A REPORT FROM THE COLLEGE CAPTAINS

JAMM CONFERENCE 2014

Last week, as College Captains, we were privileged to be able to travel to Sydney with Mr Lahey to attend a week-long, National Leadership Conference called JAMM.

JAMM stands for Joseph, Julian and Mary MacKillop, the name of the conference which is run by the sisters of St. Joseph. The conference allows the opportunity for young student leaders and teachers from across Australia to come together, to share ideas and to improve our skills as leaders, so we can follow in the footsteps of Saint Mary MacKillop, Julian Tenison Woods and St. Joseph.

We began Day One by seeing some of the amazing sights of Sydney – catching a ferry to Manly, catching a wave at the beach and stumbling across a free, Channel “V” Beach Concert where we danced to “The Presets” performing live. The trip was almost cut short at dinner that evening as we ate in a Thai restaurant that evening as we ate in a Thai restaurant

As part of this work ethic initiative, the College will shortly be putting into place the means by which a teacher can directly inform parents by SMS when a major piece of assignment work has not been submitted (if a student is finding an assignment particularly difficult and is worried that they may not meet the due date, they must initiate a dialogue with the relevant teacher so appropriate support measures can be put in place to allow them to successfully submit that piece of work).

We hope parents will appreciate the College’s initiative into the learning of their children within our community.

If you have any questions regarding this Work Ethic drive or into the mechanism we are introducing to alert parents regarding submission of work, please contact me on the College number or by emailing jsnell@mackillop.tas.edu.au

Dr John Snell
DIRECTOR OF LEARNING AND TEACHING

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF LEARNING & TEACHING

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

ASH WEDNESDAY

Today is Ash Wednesday and this marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. Lent is a season of penance, reflection, fasting and sharing with those in need, especially the poor.

On Ash Wednesday our foreheads are marked with ashes to humble our hearts to remind us that life passes away on Earth. Ashes are a symbol of penance made sacramental by the blessing of the Church, and they help us develop a spirit of humility and sacrifice. The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. The ashes are christened with Holy Water and are scented by exposure to incense:

Father,

Through our observance of Lent, Help us to understand

The meaning of your Son’s death and resurrection,

And teach us to reflect it in our lives.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your son,

One God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

COMMISSIONING ASSEMBLY

Last week we held our Commissioning Assembly at the College. The ceremony commenced with a Liturgy of the Word, with Father Peter O’Loughlin presiding. This was followed by the commissioning of Peer Support Leaders, House Captains and Student Leaders. This was a wonderful celebration and acknowledgement of student leadership in the College and a moment to be incredibly proud. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Father Peter, Mrs Linda Pollard, Mr Nicholas Lahey and Mrs Sue Howard for their organisation of the day. I would also like to acknowledge the contributions of Mr Sean Priest and the choir and Mr Ben Shaw and members of the Hospitality Class for their contributions.

SOUTHERN SATIS SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Carnival to the Swimming Team that competed at the Southern SATIS Swimming Carnival yesterday, especially the Swimming Captains, Isaac Steele and Ashley Steele. Sincere thanks to Mrs Fiona Geppen, Miss Caitlin Webb and Mrs Kelly Dixon for their organisation, coaching and support on the day.

The SATIS Swimming Carnival will take place at the Hobart Aquatic Centre on Thursday, March 27. Good luck to all the students participating in this event.

YEAR 7 CAMP

In the last two weeks Year 7 students have been involved in their Year 7 Camps. This camp comprised of an overnight stay at Orana and included many activities, such as bike riding, bushwalking and

UNIFORM SHOP - WINTER CHANGEOVER

As we are a smaller shop now and in order to prevent long waiting times and congestion in the uniform shop, we suggest families might start thinking of organising their purchase of their child’s Winter uniform. Please contact Mrs Anne Morling, Uniform Shop Co-ordinator, on 6245 0099 or amorling@mackillop.tas.edu.au

TASMANIAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS PARENTS COALITION NEWSLETTER NO. 1

Visit our College website to download a copy of the Term 1 Triangle Newsletter - www.mackillop.tas.edu.au
FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

SCHOOL BUSES
The schedule for both afternoon and morning buses to the College is now finalised. This year the services offered by all three bus providers have ensured our young people are delivered to and from the College both on time and safely. In particular, we would like to thank Tasmania's own Redline for their excellent level of service and their professional attitude in providing the best possible service.

PERMISSION TO ADMINISTER MEDICATION LETTERS
If your child needs to have medication of any type during the school day please ensure an "ongoing" medical form is completed and returned to the College administration. This form can either be acquired in person from the College or is available on the College website.

COLLEGE PHOTOS
As today is Ash Wednesday we thought it wise to move formal photos for Year 9 and 10 from today until this Friday, March 7. All Year 9 and 10 students and 7 White and Red students will need to be in full formal summer uniform and bring HPE gear if needed on this day.

TAKING ACTION AGAINST CYBER-BULLYING
Recent research indicates that there are two peak periods in a child’s life when they are most at risk of cyber-bullying: as they transition from primary to secondary school and again in Year 9. Serious cyber-bullying is a criminal offence and it carries a maximum of 10 years' imprisonment in some Australian states. In Tasmania, legislation in the form of “Chloe’s Law” will be presented to Tasmanian Parliament in the coming month. Dr Michael Carr-Gregg suggests the following tips for parents:

- Remind young people that it’s not their fault they are being cyber-bullied and they can do something about it.
- Tell them to ignore the bully and never respond to messages or taunts.
- Make sure young people know how to block contacts, filter email messages and block posts or contact on social media.
- Suggest a record of all harassing messages is kept.
- Any threats of physical harm are very serious and should be reported.
- Encourage your child to talk about what is happening and how it makes them feel, so they can come up with ways to address cyber-bullying.

Make sure your child has options of people to talk to, for example the College Counsellor or their Home Room teacher.

PARENTS WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP
Ways Parents can Work with Teachers (Michael Grosse)
- Know what your child’s teacher is trying to achieve.
- Keep your expectations reasonable and positive.
- Support your teacher’s expectations and activities at home.
- Send children to school ready to learn and on time each day.
- Inform us early of your child’s challenges and changes.
- Respectfully seek joint solutions to problems and difficulties.

- Trust your teacher’s knowledge, professionalism and experience.
- Talk up what happens at school.

MRS SUE HOWARD DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

YEAR 10
It doesn’t seem that long ago that we first started high school as anxious Year Sevens. We were all together, all leaders in our own rights. As we once again crossed the familiar grounds that have brought us so many memories realisation kicked in.

This is going to be different from past years - we are not Year Sevens only now starting our MacKillop journey, nor Year Eights or Nines who still look up at Year Tens as examples. No, we are the year Tens and like so many before us we are excited and nervous at that prospect.

But some things never change such as catching up with friends, or gossiping about the summer break and the adventures and/or mishaps it brought while waiting for our Home Room class and teacher to be read out.

After setting back into College life it feels as if nothing has changed ... that was until the Commissioning Ceremony. We no longer look on as the Peer Support, House Captains and Student Leaders are commissioned with badges, for now it is our turn.

Let 2014 begin ..... By: Emily Steele (10 White)

YEAR 7 CAMP
On Monday, February 24, a very excited 7 Gold headed off to Orana in Lauderdale for their camp. When we got off the bus we went inside to hear the rules of Orana and to find out where we would be sleeping for the night. We were given time to sort our beds and rooms out to make it comfortable for the night.

We were split in to two groups: one group went bike riding to Seven Mile Beach with Mr Cramer and Miss Webb, while the other group stayed back at camp to do some team-building activities with Mr Conneely, Miss Cornelius and our two Peer Support Leaders, Ben and Laura. The team-building exercises helped us to get to know each other better as a Home Room and challenged us to support each other. After lunch we swapped activities.

When we got back from the afternoon session some of us had some free time while others played a game of soccer against a very rich teachers and Peer Support Leaders. The winners would get to choose a punishment for the other team. After a well-fought game by both sides the teachers came out on top and so the students who chose to play were to ensure the communal areas were always tidy.

Dinner wasn’t too far away and so we all put on some warmer clothes and headed down to the beach for our liturgy. We reflected on our afternoon’s camp during the liturgy and some special moments we had seen from each other.

We were soon heading back to camp and to an amazing dinner afterwards. We sat as a group in the dining room and the ate and talked about the day. After dinner we were split in to smaller groups and told we would be going to have a ‘7 Gold has talent’ contest. We were given time to come up with a performance and practice that performance. Some of us were worried we had no talent! But worry we shouldn’t have: it was SHOW TIME! All the performances were fantastic. The talent show was hosted by Mr Conneely and judged by Miss Cornelius, Miss Rider, Mr Conneely, and Laura and Ben. The winning teams were ‘Adam and the Ants’, ‘Snoopy and Lucy’, and ‘7 Gold has talent’ as well as Breanna Fleming, Jonathan Xintavelonis, Taylah Lowry and Beau Leslie. These two teams then had to battle it out with a push-up and dance competition. Sophie Lucas and Jonathan Xintavelonis were the overall winners of the night.

It was finally time to go to bed for the night and lights were out at 10.30pm (we don’t think this meant eyes shut for many of us). We had an early start in the morning with Miss Cornelius waking us up at 6am for breakfast and to get our rooms tidy and our bags packed so that we could get back to school for our Commissioning Ceremony.

After the ceremony there was no time for rest. We were straight back on the bus and heading down to Fusion to once again challenge ourselves and build our relationships. We were again split in to smaller groups with different activities that challenged us. One activity we saw us getting over 30 metres off the ground!

We would like to say a big thank you to Mr Cramer and Miss Webb who helped us on our bike ride: also to Mr Conneely, Miss Cornelius and Miss Rider for being back at camp Ben Sinnit and Laura O’Neill, who were amazing role models and peer supporters; and also to the team at Fusion and Mrs Stephens for the organisation of camp. We had an amazing time!

By: Ebony McMahon (7 Gold) & Sophie Lucas (7 Gold)

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY

WHAT IS LENT?
Lent is a 40-day season of preparation before Easter. It is a time where we are asked to reflect on our lives and on our relationship with God. It begins on Ash Wednesday and finishes during Easter week. The 40 days are symbolic of the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert.

The spirit of Lent calls us to serve others and to simplify our lives and reflect on what really matters. At MacKillop, we encourage students to “do without” and donate to support the work of Caritas Australia through an awareness of their global work in Project Compassion. This project is a great way to help them achieve their goal. Traditionally, Lent is a time of increased prayer, meditating on the last part of Jesus’ earthly journey. We prepare spiritually during Lent to accept the gift of eternal freedom from sin by the death of Jesus. We also may “do without” rich foods, remembering the hardships of those who have to go without every day.

Today, we have had an Ash Wednesday service at the College, with Fr Peter O’Loughlin presiding. We received the ashes in the sign of a cross as a symbol of our mortality and a sign of sorrow and repentance. The ashes come from burning the palms from Palm Sunday of the previous year. The ash is placed on the forehead with the words: “Turn away from sin and be true to the Gospel.” The challenge is for each of us to reflect, in our hearts, on how we can be compassionate and forgiving people in our relationships with others at home, school and work.

PALM SUNDAY PILGRIMAGE: URGENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Palm Sunday Pilgrimage will be happening on Sunday, April 13, 2014. It will feature all your favourites: 8km pilgrimage walk, special guests, family fun, police-escorted street procession and mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral. Put it in your diary and make sure ALL your friends and family are coming too!

PLYMOUTH: CVM urgently need volunteers to help make this another spectacular and successful event for the Archdiocese, full of energy, hope and witness. We need people who can volunteer as walking marshals, as well as people who are happy to not do the walk and help out at different spots along the walk, as well as at the concert and family fun day.

To be a volunteer you need to be 18 years or older, and able and willing to undertake a National Police Check, and able to attend a volunteer briefing in either Launceston or Hobart (you will also receive your Police Check at this time). If you know someone who may want to volunteer please ask them to contact us urgently, so that we have enough time to get Police Checks done before the event. Please contact me ASAP: rachelle.smith@aohtas.org.au or 0400 045 368.

MRS LINDA POLLARD DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY

YEAR 10 STUDENT LEADERS – SCHOOL TOUR PROGRAM
The Year 10 Student Leadership Team has already met several times this year and is busy planning numerous new initiatives and major events for MacKillop. One of the important projects under its care is the School Tours Program. It is during the next couple of months that Year 10 students and their families are taken to visit our College. This student-led program is very rewarding for our Student Leaders as it allows them to practise their communication skills, which consequently builds confidence and self-esteem. Families usually give the Student Leaders plenty of positive feedback and appreciate the authentic approach to our school tour program.

LITTER MINUTES
Litter Minutes is a Student Leadership led initiative which will run every Friday, Week B this year. In an effort to care for our environment each class is designated an area of the school to maintain. Student Leaders dress up in garbage-bag inspired costumes to encourage other students to “do the right thing.” To help motivate the students, some funny beats are often broadcast over our PA system (much to the delight of our Office Staff) to support the Litter Minutes program. Congratulations to several students who participated in their own community last Friday for the annual Clean Up Australia Day campaign.

SRC NOMINATION AND ELECTION PROCESS YEAR 7-9
Next week during Personal Development students in Year 7-9 will be encouraged to consider nominating themselves or other fellow classmates to stand for SRC. Mackillop Catholic College wants to give young people the opportunity to lead and generate ideas and actions to improve our school community and to genuinely “make a difference.” Nominated students will then be required to prepare a short speech to highlight the qualities and ideas they have to offer to make Mackillop a better place. Speeches will be presented in Home Rooms on Tuesday, March 25 and two members from each Home Room will be elected for the 2014 SRC. “If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader”. John Quiney Adams

Mr Nicholas Lahay DIRECTOR OF STUDENT WELLBEING

Guilford Young College will launch an ALUMNI ASSOCIATION on Saturday, March 15, 2014. The launch will be held on the GYC Hobart Campus, 7:30-9:00am at the Belgian capital city and in the campuses of London, New York and possibly Dubai. Campus tours will be available on the Saturday, from 4-5pm. Please visit the GYC website for more information www.gyc.tas.edu.au