MacKillop College

Monthly Newsletter

September

Celebrating all life

Challenging all people

Dreaming the new day

MacKillop Newsletter

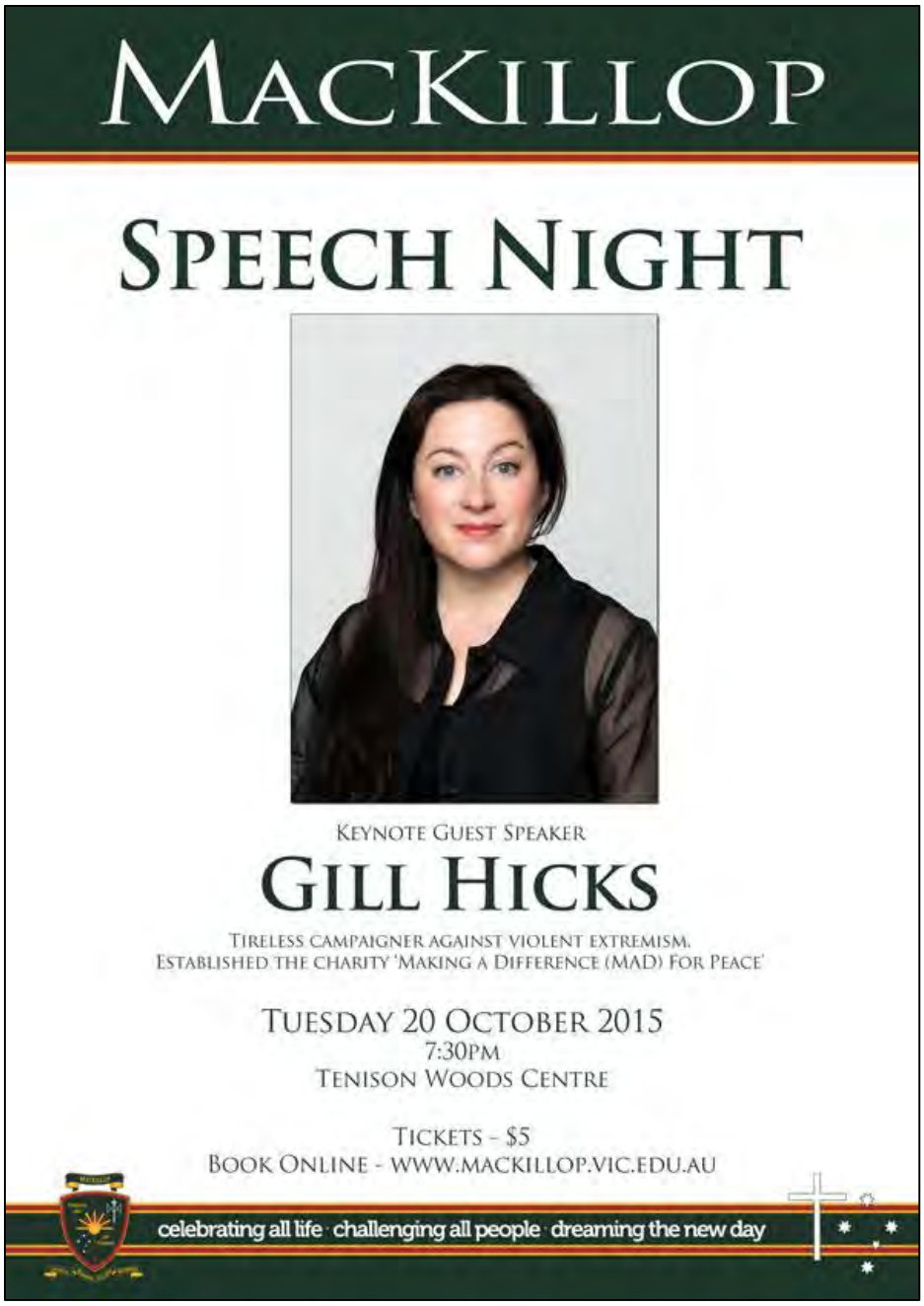
September 2015

Russell Street Werribee VIC 3030

Telephone: 87345200 www.mackillop.vic.edu.au Facsimile: 87345261

Table of Contents

Letter from the Principal 2
From the Director of Student Wellbeing – Year 7 & 8 4
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 6
Parent/Guardian Information 6



College Chaplains
Fr. Frank Buhagiar
Fr. Shymon Thekkekalathungal
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 9
September 2015

Letter from the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians

As Term 3 concludes, our senior students complete their courses of study and last assessments. They also turn their attention to revision and the compulsory Unit 3 and 4 practice exams which will be held during the holidays. I wish all Year 12 students well in this final phase of their secondary education and pray that all their work is amply rewarded. On 3 September, we held the last of the scheduled Parent-Teacher interview sessions which was well supported by parents/guardians. I thank you all for your ongoing input into your children's education.

I wish to announce the appointment of Mr Troy Rickard as Deputy Principal – Catholic Identity for a three year term, commencing Term 4 this year. Troy has a Graduate Diploma in Educational Studies (Student Wellbeing), a Master of Religious Education and is currently deferred from a Doctorate of Education focusing on Spirituality. Troy commenced at MacKillop in 2004 and has held leadership roles including Director of Literacy and Director of Learning and Teaching. Troy came from Bethany Primary School where he worked from 1995 to 2004. Troy's daughter is currently studying Year 7 at MacKillop.

I congratulate Ms Lisa Harkin on her appointment as Deputy Principal – Students at De La Salle College in Malvern. This position has specific responsibilities in leading the response to the wellbeing and pastoral care needs of all students. De La Salle is an independent Catholic College for boys in Year 4-12. We will farewell Lisa at the end of the year and wish her well in her new appointment.

The AJASS schools are currently celebrating the fifth anniversary of the canonisation of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. As part of this celebration, two of our School Captains had the opportunity to travel to Canberra on 11 September to meet the Prime Minister, Honourable Tony Abbott at Parliament House. They were joined by students from Mary MacKillop College Canberra and it proved to be a most memorable event for the students.

I am pleased to announce that our Keynote Guest Speaker for Speech Night on Tuesday 20 October is Ms Gill Hicks. Gill was severely and permanently injured in the London bombings on 7 July 2005. She discovered a great inner strength to not only fight for her life that morning but to learn to walk again. Gill is determined to make her life count, to

make a significant difference and her aim is to use her experience to do all she can to deter anyone from following a path of violent action. She founded and operates nationally and internationally through her non-for-profit organisation M.A.D. for Peace. This group communicates the importance of our individual responsibility in creating a world in which extreme conflict is ended. Gill will retell this inspirational story and we look forward to her company on the evening. Information regarding ticketing is included in this newsletter.

May St Mary of the Cross MacKillop guide our way.

Rory Kennedy
Principal

Assembly

SACCS Athletics

Beauty & the Beast

Recital Series

From the Director of Student Wellbeing – Year 7 & 8

Year 7

The Year 7 students have continued to focus on and extend their learning during the cold months over winter. Congratulations to those Year 7 students who were part of their first MacKillop Musical. The event was a great success and the students enjoyed the experience immensely. In Religious Education we are focusing on the experiences of the ancient Israelites and their place in our Christian history. This will culminate in an excursion to the Australian Jewish Museum early in fourth term which the students are eagerly awaiting. We are also looking forward to warmer spring days ahead!

Year 8

The Year 8 students are busily working in all of their classes as Term 3 comes to a close. Students will be working hard to complete assessment tasks prior to the holidays. Homework club occurs from 3:30-4:30 pm on Monday, Wednesday & Thursday in the Library for those students who would like some additional support with classwork or homework. Try-outs for Premier League are also currently underway. Round 1 of Premier League occurs before the holidays with the remainder of the rounds in early Term 4.
All the best to everyone for a relaxing holiday break.

From the Director of Student Wellbeing – Year 9 & 10

As I reflect upon the final weeks of Term 3, I find myself astounded by the buzz of activity that has existed around the College. Several Year 9 & 10 students were involved in the College Musical, *Beauty and the Beast* and, by all accounts, the show was a great success. Congratulations to all those involved. Congratulations also to those who shared their wonderful musical talents with us at the Annual Music Night. A number of our students also competed successfully at SACCSS Athletics and Tennis. I commend these students on their competitive spirit but more so on their sporting professionalism.

However, let us not forget the many and varied successes of those in the classroom - completing an assessment task to the best of their ability; contributing an opinion for the first time in a class discussion; having the courage to stand in front of a class and deliver an oral presentation despite their feelings of anxiety and uncertainty. We are particularly proud of these students and we applaud them with great sincerity.

We wish all our students a wonderful holiday break and we look forward to welcoming their return in Term 4.

From the Director of Student Wellbeing – Year 11 & 12

As we come to the end of Term 3 there is much to reflect on and look forward to. Year 11 students recently completed the TAC Fit to Drive Program. This program challenges all students to reflect on the risks of driving on the road and discussing ways they can reduce these risks through using social media and other communication methods.

At Year 12, the end of the term will bring the start of practice exams and the preparation phase for the end of year exams, and work placement for our VCAL and VSP students. As they complete their Unit 4 studies, students are preparing for their end of year activities. Rehearsals are underway for the Year 12 song that will be performed at the College Speech Night – this will no doubt be one of the highlights of the year.

As we reach the end of term, we hope that all students have a restful but productive break as they get closer to the finish line for 2015.

Student Services

During Term 4, students will be completing their final assessments and exams for the year. During this time, and as always, the importance of maintaining one's wellbeing is paramount. Numerous studies have shown the importance of getting enough sleep, exercising regularly, eating well, engaging in social interaction and relaxation in order to promote good mood, health and wellbeing. The links below provide information on how to best promote this:
http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcarticles.nsf/pages/rf_youngpeople?open
http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcarticles.nsf/pages/Teenagers_and_sleep
http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcarticles.nsf/pages/Eating_tips_for_teenagers?open

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

This year has seen 306 MacKillop students register their participation in the Premiers' Reading Challenge and it is this time of the year that the challenge draws to a close. We congratulate the students who took on the challenge and we hope they have been inspired to continue their habit of reading.

Our BIBLIO club will be providing a foyer display in the early weeks of Term 4. They have decorated a number of book shelves for display purposes within the library using the theme of crime and mystery.

Being a responsible digital citizen is vital to our survival in this technological age. Providing a safe environment for students to acquire and develop their 21st Century digital literacy skills is a prime objective of the library. Everything we attach, type, create and enter on the internet is there to follow us for the rest of our lives and the library recently reinforced this message with promotions during eSmart Week. The digital footprint we leave is as vital as the environmental footprint we create, so the message *be smart, be safe, be responsible* is an important life skill for our students.

Parents & Friends Committee

Well, our chocolate drive has officially finished. As of 31 August, all chocolates and money were due back. Thank you to those students who have returned their money or chocolates. However, there are many students who have not done so. No chocolates can be returned and only money for the chocolates can be accepted. It would be greatly appreciated if all outstanding money could be returned as soon as possible. Remember that all fundraising money helps to enhance your son/daughter's experience at MacKillop College.

Our next meeting will be held on 7 October in the Sr Giovanni Administration Building at 7:30pm.

Parent/Guardian Information

Uniform

Parents 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. When the hair is tied back, the accessory used must be burgundy in colour, as per College regulations. Unusual fashion modes, as determined by the College…are unacceptable".

Please ensure that your son/daughter returns to school after the term break compliant with all uniform expectations.

Students can return to school in Term 4 in either their full winter or full summer uniform. As of Monday 19 October, all students must be in full summer uniform which includes the College blazer.

Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop (telephone 8734 5280) will be closed for the first week of the school holidays. Trading hours for the second week of Term 3 school holidays will be:

Monday & Wednesday 8:15am – 3:45pm (closed 11:30am – 12:30pm).

The Uniform Shop will be closed for the public holiday on Friday 2 October.

2015 Golf Day

St. Andrew's Parish Golf Day

To be held at

Werribee Park Golf Club

8am Light Breakfast

9am Ambrose - Shot Gun Start

Sunday, 11th October 2015

Followed by light Lunch and Trophy Presentations

Ladies welcome to play.

ST. ANDREW'S PARISH FAIR

Cost: $85 incl. Breakfast and light Lunch
$65 golf only

For more information please contact
Roger: - 0409 145 486 or Bernie: - 0412 704 687

Joseph's Corner Trivia Night

Time: 6:30pm for 7:00pm start – 11:00pm

When: Saturday 10th October, 2015.

Where: St Mary's Primary School Hall, 118 Cecil Street, Williamstown.

Cost: $10 per person

Bring your own drinks and nibbles-looking forward to seeing you there!

For bookings please contact Debbie Di Genova on either 9315 2680 or 0413 987 514

All money raised goes to Joseph's Corner

Joseph's Corner is a non-profit support service to families living with alcohol and drug addiction.