



MACKILLOP COLLEGE

Monthly Newsletter

June

Celebrating all life

Challenging all people

Dreaming the new day

MacKillop Newsletter

June 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	4

MacKillop College's production of

Disney's
Beauty
and the
BEAST

THE SMASH HIT BROADWAY MUSICAL

Music by **Alan Menkin** Lyrics by **Howard Ashman & Tim Rice** Book by **Linda Woolverton**
 Originally Directed by
Robert Jess Roth

Originally Produced by
Disney Theatrical Productions

BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH HAL LEONARD AUSTRALIA PTY LTD, EXCLUSIVE AGENT FOR
 MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL (NY)

27 - 29 AUGUST 2015
MORENO PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE
TICKETS - \$15 Book online at www.mackillop.vic.edu.au

College Chaplains
 Fr. Frank Buhagiar
 Fr. Shymon Thekkelathungal
 Fr. Benneth Osuagwu

Sisters of St Joseph
 Sr. Geraldine Whelan

PRAYER

With our eyes fixed upon God, let us humbly thank Him alike for the trials and for the blessings, for the bitter and the sweet.

Mary MacKillop 16.1.1875

AMEN

Canonical Administrators
 Fr. Frank Buhagiar
 (President)
 Fr Pius Kodakkathanath
 Fr. Jude Pirotta

Volume 12, Issue 6
 June 2015

Letter from the Principal

What promised to be the longest term in the academic year has come to its conclusion more quickly than most had anticipated and we are deservedly looking forward to a two-week break.

The recently held Year 11 Retreat proved to be a very valuable pastoral time for students. It was an opportunity for them to take a break from study to consider themselves in the context of their lives and to deepen their relationship with our loving God, each other and with self. I thank all those who contributed to the organisation of the retreats.

I congratulate our students on the manner with which they conducted themselves during the recent Year 10, Unit 1 examination period and the General Achievement Test (GAT) for students studying Unit 3 & 4 subjects. This period reminds all of our students of the need to prepare well for examinations. I trust they will take the results from these exams as a means by which to review their progress and to inform their future strategies in readiness for the end of year examinations. The important task of subject selection for all students from Year 9 – 11 is about to begin in early Term 3. This process requires careful consideration by all students in conjunction with their parents/guardians and the College, to ensure that the pathway chosen caters best for the personal needs and aspiration for each student.

The College Musical, 'Beauty and the Beast' will be held in the Moreno Performing Arts Centre from 27-29 August. This Disney classic is based on the animated movie and debuted on Broadway in 1994 and ran for over 5,000 performances. I encourage everyone to come along and join in the fun with tickets on sale through the College website.

I extend an invitation to all parents and guardians to attend the Open Board Meeting on Thursday, 30 July to view the Board in operation. The Board serves the College tirelessly and we are very grateful for their expertise and efforts on behalf of the College. The meeting will commence at 7:30pm in the Sister Giovanni Administration Building.

May St Mary of the Cross MacKillop guide our way.



Rory Kennedy
 Principal

From the Director of Student Wellbeing – Year 7 & 8

Year 7

Another busy month has seen the Year 7 students take part in the Year 7 Wellbeing Day that explored personal wellbeing through a theatre company production, an introduction to the Four Rooms of Change program and a visit to the WynCity Bowl and Entertainment Centre in Point Cook for ten pin bowling! Many students have continued to participate in Premier League and congratulations to those teams that have made it through to the Final. As we near the end of term, we are busy with work and assessment tasks in anticipation of the holidays ahead.

Year 8

The Year 8 Lorne Camp program has begun with seven classes completing their camp experience in the final four weeks of Term 2. The students experience a great deal on the camp and have lots of stories to tell on their return. Although challenged at times, the students accomplish a great deal – they pitch their tent, bush walk, prepare and cook their meals and participate in numerous camp activities all of which are very rewarding. The remaining classes will attend their camp early in Term 3.

From the Director of Student Wellbeing – Year 9 & 10

As June draws to a close so too does Semester 1. For our Year 9 students this holds particular significance because when they return in Semester 2 they come to a new campus. For some change comes with great excitement but for others a healthy level of anxiety and a sense of uncertainty may be experienced. In order to help students prepare for their new school life at a new campus, all Year 9s participated in a successful Transition Day. The day provided the opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to meet their teachers in their new environment.

Our Year 10 students have been incredibly busy and the end of semester represents the completion of all their assessment tasks including a series of examinations in many of their respective subjects. Formal examinations provide our students with a taste of what the external examination experience is like at VCE level. Our Vocational Preparation Program (VPP) students participated in their first round of work experience and from all reports the experience was incredibly worthwhile in providing greater clarity and direction in terms of their potential future pathways.

Congratulations to all our Year 9 & 10 students on their achievements this term; we wish them a restful, well-deserved holiday break.

From the Director of Student Wellbeing – Year 11 & 12

The month of June brings an end to Semester 1 for all our Year 11 and 12 students. Over the first weeks of June our students completed their exams, the GAT or their work placement. A highlight of this time was the Year 11 Retreat program. All Year 11 students went in class to three venues to reflect on themselves, their families and their faith. It was a rewarding and inspiring experience to see our students sharing their stories and insights with each other and the staff involved in the program.

Before we move into the Term 2 holidays, students will be able to reflect on what has been a long but rewarding term. We trust they return feeling motivated by the range of activities that are part of the Term 3 calendar, including MacKillop Day

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

With school holidays approaching it is a good time to ensure you have a number of reading books available to fill your time. As long as items are not overdue, students are able to borrow for these holidays and continue their reading habit. For those students registered in the Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge it becomes a convenient time to read more books to assist in filling the quota of reading titles in order to qualify for the Challenge. There are currently 306 students registered to participate in this Challenge and it would be an outstanding achievement to have this number complete the Challenge for 2015.

Parents & Friends Committee

Our next fundraiser is not far away. We will be running a Chocolate Drive in August. Please support us by either taking a box of chocolates or alternatively donating \$20 to the school. The flyer for the Chocolate Drive is attached to this newsletter.
Our next meeting will be on 5 August in the Sr Giovanni Administration Building at 7:30pm. All are welcome to attend

Parent/Guardian Information

Catholic Education Today

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

STUDENT TRAVEL

A major change to Wyndham's public transport network will be introduced from Sunday 21 June 2015. This information is also available on our website.

Changes to bus routes from 22 June are as follows:

- Hoppers Crossing and Grange bus routes will merge being called Hoppers Crossing 1
- Manor Lakes bus will be extended to the new Manor Lakes train station and will become an articulated bus
- Wyndhamvale 2 and 3 buses will merge and will commence at Feathertop Drive and called Wyndham Vale 2.

Additional Route

- Wyndham Vale 190 Extension will begin at Manor Lakes Railway Station as a *public* bus and stop at Werribee Station. It will then continue to the College as a school bus.

The College buses provided by Westrans (CDC) will now consist of the following:

- Wyndhamvale 1 and 2 and Wyndhamvale 190
- Hoppers Crossing 1 and 6
- Riverdene
- Rosella
- Manor Lakes
- Werribee South 1&2
- Tarneit 2.

We will continue to operate the College buses, namely

- Westleigh Gardens
- Altona
- Sayers Road.

Please visit the Public Transport Victoria website below for detailed information

http://ptv.vic.gov.au/assets/Maps/Routes/PDFs/8457_Bus190.pdf.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)

The Victorian Government has announced provision of \$148.3 million over four years for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF), to ensure all eligible students are able to participate in school trips and sporting activities.

Families who hold a valid means-tested concession card or who are temporary foster parents of school age children are eligible to apply.

The 2015 annual CSEF amount for secondary school students is \$225. The payment will be made directly to the school and will be used towards camps, sports and excursion costs for the benefit of the student.

How to apply: Contact the Administration Office to complete an application form by 26 June 2015.

For more information regarding CSEF visit

www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/Pages/csef.aspx?Redirect=1.

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

The Australian Government requires schools to report to their communities each year on specific areas relating to the previous school year. If you wish to view the Annual Report to the Community, please go to the Information tab on our website www.mackillop.vic.edu.au. This report needs to be read in the context that it provides certain specific statistical information and does not purport to be a detailed report of MacKillop College's activities last year.

ATTENDANCE

In accordance with General Expectation 19 found on page 13 of the College Diary, students are only able to be signed out of the College if their parent/guardian provides a note signed by both parent/guardian and Homeroom Teacher which is presented to the College Administration by the student. This includes the situation whereby a parent/guardian wishes their son/daughter to be picked up by another student's parent/guardian. The College will not release the student to go with another parent/guardian unless this note is produced.

VISITORS TO THE COLLEGE

With student safety as a priority, parents/guardians are reminded that any person who is not a student of the College must, upon arrival at the College, come to the Administration Office and sign in. Visitors are not to walk through the College grounds to the Uniform Shop, Canteen or anywhere else, before signing in.

UNIFORM

Parents/guardians and students are reminded that grooming is part of the Uniform Policy. In part, the Policy states "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...are unacceptable". Please ensure that your son/daughter is compliant with all uniform expectations when they return to school after the term break.

UNIFORM SHOP (telephone 8734 5280)

The Uniform Shop will be closed the first week of the school holidays and on Monday 6 July for Stocktake. Trading hours for the second week of the school holidays will be Wednesday & Friday 8:15am – 3:45pm (closed 11:30am – 12:30pm).

SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

We draw your attention to a Pastoral Letter from the Conference of Catholic Bishops which has been placed in the Newsletter section on the Parent Portal.



Ensemble Evening



Yr 7 Premier League

MACKILLOP



**Year 7 2017
Information Evening**

**Tuesday 25 August 2015
7:30pm**

Moreno Performing Arts Centre
8734 5200
Russell St, Werribee
www.mackillop.vic.edu.au

MACKILLOP
FREEDOM AND
JOY FOR EVER
CATHOLIC DIOCESAN COLLEGE WERRIbee

celebrating all life · challenging all people · dreaming the new day



MacKillop College – Parents and Friends Committee Chocolate Drive Fundraiser 2015

The Parents and Friends Committee will be holding a Chocolate Drive Fundraiser, commencing Monday 3 August 2015. On this day, one box of chocolates will be sent home with the eldest MacKillop student of each family. Only students in Year 7 to 10 will receive chocolates. The cost is \$1 per chocolate.

Each box contains 50 mixed Cadbury frogs, totalling \$50 per box. All money and/or unsold chocolates need to be returned to the College by Monday 31 August 2015. Please make cheques payable to MacKillop Parents and Friends. *Please note that after 31 August 2015, chocolates cannot be returned and that only the full payment of \$50 can be accepted.*

If you **do not wish** to participate in this fundraiser, please return the tear off slip below to the Administration Office by **Monday 27 July 2015, at the latest**. If the slip is not returned by this date, a box of chocolates will be sent home to your family. In lieu of selling chocolates, a donation to MacKillop P&F would be greatly appreciated. If you wish to do this, please place the reply slip in an envelope with your donation.

This is our major fundraiser for the year. P&F Chocolate Drives have raised over \$100,000.00 in total in past years. These funds have been used to purchase a Baby Grand Piano, the Rotunda, full sets of sports uniforms for all sports teams, bench seating around the College, scholarships for each year level, mountain bikes for St Mary's, the shade structure over the amphitheatre, electronic scoreboards and other equipment as needed. The P&F Committee also makes an annual contribution of over \$2000.00 to support MacKillop Day.

Thank you for your valued support.

MacKillop College – Parents and Friends Committee
Please return to the Main Office no later than Monday 27 July 2015

I DO NOT WISH to participate in the Cadbury Chocolate Fundraiser.

Student Name: _____ Homeroom: _____

Parent/Guardian name: (please print) _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____

I would like to make a donation instead.

Please find enclosed cash/cheque (made payable to MacKillop Parents & Friends).

I wish to make a donation of \$ _____

Asthma and Influenza

As the weather starts to cool down, the cold and flu season will soon be upon us.

The Facts:

- > Approximately 2,800 Australians die every year either directly from the seasonal flu, complications due to the flu, or pneumonia.
- > Adults and children with chronic illnesses (such as asthma) are at a higher risk of complications from the virus.
- > Colds and flu can be a trigger for some people with asthma, and can make your symptoms worse.
- > Flu vaccinations are the single most effective action in helping fight the spread of flu in the community.
- > The vaccine provides protection from about two weeks after the injection, and lasts for about one year (so even if you were immunised last year, you need to have the vaccine again this year).
- > The flu shot cannot give you the flu – as the vaccine does not contain any active virus.
- > In Victoria, under the National Immunisation Program, the criteria state that an annual free influenza immunisation is available to children or adults with severe asthma.

The vaccination is available now, so contact your doctor or immunisation provider to make an appointment. Many workplaces provide free vaccinations for staff to help prevent absenteeism during the winter months, so it is a good idea to ask your employer if this is available to you.



For further information please contact the Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 645 130 or email schools@asthma.org.au

Winter and Asthma

With the winter months approaching, it is important to be aware of the triggers that can affect your asthma at this time of year.

Sudden changes in temperature

Certain weather situations like very cold temperatures, humidity and dry air can trigger asthma symptoms. In a school environment, students are exposed to sudden temperature changes many times during the day as they go between heated classroom environments to outdoor activities and lunch breaks. Wearing a scarf over the mouth and nose is recommended as it can help to warm the air as you breathe in. Exercise-induced asthma may be exacerbated by breathing in colder air than usual, so ensure that you take your reliever puffer 5-20 minutes prior to exercise, warm up adequately, monitor your symptoms during exercise, and have a blue reliever puffer handy in case of an asthma attack.

Thunderstorms

Thunderstorms can be an asthma trigger for some people, as raindrops can cause grains to be broken down into hundreds of tiny allergen-containing particles – allowing them to penetrate the lungs. If you experience asthma symptoms during thunderstorms, it is best to stay inside with windows closed, and ensure that you update your asthma action plan with your doctor outlining the management of your day to day asthma, what to do if your symptoms worsen, and the first aid procedure in the event of an asthma attack.



For further information please contact the Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 645 130 or email schools@asthma.org.au