



MACKILLOP COLLEGE

Monthly Newsletter

December

Celebrating all life

Challenging all people

Dreaming the new day

MacKillop Newsletter

December 2015



Table of Contents

Letter from the Principal..... 2
From the Director of Student Wellbeing – Year 7 & 8..... 3
From the Director of Student Wellbeing – Year 9 & 10..... 3
From the Director of Student Wellbeing – Year 11 & 12 4
Sports Report 4
John the Baptist Resource Centre 4
Parents & Friends Committee..... 4
Parent/Guardian Information 5



College Chaplains

Fr. Frank Buhagiar

Fr. Shymon Thekkekalathungal

Fr. Benneth Osuagwu

Sisters of St Joseph

Sr. Geraldine Whelan

PRAYER

Be bright and cheerful and encourage all

To be the same

Mary MacKillop 1885

AMEN

Canonical Administrators

Fr. Frank Buhagiar

(President)

Fr Pius Kodakkathanath

Fr. Jude Pirotta

Volume 12, Issue 12

December 2015

Letter from the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians

Another year of productive learning has concluded and I thank the students for their efforts. In particular, I congratulate all our Year 12 students for their commitment, friendliness and respect for self and others and I wish them every success for their future. I also thank the staff for their professional dedication to all our students. I would also like to thank the Canonical Administrators, College Board and Parents and Friends Committee for their ongoing support of the College. Their efforts throughout the year are greatly appreciated by all.

Christmas is a universal feast and is fast approaching. Even those who do not profess to be believers, in fact, can perceive in this annual Christian celebration something extraordinary and transcendent, something intimate that speaks to the heart. It is the feast that sings of the gift of life. The birth of a child moves us and causes tenderness. However, Christmas runs the risk of losing its spiritual significance to be reduced to a mere commercial occasion to buy and exchange gifts. In contrast, with the right attitude it can be a stimulus to discover the warmth of simplicity, friendship and solidarity; characteristic values of Christmas. Christmas can become an occasion to welcome, as a personal gift, the message of hope that emanates from the mystery of the birth of Christ.

May St Mary of the Cross MacKillop protect us until we meet again and bless all we do over the sacred season of Advent.



Rory Kennedy
Principal

From the Director of Student Wellbeing – Year 7 & 8

Year 7

Year 7 students completed their first year of high school on Thursday 3 December. All students worked and behaved well until the end of classes and completed the academic year successfully. As we now approach the end of the year, I would like to thank all the staff who have worked with our students to develop their academic skills and to establish positive relationships. Finally, I would like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to the new challenges and opportunities in 2016.

Year 8

Year 8 students completed the 2015 academic year on Thursday 3rd December. All students worked and behaved appropriately until the end of classes and completed the school year on a positive note. I would like to thank all the teaching and support staff who have worked professionally and caringly with the Year 8 students in establishing or further developing the educational journey of students at MacKillop, from both an academic and wellbeing perspective. I wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to working with everybody in 2016.

From the Director of Student Wellbeing – Year 9 & 10

As the year draws to a close, we reflect on what has been an extraordinary year for our Year 9 & 10 students. The enthusiasm with which they have engaged in the various opportunities provided has not gone unnoticed. For some, the learning opportunities have been challenging but, for these same students, progress not performance is the real measure of their success. For others, the extracurricular opportunities have complemented their learning journeys. For our Year 10 students, who move into their Senior Pathways, and our Year 9 students who have begun a reconnection process, we acknowledge all that they have contributed to the life of the College in 2015 and we wish them well as they continue on their learning journeys in 2016.

It is appropriate in my final report for 2015 that I acknowledge and thank the Year 9 & 10 teachers for all their hard work and support of our students. It is also important that I acknowledge and thank our parents/guardians for their tremendous support and willingness to work in partnership for the improvement of student outcomes. Many blessings to all this Christmas and always.

From the Director of Student Wellbeing – Year 11 & 12

As we reach the end of the year and enter the Christmas break, we are able to reflect on what has occurred during 2015 and celebrate the achievements of our students. The Year 11 Reflection Day and the Year 12 Graduation were both significant events that occurred during November. What made both these events so meaningful was the way our students celebrated the occasions with each other and their parents and the pride that our students have in the achievements of each other. We wish our finishing Year 12 students all the best for the next part of their lives. For those students completing the VCE they will be receiving their results in the second week of December and we hope their results will support them in their next steps whether it be study, work or training.

In reaching the end of 2015 I would like to thank all our parents, students and staff for their hard work and support. I wish everyone a safe and holy Christmas and look forward to 2016 with optimism.

Sports Report



For all recent sports results, please refer to the [sports category in the MacKillop News Blog](#) found on the College Website.

John the Baptist Resource Centre

As the year draws to a close, we would like to remind students to take care with their student ID cards over the holidays. New cards will be issued during Term 1, but as the process requires updated student photos it takes a number of weeks to produce the new card. It is with this in mind that we ask students to retain their current card.

We wish all students a joyous Christmas season and offer the hint that books make great presents for all ages. We look forward to hearing of their new reading experiences in the New Year.

Parents & Friends Committee

We have had our last meeting for 2015. This was a celebration at the Groove Train. A great evening was had by all. We are looking forward to 2016 and undertaking new fundraising activities. It would be fantastic to see lots of new faces who could give us some fresh ideas. Parents and Friends is not just about fundraising but is also a great way to keep up with what is happening at the College. Our first opportunity to meet for 2016 will be at MacCuppa Day on the first day of the school term, Friday 29 January when we can welcome the new Year 7 parents. Our first Parents and Friends meeting will be on Wednesday 3 February at 7:30pm in the Training Room in the Sr Giovanni Administration Building. We will be conducting an Extraordinary Committee Meeting at this time to fill positions that are currently vacant. Everyone is welcome

Parent/Guardian Information

Catholic Education Today

Please [click here](#) to view the latest edition of the Catholic Education Today magazine.

Uniform

When preparing your son/daughter's school uniform for return to school in 2016, please remember that your son/daughter must have black, leather, lace-up school shoes as determined by the College. Shoes which are not recognised school shoes will not be acceptable. Upon return in 2016, complete summer school uniform is to be worn including the College blazer.

Also, your son/daughter's hair is to be neatly groomed, appropriate to the wearing of a uniform, fully tied back and off the face at all times. Unusual fashion modes as determined by the College that are not in keeping with the wearing of the school uniform are unacceptable. We ask for your cooperation in ensuring your son/daughter complies with these expectations.

Administration Office

MacKillop College Office will be **closed** on the following days:

Thursday 10 December 2015 at 12.00 noon

Friday 11 December 2015

Friday 18 December 2015

The Administration Office will **re-open** on Monday 18 January 2016 and business hours will be as follows:

Monday 18 January to Monday 25 January 2016 8:15am – 3.45pm

Closed 11:30am – 12:30pm daily

(Closed Australia Day Tuesday 26 January 2016)

Please Note:

The Administration Office will open on Wednesday 27 January 2016 at 11:00am.

Normal Office hours resume Thursday 28 January 2016 8:00am – 4:30pm.

Students recommence school on Friday 29 January 2016.

Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop will be **closed** on Friday 11 December 2015 and Monday 14 December 2015. Final collection day will be Tuesday 15 December 2015 from 8:15am to 3:45pm (closed 11:30am – 12:30pm).

The Uniform Shop will **re-open** on Monday 18 January 2016 and trading hours will be as follows:

Monday 18, Wednesday 20, Friday 22 & Monday 25 January 2016
8:15am – 3:45pm (closed 11:30am – 12:30pm)

Wednesday 27 January 2016 12:30pm – 3:45pm

Thursday 28 January to Friday 5 February 2016
8:15am – 3:45pm (closed 11:30am – 12:30pm)

Normal trading hours and days will resume on Monday 8 February 2016
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:15am – 3:45pm (closed 11:30am – 12:30pm)

Canteen

MacKillop College welcomes the assistance of parents/guardians in the Canteen. Canteen Volunteer Forms for 2016 are available from the Administration Office. All volunteers must have a current Working with Children Check.





8 Facts about Spacers that may surprise

Spacers assist with taking asthma medication. Spacers are only needed with metered dose inhalers (MDI's) or 'puffers'. Spacers are usually plastic or polycarbonate and shaped like a cylinder. A puffer is inserted at one end, and the other end goes in your mouth.

1. Spacers are recommended for use by only one person use to help stop the spread of infectious disease – each person should have their own spacer, which they can wash and reuse.
2. Spacers are recommended for everyone using a metered dose inhaler (MDI), not just for children. Using a spacer means fewer side effects from the medication, it is easier to use as it requires less coordination than a puffer alone and more medication is inhaled into the lungs.
3. A puffer with spacer works just as well as a nebuliser for treating asthma symptoms, including during an asthma attack. A puffer with spacer is also simpler, cheaper and handier, is much more portable, and has fewer side-effects.
4. Fire only one puff into your spacer at a time. Breathe in from your spacer as soon as you've fired a puff into it as the medication settles on the bottom very quickly.
5. Replace your spacer about every 12 months if you use it every day. If it breaks or cracks, get a new one straight away.
6. After washing your spacer, don't rinse the bubbles off it or wipe it, just let it drip dry. The residue of the bubbles from the detergent puts a coating on the inside of the spacer. This stops the creation of static electricity inside, which can make the medication stick to the sides of the spacer instead of travelling through. Clean your spacer the same way every month and also after you have had a cold or flu.
7. Your spacer should NOT be stored in plastic bags as this may create static. After they have been washed in warm water and detergent, and allowed to air dry, they should be stored in a bag made of fabric or paper.
8. In the event of an emergency and a spacer not available for child under 7, cup child's/helper's hands around child's nose and mouth to form a good seal. Fire puffer through hands into air pocket. Follow steps for WITH SPACER - <http://www.nationalasthma.org.au/uploads/content/22-NAC-First-Aid-for-Asthma-Chart-Kids-FINAL.pdf>.

For step by step instructions on how to use a spacer, please see:

<http://www.asthmaaustralia.org.au/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=19327353954&libID=19327353930>.

If you have any questions about spacers and how to use them call and speak to a trained health professional on the Asthma InfoLine 1800 ASTHMA (1800 278 642).

MacKillop College Parents and Friends

DATE: FRIDAY 29 JANUARY 2016

TIME: 8.30AM

The MacKillop Parents
& Friends Committee
warmly invites all
Parents/Guardians to
MacCuppa on the first
day of school

WHERE: Sr Giovanni
Administration Building



MacCuppa



CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE

Thursday, 24th December 2015 – Christmas Eve

- 5.00pm Carols at St. Andrew's Sports Centre, followed by
- 5.30pm Family Mass at the Sports Centre with St. Andrew's Amateur Theatre Company
- 7.30pm Carols at St. Andrew's Church, followed by
- 8.00pm Mass at St. Andrew's Church with Sariling Tinig Choir
- 9.30pm Carols at St. Andrew's Church, followed by
- 10.00pm Mass at St. Andrew's Church with Parish Choir
- 11.30pm Carols at St. Andrew's Church, followed by
- 12.00am Mass at St. Andrew's Church with Young Adults Group

Friday, 25th December 2015 – Christmas Day

- 8.00am Mass at St. Andrew's Church
- 9.30am Mass at St. Andrew's Church
- 10.00am Mass at St. Michael's, Little River
- 11.00am Mass at St. Andrew's Church
- 3.00pm South Sudanese Mass in the Church
(No 5pm Mass)



Thursday, 31st December 2015 – New Year's Eve

- 9.00am Mass
- 7.00pm Mass with Te Deum "Prayer of Thanks",
- 10.30pm Tamil Mass in the Church

Friday, 1st January 2016 – New Year's Day

- 10.00am Mass at St. Andrew's Church,
followed by drinks and nibbles – please bring a plate to share



*Merry Christmas 2015 and Happy New Year 2016 from
Fr. Frank, Fr. Benneth, Fr. Shymon, Deacon George,
Parish Core Team, Pastoral and Admin Teams*



*Photo of the Nativity inside
St James Church*

*Wishing you all
a Holy and
Happy Christmas*

**St James the Apostle Parish
Hoppers Crossing North
336 Derrimut Road, Hoppers Crossing**

Christmas Program 2015

Christmas Eve - Thursday December 24

6:00 pm Carols

6.30 pm Family Mass

9:00 pm Vigil Mass

11:30 pm Carols

12:00 am Midnight Mass

Christmas Day - Friday December 25

7:30 am Mass

9:00 am Mass

10:30 am Mass

(No evening Mass this day)

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

1st Rite of Reconciliation

Wednesday December 23 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

2nd Rite of Reconciliation

Thursday December 17 at 7:30 pm



New Year's Eve—Thursday December 31

6:00 pm Mass (last for the year)

New Year's Day—Friday January 1

10:30 am Mass (first for the year)

St Peter Apostle Mission Parish

38 Guinane Avenue, Hoppers Crossing 3029

Phone: (03) 9749-4300
Fax: (03) 9748-8434

E-mail: stpeters@westnet.com.au
website: <http://stpeterapostlemission.org.au>

MASSES

16 – 24 Dec	5:00am Dawn Mass Novena <i>followed by agape breakfast</i>
24 Dec	6:00pm Carols <i>followed by</i> 6:30pm Family Mass
24 Dec	9:00pm Carols <i>followed by</i> 9:30pm Early Vigil Mass
24 Dec	11:30pm Carols <i>followed by</i> 12:00am Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

25 Dec	8:30am, 10:30am 12 noon Spanish Mass No Evening Mass
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NEW YEAR

1 Jan	8:30am Mass 7:00pm First Friday Mass & Adoration
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HEALING MASS

9 Jan	1:00pm Adoration & Mass
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RECONCILIATION

17 Dec	7:30pm Reconciliation Rite II at St. James Parish
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CONFESSIONS AT ST. PETER'S

16 Dec	7:30pm
19 Dec	10:00am

