PIASA 2015
The Australian Council for Education Research (ACER) has selected 29 of our Year 9 and 10 students to undergo assessment as part of their National International Student Assessment (PIISA) 2015 round of assessments on August 12. The students are required to complete an assessment in Science, Mathematics and Reading, and a separate assessment in Financial Literacy. Finally, students are required to complete a questionnaire about their home background and their attitudes towards learning and school.

In addition, 20 of the teaching staff are required to fill in an online questionnaire targeting teachers’ perspectives on their working conditions, characteristics of the teaching work force, information on subject specific topics, and school level information about contest and the learning environment.

From the supplied literature: PIASA is an important part of the National Assessment Program in Australia. It provides a measure through which governments, education authorities and schools can determine whether or not our students are meeting important educational outcomes and provides a wide range of valuable information for education policy and review in Australia and overseas. It also enables governments to consider the performance of our education system compared with others.

We thank both our students and teachers for their involvement in this important assessment.

Dr John Snell
DIRECTOR OF LEARNING AND TEACHING

MACKILLOP CATHOLIC COLLEGE
VOLUME 23 • NO. 10 • JULY 29, 2015

WHAT’S NEW PUSSYCAT?
Tomorrow night is the opening night of the Senior Production ‘What’s New Pussy Cat?’
encourage you to book tickets for the production if you have not already done so. The cast and crew have been busy rehearsing for the production for the last few months.
I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of Miss Phillipa Coward and her commitment to ensure authentic drama experiences for students.

Tickets for the show are available online at: http://www.trybooking.com/ICQH
Adults $15, Concession $10 and Children (under 11) $5

ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP FEAST DAY MASS
The annual Feast Day Mass of St Mary Mackillop will be celebrated on Thursday, August 6 at 9.45am with Fr Peter O’Loughlin at Corpus Christi, Bellerive. Students are required to be in full formal uniform for the day, as we take time to partake in Mass and give thanks for the work of the founder of the Josephite Sisters.

Mrs Linda Pollard
DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY

MARRY MACKILLOP FEAST DAY
Next week, Saturday, August 8, is Mary Mackillop Feast Day. Each year we celebrate the life and legacy of this amazing woman. From humble and troubled beginnings, Mary combined her desire for religious life and her desire to respond to the needs of poor bush children to found a new form of religious life, known as the Sisters of St Joseph. Alongside Father Julian Tenison Woods, a school for anyone wishing to learn was established at Penola, South Australia. This school was revolutionary for that time as it accepted and educated, without distinction, students of families with or without the means to pay.

The Sisters of St Joseph expanded throughout Australia and into other countries where Mary’s compassion and leadership touched the lives of many. Mary Mackillop left a legacy that still endures today, over 100 years after her death. As a College, and as individuals, we are part of Mary Mackillop’s legacy, encouraging our students to help make our world a far better place by never seeing a need without doing something about it.
Throughout next week there will be a number of different activities. This has been designed to ensure that we have a balanced week. In addition, a new feature, an acronym for Joseph, Julian And Mary MacKillop, the highlight of the week is the Feast Day Mass at Corpus Christi Church, Bellerive on Thursday, August 6. Parents are most welcome to attend.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to Olivia Bomford (9 Blue) on her selection to represent Tasmania to the Soccer Championships to be held in Canberra. All the best, Olivia.

Congratulations to Caitlin Ruggles (7 Blue) on her selection to represent Tasmania in the recent round of South Australian schools' football tournament to be played in Sydney later this year. All the best, Caitlin.

Congratulations to Samuel Bedloe (8 Green) and Jordan Strutters (8 Red) on their successful application to represent Tasmania in the U15 Underwater Hockey team to compete in Western Australia. Well done, Samuel and Jordan.

Over the past few months I have had a number of conversations with parents in regard to giving adolescents independence to make their own decisions. Attached to this newsletter is an article from Michael Grose, entitled ‘Giving Adolescents Independence’, which will help assist parents. It doesn’t give all the answers but helps scaffold a way forward for parents in developing confidence in the decisions their child will make when faced with the risks associated with this “dreamed of” freedom they desire.

PERMISSION SLIPS

Excursions are an essential teaching and learning vehicle that provide access to experiences that are not available at school. Excursions aim to maximise student learning whilst ensuring the health and safety of students and staff through the identification and management of any risks associated with each excursion. To facilitate risk management, all permission slips for any excursion need to be returned to the College as soon as possible. Over the coming weeks we aim to refine our processes and parents will be asked to complete and return two major forms each term for whole College activities. The ‘Student Permission Slip’ and ‘Parent Permission Slip’ are needed for any activity or excursion that the College will be responsible for, including excursions. Any students who are not signed up to these activities will be asked to stay in school or go home. All students will need to have a permission slip signed by parents in order to participate in any excursion.

METRO CHANGES TO FARE STRUCTURE

METRO is planning to make changes to their fare structure from October 1, 2015. Greencards will be cheaper and easier for the individual and will assist in making services run more efficiently. Getting a Greencard is easy and will make it even easier as these changes occur by waiving the $5 issue fee for a new card between August 2 and September 30, 2015. They will also remove the $5 minimum top up when recharging your Greencard.

Apply for your FREE Greencard online at metrotas.com.au, or in person at a Metro Shop or depot.

WOOLESWORTHS EARN AND LEARN

The Year 9 Business Studies class under the guidance of Miss Cornelius have taken on the management of this program sponsored by Woolworths, who have partnered with Modern Teaching Aids- Australia’s largest supplier of educational resources. This means our College can choose resources based on our specific needs, across all learning areas including Maths, English, Science, Art, Outdoor Education, Music and more. This program presents a fantastic opportunity for our College to get involved in our local economy. Please support the growth of our Business Studies class by completing the sticker sheets and either returning them to the College or placing them in the box provided at Woolworths Eastlands and Lindisfarne.

This year, MacKillop Catholic College is participating in Woolworths ‘Earn and Learn’ program, run all around Australia. Just last year Woolworths were able to provide over 14,000 schools and 36,000 students with great opportunities to participate in sporting gear, musical instruments, art supplies and so much more. This program enables students to make a difference to their school and make it a better place for future generations. You can get involved by shopping at your nearest Woolworths store. For every $10 dollars you spend you will receive an ‘Earn and Learn’ sticker that will be placed on your Woolworths sticker chart. Once your chart has been filled you will place it in our school collection box, which will be sold at the College to raise funds for the local community.

We encourage everybody to get involved to help make MacKillop Catholic College a more enjoyable place to learn.

By Greta Pitney

MARY MACKILLOP FEAST DAY MASS

Our Feast Day Mass is a formal day in the College. All students should be dressed in full formal winter uniform; there will be no sporting activities on this day. We depart for Corpus Christi Church after Home Room on Thursday, August 6; hence it is very important that all students are at the College for the normal start time on this day.

KEEP IN CONTACT

I encourage parents to maintain contact with their son/daughter’s Home Room teacher if they are having any concerns. If you are the current Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences a number of parents spoke very positively about the high level of communication and support with the students. As we share in the day-to-day lives of young people, they will always call on us in difficult situations, please keep us informed of anything that may impact on them, so that we can best support them pastorally and academically.

By Mrs Sue Howard

STUDENT LEADERS PRESENT: JJAMM WEEK – NEXT WEEK!

The Year 9 Joseph, Julian And Mary MacKillop Week is next week (Week 3) of Term 3 and is a terrific opportunity for our Student Leaders to work together to deliver a week-long program for students, by students. The focus of the week is celebrating the life, work and values of our namesake Saints, Mary MacKillop, Julian Tenison Woods.

With the money raised from our fundraising efforts this year we will be able to provide soft ice-creams to the tune of “Greenleaves”.

Students will be given daily updates of the events planned throughout the “JJAMM” packed week. Please encourage your sons and daughters to have their pocket money at the ready to support this terrific week of events.

WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY – SPECIAL JJAMM WEEK GUEST

We are very pleased to host a whole-school assembly next Tuesday to welcome our special JJAMM Week guest, Sister Anne-Marie Gallagher from NSW. Sister Anne-Marie is Australia’s youngest Josephine nun. Her journey began with a Google search of “Catholic Vocations”. She answered the call and now lives in the College. Sister Anne-Marie’s inspiring story – as a young person who really has followed in the footsteps of our special JJAMM Week guest, Sister Anne-Marie Gallagher from NSW . Sister Anne-Marie is Australia’s youngest Josephite nun. Her journey began with a Google search of “Catholic Vocations”. She answered the call and now lives in the College. Sister Anne-Marie’s inspiring story – as a young person who really has followed in the footsteps of our namesake Saint, Mary MacKillop, Joseph and Julian Tenison Woods. The money raised from our fundraising efforts will

STAFF SPIRITUALITY DAY: WHAT MAKES A CATHOLIC SCHOOL CATHOLIC?

On Monday of this week, we again were privileged to host Fr Richard Leonard, a Jesuit priest, who led us in a powerful and challenging presentation on how a Catholic School is identified. The focus of this third presentation was on “What makes a Catholic School Catholic?” With humour, stories and a style of presentation which was as engaging as it was entertaining, Fr Richard brought a considerable set of challenges to the table when identifying what actually makes a school Catholic. These include the competing pressures for schools to be strongly academic; providing up-to-date resources; having accountable and achievable curriculum outcomes; and, providing excellent pastoral care for students. But what is an effective Catholic School? With extraordinary depth of knowledge and lived faith, he contended that prayer in the Catholic tradition; a relevant, engaging and hospitable presentation of Church traditions; and a commitment to educating students to be Christians in their world, including their online world, were three indicators of a distinctly Catholic School.

I was particularly struck by Fr Richard’s call for the Catholic Church to be transformational, generous, hospitable, engaging, spirit-filled and inclusive, remembering the recent call of Pope Francis: “Who am I to judge?” The Catholic Church, for both baptised practising and non-practising Christian students, families and staff in our school, is about being welcoming, affirming and compassionate, and wholly based on the person of Christ.

Historically, the institution of the Church develops new traditions as it grows in understanding and as new demand arises. As the lived reality of Church everywhere, including within our schools, is not the institution of Church, but the work of inculcating the portrait of Christ which is painted in the New Testament. And this portrait is often seen as difficult and challenging but the words of our Lord in the Beatitudes and the parables of Church, the call to provide a welcoming and supportive home for the poor and vulnerable, the lost and the dying, the widows and the sick, the lepers, the outcasts, the lone voices and the marginalised are a heartfelt prayer to be recited in the hope of repetition deepening meaning. Catholic schools have a duty to break open these traditions to connect them in a relevant way to students and staff so people can come to know Christ in their own lives.

Fr Richard called us to be present to the world of the students, which is largely virtual, and certainly media saturated. Drawing on the work of Jesus, a model of liberation, and whose Assumption finally, have lost a child in death. Whilst a formal tradition can be recited in the hope of deepening meaning, Catholic schools have a duty to break open these traditions to connect them in a relevant way to students and staff so people can come to know Christ in their own lives.

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