

Child Safety Newsletter

Term 4 - 2023



Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College

Please enjoy our Child Safety newsletter.

In October the Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College participated in the Victorian Registration Qualifications Authority review. High on the priority list to be assessed was the College effort to implement and embed the eleven child safe standards within the College. The wellbeing component of this review specifically addressed the following areas.

1. **CARE SAFETY AND WELFARE OF STUDENTS**
2. **CHILD SAFETY – Eleven Child safe Standards**
3. **STUDENT BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT (DISCIPLINE)**

The College is in a strong position to move forward and embed the above documentation into all facets of College Child Safety and operations.

Being compliant requires us to be not just compliant on one day but every day. Child Safety never stops.

Wellbeing Surveys

Next year it is more than likely that the College will use the services of one company to provide feedback about student and staff wellbeing. We have run trials this year with excellent data to assist our wellbeing team support staff and students.

John Ryan
Deputy Principal
Wellbeing – Students and Staff





Child Safety

You can talk with...



Principal
John Freeman



**Deputy Principal
Child Safety Officer**
John Ryan



**Student Engagement
Leader**
Bron Croatto



**Pastoral Care
Leader**
Chris Spencer



**Compliance
Officer**
Jenny Damon



Wellbeing Leaders
Year 7
Claire Cassidy



Year 8
Stephen Ross



Year 9
Chris Spencer



Wellbeing Leaders
Year 10
David Robinson



Year 11
Richard Muranty



Year 12
Georgia Townley



Teacher
Laura Muranty



School Counsellors
Rhiannon LeBusque



Kathy Williams

Get to know your Child Safety Team

This term we are featuring Ms Georgia Townley our Year 12 Wellbeing Leader



A bit about...

My name is Georgia Townley and I have been at Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College for four years. I was born in Wimbledon, England, where the tennis is and then moved to Twickenham, with a big rugby stadium. Every now and then I get nostalgic for England, for example when I see images of a snowy Christmas or the hustle and bustle of London. I moved to Melbourne with my family when I was 14 and went into half-way through Year 9... a great time to be making new friends... I lived in Brunswick West with my family, and when I moved out of home, I moved all the way to Brunswick. This is where I have called home, until moving to Inverloch at the end of 2019.

What are your hobbies?

I have always enjoyed all kinds of sport, or anything that gets me outside. I have played netball since a young age and still play in a casual team in Bass Coast. I got into long distance running after I finished school and have run two marathons, one in Sydney and one in Melbourne, and whilst I probably won't put my knees through that again, I still enjoy going for a run by the beach with my dog.

What interested you in teaching?

I grew up with two Maths teachers as parents, so I have been emersed in that world forever. When I was at University, I studied English and Psychology, so it felt very natural to go into a Master of Teaching after. I have always worked in jobs where I have been with people, at bakeries, cafes, gyms and pools. Talking and having a laugh with others is something I value, and sometimes I can't believe I am paid to chat about my subject areas and have banter with young people.

How are you connected to mental health at our college?

Since studying Psychology in VCE at school, it has always interested me. I am fascinated by how and why people behave as they do and feel I have always had an empathetic streak that connects with others. I started as a Year 7 co-ordinator at my first school in Melbourne and have been in the Wellbeing role with Year 7's, 8's and 12's since then. I also teach Mental Health First Aid to our Year 8's and 10's, both at our college and at Leongatha Secondary College, I believe it is vitally important that young people also learn about how to cope with life's stressors, help their friends who might be showing signs of change and feel confident to find and connect with a trusted adult.

CHILD SAFETY STANDARDS IN OUR SCHOOL

If you would like to know more about our Child Safety Standards in our school and how they are embedded in our practice and ethos, read the below standards and refer to the example of how we are trying to keep our school culturally safe.

Child Safe Standard 1 – Organisations establish a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued.

In complying with Child Safe Standard 1, an organisation must, at a minimum, ensure:

- 1.1 A child's ability to express their culture and enjoy their cultural rights is encouraged and actively supported.*
- 1.2 Strategies are embedded within the organisation which equip all members to acknowledge and appreciate the strengths of Aboriginal culture and understand its importance to the wellbeing and safety of Aboriginal children and young people.*
- 1.3 Measures are adopted by the organisation to ensure racism within the organisation is identified, confronted and not tolerated. Any instances of racism are addressed with appropriate consequences.*
- 1.4 The organisation actively supports and facilitates participation and inclusion within it by Aboriginal children, young people and their families.*
- 1.5 All of the organisation's policies, procedures, systems and processes together create a culturally safe and inclusive environment and meet the needs of Aboriginal children, young people and their families.*

Racism, it Stops With me

An anti-racism program is being run in Year 7 through the Pastoral program this term. In its third year running, "Racism, it Stops With Me," understanding racism is more important than ever today.

Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College hung the Aboriginal flag at half-mast in response to the nation dividing outcome of the Referendum. As a Catholic school we remain committed to closing the gap and standing in solidarity with all First Nations people, so that there is equity for all.

The Pastoral program explores types of Overt and Covert racism experienced in our country and school systems, including the systemic racism, which we saw through the media in the lead up to the Voice referendum. As a school community, we want to make it clear that the Indigenous children in our school should not have to tolerate racist bullying by peers who interpreted the Voice referendum failure as a rejection of First Nations people.

The stress and pain that so many Australians are feeling should be acknowledged and respected. The referendum was intended to unite us, but instead through months of social media 'no' campaigns, students were exposed to racism and intolerance against Indigenous people. This referendum has made it clear we live in a time when it is becoming increasingly hard to have reasonable and safe public discussions. Staff are united to uphold a zero-tolerance policy against any discriminative behaviour.

As a school we remain committed to the Uluru Statement's call for a "voice, truth and treaty." In 2024, we will launch our Reconciliation Action Plan and are calling for young leaders and allies for change to join the group and make a difference to the culture of our school. Please email Ms Muranty with expressions of interest.

If any students are feeling distress or would simply like to challenge their own knowledge or bias, please speak to Ms Muranty. (Cultural Liaison) Or for any Indigenous students seeking further help, there is support available.

Lifeline 13 11 14

Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800 (for people aged 5 to 25)

13YARN 13 92 76

Aboriginal Counselling Services 0410 539 905



RACISM. IT STOPS WITH ME

Competition

Create by colour, a mindfulness poster that highlights the School Wide Expectations by using the words

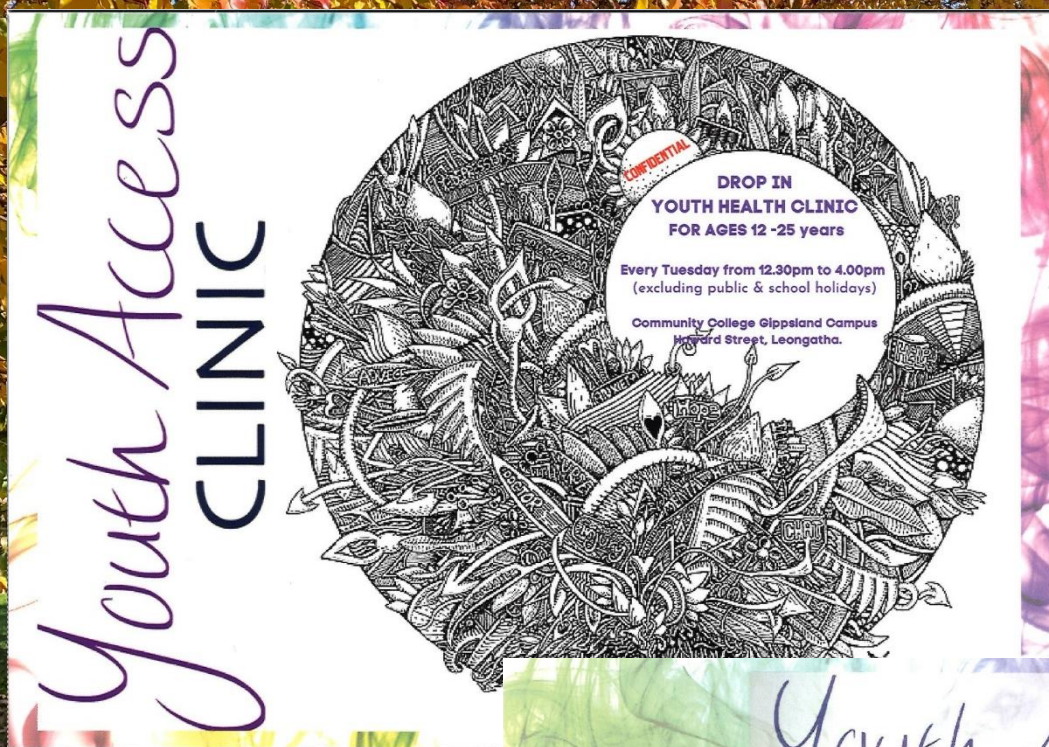
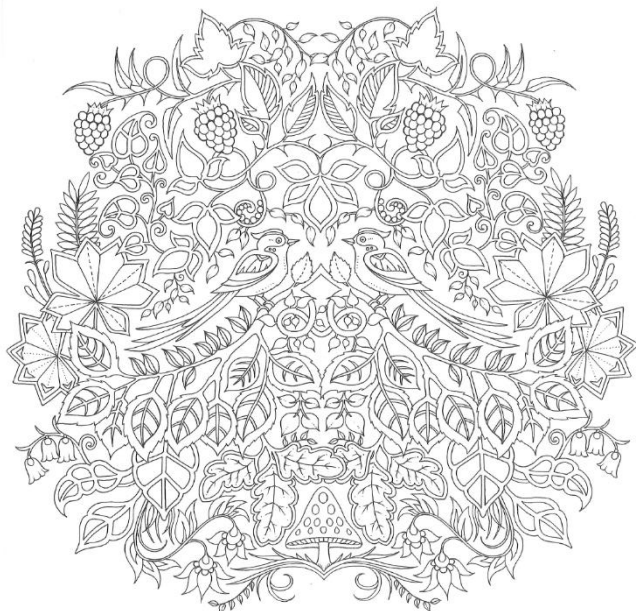
- Courage
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Wisdom

Collect your poster to colour from (sample left)

- Student Reception
- Library
- Counsellors Office

There are canteen vouchers to be won.

Put your full name and homeroom on the back and enter by 1 December to student reception



Youth Access CLINIC

Safe and confidential health clinic for 12-25 year old's

FREE - all costs are bulk billed through Medicare.

NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED
Drop in Tuesdays 12.30pm - 4pm during school term.

Located: Community College Gymnasium
(off Howard Street, follow the signs).

SPECIALISING IN

- General health
- Sexual health
- Drug & alcohol Treatment
- Mental & Emotional Wellbeing

 <http://www.southcoastyouthclinics.com.au>
<http://www.leongathamemical.com.au>

 Leongatha Youth Access Clinic

 03 5662 2001