



**MACKILLOP COLLEGE**

**Monthly Newsletter**

**November**

*Celebrating all life*

*Challenging all people*

*Dreaming the new day*

# MacKillop Newsletter

November 2015



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Art Show



November Assembly



Yr 8 Premier League



Junior Music Night

College Chaplains Fr. Frank Buhagiar Fr. Shymon Thekkekalathungal Fr. Benneth Osuagwu	PRAYER  <i>Be bright and cheerful and encourage all To be the same</i>  <i>Mary MacKillop 1885</i>	Canonical Administrators Fr. Frank Buhagiar (President) Fr Pius Kodakkathanath Fr. Jude Pirotta
Sisters of St Joseph Sr. Geraldine Whelan	AMEN	Volume 12, Issue 11 November 2015

## Letter from the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians

We recently invited the senior Student Leadership Team of 2016 to a Leadership camp in Anglesea. The students' participation in the activities impressed all the staff who attended and I congratulate the Student Leaders on their willingness to take up these positions of responsibility. I am confident they will be great ambassadors for the College.

The recently held Art Show and Open Day were both wonderful successes and were very well supported by the community. I am very grateful to all involved in the organisation and execution of these events. I would also like to thank the students who contributed to the success of the Art Show as well as the student ushers who took prospective families on tours on Open Day.

Formal exams for Year 12 students have now concluded. The Graduation Dinner for Year 12 was held on Thursday 26 November at Etihad Stadium. It was a wonderful way for students, together with their families and staff, to celebrate the completion of their journey at the College.

We would very much like to thank the Parish of St Andrew's for the cheque received to cover the cost of the gift to the Chapel of the recently installed bell, named St Joseph by Fr Frank.

As we now turn our attention to 2016, the Year 11 students have commenced their Unit 3 / 4 Year 12 studies in earnest. We welcome our newest members of the MacKillop family to the Year 7 Orientation Day on 30 November.

As the school enters its final weeks and students are given opportunities at Reflection Days and Liturgies to contemplate the year, may they be well pleased with their efforts and proud of their achievements.

May St Mary of the Cross MacKillop guide our way.



Rory Kennedy  
Principal

## **Pixel Prize Competition Finalist**

In August, Lilly Smith of 10 Silver submitted three photographs in the Pixel Prize, a senior secondary school photography competition run by Australian Catholic University.

The Pixel Prize was open to high school students from Australia (New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland) and from Bangladesh, Mauritius and Sri Lanka who have a passion for photography. The Pixel Prize encouraged students to address a topical theme through a creative, visual medium.

The theme for the Pixel Prize 2015 photography competition was 'Freedom'. Freedom means different things to different people. For many, it is a reality experienced and enjoyed every day. For many others, it is a distant dream yet to be fulfilled. 2015 is a pivotal year in the history of freedom – the 25th anniversary of Nelson Mandela's release from a South African prison, the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act in the United States, and the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. These were monumental 'political' events, but freedom can be viewed and understood through multiple lenses – personal, social, cultural, political and economic.

Lilly was the overall winner in her category (Digital Darkroom). Congratulations to Lilly on this achievement. We wish her all the best in her future artistic endeavors.

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

### **Year 7**

As we journey towards the last weeks of Year 7, the students are working hard completing a range of assessment and learning tasks as well as taking part in the Swimming program. All Homerooms took part in a Retreat Day at the Year 9 St Mary's Campus. Our end of year liturgy was held on 25 November; this was a reflective way to celebrate and give thanks for the year we have experienced together.

### **Year 8**

As is usually the case, Term 4 is moving very quickly. The students have had numerous class tasks to complete over the last weeks as well as topic tests, assignments and exams. The Year 8 Reflection Day was celebrated on Tuesday 24 November. This was a great way to reflect on the year that has been and to celebrate the many achievements of the Year 8 cohort.

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

For our Year 9 and 10 students, November marks the business end of the school year. Students have worked tirelessly towards successfully completing their assessment tasks and for many subjects this has included undertaking examinations. At Year 10 this has taken place more formally within a scheduled examination week. Whilst some students may experience angst with undertaking examinations, they are important for normalising the experience; the intention being to place them in good stead for undertaking VCE examinations in their Senior Years. November also marks a period of reflection and looking towards the future for our Year 10 students, and celebration of achievement for our Year 9 students. We look forward to the next exciting chapter for all our Year 9 & 10 students.

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

For Year 11 and 12 students, the month of November and, indeed, Term 4 bring many challenges and mixed emotions. As they deal with the pressure of studying and completing exams they also have time to reflect and celebrate their achievements and look forward to new and different opportunities that will come to them in 2016.

For our Year 12 students, the way they completed the year at Speech Night, Graduation Mass, Celebration Morning and Reflection Day was a great credit to them and the respect they have for each other and their school. They completed their formal involvement with MacKillop College at their Graduation Dinner at Etihad Stadium on 26 November which was a great celebration for the students, parents and staff alike.

Year 11 students have completed their exams and for the last two weeks of November have been involved in Year 12 Unit 3 classes. This time is an important starting point for their studies in 2016. The transition from one year to another is a challenging one, and this is certainly the case when students move into Year 12.

Finally, we congratulate those students who have been selected for Leadership positions in 2016. They have chosen the following quote to guide them in their work in 2016 – “Alone you can achieve so little; together we can achieve so much”. These words from Helen Keller say much about what they are looking to achieve in 2016. We wish them all the best with their Leadership journey throughout 2016.

## 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 the introduction of new components within the library management system over the year, students have been informed via email of any overdue items. The student response to this feature has been very positive with numbers of overdue items at this stage of the year being reduced considerably. Library staff congratulate students on their responsible attitude to ensuring items are returned on time. Borrowing for the year has concluded and staff are busy with stocktaking and checking resources for the 2016 year.

Over the last few weeks, senior students have been demonstrating their commendable study habits while being busy with assessment tasks and examinations. Library staff wish them all the best for the future and hope that their dreams are realised.

## Parents & Friends Committee

Our last meeting for the year was held at the start of November. Following this meeting, we conducted our Annual General Meeting. We are still waiting on a substantial amount of money to be returned from the Chocolate Drive. I would like to thank the ladies of P&F who helped out on Open Day. Since our last meeting, we won a competition run through Cadbury and we have received two Head Pro cameras which we decided to donate to the Outdoor Education Department at the College. Our next meeting will be a get together at the Groove Train at 7:00pm on Wednesday 2 December. Our first function for 2016 will be MacCuppa on the first day of the school term. All parents are invited to join us.

## Parent/Guardian Information

### Catholic Education Today

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

### 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 – 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 will resume Thursday 28 January 2016 from 8:00am to 4:30pm.

Students recommence school on Friday 29 January 2016.

**Uniform Shop**

The Uniform Shop will be **closed** on the following days:

Friday 11 December 2015  
Wednesday 16 December 2015  
Friday 18 December 2015

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  
Wednesday 27 January 2016 12:30pm – 3:45pm  
Thursday 28 January – 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.

## MacKillop College Parents and Friends

DATE: FRIDAY, 29 JANUARY, 2016  
TIME: 8.30

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

WHERE: Sr. Giovanni  
Administration Building



MacCuppa



## Important Asthma Information for Teenagers

Whilst parents and family are there to help, teenagers should be aware that they too can successfully and responsibly manage their own asthma. Here are some tips to help teenagers to manage their asthma:

1. Remind them to always carry a blue reliever puffer with them and use when asthma symptoms occur.
2. Encourage them to let their friends know about their asthma and what to do in an emergency.
3. Remind them that having asthma doesn't make them different from others.
4. Understand what their asthma triggers are and avoid exposure where possible.
5. To use their doctor recommended medication before exercise, so they can participate in all sporting activities.
6. To avoid smoking and smoky areas.
7. To work with their doctor to prepare a written asthma action plan and have it reviewed at least annually or more often if they have severe asthma.
8. Include them in all discussions and decision making about the management and monitoring of their asthma.
9. Remind them to continue to take their preventer medications.
10. If they are reluctant to take their medication encourage them to monitor their asthma with a peak flow meter.

To obtain a copy of the 'Asthma: take control; great tips for teenagers' brochure or for more information contact the **Asthma Foundation of Victoria** on **1800 645 130** or visit **[www.asthma.org.au](http://www.asthma.org.au)**

