BROTHER TONY SMITH cfc

Guilford Young College as the Registered Training Organisation (RTO) for the Southern Tasmanian Catholic Colleges’ Trade Training Centre Consortium (TTC), of which Mackillop is a member, received special praise for its quality as an RTO when the 2014 Tasmanian Training Awards were announced on Friday 5 September.

Although we did not win the category Small Training Provider of the Year, it broke new ground in demonstrating that a school-based VET operation can provide the quality usually associated with the more conventional, full-time providers. GYC and the TTC were awarded a rare Certificate of Commendation.

In announcing the recognition, the MC, Mr Tim Cox, said: “Minister, before we announce the winner of the first of the two training awards we have a special presentation to make. Those of you who come to awards often will realise that Certificates of Commendation are not presented lightly. However, the judges for this year’s Small Training Provider of the Year Award asked us to do just that.

They felt that this training provider deserved special recognition for the fact that as a school/college RTO it had competed very favourably with the very best of the commercial, professional small RTOs.

This is just about unheard of and so in a sense is breaking new ground in demonstrating that school-based VET operations can be every bit as good as the more conventional top quality RTOs.

Minister will you please present the Certificate of Commendation to Guilford Young College and the TTC. Congratulations.

I would very much like to acknowledge the work of our VET teachers Mr Tim Johns (Construction) and Mr Ben Shaw (Hospitality) for their hard work and contributions the successes of the TTC.

Also, GYC alumni Caitlyn Webb (2012), who works here at Mackillop in Outdoor Education, won the Trainee of the Year category. Well done Caitlyn.

Mr R Toombs
VET Co-ordinator

On the 11th September, 2014, Brother Tony Smith, Mackillop’s first Principal, passed away. I have included some of the text from the College Assembly delivered by Mrs Sue Howard and prepared in conjunction with Mrs Kathy Norton.

Brother Tony certainly was everywhere in 1993/1994. He was the driving force behind the refurbishment and the opening of Mackillop Catholic College. Brother Shane, the College’s first deputy, commented, “I suspect there were very few people who could have set up Mackillop College as efficiently and as effectively as Tony did in such a short timeframe. Tony’s energy and drive were contagious and I remember being carried along in the slipstream during those early years at Mackillop.”

Brother Tony recognised that many parents were taking a risk on a new school and he went to extraordinary lengths to make sure they had all the information and support they needed. Not only were these parents taking a chance on a new school, for many it was their first experience of secondary school…a very different scenario to the primary schools they were used to.

From the very first days of the school, Brother Tony had a vision for what it would become and he enlisted the support of staff, students and parents to make it all happen.

Many people speak of Brother Tony’s compassion and kindness. Regardless of what the school principals were, he always allowed people to attend to their own needs when it came to family. Brother Shane commented, “I also saw Tony exercise a real compassion for people: students, staff and parents alike. While perhaps not obvious to others, this compassion always underpinned his dealings with people.”

Brother Tony has had many triumphs over a long career in education in Australia and his contribution to Catholic education in Tasmania has been considerable. As Principal of St Brendan-Shaw College and Mackillop Catholic College, teacher of maths and science, along with his work at the TCEO, Tony has demonstrated his dedication to his profession. Mackillop thrives today because of the firm foundations laid in those beginning years.

May God be with him.

Dr Sally Towns, Principal

Guilford Young College Principal Bobby Court, left, the Director of the Southern Tasmanian Catholic Colleges Trade Training Centre, Penny Drissens, with the Certificate of Commendation and the Minister for State Growth, Energy, Environment, Parks and Heritage Matthew Groom after the presentation.

VOLUME 22 - NO. 14 October 22, 2014

MACKILLOP CATHOLIC COLLEGE

A warm welcome back to all staff and students for Term 4 and congratulations on a successful but busy first week. This final term is a very busy term of academic and co-curricular activities. I trust that the holiday break was safe and rejuvenating for all students as they approach their study commitments.

At the start of Term 4 we welcomed back Mr Graham Absalom and Ms Katrina Haig from their respective leave. We also welcome Mr Scott Cason and Mrs Sandra Doyle to the staff for the next few weeks. Scott is replacing Mr Joe O’Hear, who is currently on leave, and Sandra is replacing Mr Phil Stanley, who is on long service leave.

TIMOR LESTE IMMERSION PROGRAM

During the holidays students accompanied by Mr Mat Dixon and Mrs Rebecca Prenter, returned from Timor Leste following a 10-day immersion program with the Marobo community in the Timorese highlands. While we knew this would be a wonderful experience for our students it has been very difficult to articulate just how personally transformative this program has been for our students and staff. A report from Jeremy Ford (Year 10) is included in this newsletter and I encourage you to read it in order to get a good understanding of the program. Thank you to both Matt and Rebecca on their organisation, time and support of this program.

JAPANESE TRIP

Year 9 and 10 students, accompanied by Ms Cathie Sullivan and Mr Mike Dilger, also returned to Hobart from Japan in the holidays. The Japanese trip, which runs every second year and in conjunction with staff and students of Sacred Heart College, is a fantastic opportunity for students to be immersed in both the culture and the language of Japan. A report of this trip will be serialised over three newsletter editions, with the first part attached to this newsletter. Thank you to Cathie on her meticulous organisation and participation in the experience and to Mike for his support of the group during the trip.

YEAR 7 2015 PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

The Information Evening for Year 7, 2015 will be held on Thursday, October 30 in the College Gym, commencing at 7pm. On that night we will be discussing the transition from primary school to Mackillop and passing on all the necessary information concerning Year 7, 2015. Parents will have the opportunity to meet some of the staff and to ask questions. The evening will be for both parents and students entering Year 7 in 2015.

SOUTHERN SATIS ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Well done to the Mackillop Athletics Team who competed in the Southern SATIS Athletics Carnival last term. By all accounts they conducted themselves with pride and enthusiasm both on and off the track and field. Mackillop finished second overall in the Co-ed Junior Shield.

Congratulations to Zoe Brown-Bourne who broke the Mackillop College U16 Girls Hurdle record, with a time of 15.96 s.

Thank you to Mrs Fi Geppen, Miss Caitlin Webb, Mr Chris Nettleton, Miss Jen Rider, Ms Anne Steele and Mrs Tania Burgess for their support and hard work on the day.

SATIS ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

On Saturday, 18 October Mackillop participated in the State SATIS Athletics Carnival at the Hobart Athletics Centre. The Mackillop team that represented the College on the day was a testament to the level of dedication and team-work that has seen Mackillop compete at such a high level each year. Congratulations to the team captains on their positive leadership on the day. Mackillop placed fifth in the Junior Co-ed Shield. Thank you also to Mrs Fi Geppen, Mr Chris Nettleton, Miss Caitlin Webb, Mrs Kelly Dixon, Mrs Tania Burgess and Mrs Kate Gardner for their energy, enthusiasm and hard work in supporting and motivating the students.

Overall Results:

Girls Junior Shield – Mackillop 10th
Boys Junior Shield – Mackillop 5th
Co-Ed Junior Shield
5th Mackillop Catholic College

Age Pennants:

u/13 Girls: 7th
u/15 Girls: 10th
u/13 Boys: 6th
u/15 Boys: 4th
u/14 Girls: 11th
u/14 Boys: 9th
u/16 Girls: 11th
u/16 Boys: 8th

TERM 4 AND YEAR 10

The commencement of Term 4 comes with the realisation that the Year 10’s time at the College is quickly coming to an end. With only five weeks left in the academic year for Year 10 there is so much to be done. There are still very busy days ahead as Year 10 prepare for their final assessments and complete tasks and projects.

Tonight, Year 10 will celebrate their dinner at the Tattersall’s Park Function Centre.

The Year 10 Graduation Evening will be held on Tuesday evening, 25 November at Sir Stanley Burbury Theatre, UTAS. All students in Years 7, 8 and 9 and families are warmly invited to attend the Year 10 Graduation. This is the major formal opportunity to congratulate and farewell our Year 10 students and the presence of all students in Years 7, 8 and 9 is something we strongly wish...
Welcome back to the final term for the year, a term which allows us the opportunity to enjoy not only a little warmer weather but also the new learning environments provided by the first year of our new classrooms. I’m sure the rest of the students will be keen to experience these new learning environments in 2015.

At the end of last term I wrote to all parents asking for your support in lifting standards of uniform across the College this term. Most of our students wear their uniform with pride and I congratulate them on their efforts. However, we have noticed that this pride has slipped somewhat over winter and we are hopeful of recapturing the pride that we all feel when the students wear the uniform well. We plan to have a “blist” on all College expectations and lunch-time conversations for students working outside our expectations will occur on a regular basis with Year Level Coordinators over the coming weeks.

One of the outstanding things that MacKillop College stands for is the issue of equality. Wearing the uniform in the correct manner is associated with humility and an appreciation that we are one - no better than another.

COLLEGE PLANNERS
All students are required to have and use the College Planner. The planner is a vital method of communication. If a student has lost his or her planner they are available for purchase through the Front Office for the discounted price of $5.

COLLEGE LIBRARY
During Term 4 the Library has become a part of the building works, hence the borrowing capacity for students is now restricted. The majority of our books are in storage with the only access being to classrooms. The College library online database has been updated to include a variety of eBooks. This selection can be accessed through the College Library portal and our Library staff are still available to help students access these books if necessary. Our Library staff are located in the administration building and students can access this service via the staff carpark near the water containers.

ENHANCING ONLINE SAFETY FOR CHILDREN
With research showing that one in five Australian children aged eight to seventeen experience cyberbullying, online safety is becoming a growing area of concern for children, parents and teachers. Teachers are currently spending significant time in dealing with cyberbullying and disputes on social media. The Australian Communications and Media Authority’s Cybersmart programme has developed #GameOn, a video resource released on 16 October 2014, which follows the experiences of a group of upper-primary students as they learn to navigate online relationships and activities. #GameOn covers areas of concern for children in upper-primary and lower-secondary years, including cyberbullying, excessive game playing, meeting strangers online, sharing passwords, free downloads and managing online friends. The videos and accompanying study guides highlight the issues while providing guidance on how to use technology positively. To assist parents, Cybersmart will also release several videos featuring an expert child psychologist providing guidance to parents on helping children to deal with cyberbullying and other cyber safety issues. These will be released in the weeks following the launch of #GameOn.

The internet is a powerful tool for students, in both their studies and personal lives – children should be educated and encouraged to use it positively and responsibly. I commend #GameOn as a tool you can use with your children or students to raise awareness of online safety issues, and to help students navigate the online world with confidence.

Last term the Year 8’s Caritas Cookie Challenge saw a lot of inventive forms of packaging and a good deal of enthusiasm. They successfully achieved their targets and made $170 for Caritas. The top teams from each class were rewarded with a pizza lunch provided by the school. They should all be congratulated for their hard work and willingness to give up their time and money for such a worthwhile cause.

SAFETY PARTING
As our Year 10s will be marking the conclusion of their time at MacKillop College with their Year 10 Dinner tonight, I would like to take this opportunity to mention to parents two terrific websites which provide practical guidelines for safe and responsible party hosting for young people. You can access “Hosting a Party for Teenagers” through www.health.wa.gov.au, and specific and very valid, local, legal information titled “Youth and alcohol at home” at http://www.police.tas.gov.au/uploads/Health_Affairs.pdf. This website is well worth a look in the efforts of safe and responsible partying for our young people.

YEAR 9 STUDENT LEADERSHIP FOR 2015
On Tuesday, during Personal Development, the 2015 student leadership campaign began. The outgoing Year 10 Student Leadership Team briefed the Year 9 year group to encourage students to put themselves forward to become a MacKillop College student leader in 2015. The existing team highlighted the opportunities that being a leader offers, including personal and social growth as well as representing students and the College and working for community projects and charities.

Today nominations took place during morning Home Room and afternoon Assembly. Nominated students will now prepare a speech to present during a special school assembly on Tuesday 28 October. After the speeches have been delivered, all Year 7-9 students and staff have the opportunity to vote for their most preferred candidates.

Ten student leaders with the highest number of votes will form our Student Leadership Team for 2015. Names will be announced and the Student Leadership Team for 2015 will then participate in a two-day training program at Blue Lagoon Camp at Dodges Ferry on Thursday 27 and Friday 28 November. During this camp any of the ten student leaders may then choose to apply to become College Captain. A selection process takes place on the second day of the camp, which includes a formal interview with me, the Deputy Principal and Principal.

If there are any students or parents who would like to know more information about the 2015 Student Leader election process or would clarify any of the steps, please do not hesitate to contact me. Best wishes to all the candidates for this exciting, worthwhile and rewarding opportunity.

There is no limit to the number of students who can apply. The aim is for the leadership team to be a diverse group of students who will reflect the diversity of our student population.

Students at MacKillop College were recently invited to take part in the 2014 Bebras Australia Computational Thinking Challenge. The Challenge is part of an international initiative to promote computational thinking among students and has been developed to support the new Australian Digital Technologies Curriculum.

One Year 7 class (7 Blue), seven Year 9 and four Year 10 students took the challenge. They had to work in groups to solve a number of problems within a time frame of 45 minutes. The pressure was on! Please congratulate the following students: 7 Blue students, Andrew Merrigan, Gilbert Williams, Jesse Fox, Alexandra Bull, Holly Vosen, Only Moye and Hayley Nichols of Year 9 and Dominick Brazendale, Molly Steer, Christian Paoli and Edward Malovnek of Year 10. Congratulations to Andrew and Gilbert who achieved a perfect score in Year 9/10 category.

With any immersion students and staff are often faced with a dichotomy out of their comfort zone, as they are actively engaged in experiences that can be both challenging and transformative, and the experience is certainly no holiday. In the context of the “why” of an immersion, we know that we can’t, as individuals, change the world. This is not what it’s about. The point of this experience is to use it positively to put ourselves in our young people the opportunity to develop a consciousness of what other peoples’ lives, struggles and culture are. Herein lies the “transformation of heart and mind” which so often inspires people to awareness of others, advocacy for others and living justly.

Part of our lived response to Christianity is to put ourselves in situations which make us bravely present to others in need, to walk with them on their journey, and offer advocacy to them. The responsibility we have as a Christian community who live in a wealthy, peaceful country, is to ensure that we provide opportunity for the young people in our care to connect in a meaningful way to different communities and cultures so they can see how they can contribute to change. From the feedback I have received, our staff and students did just that, and I am confident that we will continue our work with our partner community in Marnoo.

EDMUND RICE SPRING CAMP
Congratulations to Meg Garoney (10 Red), who was a leader on the recent Edmund Rice Camp (North). Edmund Rice Camps in Tasmania offers children from challenging home situations a fun camp experience, and one-on-one mentoring with a trained leader on a week-long camp. These camps are incredibly beneficial for both the participant and the leader, who get to form a special bond and be their best, lead and discover just how much they can do in a week! MacKillop offers two overnight Edmund Rice Camps each year, and from here students can elect to lead at the Winter, Spring or Summer Camps through the year.

Mrs Linda Pollard, DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY

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