FROM THE DIRECTOR OF WELLBEING

LAUNCH OF VERTICAL LEADERSHIP

Last Thursday all Yr 7-9 SRC members as well as the Yr 10 Student Leaders met together for 2 hours at “the Big Board table” in the library to launch Vertical Leadership. This system of leadership allows more senior, skilled leaders to share their leadership skills with younger student leaders. Our Yr 10 leaders will demonstrate how to run effective meetings, plan and deliver events and identify further whole school improvements from a student perspective.

The first task for the Vertical Leadership Team is to plan and promote our school wide celebration and activities around Mary MacKillop Feast Day (Thursday, August 8), now commonly known as JIAMM Week (Joseph, Julian And Mary MacKillop).

JIAMM WEEK

JIAMM Week is next week (Week 3) of Term 3 and it is a terrific opportunity for our student leaders to work together to deliver a long program for our students. The focus of the week is celebrating the life, work and values of our namesake saint, Mary MacKillop. The most inspired of our students will see this year go towards future projects work in East Timor, once the Immersion School Trip has identified the areas of need that MacKillop will support. Included with this newsletter is a draft of the range of activities planned for the week, including the Mass on Thursday, followed by a free whole school BBQ lunch and Talent Quest in the afternoon. Students will be given daily updates of the events planned throughout the “JIAMM” packed week.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT T3

This term during Personal Development we turn to media as a way to engage our students to reflect on the various important issues we are presenting, analysing and discussing as part of “self” formation.

YEAR 7s: RESILIENCE – ABC TV SERIES CLIFFY

This week, Mrs Howard supported and wrote about the topic we are currently exploring with our Yr 7s in her newsletter column: resilience. As a “way in” to unpack this complex topic, Yr 7s have been viewing the ABC TV, two part series Cliffy - the resilient potato farmer who at 61 years of age decided to run and consequently win the 1983 Sydney to Melbourne marathon, beating all the obstacles he faced along the way in order to achieve his goal.

YEAR 8s: TOLERATING/ACCEPTING DIFFERENCE – RACISM IN AUSTRALIA

This term the Yr 8s will be exploring the topic of tolerating/accepting difference. Through various media clips we begin the term by looking at Racism in Australia, viewing and discussing the advertisement featuring AFL player Adam Goodes and the battles he has faced on and off the field. The lesson also extended to viewing footage and a discussion on the Cronulla Riots in 2005 and the future of multiculturalism in Australia.

YEAR 9s: TOLERATING/ACCEPTING DIFFERENCE – THE INTOUCHABLES

Continuing with the theme tolerating/accepting difference in our society and better understanding people or cultures who are different, the Yr 9s are viewing a foreign film called The Intouchables. The first and obvious difference the Yr 9s had to accept was that not all the world speaks or communicates in English! This French film (with English subtitles), explores two very different lives connecting and learning from each other. A theme rich film, that touches on physical disability, wealth, happiness, racism, stereotyping and so on.

YEAR 10s: TOLERATING/ACCEPTING DIFFERENCE – THE BLACK BALLOON

Running with the tolerating/accepting difference theme, and using media once again to engage our students with the topic being explored, the whole year group are watching an Australian film The Black Balloon which traces an adolescent’s journey in growing up with an autistic brother and accepting and overcoming some of the joys and challenges that this presents.

All of the films being presented will be deconstructed back in class through various follow up tasks of discussion, reflection and hopefully some personal action.

Sometimes, the most powerful conversations are the ones that occur after the viewing, at home, and I hope that the information I have provided here may generate the “talk at the table” about these very important life topics.

Mr Nicholas Lahey
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT WELLBEING
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MARY MACKILLOP FEAST DAY

Next week, Thursday, August 8, is Mary MacKillop’s Feast Day. Each year we celebrate the life and legacy of this amazing woman. From humble and troubled beginnings, Mary combined her religious vocation with the unrelenting desire to serve the people of her time. This led to the establishment of schools and hospices for orphans and the poor, often in difficult circumstances, with Mary’s driving force always being to “see a need without doing something about it.”

Throughout next week there will be a number of different activities, this has become known in our College as JIAMM Week (JIAMM being an acronym for Joseph, Julian and Mary MacKillop). The highlight of the week is the Feast Day Mass at Corpus Christi Church, Bellervale on Thursday, August 8 at 10.00 am. Parents are most welcome to attend.

WHAT’S THE MISS?

Unfortunately, the following may, at first glance, be a seemingly petty issue. However, I believe that it reflects a larger issue for schools and adolescents alike. The issue I am referring to is socks. Yes, socks. For some unknown reason a number of students have taken it upon themselves to start wearing black socks with both their sport and formal uniforms. This is not okay. The College Uniform Policy clearly states the requirements of the uniform. We have not changed the policy and no-one, students or parents, have the right to wear or support the wearing of whatever they choose outside this policy.

When a student is accepted at the College parents and students sign a form stating that they support the policies of the College and that includes the Uniform Policy. This is a type of contract between home and the school.

So I guess the question is why am I making such a big deal out of socks? Firstly, as an educational organisation our job, first and foremost, is to educate. This includes social education and within that we aim to have students understand that there are rules, and laws, that need to be followed. Individuals are not exempt from these. I increasingly come across adolescents who feel, for whatever reason, a sense of entitlement and this makes them work outside the rules, guidelines and/or laws. This is not just about the socks.

Second, the bending of the rules places enormous pressure on other families. When other students see the rules being abused they go home and try and influence their parents that this is okay because everyone else does it. Parents, trying to do the right thing by both their child and the school, then feel enormous frustration and resentment because others are not doing the same, which creates tension in their own home. Again, this is not okay and we shouldn’t, as parents, do this to each other, our children and the school, especially when we have an agreement with the latter that we will abide by the rules and guidelines of the College.

NEW ARCHBISHOP FOR HOBART

Bishop Julian Porteous, Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney, has been appointed as the Archbishop of Hobart. Bishop Julian Porteous will be making a brief visit to Hobart on August 14, and will be installed as the eleventh Archbishop of Hobart on September 17. Please mark your calendars for this special occasion. This is also a time to give thanks to Archbishop Adrian, who has led this Archdiocese for fourteen years. We thank him for his dedication of service to the people of Tasmania and that he enjoys many, many years of retired life. Details of the visit and the Mass will follow. Please read the letter from Bishop Porteous inside this newsletter.

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 will receive a brochure with information from the College or parents can download the brochure from www.scoliosis-australia.org/pdfs/self_detection_brochure.pdf

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to Austin Ashby (10 White) on his selection to represent Australia in the Under 16 Futsal team travelling to Brazil next month. Well done, Austin. A wonderful achievement.
Drama production are available from our College office and a $5 door sale will apply for the Music Showcase. Come and enjoy the talents of our students and support the performing arts programme!

GYC PATHWAYS EXPO
On Monday of this week all of our Year 10 students visited the Glenorchy campus of Guilford Young College to look at the subject pathways available to them as they move to senior secondary education. All of our students were extremely pleased with the GYC Pathways Expo and the information that was provided to them.

iPAD OUTREACH INTO THE COMMUNITY
On July 22, Matthew Ayers and I were invited to the Freemason’s Home in Lindisfarne to set up iPads for a selected group of independent residents. This was the first time that they had trialled anything like this at the Freemason’s Home. The residents were very nervous to be introduced to this technology many of us use on a day to day basis. To give you an idea on what knowledge they had with modern technology, many of them didn’t even understand the concept of the Internet let alone an iPad. The residents were full of interesting questions such as “How does the iPad connect with people all over Australia?” and “How do I know when and how to charge it?”.

Less than 20 minutes later the residents were all eager to begin the process of learning how to use an iPad. Once we talked through it, they began to develop an understanding of how the iPad works.

I would like to thank Mr Díger for organising this enterprise; I would also like to thank Christine Howard and Barry Chandler from the Freemason’s Home for their assistance.

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.” Jesus said to them, “When you pray, say this:

Father,
May your holy name be honoured;
Two years, Amen.
Give us our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
For we forgive everyone who does us wrong.
And do not bring us to hard testing”.

Luke’s version of the Lord’s Prayer, only 40 words long, is an example of how a few sentences have changed history. Written about 50 years after the death of Jesus, Luke was ministering to the Christian community in Antioch, the political and cultural capital of the Roman Province of Syria. Most of the six themes in Luke’s Gospel are expressed in this prayer. Luke calls Christians to practice: prayer, hospitality, compassion, forgiveness, the common life and care for the outsider.

Reference: Preaching to the Converted, Fr Richard Leonar

ST VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER APPEAL
We are, as a Catholic school, called to model these central actions within our community. Fr Richard Leonar, SJ, posed three questions to staff last Monday. Are we a community of grateful heart? Is our community forgiving and free of self and of others? Is our community loving of God, self and of our neighbours? Responding to each person on staff, in our classrooms and in the playground with the spirit of Christ is to be hospitable, grateful, forgiving, compassionate and loving. We are inspired by St Augustine, who said that Forgiveness has two lovely daughters, Justice and Compassion. Let us rise to the daily challenge filled with hope and with the ever-present spirit of God among us.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE
Feast with Friends
Vinnies have been hard at work in so many ways, it’s difficult to keep track! What vibrant group we have at Mackillop, led by Caitlin Stalker (10 Green) and very enthusiastic students who are raising awareness and making a difference in lots of ways in our community. I am including a letter I received from Sarah, who wrote to us at the end of Term 2.

Good Morning,
I am writing to thank Mackillop Catholic College for their generous donation of desserts for our June “Feast with Friends” meal.

Every month Vinnies Young Adults provide a free sit down dinner to those in the community who would normally go without and who are less fortunate in our community. Each month we feed around 40 people and the number is growing.

Earlier in the year we asked high schools if they could help us by providing the desserts for our meals. Thanks to Liz Pollard and Ben Shaw, we had 3 amazing dishes for our June meal last night. We set the desserts up so that each person could choose what they would like to eat and it is truly remarkable to see how much the homeless appreciate that treat.

Caitlin Stalker, President St Vincent de Paul Conference

Vinnies Winter Appeal – continuing until August 20.

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL
Resilience is the capacity to rise above difficult circumstances, allowing our children to exist in this less-than-perfect world, while moving forward with optimism and confidence. Most simply: resilience is the ability to bounce back (or recover) when hit with unexpected demands from out of the blue.

Michael Grose refers to resilience robers as times when parents, with the best intentions, are over-reactioning the best for kids, make decisions that are not always in children’s long term best interests. I have listed some of these resilience robers below which parents might like to consider and recommend an interview with Michael Grose on the topic of Raising Resilient Children which can be found at http://www.parentingideas.com.au/Parents/resilience

RESILIENCE ROBBERs
Don’t…..
Fight all their battles for them …… give kids the opportunity to develop their own resourcefulness.

Make their problem, your problem …….. make their problem, their own.

Give kids too much voice …… make decisions for kids and expect them to adjust and cope.

Put unrealistical or relentless pressure on kids to perform …… keep expectations in line with the children’s abilities and don’t put excessive pressure on them.

Let kids give in to too easy ……. encourage kids to complete what they have started even if the results aren’t perfect.

Neglect to develop independence …… don’t routinely do for kids what they can do for themselves.

Rescue kids from challenging or stressful situation …… overcoming challenges enables kids to grow and improve.

Resilient children can say:

I HAVE……….people I trust and love
I AM…………..a loveable person
I CAN……..find ways to solve problems

MACKILLOP ATHLETICS CARNIVAL
The Mackillop Athletics Carnival will be held at the Domain Athletics Center on Wednesday, September 11. Students will be signing up to events on Thursday 8 August and will the opportunity to practise most of the events during HPE in the lead up to the carnival. In the past, the help that we receive from parents/guardians on the day, to assist in various roles, is very much appreciated and important in the smooth running of the day. If you are able to donate some of your time, please contact Mr O’Brien at the College. More information about the carnival will be distributed later this term.

PERFORMING ARTS WEEK AT MACKILLOP
August highlights the performing arts program at the College. During the week starting August 12 the focus will be on Drama and Music. On August 12, the College welcomes the GYC band to perform for all of our Year 7 and 8 students. Mr Parkinson and his band freely gave of their time to showcase their talents in our College and we thank them for the opportunity. We then roll into the College major production with the 2nd annual pageant at the Backspace Theatre with both evening and matinee sessions. Finally the College music department presents their Music Showcase on Friday, August 16. Tickets for the performance are on sale from our College office and a $5 door sale will apply for the Music Showcase. Come and enjoy the talents of our students and support the performing arts programme!