PISA 2015
The Australian Council for Education Research (ACER) selected 29 of our Year 9 and 10 students to undergo assessment as part of the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2015 round of assessments on August 12. The students were required to complete an assessment in science, mathematics and reading, and a separate assessment in financial literacy. Finally, students were required to complete a questionnaire about their home background and their attitudes towards learning and school. We thank the students for their involvement in this vital assessment process.

SELECTION OF ELECTIVE SUBJECTS FOR 2016

Term 3 is when we turn our attention to the elective subjects to be offered next year and when we need our Year 8 & 9 students to make their initial selections. There is a timeline for this process below:

After last year’s successful trial of selecting elective choices online, we shall repeat that process this year. Each student will be required to make 6 choices where the choices are ranked from 1 (the most favoured subject) to 6 (the least favoured subject). The input form only allows one submission per student, so it is vital that each student has fully considered each of their choices. This initial input is used to find the optimal spread of subjects across the three elective lines for 2016.

Students will be notified by the end of term as to what their provisional allocations will be for 2016. It will be possible to change these allocations during Term 4, subject to negotiation.

August 19

August 24
Elective Subjects Evening (opportunity to meet elective subject teachers and discuss options).

August 25
Personal Development time for students to access teachers of elective subjects regarding any queries.

August 25
Elective subject choice input form made available to Year 8 and 9 students.

August 27
Elective subject choice input form closed for student entry.

September 25
Students will be informed of allocations for 2016 (date to be confirmed).

Dr John Snell
DIRECTOR OF LEARNING and TEACHING

2015 ROBOCUP Jnr STATE TITLES

On the 8th of August we competed in the Junior State Robotics Competition in Launceston with our robot “FibreBot”. We arrived at the University of Tasmania at 9:00 and started to set up. We ran our robot through the test courses a couple of times, but it wasn’t lining up properly as the calibration (the amount of light the sensors were sensing) was too high. To fix this we needed to change the program on the computer but when we went to open up the program it was not there. We scanned the computer several times trying to find the program but it was just non-existent. We then tried to re download the program from the robot to the computer but found out that does not work. So we had to compete ... rounds we started working on a new program since we had lost all our work. FibreBot performed ok considering we couldn’t calibrate or change anything.

At the end of four rounds we were coming 3rd and we also finished 3rd in the finals. We have learnt a major lesson from this mistake. We now will save our program in multiple places and back it up every few days.

By Liam Brooks and Ben Kershaw (Year 9)

NAPLAN RESULTS

All parents of students in Years 7 and 9 will soon receive individual College results, giving a detailed breakdown of performance against specific targets, are available to interested parents from the College Office.

NATIONAL SELF-DETECTION PROGRAM FOR SCOLIOSIS

Girls in Years 7 and 9 are encouraged to participate in the Scoliosis Self-Detection Program during July and August. Girls in these year levels should download the brochure from www.scoliosis-australia.org/pdf/self_detection_brochure.pdf
The past couple of weeks in the College have been extremely busy. Thursday was the culmination of a week where jam donuts, BBQs and staff/student sport were commonplace at lunchtime. The busy days continue into this week with 7 Green a team before we headed to our Feast Day Mass at Corpus Christi Church which ended with a feast.

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Our Mackillop Athletics Carnival is on the calendar for August 18.

Carnival Details:
When: Tuesday 18 August
Where: Domain Athletics Centre
Time: 9:00 am – 2:30 pm

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

The jumbo milkshakes were certainly popular at Recess, while at Lunch time spectators gathered to watch the competitive spirit versus student nail match. The staff proved too strong for the student team with the final scores being 28 to 4. After lunch the whole College attended an assembly to mark the week and also welcome our guest speaker from Sydney: Sister Anne-Marie Gallagher – Australia’s youngest Sister!

WALK TO TIMOR WALKATHON

Students have started the Walk To Timor Walkathon this week, and there is a lot of interest and commitment to reaching the $50 goal per student. One of the great things about the timing of this event is that everyone has a chance to walk or run off the consumption of goodies during our celebratory JIJAMM week last week! Students can walk the 1km track before school, at morning tea and at lunchtime.

‘WALK TO TIMOR’ WALKATHON

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Mrs Sue Howard DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Monday (J):
Jam donuts were sold at lunchtime to warm up those who made it through the snow.

Tuesday (J):
The jumbo milkshakes were certainly popular at Recess, while at Lunchtime spectators gathered to watch the competitive spirit versus student nail match. The staff proved too strong for the student team with the final scores being 28 to 4. After lunch the whole College attended an assembly to mark the week and also welcome our guest speaker from Sydney: Sister Anne-Marie Gallagher – Australia’s youngest Sister!

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The busy days continue into this week with 7 Green a team before we headed to our Feast Day Mass at Corpus Christi Church which ended with a feast.

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

We ask that parents do not request that their son or daughter leave early, as this is a whole College event and it is important that all students are present for the end of the carnival.

This is normally a great day with a program of events filling the whole day. If any parents have some time to offer us on this day it’s great to see parents involved. If you’re keen to assist in any way please contact Mrs Fiona Geappen - fgeappen@mackillop.tas.edu.au

BUILDING RESILIENCE

From a resilience parent perspective need to coach kids through some of their more challenging moments and review what they may have learned for next time. Avoid solving all their problems for them.

You can promote a lasting sense of resilience in your kids by:

1. Having a positive attitude yourself. Your attitude as a parent impacts on their ability to bounce back from some of the difficulties they face. Make sure you model a ‘you can do it’ attitude for your child when he/she meets some of life’s curve balls.