



**MACKILLOP COLLEGE**

**Monthly Newsletter**

**February**

*Celebrating all life*

*Challenging all people*

*Dreaming the new day*

# MacKillop Newsletter

February 2017



**Table of Contents**

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



College Chaplains

Fr. Frank Buhagiar

Fr. Shymon Thekkekalathungal

Fr. Darien Sticklen

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 Pirodda

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February 2017

## Letter from the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians

Our College community gathered with reverence to celebrate the commencement of the 2017 school year at the Opening School Mass. It was an honour to have Archbishop Denis Hart as our Principal Celebrant along with Fr Frank, Fr Pius, Fr Shymon and Fr Darien concelebrating with him. Our Year 7 students were formally presented and our new families warmly welcomed. The gospel encouraged us to listen to Jesus' call and, in listening to His parable, we were challenged to be the best person we can be. May these powerful words continue to inspire us as we journey through the year. The College musicians and choir were most impressive on the evening; the sharing of their talents created a prayerful ambience.

The 2017 College theme is "Peace for our Common Home" – 'Remember, we are but travellers here' [Mary MacKillop 1866]. The theme will be explored by our students with particular focus on sustainability and peace (both on a global and school level).

It was pleasing to welcome so many prospective students, parents and guardians to our recent Open Day. Tours were conducted by our current student leaders who are the embodiment of our College spirit. The students showcased all College facilities with particular attention to the Chapel and La Merci Centre. All staff who assisted on this day along with our Parents and Friends Committee are recognised for their efforts and sincerely thanked for their ongoing support toward the College.

May St Mary of the Cross MacKillop journey with us.



Rory Kennedy  
Principal

## **MacKillop College Board – Parent Representatives Required**

In 2017 three new Parent Representatives will be required as the Board's current Parent Representatives will have completed their terms or had a son/daughter in the 2016 graduating class. As two further nominations are required, the nomination period has been extended to 24 March 2017.

The function of the MacKillop College Board is to provide guidance, advice and bring a range of views that assist in informing some of the decision making processes of the school. The members of the MacKillop College Board are respected for their participation and knowledge and viewed by the Administration of the College as having an essential and significant role to play in the ongoing development of the College.

We welcome three Parent/Guardian representatives on the Board whose term of office will be 1 year, 2 years and 3 years respectively and we call upon all parents/guardians to contemplate taking up this unique and important role at the school. Nomination forms are available from the Principal's Personal Assistant. Alternatively, the College can be contacted to have a nomination form emailed or posted to you.

The Board meets five times per year. The first meeting is the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 23 March 2017 at the College.

## **From the Director of Student Wellbeing – Year 7 & 8**

### **Year 7**

A warm welcome to our Year 7s who have successfully transitioned and settled into the MacKillop community. The beginning of our school year has been a busy and exciting time. Students were welcomed into the school community at the College's Opening School Mass. They have also had the opportunity to actively participate in all aspects of school life. Many of our students have joined the Choir, applied for Class Captain or Student Representative Council positions, whilst others have auditioned for the school's Musical. As even more exciting times approach, we wish our Year 7 students all the very best for the months to come.

### **Year 8**

We wish all students the very best as they settle into another academic year at MacKillop. Year 8 will provide challenging and engaging activities for all students and we hope they will make the most of all the opportunities on offer in 2017. The theme for 2017 at Year 8 is `Respect and Responsibility` and we certainly look to explore this theme in all areas of school life. We encourage all Year 8 students to be active participants who work well with staff and students alike.

## **From the Director of Student Wellbeing – Year 9 & 10**

Welcome back to all our Year 9 and 10 students to another school year. From our perspective, the year has started positively and the students have settled well into their classes. February has already seen significant learning in the classroom as well as student participation in a variety of academic and wellbeing programs.

Our Year 10 students participated in a Pastoral Program which explored qualities of leadership as well as goal-setting within a Growth Mindset. The initial program was facilitated by our Year 10 Pastoral Leaders whilst the latter was facilitated by 'Elevate Education'. A number of students commented that they found these programs to be engaging, positive and very relevant to their school lives.

Our Year 9 students have also participated in a number of positive experiences. The students at St Mary's Campus participated in an Outdoor Education Camp at Lady Northcote and, by all accounts, rose to challenges presented; the giant swing, a standout favourite! The students at Main Campus participated in various activities on their Wellbeing Day which began with a special presentation by 'Project Rockit' who delivered an important message about cyber safety, respectful relationships and building empathy.

## **From the Director of Student Wellbeing – Year 11 & 12**

The start of every school year is busy and full of expectation. The start of the 2017 school year has been no exception. By the end of February all Year 11 and 12 students will have completed their camp and retreat programs and also the wellbeing program that supports them.

This week will be very important to both year levels in building relationships as well as providing an opportunity to reflect on the role their faith plays in their school lives. The wellbeing program will focus on developing personal goals as well as reflecting on how mindfulness can support all students in managing the demands and stress of Year 11 and Year 12.

As we commence this year, it is important to reflect on the College theme for 2017 "Peace for our common home". We hope that throughout 2017 our students can focus on how, as custodians of this planet, we can ensure that we care for it locally, nationally and globally. In this modern world we are very much global citizens and the way we interact with each other and our planet has implications for all of us.

I look forward to the 2017 school year and hope to get to know our students and parents/guardians during the year.

## Sports Report



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

## John the Baptist Resource Centre

With the new school year underway, the library has been busy promoting Safer Internet Day whereby students are asked to "Be the change: Unite for a better internet". We can all assist in providing a safer internet for students and ourselves by asking the following questions:

- Is your time between screens and other activities well balanced?
- Do you use strong privacy settings and passwords, and upgrade these regularly?
- Have you secured your digital lifestyle with the right software and settings?
- Do you respect others and only post what you would say to someone's face?
- Do you get consent before sharing an image or video of another person?

By taking these factors into consideration, students become more aware of keeping their digital reputations intact and respect their own and others' rights to privacy and safety.

## Parents & Friends Committee

A big thank you to all those P&F members who assisted at the College Open Day. For those parents and guardians who were not able to join us at our MacCuppa Morning Tea at the start of the school year, we extend an invitation to join us at our next P&F meeting on Wednesday 1 March at 7:30pm in the Training Room of the Sr Giovanni Administration Building. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend the meeting. The main focus will be our preparations for the first fundraising event of the year – High Tea on Sunday 7 May 2017. We hope to see some new members at the meeting.

## Parent/Guardian Information

### Catholic Education Today

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

### School Vaccine Program 2017

Round 1 immunisations for all Year 7 students will take place at the College on **Monday 27 February at 9:00 am**. Please encourage your son/daughter to have breakfast and plenty of fluids on this day.

Immunisation Consent Cards will be distributed to all Year 7 students. Irrespective of whether your son/daughter is to be immunised, all cards stating 'YES' or 'NO' must be returned and signed by the parent/guardian. The Immunisation Consent Cards were due to be returned by **Friday 17 February**.

Vaccine timetable for 2017:

- 1<sup>st</sup> round vaccinations Human Papilloma Virus and Diphtheria/Tetanus/ vaccines (2)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> round vaccinations Human Papilloma Virus and Chickenpox Vaccines (2)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> round vaccinations Human Papilloma Virus Vaccine (1).

| Round | Date               | Time   |
|-------|--------------------|--------|
| 1     | Monday 27 February | 9:00am |
| 2     | Monday 22 May      | 9:00am |
| 3     | Monday 16 October  | 9:00am |

Please direct any queries regarding your son/daughter's immunisation to Lynda Marburg at the Wyndham City Council on 9742 0736.

### Parent Portal and Parent/Teacher Interviews

A letter will be sent in the next week providing important information about the Parent Portal including the *Username* and *Password*. This letter will include a Parent Portal Access Guide and procedure for booking Parent/Teacher Interviews. It is important that you keep these details in a safe place as this information is only sent at the beginning of each year and will remain as your unique identifier for future access to the Parent Portal.

In order to streamline access to your son/daughter's personal information and interview bookings, the Parent/Teacher Interview booking system will also occur via the Parent Portal located on our website. This means only one *Username* and *Password* is required which is your original Parent Portal access code.

The first session of Parent/Teacher Interviews occurs on Wednesday 22 March between 9:00am and 8:00pm. This is an opportunity for you to meet with your son/daughter's teachers before the end of Term 1. We recommend that all parents/guardians and students meet with at least one of their teachers. We expect students to attend the interviews with their parents/guardians so that they are responsible for their learning. The discussion with their teachers will be valuable in their studies.

### Food Brought Into The College

In keeping with the College's healthy food implementation, students should bring meals prepared at home for recess and lunch each day. These meals are supplemented with healthy choices/alternatives provided by the College Canteen. With this in mind, the College cannot allow food from fast food outlets to be brought to school by students or parents/guardians. This includes soft drinks.

### Uniform Shop

Winter trousers for boys and kilts for girls are available for purchase. The winter kilts are designed to sit below the knee.

## Instrumental Music Program

All students interested in starting instrumental lessons in Term 2 are asked to go to the Music Office to collect an enrolment form. Lessons are available for the following instruments:

- Trumpet
- Saxophone
- Clarinet
- Guitar
- Voice
- Cello
- Trombone
- Flute
- Percussion/Drums
- Piano
- DJ
- Violin

Instrumental lessons are an additional cost which are listed on the enrolment form. Alternatively, any student who wishes to withdraw from their instrumental program next term must complete an Exit Form which is also available from the Music Office. All forms are to be returned to the College by Wednesday 15 March.

## Parish News...



### St Andrew's Playgroup

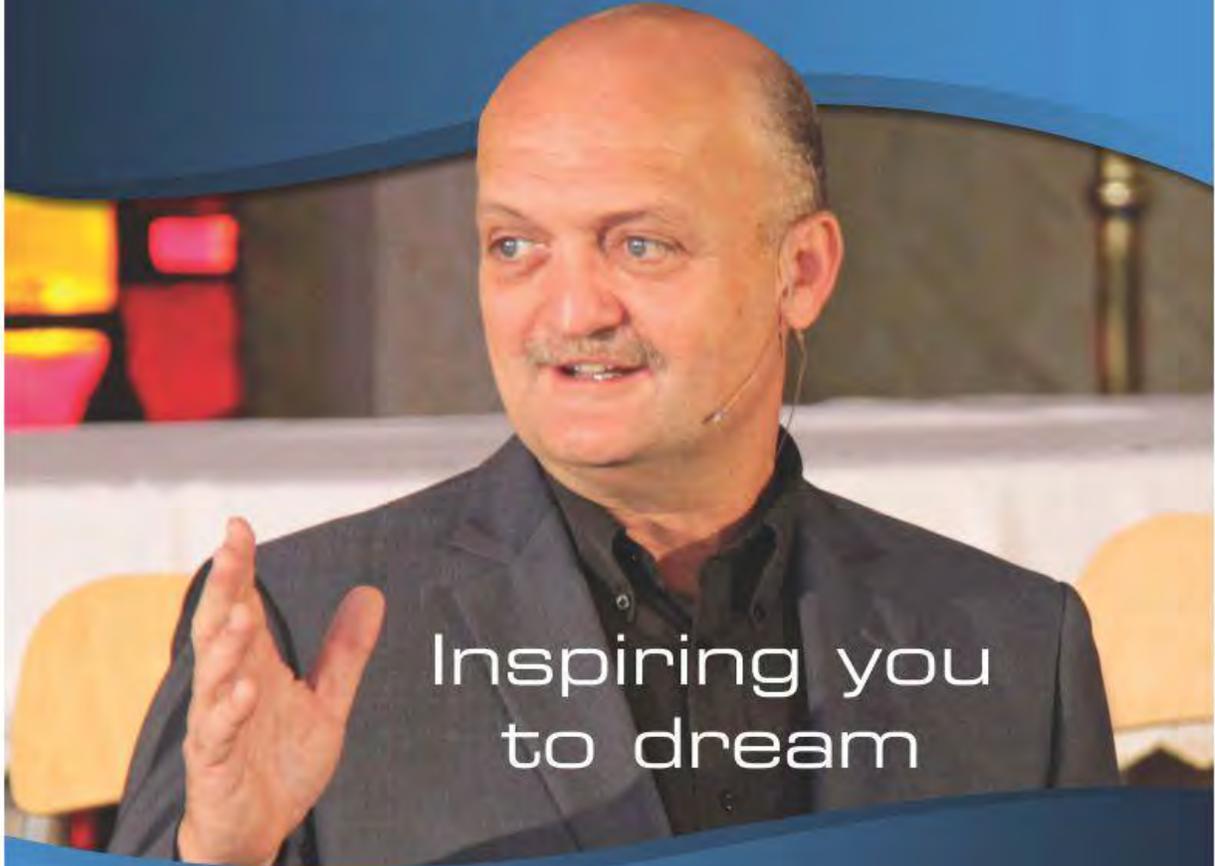
We would like to thank Rosie Dunne for her care and commitment to our St Andrew's Parish Playgroup for the last 38 years. We wish her all the best for her future endeavours.

To recommence our Parish Playgroup for 2017, we are seeking families with young children aged 0-5 years who are interested in coming together to participate in our playgroup. Families are invited to attend a meeting on Tuesday, 7 March 2017 at 9:30am in the Penola Hub, 33 Mortimer Street, Werribee. If you are interested but unable to attend, please call the Parish Office and register your interest (tel 9741 4144 or email [werribee@cam.org.au](mailto:werribee@cam.org.au)).

### Rite of Christian Initiation of Students – RCIS

Assistant Priest Fr Darien will be conducting workshops for secondary students residing within the Parish of St Andrew's who wish to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist and/or Confirmation in 2017. Workshops will commence during the month of April and will conclude in August 2017. Please contact the Parish Office on 9741 4144 or [werribee@cam.org.au](mailto:werribee@cam.org.au) for more information and to leave your details.

# THE CATHOLIC GUY IS COMING



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to dream

**ST ANDREW'S CATHOLIC PARISH**  
105 GREAVES STREET NORTH, WERRIBEE VIC  
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**5 inspiring sessions**

**Session 1**

Monday 27 March 7.30pm  
Tuesday 28 March 9.45am

**Session 2**

Tuesday 28 March 7.30pm  
Wednesday 29 March 9.45am

**Session 3**

Wednesday 29 March 7.30pm  
Thursday 30 March 9.45am

**Session 4**

Thursday 30 March 7.30pm  
Friday 31 March 9.45am

**Session 5**

Friday 31 March 7.30pm

W [www.TheCatholicGuy.tv](http://www.TheCatholicGuy.tv)  
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## Back to School Spike

Back to school time presents a phenomenon called the 'February Epidemic', which is a well-documented occurrence of an increase in asthma hospital admissions in children. This trend occurs two weeks after school goes back, with the spike generally occurring in mid to late February.

An increased exposure to colds and flu, the most common triggers for asthma, can explain the peak.

- Schools can ensure that all students with asthma have a written Asthma Action Plan that outlines their asthma management, including details of medication, emergency contact details, asthma triggers and what to do in an asthma emergency.
- Knowing the probability of an asthma attack is higher during this time of year, it is vital that parents/guardians ensure their children take their prescribed preventer medication and carry their blue reliever medication at all times.

For further information, please call the Asthma Telephone Help Line on 1800 645 130 or visit [www.asthma.org.au](http://www.asthma.org.au) or [www.asthmafriendlyschools.com.au](http://www.asthmafriendlyschools.com.au)