

Information Booklet 2017

Education In Faith

Develop and challenge students' Catholic identity by exploring their relationship with God through Jesus and the Charism of Mary MacKillop, to encompass stewardship of the Earth and social justice for all

Learning and Teaching

Provide experiential learning within a range of challenging teaching practices to celebrate individuality and enhance life skills

Leadership and Management

Provide opportunities for authentic leadership and management and a learning environment that encourages initiative, teamwork, communication and reflection

Student Wellbeing

Through supportive relationships nurture the physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of all students in a challenging and exciting learning environment

School Community

Build positive peer and staff relationships as a basis for active participation in the global community



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Principal's Welcome

Dear Parents/Guardians

St Mary's Campus represents MacKillop College's dedication to the provision of excellence in learning and teaching. It recognises that students at Year 9 need to be educated in other modes of teaching to discover themselves as thinkers and learners. The innovative and challenging program offered at St Mary's gives all students the opportunity to examine themselves as learners and as young men and women who need to understand the world they inhabit, how to function ably and productively in it and how to negotiate with others to mutually beneficial outcomes. The staff initiate and deliver programs that are inquiry-based and student-driven. The course is designed to be skills-rich, to support VCAL and VET, and to promote good learning and study patterns to support VCE and the pathways that lie ahead.

This booklet will provide you with information to enable you to understand how the campus functions and what is expected of your son/daughter. It is an appropriate and useful starting point for your inquiries but it cannot fully describe the depth of what is achieved at the St Mary's Campus. You can expect to discover over the course of a semester, that your son/daughter will flourish in many ways and that they and their community will reap the rewards of this innovative experience.

Yours sincerely



RORY KENNEDY
PRINCIPAL

Curriculum and Assessment

St Mary's Campus represents an exciting and challenging program for Year 9 students. The curriculum has been designed to have close links with the local area and allow students to be active and engaged learners. It focuses on students understanding themselves, their community and their world.

The Integrated Studies unit studied at St Mary's contains knowledge and skills from a range of traditional Learning Areas including English, Religious Education, Humanities, The Arts, and ICT. The Health and Physical Education program has been specifically designed to support the integrated program.

Mathematics, Languages and Health and Physical Education are taught in addition to the Integrated Studies units.

A significant feature of the Integrated Curriculum is the Action Inquiry Based Learning Task where students investigate an area of their own interest, based on the curriculum delivered, through negotiation with teachers. Students are asked to reflect upon what they have learnt and attempt to consider how this can impact upon themselves, their community and wider world.



Werribee South Tour - The Beach

A number of literacy tasks are woven through the course and include essay writing, analysis tasks, journals and others.

The Integrated unit taught is complimented through two Outdoor Education experiences and our Community Connections Program.



Werribee South Tour - The State Rose Garden

Integrated Program

This program is made up of numerous modules, and allows the teachers at St Mary's to teach various aspects of the course. The modules includes but is not limited to:

Seeking God

This module explores the belief systems of the original inhabitants of Australia, the Aboriginal People, Early Catholics -The Pioneers of Australia, Early Settlers, Immigrants and Christians today. Students will be exposed to the times when people seek 'God' or a higher being, and determine why this is needed in people's lives. Students will create a persuasive oral presentation on one of two contentions and be required to write a gratitude journal about positive things that happen in their lives. The text *To Know Worship and Love* will be used throughout this area of study as a means of explaining the Nicene Creed, Apostles Creed and The Beatitudes.

What's Your Story?

This module provides students with an opportunity to learn about multiculturalism and to examine the circumstances that influence waves of migration. Through the study of Anh Do's autobiography 'The Happiest Refugee,' students develop knowledge and understanding of the issues confronting refugees in our community. Students also learn about the origins and structure of narratives. As part of this unit of study, students complete an argumentative essay as well as a digital story focusing on the journey undertaken by refugees.

Whose mess is it anyway?

This module begins by looking at aspects of *Laudato Si* (the Papal encyclical) and centres around sustainability. Students will engage in a variety of activities to develop their knowledge and understanding of their personal impact on the environment. Part of this involves students engaging in a day trip to Queenscliff to investigate coastal ecosystems and learn about our impacts on the species in our bay.

Asia Unveiled

This module will ensure that students recognise the diversity within and between the countries of the Asia region. They will develop knowledge and understanding of Asian societies, cultures, beliefs and environments, and the connections between the peoples of Asia, Australia, and the rest of the world. Students investigate the history of an Asian society in the period of 1750 – 1918.

Marvellous Melbourne

The module is based around two separate days of excursions to Melbourne. The activities on each day reflect real life scenarios as they endeavour to familiarise students with the attributes of the City of Melbourne. Students are required to produce a series of reports and an advertisement campaign based on what they have learnt while in Melbourne.

At the conclusion of the semester at St Mary's Campus, all students will have a greater understanding of the following essential questions that guide the curriculum.

1. What is my responsibility to myself, the community and Earth?
2. How does the community and the Earth support my life?
3. How do the decisions of the past impact on today and how do our decisions today impact on the future?
4. What are the rights and responsibilities of a global citizen?
5. How can the human community contribute and celebrate life on the planet?
6. Like Mary MacKillop, how do we meet the needs of our time?

Assessment

Our integrated unit is made up of a variety of assessment tasks. There is a strong emphasis on developing literacy competencies. Students will be required to write a variety of essays and letters as well as use a number of Information and Creative Communication Technology (ICCT) tools to map their thinking.

Action Inquiry Based Learning Task (AIBLT)

All students at St Mary's complete an Action Inquiry Based Learning Task. Students will investigate an area of their own interest that has links to the content of the courses covered. This task will be negotiated with teachers to ensure suitable academic rigour and attainability. Inquiry based learning offers a unique opportunity to capture the interest and imagination of students and encourages them to take responsibility for their learning. Once students have developed an understanding of a topic, they are asked to consider what they can do with their learning to positively affect the world.



Rich learning in the classroom

Learning Experiences

Experiential Learning

Part of the philosophy underpinning the St Mary's curriculum is that learning goes beyond the classroom. For this reason, students will have the opportunity to participate in a number of excursions, incursions and learn from presenters. In each instance, students are given the opportunity to learn through experience, speak with experts and link curriculum to the outside world. The learning that occurs during these experiences is also used by students to complete assessment tasks.

Learning experiences provided at St Mary's are an integral part of the curriculum and it is a requirement of the student's assessment that they attend and participate.

Students travel around the local area frequently as a part of their time at St Marys. Please complete *the St Mary's Campus Consent Form* to allow this. Excursions that go beyond the 15km radius will require individual excursion forms to be signed as each excursion approaches.

During all learning experiences, students have a responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to the situation. Students are expected to be well groomed and to behave in public with courtesy, common sense and consideration for others. The College's expectations of behaviour and uniform will apply. Students who do not meet these expectations may be removed from an activity and may be withheld from future experiences.

As few items are necessary for off-campus learning experiences, students are expected to purchase the College excursion backpack.



Queenscliff Marine and Discovery Centre

Health and Physical Education

The Health and Physical Education program is an exciting and challenging one. Components of this course have been designed to directly compliment the units of Integrated Studies.

Students are required to wear their full sports uniform for practical activities. Other items may be needed depending on the nature of the activity. These units include self-defence, golf and mind, body and soul activities that is Pilates, massage, hip hop and others.

If for any reason a student is unable to participate in the Health and Physical Education Program it is imperative that a parent/guardian makes contact with the relevant Health and Physical Education teacher to discuss the issue and provide a written note.



Self-defence in the Hall

Campus Senate

The St Mary's Campus Senate is a leadership development initiative designed to nurture the skills of students in meeting procedure, development of student-led programs and implementation of projects in a collaborative fashion. Students apply for membership of the Senate. The applications are assessed by staff based on the applications themselves in conjunction with the work ethic and adherence to College expectations by the applicants in the past.

Successful applicants are allocated a portfolio of responsibility or may be designated a Senator without portfolio. The group is led by a Prime Minister who is assisted by the Deputy Prime Minister. Portfolios include, but are not limited to, Liturgy, Sustainability, Social Justice and Sport and Recreation. The Senate meets regularly to plan and review its programs. A staff member assists the Senators.

Community Connections

Sustainable Development Goals

The module links the *Essential Questions* of the campus with the Sustainable Development Goals, which are sixteen goals developed by the United Nations representing an agreed agenda for both developed and developing countries, working together in partnership, to reduce poverty and advance human development in a range of critical areas.

Each class at St Mary's Campus will develop and implement a project related to the Sustainable Development Goal allocated by ballot to that class. The program aims to broaden the horizon of students to the concept of 'community' and to enable them to view the issues on a global scale. The program enables the students to 'give back' to their wider community.



Outdoor Education

During the students' time at St Mary's Campus, they will take part in two Outdoor Education experiences that are directly linked to the curriculum. It is expected that students will attend both experiences. As with all programs at the College, the students' diverse range of needs will be met. If you have any queries regarding the program, please do not hesitate to contact the Outdoor Education Leader or Year Level Coordinator at the Campus. Outdoor Education in Year 9 involves two varied and diverse programs.

Goulburn River Canoe Experience

The Goulburn River Canoe Experience is a river journey conducted on the Goulburn River in the Seymour/Nagambie region of Central Victoria. This program runs over four days and the students will be pitching tents on the banks of the river along which they paddle. In keeping with the integrated design of the curriculum at St Mary's Campus, the students will be able to utilise their experience and learning on the Goulburn River Canoe Experience. Students will gain knowledge of the environment and have the opportunity to develop skills in canoeing, river navigation, bush cooking and camping. The students will undertake a number of activities to enhance their learning. These activities could be minimal impact camping, bird watching, and understanding human impact on the fragile river ecosystem.

Images from the Goulburn River Canoe Experience



Pitching tents - the first night



Negotiating entry onto the River



Enjoying a meal



Rafting up with the class

The St Mary's Camp

The St Mary's Camp is a two day whole campus program run out of Lady Northcote YMCA that ties in with our integrated unit. Students learn basic outdoor skills and safety; heighten their awareness of the environment and are challenged in their ability to work as a team.

Some sessions focus on relationships in which students develop skills in teamwork, cooperation, problem solving, initiative, communication, self-esteem and leadership. These provide a sense of class spirit that will be consolidated back at school throughout the remainder of the semester.

Images from The St Mary's Camp



High ropes at Lady Northcote Camp



Initiatives at Lady Northcote



Safety for the high ropes

Extra-Curricular Activities

Sport

Students attending St. Mary's Campus will be given every opportunity to participate in all sporting pursuits offered at MacKillop College including swimming, athletics, cross country. Selection and training for intermediate sporting teams (e.g. netball, tennis, football, basketball, soccer and others) will include after-school sessions to enable students from both campuses to attend.

Instrumental Music

Instrumental music teachers will attend St Mary's Campus for students wishing to continue in their music lessons. Where a student is unable to attend a lesson due to requirements of the St Mary's curriculum, it is the responsibility of the student to notify and make any necessary changes with their instrumental teachers.

Other Extra Curricular Activities

Students will have continued access to all extra-curricular activities on offer at MacKillop College. Such activities include participating in the College musical, various bands and ensembles, the College choir, debating, public speaking and various other performances / competitions. Sports training, rehearsal sessions and similar activities are held for all students after school hours on Main Campus.

Excursion Consent

St Mary's campus has been established with a curriculum designed to offer integrated units for Year 9 students using an inquiry-based approach. We are hoping to foster an environment in which students are encouraged to explore lines of inquiry raised during their formal classroom tuition. This may involve students leaving the school precinct on supervised 'excursions'. Examples of the types of excursions include:

Integrated Program

- Visit the Wyndham Harbour Marina Site
- Walk/ride to local historical sites to help and understand what we value
- Tour of Werribee South and it's surrounds



More information regarding the Integrated Program and off-campus learning experiences can be found in this booklet. Supervised visits to Community Connections appointments, Sustainability Day, Transition Day, Reconnection Day and Year 9 Reflection Days are also considered as excursions outside of the school precinct. Different forms of transport may be used including trains and buses, bicycles or walking. The students may go on the excursions in small or large groups. Students will be supervised at all times, in accordance with the student-teacher ratios in the MacKillop College and Department of Education and Training (DET) policies. Where possible, MacKillop will contact parents/guardians before the date of the excursion to advise them of relevant details. However, the nature of the program means that this will not be feasible in all cases. To allow maximum flexibility and to assist in achieving the program's full potential, we ask parents/guardians of Year 9 students at the St Mary's Campus to sign the *St Mary's Consent Form* agreeing to their son/daughter leaving the College for the purpose of these types of excursions during Semester 1 or Semester 2, 2017. Parents/Guardians will be sent individual consent forms for all excursions outside a 15 kilometre radius of the St Mary's Campus and for any adventure activities or sports that the students will be involved in.

Safety and Duty of Care:

MacKillop College will take measures to ensure that all Catholic Education Office and government regulations regarding excursions off-campus are adhered to during excursions from St Mary's. In addition, MacKillop College will take all reasonable care to ensure the safety of students at all times. Further information about MacKillop College policies regarding excursions and adventure activities/sports is available to view at our website:

www.mackillop.vic.edu.au

To help MacKillop fulfil these responsibilities, it is important that you provide all relevant information about your son/daughter's medical history and/or any current health concerns or medication that may affect their ability to participate in these types of excursions. It is important that you update any changes to this information on the MacKillop College Medical Report.

The **St Mary's Campus Consent form** must be returned to MacKillop College once completed.

Student Wellbeing and Expectations

Student wellbeing is a significant part of a student's welfare. For this reason, students at St Mary's Campus have the same access to student services and support that are provided at the Main Campus.

All student expectations remain the same at St Mary's Campus as the Main Campus. These expectations are described in the General Expectations Booklet and the Student Diary. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the expectations of the College.

Student Counselling Services

Student counsellors will visit St Mary's on an 'as needed' basis and will be available for students to make appointments. Emergency counselling will be provided as required.

Uniform

Students will be required to attend St Mary's Campus in full school uniform and adhere to the grooming requirements as outlined in the MacKillop College General Expectations found in the student diary. Students will be required to wear the correct Physical Education uniform on those days where Health and Physical Education practical classes are timetabled or when instructed by teachers.

Behaviour Issues

In accordance with the MacKillop College Recognition and Correction Procedure (RCP), student attitude and behaviour during class time will be consistent with that of the Main Campus. Students will be regularly recognised in class and at campus and whole school assemblies. Referred students will be required to report to the office to be monitored.

In instances where detentions have been issued, students will be required to attend detention at the Main Campus from 3:30pm until 4:15pm as directed.



Sustainability Day

Resources

Students at St Mary's Campus have the availability of the College resources at their disposal, whether it is text or audio visual resources or assistance from technicians at main campus. Whilst at St Mary's students can utilize all of the existing facilities to enhance their learning.

The MacKillop College Intranet is an invaluable tool with students having 24 hour online access to course documents, class timetables and current school communication. Computer resources are consistent with those at the Main Campus (one to one laptops) and students also have access to computer resources outside of class hours through the College's Resource Centre.

Over the course of their studies at St Mary's students will be provided with one novel, *The Black Dress*, to assist them with their studies. This text remains the property of the College and must be returned in good condition.

It is an expectation that all students purchase a current edition of the Religious Education text - *To Know Worship and Love*. They will also need to have Anh Do's - *The Happiest Refugee*.

Daily Operation

Timing of a Day

8.40am	Students board buses from the Main Campus to St Mary's Campus
9.00am	Period 1
10.35am	<i>Recess</i>
11.00am	Period 2
12.40pm	<i>Lunch</i>
1.30pm	Period 3
3.00pm	Students are dismissed from St Mary's and board buses to return to the Main Campus rotunda
3.20pm	Student dismissal

Travel Arrangements

MacKillop College provides an optional shuttle service between MacKillop College Werribee and St Mary's Campus Werribee South.

Students arriving at the Main Campus who are late and fail to board the provided bus transportation to St Mary's will be required to arrange their own transport to St Mary's Campus. Where this is not possible, students will remain at the Main Campus, supervised in the Time Out room for the duration of the day. Alternative arrangements will be made if students fail to arrive at the Main Campus due to external factors.

From time to time students may be required to arrive and remain at the Main Campus before departing on an excursion or to attend an assembly.

Lunch Orders

Students at St Mary's Campus will be able to place lunch orders which are prepared by the Canteen on the Main Campus. Orders must be placed in the lunch order box by 9.00am each morning.

Contact Details

Campus Location

MacKillop College,
St Mary's Campus
Cnr Whites and
O'Connors Roads
Werribee South 3030

Contact Details

MacKillop College St
Mary's Campus
PO Box 522
WERRIBEE VIC 3030

Tel. 03 8734 5256

Fax. 03 9742 1756



*Travel time is approximately 10-15
minutes between the campuses*

We look forward to active involvement
of your sons and daughters
throughout 2017

