NATIONAL ROBOCUP JR
COMPETITION – SEPTEMBER, 21 – 22, 2013
On the weekend of September 21 and 22, we competed in RoboCup Jr Nationals in Brisbane. There were 34 teams in our division and all together there were 160 teams.

We competed in Senior Rescue. Other teams were in Dance, Dance Theatre, Soccer, Junior Rescue and Premier Rescue. We came 12th in our division. Our robot performed well in the first three rounds. In our last two rounds we had technical problems so we went from 3rd to 6th then to 12th. We are happy with our result for our first time at Nationals, but we hope to do better next year.

MACKILLOP CATHOLIC COLLEGE

FROM THE PRINCIPAL
A warm welcome back to all staff and students for Term 4 and congratulations on a successful 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 Mrs Alice Smith and Mr Joe O’Hea from their respective long service leave. We also welcomed Miss Jenna McMahon to the staff for the next few weeks. Jenna is replacing Mrs Louise Wright who is currently on long service leave.

MOR LESTE IMMERSION PROGRAM
During the holidays students, accompanied by Mr Mat Dixon and Miss Stephanie Cornelius, returned from Timor Leste following a 10 day immersion program with the Marobo community in the Timorose 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 Rachel Hay is attached to this newsletter and I encourage you to read to get a good understanding of the program.

An information session and program outline was introduced to the Year 9 students yesterday for the 2014 program. If you are interested in finding out more about the program please don’t hesitate to contact Mr Mat Dixon - mat.dixon@mackillop.tas.edu.au

YEAR 7 2014 PARENT INFORMATION EVENING
The Information Evening for Year 7, 2014 will be held on Thursday October 31, 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, 2014. 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 2014.

SATIS ATHLETICS RESULTS
On Saturday, October 19, Mackillop participated in the State SATIS Athletics Carnival in Launceston. While our team was a bit depleted due to other commitments and the limitations of transportation, the team that represented the College on the day were a testament to the level of dedication and team work that has seen Mackillop compete at such a high level each year. Congratulations to team captains, Alec Willing and Caitlin Stalker, and deputy captains, Courtney Branch and Zac Teders, on their positive leadership on the day. Thank you also to Miss Jen Rider, Mr Mat Dixon, Miss Caitlin Webb, and Mr Chris Nettletfield-Roberts for their energy, enthusiasm and hard work on the day.

Mackillop Catholic College
VOLUME 21 - NO. 15 - October 23, 2013

TERM 4 AND YEAR 10
The year seems to be running away very quickly. Alongside daylight savings, Christmas decorations and merchandise are also appearing in the shops. It is a reminder to us at the College that 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, November 26 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 very strongly wish to encourage. The Year 10 Final Assembly will be held at the College the next morning on Wednesday, November 27. Once again, parents are most welcome to attend the assembly which is, again, another highlight of the week.

THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER
Traditionally, the Catholic Church dedicates each month of the year to particular devotions. In November Catholics traditionally pray for their dead. Praying for the dead, especially for those we have known, is a part of Christian charity. Our own prayers and sacrifices can be offered up to relieve their suffering. During this month there are two significant days:

All Saints’ Day (November 1) is the commemoration of all saints, known and unknown. The eve of All Saints’ Day, is known as All Hallows Eve, or Halloween. On this day the Church celebrates All Saints Day. Since the early centuries of the Church the liturgical calendar has reserved one day to collectively honour, all the saints, both officially recognised and those known only by God. We are reminded that the true company of saints is far more numerous than the list of those who have been formally canonised. There are many anonymous saints who nevertheless form part of the great ‘cloud of witness’.

All Souls’ Day (November 2) we solemnly commemorate the faithful departed, that is those who die with God’s grace and friendship. As Catholics we pray for the holy souls undergoing purification of their sins before entering heaven.

REMEMBER: SHOW DAY HOLIDAY 24/10 – STUDENT FREE DAY 25/10
This Friday is a student free day. This is the day following the Hobart Show Day holiday, giving students a four day weekend.

MACKILLOP CATHOLIC SCHOOL - 1973
NOT TO BE MISSED! A vigorous advocate for justice in Australia, Fr Frank Brennan SJ, will deliver the 2013 John Wallis Memorial Lecture, Pope Francis and Australia’s Social Justice Agenda, on behalf of the John Wallis Foundation in association with Gulfeld Young College in Hobart on Thursday, October 24 (Show holiday).

FR Frank Brennan SJ

NOT TO BE MISSED!

40 YEAR REUNION – CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC SCHOOL - 1973
40 years already! We’re planning a catch up on Saturday, October 26, 2013. If you were part of the class that started Grade 1 in 1968 and finished Grade 6 in 1973, even for a year, we would love to see you. Drop us a line on Facebook (see if you can spot yourself in one of the photos, www.facebook.com/Corpuschristi40) or contact Gabrielle Edards - gabrielle.edards@moadoph.gov.au or Chris Neville - chris@awusupplies.com.au

1973 COLLEGE ANNUAL
Attached to this newsletter is the last chance to order the 2013 COLLEGE ANNUAL.

Fill it in and return to the COLLEGE OFFICE by Friday, November 8, 2013.

DON’T MISS OUT

2013 COLLEGE ANNUAL
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DON’T MISS OUT

GENERAL NEWS

Liam Brooks and Ben Kershaw (Year 7)
NAPLAN results

All parents of students in Years 7 and 9 should have received individual student results from the recent NAPLAN (National Assessment Program, Literacy and Numeracy) tests. Those results indicated that MacKillop College students performed consistently above the national and state average and above the average of ‘like’ schools, i.e. those with a similar socio-economic profile. Copies of the College results, giving a detailed breakdown of performance against specific tasks are available to interested parents from the College office.

FUNDRAISER FOR HARRY CUMMINS

I would like to draw your attention, once again, to the fundraiser for Harry Cummins to be held on Friday, November 8. This is an event hosted by family and friends of the Cummins family to help support Harry with his recent medical treatment. The organisers would like me to remind parents and students that this event is aimed at adults and that any student wishing to attend would need to be accompanied by a responsible adult. This is not a school organised event and supervision of student is not available on the night.

ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to Jessica McDonald who was a finalist in this Year’s Business and Employment Australian Apprenticeships Centre Trainee of the Year Awards. She was nominated from her time spent at MacKillop Catholic College (2011-2013) in the Outdoor Education department. A great achievement.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to Jeremy Ford (9 White) who recently competed in the Tasmanian Canoe Polo Championships representing the South in Division 2.

Edible Rice Camp

At the end of Term 3 there were a number of students with outstanding assessment items in a number of subjects. Last term, MacKillop ran the second Eddie Rice Camp. Shortly, our campers will again meet with their buddies in a fun-filled afternoon. The follow up afternoon is an important event because it allows our students and the children they were mentoring to reconnect and spend time together. Permission forms went home yesterday. A large thank you to Mr Andrew Blackett, who does the mammoth task of co-ordinating the youth leaders and children for the camps.

Ms Sue Howard

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

showard@mackillop.tas.edu.au

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY

CATHOLIC MISSION WEEK

Message from the Holy Father for World Mission Sunday 2013

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This year, as we celebrate World Mission Sunday, the Year of Faith, which is an important opportunity to strengthen our friendship with the Lord and our journey as a Church that preaches the Gospel with courage, comes to an end.

The Year of Faith, fifty years after the beginning of the Second Vatican Council, motivates the entire Church towards a renewed awareness of its presence in the contemporary world and its mission among peoples and nations. Missionarity, is not only about geographical territories, but it is about peoples, cultures and individuals, because the “boundaries” of faith do not only concern men and women, but the heart of each man and each woman.

The Second Vatican Council emphasised in a special way how the missionary task: that of broadening the boundaries of faith, belongs to every baptised person and Christian communities since “the people of God lives in communities, especially in dioceses and parishes, and becomes somehow visible in them, it is up to these to witness Christ before the nations” (Ad Gentes, 37)

Catholic Missions is an organisation which works to educate and support the marginalised globally. Earlier this year, Catholic Missions Village Space presented an engaging theatre-in-the-round to our Year 10s about refugees.

October is Catholic Missions Month, and this year’s focus is homelessness in Mongolia. Our awareness was raised when Rafeel from Catholic Missions spoke to the College Assembly last term. There is an astonishing amount of work being done under less than ideal conditions to allow youth who live on the streets a chance to access medical care, education and shelter. It is difficult for us to imagine these conditions, but raising awareness is the first step to inspire us to carry on the mission of Jesus in the world. Knowing about these issues helps individuals explore how to be Church in their context, how to live by Gospel values and how to work so that all people have a ‘fullness of life’. Such a transformed world is what Christians refer to as the ‘Kingdom of God’.

EDDIE RICE AFTERNOON

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Mrs Linda Pollard

DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY

lpollard@mackillop.tas.edu.au

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF STUDENT WELLBEING

RESPONSIBLE PARTY HOSTING

As our Year 10s will be marking the conclusion of their Year 10 year, 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 entitled “Youth and alcohol at home at http://www.police.tas.gov.au/uploads/file/Pamphlets/Youth_and_Alcohol_brochure.pdf. This website is well worth a look in the efforts of safe and responsible partying for our young people.

YEAR 9 STUDENT LEADERSHIP 2013 FOR 2014

On Tuesday during Personal Development, the 2014 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 2014. 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 were confirmed by this afternoon. Nominated students have to now prepare a speech to present during a special school assembly on Tuesday, November 5. After the speeches have been delivered, all Year 7-9 students and staff have the opportunity to vote for the most preferred candidates.

Ten student leaders with the highest number of votes will form our Student Leadership team for 2014. Names will be announced and published following the election process. The newly elected team will then participate in a two day training program at Blue Lagoon Camp at Dodges Ferry on Thursday 28 and Friday 29 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 2014 student leader election process or to 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.

Mr Nicholas Lahaye

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT WELLBEING

nlahaye@mackillop.tas.edu.au

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF LEARNING & TEACHING

OUTSTANDING ASSESSMENT ITEMS - YEAR 7

At the end of Term 3 there were a number of students with outstanding assessment items in a number of subjects. Last Monday, October 14, the year group were advised that they had two weeks to clear all outstanding items and submit for assessment. On Tuesday, October 29, I will be requesting the names of all students who are still in default from Year 7 subject teachers. In cases where there are no extenuating circumstances, I will be contacting relevant parents of students to make them aware of the state of affairs and to issue an invitation to attend a further conference at the addressee.

Hopefully, there will be no need for such conferences.

Dr John Snell

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING AND TEACHING

jsnell@mackillop.tas.edu.au

Ask for Warning for Parents

Over recent weeks I have become aware of a new social media site a number of our students are accessing. There are clear and obvious risks to its users which parents need to be aware of. Ask.fm has very few privacy controls which mean that both questions and answers can be viewed by anyone, even non-users of the site. This is the default setting and there does not appear to be an option to change this: once a post is published it is publicly accessible.

A search of the site turns up offensive questions and answers directed at users, and we would advise young people not to use the site. There have been numerous reports in the media and online of significant levels of bullying on the site and there is also sexualisation content. It’s obvious that by bullies who want to inflict psychological and emotional harm without facing the consequences.

FOOTY COLOURS/WEAR BLUE TO STAMP OUT BULLYING

On the final day of Term 3 students were given the option of wearing blue to stand up against bullying to wear footy colours as the Grand Final was the next day. The response from students indicated a strong response to support these strategies as a fundraising with the profits going to “Albie House”. As per a Mackillop tradition Mr Phil Stanley again organised the “footy colours” day and I thank him for taking on this project. Also the large blue ribbon in the front office by Mrs Toni Prior, the BBQ organised by the canteen, ice-cream sold by the Year 5 and 9 students, and the soccer game between Year 10 boys and girls, were some of the events which provided 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 entitled “Youth and alcohol at home at http://www.police.tas.gov.au/uploads/file/Pamphlets/Youth_and_Alcohol_brochure.pdf. This website is well worth a look in the efforts of safe and responsible partying for our young people.

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