



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 Yidinji people

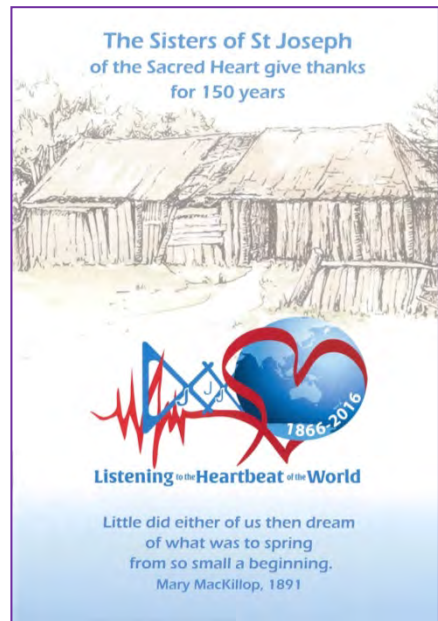
Heartbeat ...

I am sure that when our children are gathered in the *Learning Common*, if you listen closely enough you can hear their heartbeat. It's the heartbeat of the young; full of energy and wonder and fun. Their hearts resound with the rhythm of openness and belonging, secure that in this place they are known and loved. This is the heartbeat of community.

In this community they learn about the world and their place in it. They will discover that their own fulfilment is fundamentally connected to their sensitivity to listen to the heartbeat of those around them and to reach out in compassion and care. And along the way they will develop capacities of heart, mind and spirit to create a future for themselves; a future to share with those they love. This is the heartbeat of a school; a Catholic school; a Catholic school in the way of Mary MacKillop.

It was almost exactly one hundred and fifty years ago that the young Mary MacKillop dedicated her life to the service of children through education and to the care of the most needy. She was moved by the yearning heartbeat of children who had no access to schooling and the distressed heartbeat of the abandoned and dispossessed poor. Mary herself from her earliest years had learnt the way of love and care in her family and as a disciple of Jesus, attentive to his heart beating in the Scriptures, and in the prayer and worship of the Church.

And so was born the *Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart*. For a century and a half Mary MacKillop, her companions and successors, in imitation of Christ have attended to the heartbeat of our God resounding in the lives of those they have served.



Through their service of others, they share their experience of God's loving heart. And their deepest desire was and remains that others may know the fulfilment that comes when their own hearts beat as one with God's.

UPCOMING DATES	
Tues 22 March	Lunchtime Disco – hosted by 3M
Thu 24 March	Easter Prayer Assembly 9:00 am (all welcome) Term 1 concludes 2:50 pm <i>Holy Thursday</i>
Fri 25 March	<i>Good Friday</i>
Sun 27 March	<i>Easter Day</i>
Mon 11 April	Term 2 commences
Fri 15 April	Cross Country and <i>Obstacle-athon</i>
Fri 22 April	ANZAC Day – whole school Prayer
Mon 25 April	ANZAC Day – Parade at Edmonton 8:00 am
Mon 02 May	Labor Day
10 – 12 May	NAPLAN
Fri 05 August	Official College Stage 1 Opening Ceremony – <i>claim the date</i>

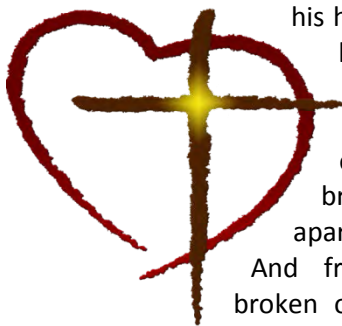


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Through these weeks of Lent almost now complete, we too have been invited to be attentive to God’s beating heart. Each week the Scriptures have reminded us of how God gives us our lives back. The Good Samaritan in his care for the one robbed and left for dead calls us to reach out to others in compassion. The father of the prodigal son reminds us of God’s deep desire that we all be reconciled. And in Jesus’ stand in solidarity with the condemned woman, we are each of us grounded in our personal need for forgiveness.

In the events we commemorate in Holy Week, we experience a Christ whose heart not only beats with compassion and mercy, but was willing to still

his heart so that we might live. In this moment of absolute self-giving – self emptying – his heart is broken; not broken apart, but broken open. And from this one heart broken open flows a font of new possibility - of new life - for all. God transforms this death into a gift of life that can never be extinguished, becoming the strong heartbeat of hope for all who believe.



**Education
is an act of hope!**
Pope Francis

This is the hope we bring to our ministry of education here at *MacKillop Catholic College*. We understand what Pope Francis means when he proclaims that ‘Education is an act of Hope’. So listen carefully to the heartbeat of our children; for like Mary MacKillop, you will hear echoed the beat of the loving heart of our God.

*If we have love in our hearts,
we shall have God with us.*
St Mary MacKillop 1890

LUKE REED : *College Principal*



Visit www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion

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



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News from Assistant Principal, Mrs Lyndal Rick



HOLY WEEK

Holy Week and Easter:

It's hard to believe that we've reached the end of the first term already. We have much to be thankful for - happy and settled students who are learning and making new friends.



Last Sunday we celebrated an important event in the calendar of the Church - Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday is the week before Easter and marks the beginning of Holy Week - the events that lead to the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Jesus' entry into the city of Jerusalem is recounted in all four of the Gospels. He rides into the city on the back of a donkey to mark the Jewish feast of Passover. The people waved palm leaves - a sign of respect, to acknowledge his presence and to celebrate his arrival.

During Palm Sunday, we prepare for Jesus' gentle and joyous entry into our lives. At MacKillop, the children will learn about Palm Sunday and the events leading to Easter as the whole school commemorates Holy Week.

On Thursday, March 24, the students will be sharing the story of Holy Week and Easter as a community. We invite all MacKillop family members to join us in the Learning Common at 9:00 am.

Project Compassion: Helping Hands, Loving Hearts.

The students at MacKillop went green on St Patrick's Day to raise money for Project Compassion. It's not just about what we do as a faith community, but why. Our call is to support the common good - the rights and dignity of all in the world. Taking action in assisting others leads us on the journey to be people of Jesus with helping hands and loving hearts. Students who wore green on St Patrick's Day donated a gold coin. All donations will be given to Project Compassion to support those communities in need around the world.



The Grade 3 students will be running a lunch time disco on Tuesday, March 22 to raise money for Project Compassion. The students have been responsible for planning the event and have used their persuasive writing skills to compose letters to Mr Reed and myself, convincing us to agree to the idea! I congratulate the Grade 3s and Mrs McDonald for their organisation and generosity of spirit in giving up their time to support such a worthy cause.



Happy Easter and safe holiday wishes to all.

Lyndal

Lyndal Rick
Assistant Principal

What's been happening in Year 1?

We enjoyed St Patrick's Day, learning about who he was and dressing in our green.



We learnt about St Joseph, and with Year 2 shared our knowledge with the rest of the school at our Friday Assembly.



We enjoyed seeing Andrew Chinn and singing and dancing to all his songs. We loved that we got to sing our class song, Rainbow.



Note to Parents:
We are having an Easter Bonnet/
Hat competition in our class.
This will be on Thursday, so please
bring in hats on this day.



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Forgiveness

As Easter sneaks closer and the school holidays are upon us please remember:



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 ☺

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Yellow Crazy Ants on the retreat

Lucy Karger, from *Wet Tropics Management Authority*, and local identity and YCA campaigner, Frank Teodo, in a recent visit to MCC reported on the effectiveness of current treatment program for this pest species in the WTMA control area.

Andrew Chinn in Concert at MCC - what a HOOT!





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Outside School Hours Care

OSHC is really starting to take off with new enrolments coming in every week.

I'm very happy to announce that we will be running Before School Care as of Term 2.

Before School Care will run from 7.00am – 8:30am and will be a time for the children to eat breakfast and do quiet activities before school.

If you would like to enrol please download an enrolment form from <http://cclc.catholic.org.au/mtpeter/index.php> or pop into the OSHC building.

All enquiries to:
Bianca Moloney
OSHC Coordinator
0439 312 901

oshc.mtpeter@cclc.catholic.org.au





Pirates and Princess Day!

Wednesday 9th February



The Prep students dressed up as a Pirate or Princess to celebrate their learning of the sound pic /p/.

We all had a fantastic day of learning songs about pirates, reading the Paper Bag Princess and creating our very own Paper bag Princess.

We were very fortunate to eat popcorn and watch Peter Pan in the afternoon to unwind from an exciting day of /p/ activities.





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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.

Guiding Gifted Children: Parent Seminar

PARENT SEMINAR

This one day seminar for parents is filled with practical information, with a solid research base, presented by experts in the field with real life experience, to help you understand giftedness and how to help your gifted child thrive.

Cost: \$150 (including GST) per day or \$250 for 2 parents/caregivers from the same family
Early bird by (1st April), \$125/\$225.

Venue: Whitfield State School, Cairns
(Please **do not** contact the school for bookings and information)

For Bookings please visit:
<http://www.trybooking.com/KPBA>

For further information please email michele@clearingskies.com.au or phone: 0438 744 994 or 0416 250 073

PARENT SEMINAR CAIRNS

For parents of gifted children and adolescents

Saturday, 23rd April, 9am – 4pm

This seminar includes:

- Understanding giftedness and talent development
- Identification and testing: why, when, who and how
- Parenting sensitive gifted children and adolescents
- Mental health, resilience and emotional well-being
- Gifted children, their friendships and relationships
- Motivating gifted students to develop academic skills
- Gifted children with learning and other disabilities
- Advocating for your child at school

Registrations close: Wednesday, 20th April



PRESENTERS

Michele Juratowitch is Director of Clearing Skies; provides counselling for gifted children and their parents; has worked in schools and introduced provisions to support gifted students. At the Gifted Education Research, Resource and Information Centre (GERRIC) at the University of New South Wales, Michele taught in parent courses; lectured teachers in a postgraduate course in Gifted Education; developed programs for students and conducted research. Michele was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to study the needs of gifted children and families, is co-author of a research report on acceleration and *Make a Twist: Curriculum differentiation for gifted students*.

Dr Rosalind Walsh is a trained high school teacher who holds a PhD from Macquarie University Institute of Early Childhood. She was the manager of the Gifted Education Research, Resource and Information Centre (GERRIC) at the University of New South Wales for 10 years. Rosalind has worked with teachers around Australia at both primary and secondary levels. Her doctoral research on young gifted children won a Vice-Chancellor's Commendation.



**Catholic
Education Services**
Diocese of Cairns

Learning with Faith and Vision

14 March 2016

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Dear Parents and Carers

Many of you will be aware of recent industrial action taken by some staff our school in the Cairns diocese. The industrial action arises from negotiations for a new enterprise agreement concerning wages and work conditions for our staff.

I am aware that the Independent Education Union of Australia (the union) has recently contacted some parents to provide information about the claims it is making on behalf of some staff and I am writing to provide you with more information about the Catholic Education employer's position in order to provide balance on these important issues.

While it is the right of all staff to take industrial action, it should be acknowledged that across Queensland the majority of school staff (about 83%) decided not to participate in the union's last strike action on 25 February 2016. Indeed, fewer than 25% of all school staff in Queensland voted for the strike action in the first place. It is apparent that more and more staff simply want a resolution to this process so they can continue to focus on the education of our students.

It is also important to acknowledge that there are in-principle agreements to 17 employee claims. In terms of current negotiations with the union, the following four points capture the employer's position:

Wages

- Employers have tabled a fair wages increase of 2.5% which is in line with current conditions in the Queensland market place. The cost of living (CPI) index has risen 1.7 per cent in the last 12 months. This wage offer is also consistent with similar wage offers to teachers in other states.
- In 2015 Queensland state school teachers received the equivalent of a 2.5% annual wage increase also and Catholic school staff, historically and presently, are generally paid the same as state school staff.
- The increase comes with an offer of backpay and a commitment to match any further increases provided to state school teachers.
- The union has changed its claim in the last month. It has departed from its original claim for an across-the-board increase of 3.25% to a claim that varies according to a teacher's classification – their new claim, which is viewed as being unfair, has teachers receiving between 2.53% and 4.48% in the first year depending on their classification level.
- Employers have offered to conduct a joint review of the current teachers' classification structure. The union have not as yet agreed to this offer.
- In the Cairns diocese boarding schools staff received a 7.5% wage increase after negotiations with the union on boarding school staff and conditions fell over with the union disagreeing to continue participating in a joint working party.
- Employers have provided agreement in-principle to the consolidation of working conditions and the modernisation of the classification structure for our Services Staff. For many, this will result in a higher level of remuneration.



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Comparisons with other states like NSW

- The union continues to argue a case that Qld Catholic teachers be given wage parity with NSW without considering the obvious and stark differences in employment conditions.
- The wage classification systems and work conditions in NSW are quite different to Queensland. For example, in NSW teachers have conditions based on different working hours and different finishing times each year.
- It is misleading and wrong for the union to claim that all NSW catholic school staff receive higher wages than Queensland Catholic school staff for performing equivalent duties.
- Under the current employer wages offer, as at 1 July 2016 our most experienced classroom teachers could be earning \$96 070 . In NSW, as at 1 July 2016 the classroom teacher level used in union comparisons could expect to be paid \$95 466 .
- In NSW teachers received only 2.27% wage increase in 2015 and received a 2.5% wage increase in 2016. The offer by Queensland Catholic schools exceeds or matches these percentage increases.

Workloads

- Employers have provided agreement in-principle to enhanced arrangements with regard to teacher access to Preparation and Correction time. (non-teaching time)
- Employers have provided agreement in-principle to implement measures to address increased workload associated with electronic communication. (e.g. emails)

Term-Time employees

- The union continues to demand 4 weeks annual leave be paid to term-time employees who are employed for 39-41 weeks/year, claiming this is the 'community standard'. This is not correct. The national employment standards, applying to many Queensland workplaces including Catholic schools, is for annual leave to accrue according to the employee's ordinary hours of work. This means that employees working less than 52 weeks per year (e.g. part time or term time employees) will be paid 4 weeks annual leave on a pro rata basis. This is already provided to all term-time employees in our schools and they are paid the equivalent of 4 weeks leave on a pro rata basis.
- Queensland Catholic school employers are complying with the national employment standards contained within the *Fair Work Act 2009*.
- The adoption of the union claim in this instance would result in instances of inequitable working conditions within our schools.

I am conscious of the impact that industrial action has on our schools wish to assure you that I remain committed to negotiating with the union in good faith to bring the bargaining process to a conclusion.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these important issues.

Yours sincerely



BILL DIXON
Executive Director