS**

Like Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods, to be pioneering and brave, able to go where no one else will go and serve communities others may overlook.

#### **DIGNITY THROUGH SELF DETERMINATION**

Committed to deep, genuine and accountable partnerships, shaped by co-responsibility, engagement and a shared commitment to real outcomes.

#### **PARTNERSHIP**

Committed to deep, genuine and accountable partnerships, shaped by co-responsibility, engagement and a shared commitment to real outcomes.



Pope Francis reminds us that:

"The encounter with the other is also an encounter with Christ. He himself told us this. He is the one knocking on our door, hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, imprisoned; he is the one seeking an encounter with us, asking your help, asking to come ashore. And lest we have any doubt, he tells us categorically: 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did to one of the least of these my brethren, you did to me' (Mt 25:40).

**John Ryan**  
**Deputy Principal**  
**Catholic Identity and**  
**Mission**



## FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL - WELLBEING AND ORGANISATION

In recent weeks there has been a lot of media coverage on the Black Lives Matter Movement. It has provided an interesting opportunity to listen to students and discover their perspective on the issues of equality and equity. It's encouraging to listen to the ideas of many of our students and recognise that they will be leaders in our local and wider communities in the future. As a Josephite College we follow the charism and values evident in the life of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and the Josephite tradition.

Mary MacKillop provided education for all, irrespective of culture, and the Josephite order continues to advocate for our most vulnerable communities; Australia's refugees and those marginalised or without a voice. We encourage our students speak up for themselves and for those that are unable to do so, and commend them for taking action.

Below is an interesting excerpt from ReachOut.com which you may like to reference if you are having a discussion with your children regarding racism.

The first step in stopping racism is understanding what it actually is. Racism is more than just being mean. The reason why some things are considered racist and others aren't amounts to three important ideas: history, institutions and power.

### **Why is history important in understanding racism?**

History gives us an explanation for why some races face discrimination and disadvantages. For example, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to deal with a number of barriers that other Australians don't face. These include a shorter average life expectancy, a higher suicide rate and lower employment rates. The reasons for these go all the way back to Australia's colonial past, when Indigenous people were widely seen as inferior.

### **Why are institutions important in understanding racism?**

Institutions play an important role in perpetuating or discrediting racism. These include schools, the court system, and organisations such as churches. Institutions and history have often worked together to give certain groups of people more of a say in how their country is built. For example, the history of British colonisation in Australia means that our laws, schools and other bodies were shaped by the dominant group, while Aboriginal people were excluded from this process. The Josephite charism works to change this, person by person.

### **Power and racism**

Racial disadvantage is created by an imbalance of power based on race. This is why a black person can use the n-word, or why Asians can make jokes about their own race. There is no imbalance of power in that exchange. But when a dominant race uses certain language or makes stereotypical jokes about another race that lacks the same historical and institutional power, this is called 'racism'.

Standing up to racism isn't easy, but it's the right thing to do. When you stand up for yourself or others, it's a good idea to approach the situation as calmly as you can, and to make sure that you feel safe first. If you do not, approach someone you trust to help you.

### **Student Temperature Checks**

From Monday 20 July, all students on their arrival at school will need to make their way to Pioneer Hall, enter via the roller door and line up at in the year levels at the appropriate tables where they will have their temperature check completed with a non-contact infrared forehead thermometer.

If a student's temperature reading is equal to or in excess of 37.5°C the student will be moved away from others and a second temperature check will be conducted 15-minutes after the initial temperature check.

If the second temperature check returns a temperature of 37.4°C or below and the student is not displaying any other coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms the student can attend school.

Where a student's second temperature check returns a temperature equal to or in excess of 37.5°C, the student will be required to remain in a location away from others whilst being appropriately supervised and parent(s), guardian(s) or carer(s) will be contacted to immediately collect their child.

Students with pre-existing health or medical conditions that result in a temperature being 37.5°C or above are requested to provide advice to the school from a medical practitioner.

Students who are unwell must not attend school until their symptoms resolve and appropriate medical advice is obtained. This includes those showing even mild symptoms of COVID-19.

The symptoms to watch out for are:

- fever
- chills or sweats
- cough
- sore throat
- shortness of breath
- runny nose
- loss of sense of smell

In certain circumstances headache, muscle soreness, stuffy nose, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea may also be considered.

If students are unwell for an extended period of time, they will be supported in their learning by the school.

**Meg Steenholdt**  
Acting Deputy Principal  
Wellbeing and Organisation





## TERM ONE DEBATING NEWS



Pictured: Amanda Rowley, Makenzie Mills, Connor Maher LeMaitre, Elsie Steenholdt, Imogen Funnell, Sage Anderson, Jessica Geary, Tanaiya Lim, Christine Denbrok, Sophie Newton (not pictured: Ella Jarvis-Geddes)

The Debating Season began with a bang this year when all three teams won their first round debates at the DAV Regional Debating Competition. This is a tremendous achievement as the standard of the competition is quite high and it was the first time some of our debaters had participated in a debate.

After a final run through and quick afternoon tea, the team journeyed on the bus and in one car with Mrs Bugbird and Mrs King to the evening competition in Berwick. We stopped on the way for tea and were then ready to enter the fray.

Our three teams competed at the three different levels of the competition.

The A Grade team members were Sophie Newton, Jessica Geary, Amanda Rowley and Shae Van Dam (non speaking on the night) with the affirmative position of the topic *That we regret the rise of streaming platforms (such as Netflix and Disney)*.

The C Grade team members were Imogen Funnell, Makenzie Mills (coach and mentor), Connor Maher LeMaitre, Elsie Steenholdt, Tanaiya Lim (speech writer but non speaking on the night) also tackling the affirmative position of the topic Grade C: *"That children should be legally required to take care of their parents rather than placing them in aged care"*.

Our youngest participants were in the D Grade team which was made up of Christine Denbrok, Ella Jarvis-Geddes and Sage Anderson. It was the first time that Sage had debated and she did extremely well, winning best speaker for her debate on the night. This was also an affirmative position of the topic *"That we should limit the number of cars that each household can own"*.

It was very pleasing to see the incredible team work, mentoring and support offered by the senior team members of the team in helping to lead and coach the junior members.

Team spirit was also very high.

The teams should be highly commended for their incredible performance on the night. Unfortunately due to the COVID pandemic and restrictions on public gatherings the competition has been cancelled for the remainder of the year.

There is also some Public Speaking news. We had two entrants in an online public speaking competition also run by the Debaters Association of Victoria who were Christine Denbrok and Ella Jarvis-Geddes. They showed great initiative and independence which they wrote and recorded a short speech and submitted it online during Remote Learning.

Christine spoke about youth homelessness and Ella talked about the social significance of providing free feminine hygiene products.

This competition is of an exceptional high standard and even though they did not place, the girls performed extremely well. The students will receive individual feedback on their entries.





## TEACHERS vs. STUDENTS DEBATE

In Term One, debating took on a lively turn with a series of a Teacher versus Student Debates held in the Library before COVID restrictions. Covering school related topics, Ms Poletti convened the three mini debates held at lunch over three consecutive days. Audience numbers were consistently large showing the competitions popularity. Complete with time keepers and adjudication by both student and staff, prizes were allotted to the winners. Thanks to all the competitors and supporters involved.

## DEBATING MORNING TEA

At the end of Term One we held a final debating event for the both the registration of names for a new Year 7 competition beginning next semester and the registration of names of Year 8-12 members. A generous morning tea was provided and students were given the opportunity to meet. Certificates of participation and recognition were given out by Mr Ryan. A large thankyou to Mrs Bugbird for helping organise the tea and to Mrs Backman for making it.







## YEAR 11 THEATRE STUDIES



Year 11 Theatre Studies have been examining Pre-Modern Theatre in Unit One. Through remote schooling students studied Commedia Dell'Arte, which is a 16th Century Italian style of theatre based on stylised master servant characters. During remote learning, students developed their individual character through mask, movement, voice and gesture. After learning remotely, they were able to come back to school and produce a dynamic piece of theatre through the use of mask and exaggerated expressive skills. They performed two shows to admiring audiences, creating many wonderful comedic and dramatic moments.





## YEAR 9 TEXTILES FACE MASK MAKING

Remote learning proved to be a challenging experience for many subjects, in particular Textiles. While in lock down students were sent a sewing kit in the mail with patterns and fabric for hand sewing a face mask.

Students jumped at the opportunity to have a go and produce such a practical product. Once back at school, they were introduced to the sewing machines and were given the opportunity to perfect their technique and mask designs.

## IMPORTANT DATES

|           |                               |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 8 August  | Mary MacKillop Feast Day      |
| 21 August | <b>STUDENT FREE DAY</b>       |
| 12-13 Sep | Tournament of Minds - Judging |
| 18 Sep    | <b>LAST DAY OF TERM 3</b>     |

## PARENTS & FRIENDS MEETING

The next P & F Meeting will be held on  
Tuesday 4th August at 7.30PM.

This will be held in the School Library for  
social distancing reasons.

## 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 open. 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 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](mailto:ckitchingman@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au)

**OFFICE USE ONLY:** Payment Processed Receipt No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# WEST GIPPSLAND LIBRARIES

## Write Now!

Stories from young people  
in West Gippsland.



**A youth writing competition to amplify the voices  
of our talented local young people.**

These certainly are uncertain times! We'd love to hear your thoughts, feelings and ideas about our changing world in our writing competition: Write Now!

Write a story about how the world has changed over the last few months, or a personal reflection of your experience living through the isolation period. Your entry can be fiction or non fiction, it can even be poetry or prose! We would love to hear from you!

**Submit your entry to [youngwritersWGL@gmail.com](mailto:youngwritersWGL@gmail.com)**

Entries close 26.7.2020. For terms and conditions, visit [wgrlc.vic.gov.au](http://wgrlc.vic.gov.au)

### Theme - My Changing World

|           |                  |                   |
|-----------|------------------|-------------------|
| Age 5-8   | Up to 300 Words  | \$30 VISA e-card  |
| Age 9-12  | Up to 500 Words  | \$50 VISA e-card  |
| Age 13-17 | Up to 750 Words  | \$100 VISA e-card |
| Age 18-25 | Up to 1000 Words | \$150 VISA e-card |