UPCOMING HEAD2HEART: STUDENT LEADERS
MARCH 11 - 12
As a Student Leader part of the learning about types of leadership that your son or daughter is undertaking this year includes leadership through service. As a Catholic school, we endeavour to model servant leadership, inspired by the life of Jesus with service to others being a core practice of Christianity. During the camp, your son or daughter will mentor a young person who would benefit from positive mentoring with adolescents and young adults. Following in the footsteps of Edmund Rice, whose life’s legacy is serving children in need in industrial Ireland, we likewise endeavour to serve those who are in need in our own communities.

There will be a training and planning session for all Year 9 and 10 students, facilitated by ERC, which occurs next week on Tuesday, March 8 for all Leaders during the Pastoral Care Lesson (Period 5). We look forward to this important formation experience for our Leaders.

COMMISSIONING ASSEMBLY

Last week we commissioned our College Leaders. This included the Peer Support Leaders, the House Captains and the Student Leaders. Fr Peter led the Liturgy of the Word, and focused on the example of servant leadership of Jesus. Our Captains gave an inspiring speech on the importance of gratitude in our lives, and how the example of Mary Mackillop’s life and work has inspired them to us all to reach out and be the best people we can be. We have a very strong culture of student led initiatives at the College, and this year is shaping up to be another outstanding year of leaders leading for change in our community.

Mrs Linda Pollard
DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2016 – REGISTRATIONS CLOSING
Don’t miss the opportunity to join with young Tasmanians as we explore the historically and spiritually rich Rome, Assisi, Milan, Cestochowa, Auschwitz, Krakow, Wadowice and Prague en route to the largest and most vibrant display of our Catholic Church that will inspire you in more ways than you could ever imagine at World Youth Day 2016. Experience the energy, spirit and faith of millions of young people gathered together with Pope Francis. Discover, Learn, Explore, Pray, and make life-long friends. You need to be 16 – 35 years as at December 31, 2016. Registrations are closing really soon... don’t miss out! Contact Rachelle Smith before March 12 on 0400 045 368 or rachelle.smith@acathas.org.au. More info at: www.wyd tas.org.au

GRACEFEST TASMANIA 2016
‘Gracefest’ is an exciting event for Tasmanian Christian youth, ages 15-25, being run by the Archdiocese of Hobart. On Saturday, March 5, 6.00 pm -10.00 pm, at St Peter’s Hall next to St Mary’s Cathedral, the evening of prayer and worship will include special performances from Christian singer, Steven Kirk. Food for sale, festival for free! Fully supervised. Attendance by registration: www.gracefesttasmania.org.au/

MACKILLOP OLD SCHOLARS:

THE ST MARY’S COLLEGE ALUMNI
on behalf of the
Combined Southern Independent Schools Old Scholars Association
warmly invites you to the annual
COLLEGE COLOURS COCKTAIL PARTY
St Peter’s Hall, St Mary’s College (corner of Harrington and Brisbane Streets, Hobart)
Friday, March 18, 2016, 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start
Tickets $25
RSVP to Kylie Barrett: 0467 054 264 or kyliekmk123@hotmail.com
and pay by March 11.
BSB: 067 000 ACC 108765 05
St Mary’s College Alumni
MacKillop Old Scholars to email Mrs Fielding at MacKillop for more information and to confirm your attendance - trudif@mackillop.tas.edu.au

MACKILLOP CATHOLIC COLLEGE

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

If you live close to the school you will have noticed how noisy we are. The happy sounds of students talking, footballs being kicked and bells telling us that it is time to move on to the next thing. Before the bells there is music to move, with students needing to be outside classrooms ready to go in by the time the music ends. We have a new sound at 12 noon each day, which is the Angelus. We use the call to prayer part of the Angelus, which is the sounding of cathedral bells. The pattern is three groups of three peals followed by nine peals. I might be showing my age by admitting I much prefer the sound of the Angelus to the latest pop music used as the music to move.

The Angelus is an ancient Catholic practice referring to when the Angel Gabriel told Mary that she would conceive a child who would be the son of God. Although the practice has been around for nearly 1000 years, the need to be still and silent seems to be even more relevant today. Witness the huge popularity of the mindfulness colouring books. In our context in schools...with mindfulness. In being present in the moment, we can encounter the sacred. We can also be more aware of our own emotions. Emotional intelligence by definition is about being aware of our emotions and managing them. In the Australian Curriculum it comes under the Personal and Social Capability, which we are required to cover and rightly so. Most of our more significant behaviour issues are due to individuals losing their cool and verbally (or occasionally physically) lashing out. Being aware of one’s emotions and managing them makes these behaviours less likely.

HOMEWORK
Talking of patterns and rhythms, I encourage your son or daughter to be in the habit of doing a little amount of school work most nights of the week. This might be homework or study or reading. Does homework make a positive difference? The educationalist John Hattie describes a meta-analysis of 161 separate studies on this topic. His finding is that homework is highly effective, in Secondary schools in particular. That said, the type of homework undertaken is important. When students progress to college and hope to go to university they need to be in the habit of regular time set aside for homework, revision and so forth. Otherwise the transition to college can be a shock.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL
I experienced my first Mackillop Sports Carnival last week at the Aquatic Centre and was very impressed by levels of participation and school spirit. I am quickly learning that this is typical of how Mackillop students and staff operate. Thank you in particular to Mrs Fi Geappen who was the chief organiser of the carnival.

COMMISSIONING ASSEMBLY
Our leaders were officially commissioned last Wednesday in a lovely ceremony. Thank you Fr Peter O’Loughlin for leading us in the Liturgy of The Word and thank you Mrs Linda Pollard for your organisation of the event.

GOAL SETTING
Hopefully some positive routines were part of the discussion at last week’s goal setting conversations. Thank you to the many parents who gave up their time to come in and thank you to our teachers, in particular Ms Donna Brown and Mrs Nina Dobie, for organising and facilitating the conversations. Now that goals have been set, it is important that there is follow up and follow through so that the full benefit is gained.

CAMPS
Our Year 7s are off on camp this week with our Year 8s following next week. There is a huge amount of work that goes into these events. Thank you in particular to Mrs Olivia Stephen and Miss Kaylee Bonfield for leading these events and thank you to all staff involved for being away from families and probably returning sleep deprived. I know that the benefit to students is worth the effort.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT
Congratulations to Tarsha Clark (8 Green) who has been selected to represent Tasmania in the 14 and under National Club Girls Water Polo Championships to be held in Albany/Wodonga later this month. All the best, Tarsha.

Mr Eamonn Pollard
PRINCIPAL

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Celebrating 21 years of inspiring learning
PARENTS WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP
Ways Parents Can work with Teachers  (Michael Grose)

Leaders from other Josephite schools Australia wide.
During these
• Know what your child’s teacher is trying to achieve;
• Support your teacher’s expectations and activities at home;
• Send kids 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.

DUTY OF CARE
I ask for parent support in the use of student mobile phones in the College. The first point of contact for parents during the school day is through the College Office. Please do not contact your son or daughter via their mobile phone during the day, as our policy dictates that phones should be “off and away” between the first and last bell of the day. If you wish to connect with you during the day to check arrangements, or if they are feeling unwell contact with you will be made by our reception staff. I ask your support in this matter as on a number of occasions students have phoned home, parents arrived and we were unaware of what had gone on prior to pre-empt this.

Keep up to date with events and news in the College via our Skoolbag app available for both Apple and Android phones.

GOAL SETTING CONFERENCES
Thank you to the many parents and students who made the time to meet with Home Room teachers on Thursday and Friday last week for our 2016 Goal Setting Conferences.

Parent feedback has been strong that these Conferences were highly valued, representing an opportunity to meet and work with their child/children’s Home Room teacher/s. Importantly, it also provided the chance for teachers and parents to collaboratively support their students/children in setting key specific academic, occupational and social goals for the coming semester.

The process now is for Home Room teachers to work closely with students to ensure that the goal setting process remains a priority. Students will be encouraged to pursue strategies which progress them toward their individual goals. They will be asked to reflect often on where they are in terms of achieving them.

Home Room teachers will hold sessions with students before the end of Term 3. This might well be an opportunity for goals to be re-assessed or tweaked. It might also represent a chance for the students to gain a sense of how well they will feel when they achieve their goal, potentially spurring them on toward success. At the end of Semester 1 a more individualised review process is planned. At this time also, students will be asked to identify and commit to new goals for Semester 2.

I encourage all parents to maintain regular contact with your child/ children’s Home Room teacher/s and, once again, thank you for your support in this important College-wide endeavour.

COLEGEE LEADERS
From 12-17 February I had the great pleasure of accompanying our College Captains, Meg Francis and Charlotte Kenny, to Mary Mackillop College in North Sydney, then on to Kincumber (near Gosford) to attend a Leadership Training Conference working with other College Leaders from other Josephite schools Australia wide.

Meg and Charlotte spent their days learning about leadership in the tradition of Joseph, Mary and MacKillop (JIAMM). Here is the speech that they gave at the Commissioning Assembly on Wednesday 24 February:

Thankyou Mr Pollard. After participating in a 6 day JIAMM conference in Sydney last week, Charlotte and I received a greater insight into the importance of gratitude. It plays in each of our lives. But what is gratitude? By definition, gratitude is the quality of being thankful, readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness. It is a quality, a value and an action which allowed Saint Mary MacKillop to recognise the needs of others, and do something about it. For this reason, as the College Captains for 2016, we would like to focus our goal for the year ahead.

The JIAMM conference, allowed Meg and I to deepen our knowledge of the lives of Mary Mackillop, Father Julian Tension Woods, Saint Joseph and the Josephite Sisters. It allowed us to connect with college captains from all across Australia and New Zealand, to share ideas, work on our leadership skills and plan for the year ahead. This year is extra exciting as it marks 150 years of Josephites and, as your College Captains, we feel particularly privileged to be the voice of our community at such a special time. We are also looking forward to connecting with the 8 committed students in our leadership team, meeting regularly and discussing ideas to act upon, for the benefit of the student body.

So what can we achieve as individuals and as a College this year?

During the conference, we were reminded by Sister Jan of the importance of our youth that has in today’s society. We are the future of our country. People of all ages, if students require contact with you during the day, as our policy dictates that phones should be “off and away” between the first and last bell of the day. If you wish to connect with you during the day to check arrangements, or if they are feeling unwell contact with you will be made by our reception staff. I ask your support in this matter as on a number of occasions students have phoned home, parents arrived and we were unaware of what had gone on prior to pre-empt this.

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Above: Meg Francis, Charlotte Kenny

Meg and Charlotte are thankful for the College for the opportunity to enrich their leadership at JIAMM 2016.

Mrs Donna Brown
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT WELLBEING

UPCOMING YEAR 9 OUTREACH: GIRLS’ AND BOYS’ DAY OUT
Year 9s have a unique opportunity for Outreach in March and April for the first time this year. The Girls’ and Boys’ Day Out are facilitated by Eddie Rice Camps, who invite primary school-aged children from the local area to be buddied up with our students for an afternoon of games, fun and food. The aim of the program is to provide our committed students in Year 9 with a mentor for the afternoon, and to allow our Mackillop College students to connect with others in an outreach experience.

Eddie Rice Camps will facilitate one “Girls’ Day Out” on Friday, March 18 and one “Boys’ Day Out” on Friday, April 1 at Mackillop College. Year 9 students will be set the task of leading their young buddies in an afternoon of games, fun and competitions. Best wishes to our outstanding Year 9 students!

Ms Donna Brown
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT WELLBEING

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING and TEACHING

During these first few weeks, I have started to settle into my new position and it has been interesting to be in a learning role as I struggle to understand a new database and a new job. It has made me realise how important it is to allow our students to work on understanding rather than gathering knowledge.

I could easily read the manual or listen to a lecture, even watch a YouTube video to gain the knowledge I need to use the database, but to really understand and work with it, I have to practise, make mistakes and correct them, reread information, answer my own questions, talk to others and then have a go by myself before I feel as if I understand it confidently.

The number of hours allocated to a subject and the content we should cover does not always allow students the time to revisit, practise and hone their understanding of a topic or concept and so it is often up to the student to spend some time outside of the subject to work on this. We want students to be engaged in school or not motivated to work on their own, so this year we are again offering the Tuesday After-School Tutoring Sessions from 3.30pm – 4.30pm. These sessions are held in the Rice Resource Centre. Teachers volunteer to work with students in this time and expect students to bring with them the work they need help with, or want to revise:

• Tuesday, 3:30pm – 4:30pm;  
• Rice Resource Centre;  
• Students sign up at the College Office;  
• Students should bring work with them;  
• Students are to be picked up promptly at the end of the session.

In other news, there were a number of Year 7 students for whom we did not have literacy and Numeracy (PAT) results from 2015. Last week we tested these students using the PAT Comprehension so they can be placed in a REP class after camp. Further testing will take place for Maths, spelling and vocabulary. New students in Years 8-10 will be tested in the next few weeks. These results will assist us to monitor student improvement and to identify strengths and weaknesses in teaching programs as well as provide individual help. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me (darnett@mackillop.tas.edu.au).

Mrs Debbie Arnett  
DIRECTOR OF LEARNING AND TEACHING

TO PERMISSION TO ADMINISTER MEDICATION LETTERS

If your child needs to have medication of any type during the school day please ensure an Ongoing Medication Form is completed and returned to the College Office. This form is available from the College Office.

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

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

SCHOOL BUSES
The schedule for the afternoon and morning buses to the College is now finalised. I am aware that with the changes to the Metro numbering and route changes this year there have been issues. I assure parents that Metro is keen to work with the College to find the best solutions. Please don’t hesitate to contact us if there are any continuing issues. Metro have also asked parents to log their concerns via the Metro Shop (phone, web or email), so that the matter can be taken up by their administration.

One issue has been Mackillop College students missing the bus to Warrane and the City in the afternoon. There appears to be some confusion over which bus stop our general access services depart from compared to the school buses. The school bus zone outside the College is designed for exactly that purpose – for students to board school buses. The Metro bus stop for general access services travelling to Metro Station Boundary St is located on the opposite side of the road from where the Warrane and the City bus departs at around 3.21pm.

I would like to thank Tasmania’s Own Redline and the Coal River Bus Company for their excellent level of service and their professional attitude in providing the best possible service.

MRS SUE HOWARD
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

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MRS SUE HOWARD
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL