The taste of adrenalin on the tip of my tongue,
Metal pole Freezing cold,
Sun glaring upon me,
Mysterious animals lurk,
Nature,
Animals singing quietly together,
Thumping of my feet hitting earth,
Thump thump!
Friend leading like a soldier,
Smell of courage and fear lingers,
Trees dancing,
Courage, confidence,
Sweat dripping down,
Sweating heat,
Glimmering light home,
Dad calling us home,
Kids!
Calls get louder and louder,
Kids!
Where home.

By Brooke Sideris. (8 Red)

YEAR 11 AND/OR YEAR 12 ENROLMENTS 2015
It is not widely known that St Mary’s College in addition to Guilford Young College is an entry point for senior secondary studies in the Catholic education sector. St Mary’s College provides an all girls’ college environment at Senior Secondary level in which to pursue excellence in all areas.

The College is currently welcoming enquiries for 2015 enrolments from students in our Catholic Year 10 colleges.

Parents and Year 10 students are advised that the closing date for enrolment applications for entry to Year 11 (or Year 12) at St Mary’s in 2015 is Friday 27 June 2014.

You are warmly invited to contact our Enrolment Officer, Tammy Carlton, for further information about the College. Information about the range of subjects and their flexible delivery arrangements, a tour of the College and enrolment applications are readily available.

A limited number of scholarships are available on merit and fee assistance is available on a needs basis.

Tammy can be contacted as follows: (T): 6108 2560 or (E): enrol@smc.tas.edu.au

A great sense of community is a characteristic of which can be proud of at MacKillop. This sense of community really comes to the fore during times of hardship, illness or tragedy. Recently, there have been a number of situations where members of our College community have needed to lean on others for support and prayers. I am honoured, humbled and privileged to be a member of such a supporting community, where all are made to feel welcome and there is a genuine sense of caring for each other. Below is a reflection which really captures the importance of the support a community like MacKillop extends to each of its members, whether it be students, parents or staff, especially when they are in real need:

Once upon a time there was a little grape stem. This stem was so glad to be alive...She drank water and minerals from the soil and grew and grew She was young and strong and could manage quite well... All by Herself

But then, the wind was cruel, the snow was not one bit understanding, and the little grape stem suffered!

She drooped, weak and suffering.

It would be so easy to stop trying to grow, to stop trying to live.

And the grape stem was poor!

The winter was long, and the stem was weary.

But then the little grape stem heard a voice. It was another grape stem calling out to her... “Here, reach out...hang on to me.” But the stem hesitated. “What would this mean?” she thought For you see, the little stem had always managed quite well, All by herself.

But then, ever so cautiously, she reached out towards the other grape stem. “See, I can help you”, it said.

“Just wind your tendrils about me and I will help you lift your head.” And the little stem trusted... and suddenly she could stand straight again.

The wind came... and the snow...

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And the other stem reached up to our grape stem...

And together all the stems grew... Leaves budded...flowers bloomed...

And finally, grapes formed and the grapes fed many.

COLLEGE EMAIL
Unfortunately, the College email system has crashed. We have not been able to send or receive emails since Sunday evening.

According to our provider we should be up and running by the end of the week. However, we are uncertain as to whether we will receive any email communication that was sent during this period.

Please contact the College via phone or in person if you have any urgent enquiries or general issues.

THE IMPORTANCE OF UNIFORM
A few years ago I wrote this newsletter piece and I thought it would be timely to share it once again with the College community. No doubt many of us 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. Some of us 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 like: “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 Ozolins, 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 –
victims always standing at the door, knocking and waiting at a door without a handle. This, unless replaced by a sense of belonging to something else, results in a loss of sense of self. Students cannot be expected to have a sophisticated understanding of these abstract answers 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.

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 sense of self.

Students cannot be expected to have a sophisticated understanding of these abstract answers 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 early adulthood.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to Kayla McFadyen (7 Gold) on her selection to represent Tasmania in the State Trampolining Team competing at Hisense Arena in Melbourne this week. All the best, Kayla.

Dr Sally Towns
PRINCIPAL

CRUCIAL COUNTRY/EDDIE RICE CUP

This Friday, May 30, is the second of our College carnival days for 2014. As noted in the flyer sent home at the end of last week, students will leave the College at the beginning of the day and move to Wentworth Park where our Cross Country event will take place. The Cross Country Carnival will commence with the girls’ events starting at 9.00 am followed directly by the boys’ events. All students competing in the Cross Country will receive a token for the BBQ, but parents are asked to ensure that their son or daughter has a packed lunch and a good supply of water on the day. After the Cross Country we will have our inaugural Eddie Rice Cup, which is a Sport House-based carnival made up of novelty events.

GUILFORD YOUNG COLLEGE TRANSITION

Next Tuesday, June 3, all of our Year 10 students will begin their transition program to senior secondary education. All students will depart the College for GY at 8.45 am and return for period 4. This is a great opportunity for our young people to get their first glimpse of the subjects and possible pathways to career options available to them.

GYC CAREER EXPO

Yesterday, 40 Year 9 and 10 students visited GYC to meet with career councillors from a number of organisations including UTAS and Work & Training. This was a great opportunity for our young people to ask questions and engage with providers in order to organise the correct subject choices they may require to choose to move toward a particular career.

LIBRARY ACCESS

Over the past few weeks students have been introduced to some exciting changes in the management structure of our Library.

Traffic congestion in Currajong Street has become an increasing problem in recent weeks. A neighbour reported a near miss last week when a car came close to collecting a student who, after leaving their parents’ car, crossed blindly to enter the College. The safety of our young people is very important and parents are requested to park safely in the area or to drop students off in Goondi Street.

DATE CHANGE

Please note that in the College Calendar retreats for Year 10 were to be held on July 2 and 3. We have now decided to use these dates for our Year 9 Retreats and Year 10 dates will be published in the next edition of the calendar.

With Pope Francis’ reminder about the power of the Word of the Gospel in our ministries, staff at MacKillop Catholic College embarked upon a day of Professional Development for Retreat programming on Tuesday, May 13. Led by Adrian Viney, of St Patrick’s College, Launceston, our focus was developing the Year 9 and 10 Retreat Programs. This similar occurred last year for the development of the Year 7 and 8 Programs.

Guiding our work was the directive from the Archbishop’s Charter which highlighted the important task of spiritual formation of all students in Catholic schools.

Catholic schools are advised that “substantial opportunities should be provided for staff and students to develop a prayerful personal relationship with Jesus Christ”.

(The Archbishop’s Charter for Catholic Schools, Part 7, Spiritual Formation).

It is the core business of a school in the tradition of Catholic Christianity to offer many opportunities for students to encounter Christ, and one of those key opportunities are Retreats, which give students time and space to ponder their own relationship with Christ.

This often requires those mature in faith to “plant seeds,” which assist in the development of an image of Christ that matures as the worldview of the student matures. This is not effective for an adolescent to have a childish image of God while they are navigating the often difficult and grey areas of adolescent development.

Giving students time and direction with exploring how Christ is present in their lives is paramount to a developing spirituality.

An understanding of what Jesus is asking us to do and be is central to student exploration and reflection on Retreats. Students continue to grow in their understanding of the revolutionary figure of Jesus in the Gospels. We are encouraged by the words of our Pope who reminds us that the power of God’s word, once heard, will develop within each one of us, even if there are no immediate, visible or measurable results. Growing into a mature adult understanding of Jesus will happen from this foundation, and will serve our students into early adulthood.

The Catholic Church has a rich tradition of spiritual formation, and inviting students into this tradition is very important. Sr. Marcellin Flynn, a Mariist Brother, led research over four decades on the effects of Catholicity in the form of Retreats in Catholic Schools.

His conclusion about the Retreat experience for students is that “for many of our students, the most important religious experience of their lives”. The important work of a Retreat is best expressed in Revelations 3:20: “Behold I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come into him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”

Retreats are a guided invitation to relationship with Jesus. Jesus is always present, always loving to each and every one of us – He is always standing at the door, knocking and waiting for us to open it and invite Him “In The Light of the World”.

Dr John Snell
DIRECTOR OF LEARNING AND TEACHING

YEAR 10 EXAMINATIONS

As calendared, the Year 10 Examinations will be held in week 6/7 of this term, Thursday, June 12 to Friday, June 13 and Wednesday, June 15 to Thursday, June 16. The block schedule will be out shortly. This period, up to and during the block, can be particularly stressful for some of our Year 10 students and we will be strongly encouraging them to draw up a revision/study schedule in preparation for their examinations, as one means of mitigating some of that stress. We find it is very much to our students’ advantage to have the involvement of their parents/givers in the drawing up and monitoring of these schedules.

However, any student who will not be completing their block schedule at the end of the term is strongly encouraged to consult a subject coordinator. All Micha staff are available to assist a student and their teacher especially during Personal Development lessons.

We wish all our Year 10 students well in their forthcoming endeavors and are sure that with the right respect and engagement in study that they will achieve their best.