**MACKILLOP CATHOLIC COLLEGE**

**FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

**EASTER REFLECTION**

This weekend is Easter and I ask all members of our College community to take the time and reflect with their families the sadness and the joy associated with Holy Week. Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ following his death. It is the most significant event of the Christian calendar.

On Good Friday, Jesus Christ was executed by crucifixion. His body was taken down from the cross, and buried in a cave. The tomb was guarded and the entrance covered with a stone. On the following Sunday, Easter Sunday, some women visited the tomb and found it empty.

Jesus himself was seen that day and for the days following. His disciples realised that God had raised Jesus from the dead. Easter celebrates the promise of life in the face of death. Easter celebrations also reflect on peace and forgiveness which has come out of aggression. It is also a time for thinking about injustice and hardship.

The week leading up to Easter, this year, is truly a sacred week. We will have a lot of special services celebrated, commemorating the special season of the Church.

I encourage families to make Holy Week a special time for renewal, and take the opportunity to come along as a family to the liturgies being celebrated in the different parishes.

I also take this opportunity to wish you all a very holy, safe and restful Easter break.

**POPE FRANCIS**

Since the last newsletter, Catholics worldwide have celebrated the election of Argentina’s Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio as the new Pope, Pope Francis. Described as a humble man with a rich life story, it is firmly believed that Pope Francis will set an outstanding example for Catholics to follow.

The election of Pope Francis brings a lot of firsts to the position. At age 76, Pope Francis is the first Cardinal to be elected to Pope from the Southern Hemisphere, as well as the first from Latin America. He is the first Jew to become Pope and the first to take the name of St Francis.

Let us all celebrate, with joy and hope, and pray for Pope Francis during his time in this most significant position of leadership.

**THE SIMPSON PRIZE COMPETITION**

Congratulations to Rachel Hay on her success in The Simpson Prize Competition. The Simpson Prize is a history competition which has a focus on the legacy of ANZAC, open to Year 9 and 10 students across Australia. Rachel was selected as the Tasmanian winner, and she joins other state winners. Last week, Rachel travelled to Canberra to attend a presentation and visit to Canberra. During April, Rachel will undertake a twelve day tour of Turkey including Gallipoli.

**OLD SCHOLAR NEWS**

Last week Guilford Young College held their Ceremony of Commendation and I was honoured to be invited and attend. Part of the ceremony was the presentation of awards for performances in 2012. Congratulations to the following Mackillop old scholars on their outstanding performances:

- Top Tertiary Entrance Score
  - Elsie Pollard
  - UTAS Scholarships and Bursaries
    - James Armstrong (Tasmania Access Bursary)
    - Subject Awards (TQA Level 3)
  - Professorial Loans
    - Joshua Poul - French, Mathematics Methods, Physical Sciences
    - Elsie Pollard – Psychology
  - Vocational Education and Training Awards
    - Christopher Mazengarb – Certificate 1 Construction

The second half of the ceremony was the Commissioning of Student Leadership. I would also like to acknowledge and congratulate the following past Mackillop students on their significant leadership positions at GYC:

- Alec French – Vice Captain, Hobart campus
- Clayton Rainbow – House Captain (Guzman House)

**EASTER BREAK**

From Friday, March 29, students will enjoy a break from school. Classes will resume on Wednesday, April 3.

**SATIS SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

On Tuesday, March 19, Mackillop College students competed at the SATIS Swimming Carnival in Hobart. The Mackillop students competed well and their support of each other was outstanding. Special thanks to our coaches and managers, Miss Jen Rider and Mr Peter Kay and team captains Jamie McShane, Nicole Brosneman, Kyle Leisk and Demi Clarke on a successful day.

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS**

Congratulations to Callan Wright (9 Gold) on his selection to represent Tasmania in the Water Polo National Championships to be held in South Australia this week. All the best, Callan.

Dr Sally Towns
Principal

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**GUILFORD YOUNG COLLEGE**

**MUSIC TRIVIA NIGHT**

Tickets are now on sale for a Guilford Young College fundraising Music Trivia Night on Wednesday, April 17. Teams of 6-8 people will vie for a variety of prizes as they test their knowledge of music from ‘back-then’ to the present. The ticket price of $15 per person covers snacks, live music and lots of fun! This fundraiser for the GYC Creative Arts Link will be held on the Glenorchy Campus, Bowlden St, from 6.30-9pm. For tickets/bookings, please contact the Glenorchy (6238 4350) or Hobart (6238 4300) Campus Office.

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**EASTER BREAK**

Classes will resume on Wednesday, April 3.
McK - Co

As we head toward a well-earned break for Easter I would like to wish all members of our community a safe and happy Easter. Remember, for the church, Easter is a celebration of the risen Lord and a time to remember the sacrifices others have made on our behalf.

METRO BUS SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS NEXT WEEK

According to the Mercury newspaper yesterday, bus services will be disrupted again next week. Planned stop-work meetings will interrupt travel on Wednesday, April 3, from 7.30am to 8.30am and 2pm to 3pm and on Thursday, April 4, from 7.45am to 8.45am. Services are expected to be disrupted for an hour on either side of the meetings therefore parents may need to once again make other arrangements for student travel to and from the College if the planned meetings go ahead.

UNIFORM

As the cooler weather approaches we need to begin our planning to move toward winter uniform. Students return after the first term break in full winter uniform. Our clothing shop will not be open next Tuesday, April 2, as it is a public holiday and will be closed during term vacation April 19 – May 6. So the collection of the correct uniform will need to occur prior to April 19.

Today a copy of the order form for the new “soft shell” winter jackets was sent home via students. The aim is to finalise orders prior to April 15 so the jackets should be in stock in the first week of Term 2. We do have a variety of sizes in the Uniform Shop if you would like to confirm the size.

CLARIFICATION OF EARRINGS

According to our uniform policy the only acceptable earrings that can be worn with the College uniform are a stud or sleeper in the lobe of ear. Any other visible piercing is unacceptable and students will be required to remove them when in our College uniform. (Plastic keepers are not an option).

RYDA 2013

Last Monday all of our Year 10 students took part in the road safety program aimed at equipping young people with the knowledge to stay safe on Australian roads. The program is aimed at this age group because the learner’s licence is becoming a rite of passage. RYDA is a community-based initiative of Rotary, involving interactive sessions and is presented by road safety professionals. As part of the Personal Development and Health programs we will continue with extension of some elements of the program in classroom situations over the coming months.

EASTER MASS TIMES - 2013

**HOLY WEEK**

Thursday, March 28 Holy Thursday 7.30 pm Corpus Christi
Friday, March 29 Good Friday - Sorrows 9.00 am Corpus Christi
Saturday, March 30 Holy Saturday - Taizé Vigil 7.00 pm Corpus Christi
Sunday, March 31 Easter Sunday 8.30 am John Paul I + 10.30 am and 6.00 pm Corpus Christi

Reconciliation

Second session 7.30 pm
Wednesday at Corpus Christi

Visit the website: http://www.hobart.catholic.org.au/pa/parish/er/mass-listing/faith

In my reading for inspiration for my own journey this Easter, I came across the following reflection which was inspired by the Gospel of Luke:

“Oh God, be merciful to me, a sinner! (Lk 18:13)”

Phony people have all the external appearances of happiness, success or friendliness, but when you push past the veneer, you find no substance, no heart. People like this are only one-inch deep. In the time of Hosea and Jesus, the religious professionals had lost some phony people. They had lost their connection with God. What God wants for us is so great that we cannot buy it with religious practices or good works. We can never force God to reward us because we are doing everything in the correct and proper manner.

In God’s version of reality when there is a contest between the heart and the law, the heart always wins. In the gospel, the tax collector with the repentant heart wins, and the Pharisee with the outwardly correct practices loses. Over and over again in the gospels the people who throw themselves on Christ’s mercy win – Peter after he had denied Christ, the thief on the cross, the blind beggar screaming out for sight, the sisters of Lazarus in tears at the tomb. Hosea in our first reading says it this way: “It is love that I desire, not sacrifice.”

The Lenten Handbook: A Daily Companion Remembrator Pastoral Publication

In Lent, we journey past our external self to see if we are planted in the heart of God. May our rituals for Easter remind us of the very real and very deep love God has of us. May the hope of the Resurrection consume our hearts and inspire us to love and forgive others as Christ has done for us.

**DATES FOR YOU - HOLY THURSDAY**

To end our Holy Week journey we will gather as a College in a Liturgy that transforms us into eyewitnesses and participants in the awesome events of the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. I would like to say a big thank you to the Year 10 Drama class, Ms Phillips and Stow for all her hard work in preparing this inspiring liturgy.

PROJECT COMPASSION

Thank you to all staff, students and families for collecting money in your Project Compassion boxes for the period of Lent. Your continued support will benefit millions of the world’s most needy people. If you have not yet returned your Project Compassion box, you still have time! Please do so to the school front office as soon as possible.

**YEAR 9 AND 10 REFLECTION DAYS**

Year 9 had a day of stories, music and reflection at Lauderdale last Thursday and Friday. Project Hatch challenged students to look at their own lives and their relationships with each other. It was a worthwhile day for our students.

On Tuesday, March 12 we headed down to Lindisfarne Rowing Club for Year 10 reflection day. We did many activities throughout the day with the Youth Ministry Team from Melbourne. Our focus for the day was leadership, which was a relevant for us, considering we are now Year 10. They presented us with many plays and skits teaching us about exclusion and our relationship with God. We learnt the qualities that make a good leader and a bad. It was a really worthwhile day for all.

By Bianca Burgess and Emily Kerslake

MRS LINDA POLLARD
DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY
lpollard@mackillop.tas.edu.au

YEAR 10 STUDENT LEADERS – SCHOOL TOURS PROGRAM

The Year 10 leadership team have already met several times this year and are busy planning numerous new initiatives and major events for MacKillop. One of the important projects under their care is the School Tours Program. It is during the next couple of months many prospective students and their families are keen to tour our College. This tour program is very rewarding for our student leaders as it allows them to practise their communication skills, which consequently builds confidence and self-esteem. Families usually give the student leaders plenty of positive feedback and appreciate the authentic approach to our school tour program.

SRC NOMINATION AND ELECTION PROCESS

This week during Personal Development students in Year 7 -9 were encouraged to consider nominating themselves or another fellow classmate to stand for SRC. MacKillop College values giving our young people the opportunity to lead and generate ideas and actions to improve our school community. Nominated students will prepare a short speech during the Easter break to highlight the qualities and ideas they have to offer, to make MacKillop a better place. Speeches will be presented in Home Rooms on our return after Easter and two members from each Home Room will be elected for the SRC. We will publish the successful SRC leaders in the next newsletter.

“Individually, we are one drop. Together we are an ocean.”

(Ryunoikei Satoru)

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

This week a couple of staff members undertook some training in mental health first aid for young people. General first aid is the help given to a person before appropriate medical help is available. Mental health first aid is the help provided to a person who may be developing a mental health problem or is in a mental health crisis. This help is provided until appropriate professional treatment is received or the crisis resolves.

While people often have a pretty good knowledge base about common physical health problems and their symptoms, there remains widespread misunderstanding about mental health problems. This misunderstanding can then add to the negative attitudes and stereotyping that often prevents people from seeking help. With 1 in 5 Australians living with a mental illness, it is an important issue for our staff to be more knowledgeable about to ensure the wellbeing of our students is more than adequate.

Mr Nicholas Lahey
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT WELLBEING
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CURRAJONG STREET

Please note that the former hairdressing salon in Currajong Street, adjacent to the College oval is currently a residence. The residents have asked us to remind parents not to park on their property.