On the 18th of November was ‘macha isu’ day for year 7s here at MacKillop, organised by Jakki Hardman and Catherine Sullivan. Macha isu is the Japanese way to say green tea ice cream. It was served for free in the year 7 block at lunch. In class students had been practising a role play to use on the day to order.

We had a variety of different comments about the ice cream.
Liam says “I liked it, although it was a very strong flavour.”
Nikitta said, “It’s very different to the ice creams we have here.”
Gus says “I didn’t like it at first but I came to like it after a while.”

A huge thank you to Hardman sensai and Sullivan sensai and all the helpers carrying the ice cream in!

**Green Tea Ice Cream**

Advent is a time of waiting and wondering, looking back and looking forward; it is a time of hoping and searching; the time of light shining in the darkness, peace overcoming conflict and war, and warmth entering the cold of the world we live in; a chance of new beginnings – often small, but almost always significant.

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel…”

**MEMORY AWAKENS HOPE**

Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, Seek That Which Is Above, 1986

“Advent is concerned with that very connection between memory and hope which is so necessary to man. Advent’s intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope. The purpose of the Church’s year is continually to rehearse her great history of memories, to awaken and hope which is so necessary to man. Advent’s intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope. The purpose of the Church’s year is continually to rehearse her great history of memories, to awaken the heart’s memory so that it can discern the star of hope… It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope.”

**CHRISTMAS … A LIVING REALITY**

St. John Paul II December 19, 1999

John Paul II, in his Angelus message of December 19, 1999, explained that Christmas is not simply the remembrance of the Event that took place 2000 years ago when, according to the Gospel, the power of God took on the frailty of a baby. It is really about a living reality that is repeated every year in the heart of believers.

“The mystery of the Holy Night, which historically happened two thousand years ago, must be lived as a spiritual event in the ‘today’ of the Liturgy,” the Pope clarified. “The Word who found a dwelling in Mary’s womb comes to knock on the heart of every person with singular intensity this Christmas.”

**PENOLA BUILDING WORKS**

This week we have begun the next stage of our building program with the refurbishment of the Penola Block. Parents please note that the car park in Currajong Street is for staff only and should not be used as a drop-off point for students. At present it is also being used by the contractors to access the building works.

**SKOOLBAG APP**

We are also reviewing our current way of communicating with parents and hence have put in an interim app to help enable this. I strongly encourage parents to begin to access Skoolbag prior to their son/daughter’s commencement at MacKillop.
We bid farewell to staff who have filled positions on short-term replacement contracts: Mrs Sandra Doyle, Miss Kaylee Bonfield, Ms Melissa Francis and Mr Christopher Nettelfield.

I would like to wish all our departing staff the very best for the future and thank all staff for their wonderful contribution through the year that was 2015.

Dr John Snell completes his time as the Director of Learning and Teaching at the College at the end of 2015. John has led a period of rapid change at the College in the area of curriculum and pedagogy and has been a pivotal lead learner in identifying our direction toward Australian Curriculum.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to Jacob Rugless (10 Gold) who has been selected to represent Tasmania in the Under 18 Boys team for Indoor Hockey at the National Championships in NSW in January 2016. All the best, Jacob.

Congratulations to Kieran Thomas (10 Red) and Rudy Davis (10 Green) on their selection to represent Tasmania at the National Schools Surfing titles in Queensland. They both were successful in winning the State Schools Surfing Titles. We wish you both very the best for the Nationals.

YEAR 10 GRADUATION

Last week we farewell our Year 10, 2015 class. We celebrated their time at MacKillop with a leaving ceremony on the Tuesday evening and an assembly the following day. I would like to thank all the students and staff involved in the organisation and preparation of the events. I would also like to acknowledge the following major award recipients:

Jions Club of Clarence Award - Ellen Noye
Albert Cuthbertson Memorial Building and Construction Award - Dion Creese
Long Tan Leadership Award - Brady Stacey
The Guilford Young Scholar Award - Lia V선
Steve Barrett Environmental Award - Matthew West
MacKillop Sports Achiever - Natasha Shirley
Caltex Best All Rounder Award - Jemma Smith
Pierre de Coubertin Award - Matthew Bonford
Principal’s Service Award - Jake Percey
Dux of the College - Lia V선
Edmund Rice Award - Andrew Merrigan
MacKillop Scholar - Jacob Rugless

OFFICE CLOSED

Please be aware that the College Office will be closed on Thursday, December 17. It will re-open on Wednesday, January 27.

Mrs Sue Howard

FROM THE Acting DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

LEADERSHIP TRAINING RETREAT

The successful 2016 Student Leadership Team will undergo training for the newly elected positions this Thursday, December 3 and Friday, December 4 at the Student Leadership Retreat held at Dodos Ferry. The retreat aims to prepare our students for their responsibilities by allowing them the opportunity to build positive group dynamics for the newly formed leadership team. There will be various workshops for students to participate in to assist them with brainstrorming goal setting, organisation, running effective meetings, public speaking, and planning and delivering special student led initiatives.

2016 SCHOOL CAPTAINS

An important part of the retreat will be the opportunity for students to consider and prepare testimonials for the selection of two College Captains and two Deputy Captains. Candidates will be interviewed on stage in front of Mrs Howard, Mr Lahey and Mr Dixon. College Captains and Deputies will be announced during the final weeks of school.

PEER SUPPORT FOR 2016

The Peer Support Program provides many benefits not only to our newly enrolled Year 7 students commencing in the new year, but also for students in their final year at the College who are chosen to be leaders. The Peer Support Program provides a wonderful opportunity for Year 10 students in 2016 to take on a leadership responsibility and an opportunity to develop confidence.

On Tuesday, the Year 9s were briefed about how to apply to become a Peer Support Leader in 2016. Please encourage your son/daughter to consider applying for one of the 30 positions available. Application documentation has been e-mailed to students.

FINAL ASSEMBLIES

As the year draws to a close, there are only a few opportunities remaining for our students to gather as a community and acknowledge various achievements from this term. On Tuesday, we gathered as a whole College to hear speeches and vote for our 2016 Sports House Captains. Next Tuesday, December 8, each Year Level will gather to acknowledge Year Level specific achievements. Our last whole-school assembly is scheduled for Tuesday, December 15 at 2pm where a Thanksgiving Liturgy will take place followed by the presentation of various academic and major awards.

YEAR LEVEL ACTIVITIES DAY – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

Wednesday, December 16 is the last day of school for this year. Students will be dismissed from the campus at 3:30pm after they return from their various activities. The brief plan for each year group as arranged by the Year Level Co-ordinators is detailed below.

Year 7
8.30 Hm Rm/Kris Kindie
9.15 Yr 7 Informal Assembly
10.30 Bus to Kangaroo Bay for picnic
12.00 Walk to Inflatable World
2.30 Bus back to school

Year 8
8.45 Hm Rm Secret Santa
9.15 Yr 8 Informal Assembly
10.30 Bus to Montagu Bay for picnic lunch and games
11.30 Walk to Hobart Aquatic Centre
2.30 Bus back to school

2016 INFORMATION PACKS

Year 7 2016 Information Packs - Transition Book

Years 8 - 10 Information Packs will include the following information for 2016:

- Canteen Menu;
- Booklist/Stationery List overview;
- Birchalls Back To School Flyer;
- Uniform details and Uniform Shop Price List;
- Term One and Term Two Calendar Important Dates;
- Skoolbag App flyer.

METRO BUSES 2016

Metro is undertaking a review of the greater Hobart bus network to simplify routes and make better use of existing resources. Given the significant commitment that Metro has in transporting students, school services have been included in this review.

The proposed changes to services utilised by students include:
- renumbering of routes;
- route simplification.

Metro is currently finalising the review and we will publish any changes on our College website.

FAREWELL MACKILLOP

It is with mixed emotions that I write my last words for the MacKillop College Newsletter as I prepare to depart for my new position as Deputy Principal at Sacred Heart College, commencing in 2016. The spirit of the MacKillop staff and students will continue to burn strong in my heart, giving me the courage to enter a new community.

I would like to acknowledge Miss Olivia Stephen (Yr 7 Co-ordinator), Miss Kaylee Bonfield (Yr 8 Co-ordinator), Mr Phillip Stanley (Yr 9 Co-ordinator), and Mr Ben Slade (Yr 10 Co-ordinator) for their great efforts this year. Thanks also to Mr Mathew Dixon for capably assuming the position of Acting Director of Student Wellbeing for the remainder of 2015. I am also very appreciative of the support that Mrs Sue Howard (Acting Principal) has provided me, along with the entire Leadership, Administrative and Teaching Teams as we have navigated such a big year together.

I will never forget the many wonderful students I have taught and the terrific camaraderie I have experienced with the colleagues I have worked alongside for so many years. MacKillop is truly a unique College and I know well how to thrive in the future. I am grateful to have been one thread in the very large and rich tapestry that is MacKillop. Best wishes to you and your families for Christmas.

Goodbye and God bless.

Mr Nicholas Lahy
Acting DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

TERM DATES FOR 2016

| TERM 1 | Thursday, February 4 (Year 7) | Friday, April 8 |
| TERM 2 | Tuesday, April 26 | Friday, July 1 |
| TERM 3 | Monday, July 18 | Friday, September 23 |
| TERM 4 | Monday, October 10 | Thursday, December 15 |

Wishing you and your family a happy and safe Christmas.

Mr Nicholas Lahy
Acting DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

DIDRBOR ER OF LEARNING and TEACHING

SEMESTER 2 REPORTING

This reporting is now well underway and reports will be issued on Monday, December 14. These reports are summative for the year and provide an overall A-E rating for each subject, plus ratings on learning strands of developing, consolidating, and extending. Please refer to the following link for descriptions of those ratings:


Home Room reports are commented in accordance with the TCEO guidelines.

ACADEMIC AWARDS

The Academic Awards for Excellence and Endeavour will be awarded during the final year assembly on Tuesday, December 15. Excellence Award winners will be presented with their awards on that day. Endeavour Award winners and Commendable Award winners will be announced during their year-level assemblies on Wednesday, December 16.

As this is my final Newsletter contribution in my current role, I would like to express my gratitude to the many parents and students with whom I had the opportunity to work over the last six years.

Dr John Snell
DIRECTOR OF LEARNING AND TEACHING

DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY

VINNIES CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

A warm thank you to our students and families for contributing to the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers this year. MacKillop College has been overwhelmed by the generosity of our families this year. Thanks also to Mr Ben Shaw’s Food Studies classes who have also made puddings and shortbreads to be distributed to local families. This Christmas, the Vinnies Conference will be going to Anglesea to wrap the hampers with other students from Catholic Schools. Many thanks to all the students, Home Room teachers, parents and Vinnies Co-ordinators, Ms Katrina Haig and Mr Tim Duffy, who have facilitated this successful fundraising drive.

Mrs Linda Pollard
DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY