Our leadership style is of vital importance to our children because, for better or worse, parenting styles tend to repeat from one generation to the next. The good news is that everyone has the capacity to develop good parenting styles and to be aware not to repeat patterns that expose children to negative and destructive experiences. Our children will feel loved and secure, if the way we go about living our lives and engaging with our children is in a positive, friendly, yet firm manner.

Our children will sense a comfortable and uplifting atmosphere and environment that allows them to be relaxed and open. If we choose to be in the middle of these two styles, we will be choosing an authoritative-democratic style. This style is based on respect, love and trust, where positive communication and cooperation are enjoyed on a daily basis. Our children will probably feel safe, loved and accepted, yet free to be who they are. If we are pro-active and foreseen problems before they can fully emerge, if we can welcome opinions and offers while not guaranteeing that our children will always get what they want, then our children will be confident, able to think for themselves and able to make decisions that have a positive outcome. If our leadership has a confidence about it, it will inspire our children to take up the leadership role in their own lives.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF LEARNING & TEACHING

SMS MESSAGING AS A CONSEQUENCE OF NON-SUBMISSION OF WORK
We have implemented a system by which a teacher can initiate an SMS message to a parent whenever a key assessment task has not been submitted by the due date. This service is due to go online from 5:00 pm on Wednesday, March 19.

The SMS message informs the parent that the required submission has not occurred and requests them to contact the initiating teacher to discuss how to progress the matter further. At the same time, an email will be dispatched to parent, student and initiating teacher in case of failure of the messaging system. By using this service we are able to better inform parents in a more timely manner if their child is not maintaining the correct work ethic. At the same time, we are hoping to encourage our students to initiate the correct dialog with their subject teachers if they feel they are struggling and require more support to complete tasks in a timely manner.

Dr John Snell
DIRECTOR OF LEARNING AND TEACHING

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Parenting is not an easy gig. I know that from first-hand experience. We, as parents, are forever faced with the dilemma of what to hang on to and what to let go when dealing with our children. Or, as I have heard it said in other circles, “You need to pick your battles to win the war”. Over the years I have seen this predicament played out many times with parents / carers of our students. I recently came across this reflection on parenting which I thought would be worth sharing.

During his presidency, Bill Clinton once remarked that running a country was a lot like running a cemetery: you have a lot of people under you and nobody is listening. His remark seems to suggest that being a leader is a little more difficult than it might appear to be. The leadership role of parents in their family situation is likewise more difficult than it appears to be. The degree of difficulty depends somewhat on the style of leadership we choose to use and our reason for choosing that particular style.

If we choose to use an autocratic style, where we totally dominate and use the benefit of our authority to impose our will on our children, then we will be in for a power struggle and will have to use threats, fear and punishment to achieve what we want. Unfortunately, our children will probably feel unsafe, unloved and untrusting of us. Our very strict rules and suffocating structures will cease our children to yearn for freedom, to be rid of us and our heavy-handed style of parenting.

If we choose the opposite extreme and choose to use a permissive style and choose to be physically or emotionally absent, don’t set limits, be afraid to say “no” and never tell our children accountable, then we will reign over chaos. Our children will think they have the right to do anything they like and, because they don’t respect us, they won’t respect other forms of authority. Unfortunately, our children will probably be perplexed by life, lack motivation to achieve because they have never known structure in their lives, and will find themselves easy prey for people who do not have their best interests at heart; they too, will live in fear and feel unloved.

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MACKILLOP CATHOLIC COLLEGE ENROLMENTS - YEAR 7, 2015

Mackillop Catholic College invites applications for places for Year 7 students for 2015.

Application forms and information about the College are available from the Principal’s Secretary by phoning 6245 0099 or email: enquiries@mackillop.tas.edu.au

You can also visit our website and download an application form: www.mackillop.tas.edu.au

College tours are available. They are conducted on a Tuesday morning, starting at 9.00 am. Bookings are essential. Please phone the Principal’s Secretary on 6245 0099 to arrange a tour.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE ON THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2014

MACKILLOP CATHOLIC COLLEGE
VOLUME 22 - NO. 03 - MARCH 19, 2014

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played a key role in Learning Support and the Library over the last 10 years. On behalf of the College I would like to thank Jenny for all her contributions to the College. The Year 10 Student Leaders will dictates that phones should be “off and away” between the first and last bell for the day. If students require contact with you during the day to check arrangements, or if they are feeling unwell, contact with you will be made by our administration staff.

CONTACT DETAILS
Please remember to update your contact details with the College Office if there is any change to phone contacts, addresses etc.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF STUDENT WELLBEING

NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST BULLYING AND VIOLENCE - FRIDAY, MARCH 21

Despite this Friday being a Student Free Day, it is important to note that it is also National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence. Mackillop is a registered association of the College of “Bullying. No Way!” – a government organisation managed by the Safe and Supportive School Communities (SSSC) Working Group.

Although this event is highlighted nationally this Friday, May 21, its message is echoed every day at Mackillop. Anti-bullying education is an important part of our Personal Development Program for all year groups.

The Bullying. No Way! website: www.bullyingnoway.gov.au has information and strategies for parents and students of all ages about the National Day of Action and how we can all help create a supportive school environment free from bullying, harassment and violence. Also available on the site is the Take a Stand iPod app, for tips and advice on dealing with bullying.

BULLY – THE CINEMATIC DOCUMENTARY

This week the Years 9-12 commenced the viewing of the character-driven documentary “Bully”. Filmed over the course of a year, “Bully” opens the window onto the painful and often endangered lives of bullied students. It documents the responses of teachers, students and parents and captures the growing movement among our community to change how bullying is handled in our society.

from the Deputy Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF STUDENT WELLBEING

NATIONAL CYBERSMART PRESENTATION - TUESDAY, APRIL 8

Cyberbullying is one of the biggest, current concerns for teachers, parents and students. While the world online can be a powerful and engaging one for young people and adults alike, it can also be a damaging one. The National Cybersmart Program will be visiting Mackillop in Week 9 of Term 1 and delivering a presentation during Personal Development to the whole school. The Cybersmart program aims to:

- inform students and staff about cybersecurity issues;
- educate audiences through information, resources and practical advice;
- empower students to be safe online.

SRC NOMINATION AND ELECTION PROCESS YEAR 7 - 9

Last Tuesday, Dr Towns addressed all students in Year 7-9 to encourage them to consider being a leader at Mackillop. During Personal Development, students have had the opportunity to nominate themselves or another member of their Home Room to be considered for SRC. Nominated students will be required to write and deliver a speech to their Home Room prior to the election. Elections for all Year groups will take place on Tuesday, April 1.

PI DAY 2014

PI, Greek letter (π), is the symbol for the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. It is an irrational number (it cannot be written as a fraction) with an infinite number of non-repeating, seemingly random, decimal places. Pi = 3.1415926535 etc. PI Day is celebrated by maths enthusiasts around the world on March 14. This year marks Mackillop College's third consecutive, and most successful, celebration of the day.

Throughout the week leading up to PI Day, several maths classes investigated the relationship between a circle’s circumference and its diameter. Circles of many different sizes were measured and when their circumferences were divided by their diameters, students discovered that the result was nearly the same, regardless of the size of the circle. The results were very close to 3 (π = 3.14…). Mr Capaci’s and Mr Cramer’s Year 9 class made a human Pi symbol (π) on the basketball court. Mr Cramer’s Year 8 classes enjoyed mini Pi-memorisation challenges using an iPad app. Mr Cramer’s Year 8 class read “Sir Cumference and the dragon of Pi” by Cindy Neuschwander. These students also wrote stories using the first 20 digits of Pi, associating the number of the digit with the number of letters in a word. Some Year 10 students graphed the number of times each digit appeared in 100 digit blocks of Pi. They found that the numbers were not evenly spread in each block. Mrs Graham’s Year 7 class made a “Pi paper chain”, with each digit being represented by a different coloured paper. They managed the first 150 digits and some helpful Year 9s rounded it off to an even 200.

Pie sales in the canteen reached a record high, with fruit pies proving to be just as popular as steak pies. Again the highlight of PI Day was the Pi digit recitation competition, held at lunchtime in front of a packed house. All 13 individual competitors, plus Mrs Arnett’s Year 7 class, are to be commended. It is not an easy feat to memorise and recite a seemingly random string of numbers. Special mention to Mariessa Mattrocce (Yr 7) who flew through an 85 digit recitation. Congratulations to the five students who broke the “100 digit barrier”: A.J. McEwan (Yr 9 – 110), Laura Cruise (Yr 8 – 160), Molly Steer (Yr 10 – 180) and Zoe Tedes (Yr 8 – 190). All competitors received a personalised certificate and there were also prizes of Pi magnets, key rings and Pi pins.

Mrs Ben Howard
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT WELLBEING

Mr Nicholas Lahey
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT WELLBEING

Isabelle Brighella – College Captain, Hobart Campus
Alexandra Ford – House Captain (Bosco)

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM – LITERACY AND NUMERACY (NAPLAN) 2014

In 2008, the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) commenced in Australian schools. The program is scheduled to continue in 2014 with all students in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9 to be assessed using common national tests in Reading, Persuasive Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy.

Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students in Tasmania have been participating in literacy and numeracy tests for a number of years, so there is familiarity with the test formats and the types of questions. The scheduled dates for the tests in 2014 are Tuesday, May 13, Wednesday, May 14 and Thursday, May 15.

These national tests will provide information on how students are progressing against national minimum standards of literacy and numeracy skills expected for each year level, as well as performance across the whole range of student abilities. The results will support improvements in teaching and learning for students.

Parents will receive an individual report that shows their child’s results and a comparison of their child’s performance against all other Australian students in their year level. The report will also indicate how their child performed in comparison to the national average and the levels of achievement expected at that year level.

For students in Years 5, 7, and 9, the results from the 2014 tests will provide parents and schools with important information on progress made since they last participated in NAPLAN testing in 2012.

The best way you can assist your child is by making them feel comfortable about the nature and purpose of the tests, and assure them that the tests will give them an opportunity to show what they have learned in class.

For more information about the national tests, including test samples, frequently asked questions, the test schedule and a parent information brochure, please visit the national NAPLAN website at: http://www.nap.edu.au

STAFF NEWS
This week the College will farewell Mrs Jenny Brighella. Jenny has