GENERAL NEWS

CHANGE OF DATE FOR TRIVIA NIGHT

MacKillop Catholic College East Timor Immersion Program presents...

FRIDAY 14th AUGUST
7.30PM START
MACKILLOP COLLEGE GYM

$100 per table – maximum 10 people per table
Major Prizes Silent Auction
Drinks Available BYO Nibbles

To make a booking, contact:
pstanley@mackillop.tas.edu.au
or phone: 6245 0099

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

CHANGE OF DATE FOR TRIVIA NIGHT

A number of years ago, groups of university students in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane decided that an April Fool’s Day prank would be conducted simultaneously in each of their capital cities. As people were making their way to work along one of the busy streets, a couple of students stepped to the curb, looked upwards and started to point at “something”. They were joined by other students, then by ordinary people and so a crowd formed. Soon a “mysterious object” “disappeared” once the students began to shout, “April Fool’s Day, April Fool’s Day.”

Nearly two thousand years ago, a “genuine” group of people was looking upward as their friend and leader, Jesus, ascended into heaven. This visible ascension brought to an end the early ministry of Christ. Over a period of forty days following the Resurrection, Jesus had shown Himself to be very much alive to a substantial number of people under different circumstances.

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He was seen by Mary Magdalene in the garden on the morning of the Resurrection (John 20:15), by Peter later on the same day (Luke 24:34), by the two disciples on their way to Emmaus (Luke 24:13), by the ten disciples without Thomas (John 20:23-24), by the eleven disciples with Thomas present (John 20:26-29), by the seven disciples by the Tiberius Sea (John 21:1-23), by 500 believers in Galilee (1Cor 15:6, by the disciples prior to His Ascension.

Had Jesus arisen and gone immediately to be with His Father, it would have been easy for the authorities to claim that the body of Jesus had been stolen from the tomb. Now, the authorities had to deal with the reality of Jesus’ person and the witness of a large group of people. Besides this, the disciples needed a new vision and hope and these appearances, along with the coming of the Spirit after the Ascension, gave the disciples a strength that was indestructible. The ascended Christ empowered the disciples with gifts by which the mind of God was revealed and later preserved in the sacred literature of the New Testament or the Christian Scriptures.

The legacy that Jesus left us is the Church and Jesus is with His Church despite all its imperfections and weaknesses: “Behold I am with you until the end of the world.” Matt 28:20. The Church is imperfect because none of us is yet a perfect copy of Jesus. Jesus’ Ascension reminds us that we are only “passing through” like pilgrims on a journey. Jesus’ life of love, care and forgiveness to the people He knew is the challenge we have as His followers, as Christians.

This Thursday is Ascension Day, which is a good time to have a think about how we are using our gifts of the Spirit that we received on our Pentecost Day, Our Confirmation, to make a difference to the lives of the people we know. Jesus tells us that we should, “Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature.” Matt 28:19. The Ascension of Jesus tells us that it’s now our turn “to be Christ” to the people of our time.

Lord, we ask that the people in our lives experience Your kindness and compassion through us, Your disciples of our time. Amen.

THE IMPORTANCE OF UNIFORM

Many of us no doubt have asked ourselves why we bother enforcing uniform and grooming rules, since it takes up so much time and energy that could be used elsewhere. Sometimes when we contact parents in relation to these matters, we are challenged with responses such as: “Haven’t you got more important things to be worrying about?”

While there are good practical reasons for having a school uniform like cost, safety and durability, there are other reasons. Dr. John Ozolin, an Educational Consultant in Melbourne, explores the underlying importance of wearing uniforms and the associated values. He writes:

Human beings need concrete signs and symbols to remind them of what they belong to and so it comes as no surprise that schools have developed ways of enabling members of a school community of recognising one another. A school uniform provides one means whereby those belonging to a school are able to recognise one another. We can observe this in other groups in the community – chefs wear hats, businessmen wear suits and ties, police and nurses wear uniforms etc. etc. These are all outward signs that someone belongs to a specific group. A uniform does more than just delineate a particular group in the community, it also points to the values and beliefs that a group espouses. In wearing a uniform, a person acknowledges membership of a community and also signals his or her acceptance of the obligations as well as the privileges which are part of membership. We cannot belong to a community without having obligations to other members of that community and these obligations constrain freedom. If the school community values the wearing of a school uniform then all members of the community have an obligation to support that value.

When individuals complain about wearing a uniform they are indicating that they do not want to conform to the values and beliefs of the school community to which they belong. Active disregard of these values is highly destructive and leads to alienation and ultimately to a loss of the sense of belonging. This, unless replaced by a sense of belonging to something else, results in a loss of self. Students cannot be expected to have a sophisticated understanding of the abstract arguments in support of school uniforms, but they are certainly capable of...
understanding that wearing a uniform marks them as belonging to a community with common purpose and learning that freedom is never absolute.

The vast majority of students do value and wear their uniform well and follow the associated grooming rules. Some of us however, need to have a better understanding of why these things are important and revisit the arguments from time to time.

Grooming Online
Grooming is the illegal act of adults making contact with a child online for the purpose of establishing a sexual relationship. Often this will be via a social networking site, but it may also be through other online services.

What can we do?
As a parent, you can help your child have positive experiences on social networking sites. Stay involved in your child’s use of new technology. Set up your own account and learn about privacy settings so you can understand how you can best protect your child. Check the age restrictions for the social networking service or game. Some social networking sites (such as Club Penguin) are created expressly for children under the age of 13, but most mainstream sites like Facebook, Instagram and others require the user to be 13 or older. Advise children to set their accounts to private so that only people they want to see it can view their information. Encourage children to think before they put anything online. Information posted online can be difficult or impossible to remove. An inappropriate image posted today can have a long term impact on their digital reputation.

Show them how to set up location services on their phone so they are not inadvertently broadcasting their location. Remind children to be careful when making new friends online; people may not be who they say they are. Never arrange to meet an online friend unless a trusted adult is with them. Report any abuse or inappropriate content to the social networking site and show children how to do this too. Learn and understand the conversations and how to block people prior to an issue occurring.

Soft Shell Jacket
Parents should now have received a letter reminding them that their son/daughter is feeling the cold when on campus a soft shell jacket is available as an additional uniform item. This jacket can be worn when students arrive at the College but will not take the place of or be a substitute for the blazer. This item needs to be ordered via our clothing store. It is available in a wide range of sizes and the closing date for the first order is Friday, May 22.

Breakfast from the Canteen
Our breakfast program has started off well with a number of students now taking advantage of a hot drink or food from the Canteen prior to the start of the day. Our program allows students ... hot and cold food and is available Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week. Each Tuesday and Thursday our Vinnies group offer hot Milo and a raisin bread which has kindly been donated by Banjo’s Bakery, Shoreline.

Guilford Young College Transition
Over the coming months our Year 10 students will be involved in the first stages of their transition to senior secondary education. Some important dates that parents might like to note are the following:

- May 26 - Year 10 visit to Hobart Campus 8.45 am – 11.15 am
- May 28, June 2 & 4 - Parent Information evenings (Hobart)
- June 17 - Year 10s: Pathways Expo 11.00 am-1.00 pm (Glenorchy)
- July 3 - 2016 Enrolment Applications/Preliminary Course Selection forms due.

Country Traveling
Over the coming weeks the Country Travel program will be running during lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays. All members of the team may wear full sports uniform on these days in order to allow time for both training and lunch.

Dr Sally Towns, Principal