Monday (J): Jam donuts were sold at recess time and the Joyful Food Eating Competition was held at lunch: Year 7s needed to consume a dry Weet-bix in the quickest time. Congratulations Russell Calvert! Year 8s also had the task of digesting a dry Weet-bix won by Jade Simpson. Year 9s had a plate of spaghetti to down which Bradley Steedman successfully achieved.

Tuesday (J): At recess time on Tuesday, delicious and fresh, bakery made, jam cream buns arrived as a fundraiser while at lunchtime the jolly hotdogs were a sell-out. At lunchtime the Jostling Girls Footy match was enjoyed by both the competitors from Year 7 & 10 and spectators alike. The non-bib team won the play. During Personal Development time in period 5, students carried out tasks to actively fulfil Mary MacKillop’s mantra of “Never see a need without doing something about it”. Students made flash cards to assist with literacy skills for students in Timor Leste while others participated in a mini walkathon, donating stationery items for the cause.

Wednesday (A): More bakery product arrived at recess time. This time in the form of “awesome” jelly cakes. At lunchtime, a terrific “A Minute to Win It” team challenge took place on the basketball court where the Year 8, 10 and staff team, made it into the finals with the Year 8s in the end, securing the glory of winning. (Many of the students commented however, that the staff team seemed to enjoy the orange under the neck exchange far much too much!)

Thursday (M): Thursday began with a breakfast feast for staff led by Mr Shaw and the VET Hospitality team before we headed to our Feast Day Mass at Corpus Christi Church, which ended with a lunch feast back at school with a free BBQ for all. The Valhalla ice-cream on sale went as quickly as the dodge balls – which included the following: J – Jam Donuts and Joyful Food Eating Competition J – Jam Cream Buns, Jolly Hot Dogs & Jostling Girls Footy Match A – Awesome Jelly Cakes & A Minute to win it challenge M – Mary MacKillop Mass, Marvellous BBQ Lunch, Mega Dodge Ball Competition & Marvellous MacKillop College Talent Quest M – Milkshakes and staff vs student Mixed Netball Match (which the staff won quite convincingly).

The highlight of the week was the Feast Day Mass, which was held on Thursday, 8 August. Many thanks go to Peter O’Loughlin for celebrating Mass with us.

Congratulations to the student leaders and SRCs on an outstanding week of organisation, preparation and commitment. It was inspiring to witness students and staff working together in such collaborative teams.

The week’s celebrations require a lot of hard work and organisation and I would like to collectively thank the following staff members for their organisation with the many and varied activities that took place last week: Mr Lahey, Mrs Pollard, Mr Priest, Mr Shaw, Mrs Heawood, Mrs Howard and their respective teams. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to all the staff for the way in which they embraced JJAMM Week.

Provident God,
With grateful hearts we remember
The power for goodness that Mary MacKillop
in our world.

As we celebrated her feast day
Touch us anew with her spirit of prophetic charity
and generous participation in mission.

We ask this in the name of the Sacred Heart. Amen

Performing Arts Week

This week at Mackillop there has been a strong emphasis on the Performing Arts with events from both the Music and Drama departments providing great entertainment. To start the week on Monday Year 7 and 8 students were treated to a performance by the Guilford Young College bands. It was a wonderful opportunity for the junior classes to see the results of music education continuing beyond Year 10. Also this week the Year 7 students and some Year 8 classes will be viewing the Year 10 production, "The Wind in the Willows."

The Wind in the Willows. The dedication and talent of our Year 10 drama class, under the direction of Miss Philippa Coward, will be showcased in this delightful and well loved tale of life on the river. To end the week on a few high notes there will be a Music Showcase Concert at CityWide to celebrate and share the gifts and work of our music students, under the direction of Mr Sean Priest. It will be a wonderful week of creative performances and I trust that all audiences will come away with pride in the students’ abilities. I would like to thank Mr Brian Parkinson from GYC and Mr Sean Priest for organising the GYC visit to Mackillop, and Miss Philippa Coward and Mrs Olivia Stephen for directing and stage managing The Wind in the Willows, as well as again thanking Mr Sean Priest for orchestrating Friday’s Music Showcase Concert. Show your support for the Performing Arts and bring family and friends to both performances; you will come away with a smile and a song in your heart!

The Wind in the Willows, Tuesday 13 - Thursday 15, at 7pm in the Backspace Theatre, Sackville Street, behind the Theatre Royal. The Music Showcase Concert, Friday, 16 August, CityWide Church Mornington, 7pm.

Catholic Education Week

This week is Catholic Education Week. The theme for 2013 is ‘A time for giving thanks’. Catholic Education Week provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the significance of Catholic education, to celebrate our faith and to pay tribute to those who help to make our students and all in our school communities flourish. During the week, schools and their communities will be participating in special celebrations focused on giving thanks. Tasmanian Catholic Education Commission Recognition Awards and 25 Years of Service Awards will be held at GYC on Thursday, 15 August to recognise those in our community who have made a special contribution to Catholic education.

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data: School Students with Disabilities

As an attachment to this letter I have provided a flyer for parents regarding this initiative by the federal government. The aim of the government is to have accurate data regarding students and their education in order to provide high quality and inclusive education which meets the needs of all students. All schools will be involved in this data collection, as from 2015, but Mackillop has been asked to implement the data collection phase as from this year. Please read the information contained in the flyer and contact me if you have any further questions.

Staff News

It is with much sadness that I announce the resignation of Mr Peter Kay from the College. Peter has accepted a position with the...
Tasmanian Fire Service, which commences on September 2, 2013. Peter has been a member of staff since 2005, teaching HPE, Outdoor Education and Maths during this time. He is currently the Head of Department (HPE) since 2011 and has done a commendable job introducing the Australian Curriculum into the College. On behalf of the College I congratulate Peter on his selection to represent Tasmania at the Touch Football National Youth Championships to be held in Queensland next month. All the best, Emily.

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL HELPERS

Our MacKillop Athletics Carnival is on the calendar for September 11.

BUILDING RESILIENCE

From a resilience perspective, parents 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.

SHAKESPEARE PERFORMANCE

Shakespeare comes to life for our Year 9 and Year 10 students when Bell Shakespeare performs at MacKillop in early September.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMPETITION

Too many young people and their families struggle to live with dignity.

EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES TO SEE BELL SHAKESPEARE PERFORMANCES

Shakespeare comes to life for our Year 9 and Year 10 students when Bell Shakespeare performs at MacKillop in early September.

The cast will explore the characters and themes of these classic plays, and conduct a question and answer session with students at the end of each performance. Performances will be held on Tuesday, 3 September.

For lovers of Shakespeare, later on in September, Bell Shakespeare and the State Theatre Company of South Australia will be appearing at the Theatre Royal in Hobart to perform William Shakespeare’s The Comedy of Errors.

The Comedy of Errors will be performed at the Theatre Royal from Wednesday, September 18 to Saturday, September 21, 2013.

The past couple of weeks in the College have been extremely busy. Last week our celebration of the Feast of Mary MacKillop produced a great sense of community among both staff and students. Our Mass on the Thursday was the culmination of a week where jelly cakes, bbqs and staff vs student sport were commonplace at lunch time. The busy days continue with Performing Arts Week, Science Week, and of course Catholic Education Week. A number of excursions have been planned with the Marine Studies class visiting CSIRO, Year 10 Science students visiting the Southern Support School to demonstrate science experiments, the Hospitality Class venturing to GYC Glenorchy for a Thai Master class and Year 7 and 8 students going to the Drama performance.

UNIFORM

As Dr Towns mentioned in the last newsletter, we continue to ask for parental support in ensuring that student uniform is at its best when our young people leave home each day and the sport uniform is only worn on HPE days. Black has crept into the College; at no time should students wear black tights, black socks or black scarves. The College navy stockings can always be purchased from the front office if that last minute hole appears.

FRONT OFFICE DISPLAY

Over the last week Mrs Pollard and Mrs Lawler have changed the visual display in our front office. We now have a display based on our charisms with significant icons that represent important aspects of the lives of both St Mary MacKillop and Blessed Edmund Rice. Next time you’re in the College office and waiting for your son or daughter it’s worth a second look.

SUBJECT EVENING

On Monday, August 26, the College invites parents to come and discuss the elective subject choices for students in Years 9 and 10 in 2014. This is a good opportunity to ask questions of staff teaching these subjects and look into future career pathways that these subjects may assist with. Further information will come home about this evening in the coming week.