



Heart, Mind and Spirit – news from MacKillop Catholic College

We acknowledge and pay respect to the first peoples and ongoing custodians of this land, the Gimuy Walubara Yjindji people

Echoes of St Peter ...



In the Gospel readings through Lent, Jesus friend and disciple Peter the fisherman is a constant presence. Always in the frame somewhere, and notably in the

foreground on a number of occasions, Peter holds up a mirror to us, reflecting various phases in the experience of discipleship; enthusiasm, unworthiness, misunderstanding, failure, acceptance, belief, resolve, action, faith. *(In a sense, the Lenten faith journey is a microcosm of an individual's life faith journey)*

It is St Peter who at the Last Supper initially objects to Jesus washing his feet, but then submits whole-heartedly to Jesus' symbolic act revealing the essence of Christian leadership and service. Peter was at Jesus' side when he told the memorable parable of the prodigal son and the forgiving father. He watched as Jesus doodled in the sand while the angry mob, intent on stoning to death the condemned woman, left one-by one shamefaced in the self-knowledge of their own guilt. And on Easter morning it is as if we race with Peter to the empty tomb, to see for ourselves what was reported by the women; that Jesus is indeed risen and lives, and begin to comprehend what this now means for our own living and dying.

However, it is St Peter's moment on the Mount of Transfiguration that I want of focus on now. Peter with James and John – Jesus' inner circle – were with the Lord on the mountain where he had taken them for a time for withdrawal and serious reflection. While Jesus was deep in prayer, they observed the appearance of his face change and his clothes become dazzling white. With Jesus appeared both the quintessential law giver and prophet – Moses and Elijah. And then they were overshadowed by the cloud, an ancient symbol of the immanent presence of the Divine, from which was heard the voice proclaiming Jesus as God's Son, the chosen one. Peter was so engaged and enthusiastic by what he was experiencing that he suggested to Jesus – ***"It's so good for us to be here, let's build tents so that we can stay a while longer!"***



UPCOMING DATES	
Fri 04 March	Clean Up Australia Day – playing our part at MacKillop CC
Mon 07 March	Prep 2017 Enrolment Interviews – continue
Mon 14 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Photo Day Keeping In Touch – Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews commence from this day
Wed 16 March	Andrew Chinn in Concert at MacKillop
Fri 18 March	National day of action against bullying
Fri 18 March	Prayer Assembly, <i>Feast of St Joseph</i>
Thu 24 March	Easter Prayer Assembly Term 1 concludes 2:50pm Holy Thursday
Fri 25 March	Good Friday
Sun 27 March	Easter Day
Mon 11 April	Term 2 commences
Fri 05 August	Official Opening – <i>claim the date</i>



MacKillop College News – Heart, Mind and Spirit

MacKillop’s whole student body echoed those words of St Peter at a recent Friday School Assembly. We were congratulating our students on how well they had settled into their new school and how quickly they were engaging in their learning. I made comment that we were already over the halfway point in Term 1 and that in four weeks we would have to have a few weeks off. To our utter surprise and amazement, **the student body as one let out a disappointed cry; ‘Nooooo!’**

The clear inference is that our students love their new school; so much so that, like St Peter, they want the experience to go on and on. They haven’t yet asked to bring tents and sleeping bags, but their enthusiasm is evident. I attribute this enthusiasm to supportive and encouraging families, fantastic teachers leading the learning of our students, and a great bunch of kids eager to be their best. Congratulations one and all!

Over these remaining weeks of Term 1 the learning continues. **School Photo Day** is Monday 14 March (pack your best similes that day). Individual and group photos will be taken. Order form packs and information from NQ School Photography have been distributed through the classes.



On the morning of Wednesday 16th March we will have a concert with Andrew Chinn. Andrew is an engaging musician with a great message for us. You can preview Andrew and his music at <http://www.butterflymusic.com.au/>. In our final week of Term we will hold a special assembly and prayer liturgy focusing in the three great moments in our Christian story; Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.



In the meantime we are finalising our application for the next stages of our College’s building program; the expansion of our Primary facilities and the establishment of our first Secondary school buildings. The 12 month construction program is likely to commence in December this year, delivering the new buildings for occupation in November 2017, ready for the 2018 school year. Exciting times!

So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ’s name is: be reconciled to God. – St Paul [2 Cor 5:20]

Luke Reed

LUKE REED : College Principal

News from Assistant Principal, Mrs Lyndal Rick

Praying together is part of being a faith community and part of our way at MacKillop Catholic College. Congratulations to Prep A for leading the school in prayer on Friday. Preps have been learning about how good God’s creation is and shared a song they have been learning with the school. Being able to share what they have learned and teach others increases the engagement that students have with knowledge, skills and attitudes learned in the classroom. *Well done Prep A!*



National Day Against Bullying and Violence: Friday March 18

Students learn, as part of the curriculum, what defines bullying and what they can do if they experience bullying behaviour.




Tips for parents if your child talks about bullying:

- 1/ Listen calmly and get the full story.
- 2/ Reassure your child that they are not to blame.
- 3/ Ask your child what they want to do about it and how you can help.
- 4/ visit the link below for some more strategies.
<http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au/>
- 5/ Contact the school and visit with your child's teacher.
- 6/ Check in with your child.

Things best for parents to avoid:

- Interrupting your child. Let them tell the whole story.
- Encourage them to fight back. This generally makes the situation worse.
- Neglect to speak to the class teacher. Working together is the best way forward to support your child.



BULLYING NOWAY!
SAFE AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS TOGETHER.

The National Day of Action is on...
11 05 16
Date Month Year

2016 National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence
Friday 18 March 2016

TEACHERS
STUDENTS
PARENTS
YOUNG CHILDREN
NEWS & RESOURCES
NEED HELP?

is it BULLYING?

When someone says or does something *unintentionally* hurtful and they do it once, that's **RUDE.**

When someone says or does something *intentionally* hurtful and they do it once, that's **MEAN.**

When someone says or does something *intentionally* hurtful and they *keep doing it*—even when you tell them to stop or show them that you're upset—that's **BULLYING.**

Lyndal Rick
Assistant Principal



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CREATING CHANGE

Visit www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion

Project Compassion is Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal brings thousands of Australians together in solidarity with the world's poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

What's been happening in Year 1?

We started our Music lessons with Mrs Veronese and our Mandarin lessons with Cher.



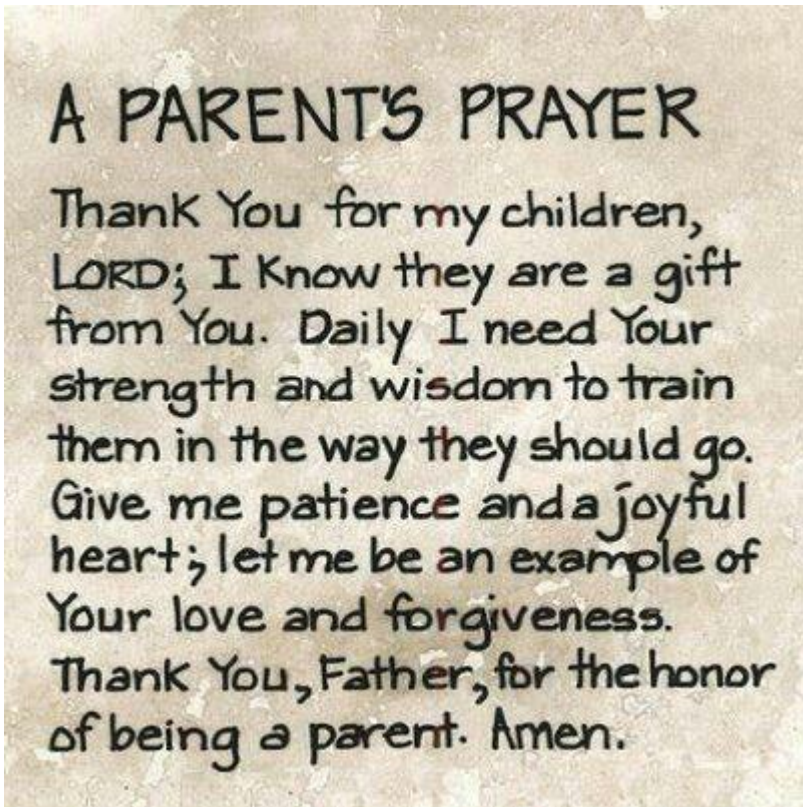
In Art, we have been learning to mix primary colours to make secondary colours.



In Science we have been learning about Light and Sound. We investigated how sound is made through vibrations.

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A Parent's Prayer

Dear Parents,

There are many articles, stories, poems and statues that talk about being a parent. I found this little prayer that I liked. I like it because it is simple, yet warm. This prayer does not lay blame, does not ask or infer someone has had to sacrifice to be a parent and is without prejudice.

It simply asks for strength, wisdom, patience, joy, love and forgiveness to be a parent.

Being a parent is a very special, yet challenging job...show love to yourself and your children on the journey you share together.

Yours in Counselling,
Carmel

Carmel Parisi, our College Counsellor, is with us at MCC every Tuesday.
Carmel welcomes approaches from Parents and can be contacted through the College Office

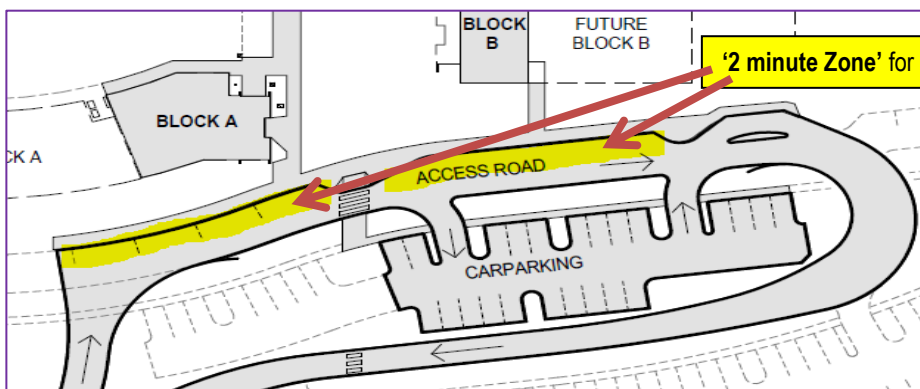
Stop - Drop/Pickup - Go -Zone



Please, let's all do our best to observe the "2 Minutes Max" of the drop-off and pick-up zone at the front of school.

If your child is not ready for collection, please do a 'drive-around' or take a spot in the car-park.

Everyone's cooperation will support a smoother experience at peak times. Thank you.



Teddy Bears Picnic



Friday 21st February was 'Teddy Bears Picnic'

Prep played games such as Ring a Ring a Rosie, Obstacle Course, Jumping Sacks and the Parachute.



The Parachute was a favourite for the teddies.

We ate our Morning Tea together and then made

teddy bear craft in the classrooms. We

had a fantastic day with our teddies.





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"We must teach more by example than by word."

Mary MacKillop
(1867)

Student Absence – notifying the College

If a student is to be absent from school, please phone the College Office on **4045 5262** to notify the nature of the absence, if possible before 8:30am. A message containing the student's name and the nature of the absence can also be emailed to the College on office studentabsent.mountpeter@cns.catholic.edu.au



If the College has not received notification of a student's absence before 9:00am, we will initiate contact with parents and carers.

Arrive Late/Leave Early



If a student **arrives at school after 8.30 am**, please call through the school office and pick up a late pass to be handed into the classroom teacher. Prep students should be accompanied by their parent/carer.

If a student **leaves school before 2.50 pm**, their Legal Guardian or registered Emergency Contact must come to the school office to sign the student out of class. If you need to **update these details** it would be appreciated if you could provide the school office with this new information.



A little bit of mercy makes the world
less cold and more just.

— Pope Francis —

AZ QUOTES

Safer Internet Tips -

Tips for Parents around ‘Screen Time’

Recently in the media there has been talk about the ‘Screen Time Dilemma for Parents’. It is easy for children to be entertained in front of a screen at certain times at home, but too much screen time can affect a child’s health and development. They will miss out on other important activities. Things like playing outdoors, talking to friends and reading are vital for kids. However, children can benefit from age-appropriate technology and watching TV or playing on the computer can be fun, entertaining and a good way to relax.



So how can you strike the right balance in your home?

- Start by learning about what technology is around. You can do your own research and talk to your children and other parents. Think about what is good about each device. And think about what you will need to limit or manage, based on your child's age.
- It's also a good idea to put some rules in place. Let your kids know what they are allowed to use and when they can use it. Discuss this as a family so that your kids can have a say too.

For more tips on ‘Screen Time’ please visit the **Parents’ Voice** and **The Triple P Parenting** websites.

- Parents’ Voice www.parentsvoice.org.au
- Triple P Parenting www.triplep-parenting.net.au



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In the early Church the annual feast of Easter was the time when new members were initiated into the Christian community. Those preparing for baptism, known as 'catechumens', fasted for two days beforehand. Gradually this time of preparation lengthened until, by the fourth century, it had become set at 40 days. Augustine explained that the authority of the 40 days comes from the time that Christ spent in the desert and from the fasts of Moses and Elias.

There has been some variation in counting the 40 days over history. Around the fifth century it became established as the period of 40 days before Holy Thursday- not counting Sundays, which are never days of fasting.

At this time it was also given the name 'Lent', from an old English word meaning 'to lengthen' which, because it was the time when the short winter days were gradually growing longer, was the name given to the season we call spring. Spring, of course, is the season when Lent occurs in the northern hemisphere.

As well as the time for catechumens to make their final preparations for initiation, Lent was a period of preparation for penitents who would be reconciled with the Christian community on Holy Thursday. Other members of the church journeyed with the catechumens and penitents during these 40 days through fasting, almsgiving and prayer.

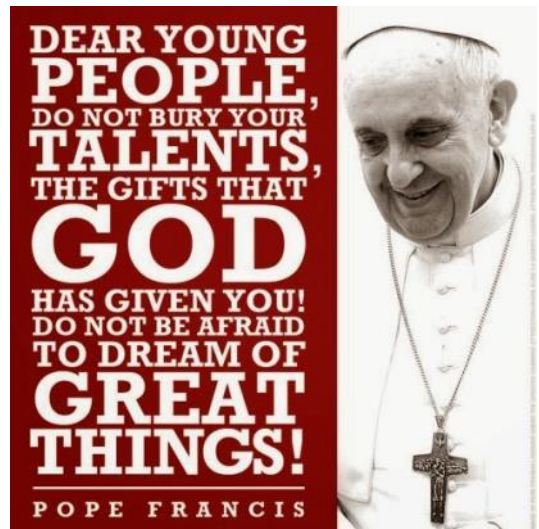
When it became the norm for infants rather than adults to be baptised and the catechumenate collapsed, Lent lost its baptismal focus and became associated almost exclusively with penance. This is why many people associate Lent exclusively with acts of self-denial, like 'giving up' a favourite food or pastime.

The second Vatican council restored the baptismal focus of this season. Paragraph 109 of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy describes Lent as being "marked by two themes, the baptismal and penitential" and calls for "more use to be made of the baptismal features proper to the Lenten liturgy".

For those who will be baptised at Easter, Lent is a period of intense preparation called the "Period of Purification and Enlightenment". In the light of God's word, they examine their lives and ask the entire Christian community to pray that whatever is weak and sinful within them may be eliminated and that whatever is good and holy may be affirmed.

And Lent is a time of purification and enlightenment for all of us as we strive to "rid ourselves of the hidden corruption of evil, and so to share his paschal meal in purity of heart" (Preface of the First Sunday of Lent).

During Lent we are all on a journey as we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery at the Easter Triduum and continue that celebration throughout the 50 days of the joyful Season of Easter.



Elizabeth Harrington

<http://liturgybrisbane.net.au/liturgylines/lent-getting-ready-for-easter/>