

## Heart, Mind and Spirit – news from MacKillop Catholic College

Dear MacKillop families and friends of our College

Welcome this first edition of our Newsletter for 2016!

What a fantastic privilege we enjoy to be members of our school community in its inaugural year. These first days have unfolded well as we have begun the process of getting to know one another and settling into routines. Children feeling safe and welcome in their surroundings, with routines which are supportive and predictable, make for a school climate tuned into engagement and learning.

Our families have been most understanding and accommodating about the surprisingly few hiccups we have experienced so far; thank you! We know there will be more to come, but our flexibility and focus on the bigger picture will see us through.



*Arriving for the first day of school*

words of St Mary MacKillop, “Do all you can to assist and love one another”, so pertinent for us as we work together, families and staff, for the best interests, education and wellbeing of our children.

*May God bless our school with abundant growth in the lives of our students!*



**Luke Reed : College Principal**

*... We acknowledge and pay respect to the first peoples and ongoing custodians of this land, the Gimuy Wulbarra Yidinji people ...*

### **Prep 2017 Enrolment Interviews**

Already over 40 applications have been received for next year's Prep classes. Interviews will be held early in March.

Parents are welcome to bring their children to our 'Come and See' morning Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February, from 9:00 to 10:30.

As a Catholic School, the starting point of all of our endeavours is our children. We approach our work knowing that each one of them, like all of us, is created in God's image and likeness. Our task is not to turn them out small and finished, but to equip them well for life's life-long task: growing into the persons God created them to be. The education we offer - a holistic education which attends to heart, mind and spirit – must be the very best we can offer. In this way we honour their God-given human dignity. These thoughts echo the words of Pope Francis: “**Education is an act of hope**”.

Congratulations to our staff team who have done an excellent job in readying the place to welcome the children and then help them to settle so well. At our recent Parent Evenings, Lyndal Rick shared with us these



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## News from the Assistant Principal: Mrs Lyndal Rick



### LENT



Ash Wednesday (10<sup>th</sup> February), marks the beginning of the liturgical season of Lent.

Lent is a 40 day period leading up to Easter and is a time to reflect on the moments in our lives where our thoughts and actions have disrupted our relationship with others and with God. The season of Lent provides us with the opportunity to give up old ways to make room for new- a spring clean of the heart and soul to enable God’s merciful love to flow through us.

This year, Pope Francis reminds us that God’s mercy transforms human hearts and through this experience of divine love, we in turn, become merciful. In class our students will be learning about acts of mercy and how they can show mercy through small acts of kindness, prayer and by organising class fund raising activities for Project Compassion.

We extend a warm invitation to all members of the MacKillop family to join us in the Learning Common for the Ash Wednesday service, which will commence at 11:30 am.



### PROJECT COMPASSION

Project compassion is an annual event run by Caritas Australia. The Mission of Caritas Australia is to help people all around the world to help themselves, regardless of religion, ethnicity or political belief. With Mary MacKillop as our patron, we look to her tireless work with the most needy in our pioneering history, for inspiration. The students will be working with their teachers to come up with ways to raise money for needy communities in the world. All money will be then donated to Project Compassion.

This term is liturgically rich and offers many ‘firsts’ for us as a community as we embark on developing the Faith Life of the School together. Welcome to our journey of faith!





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### TEACHING AND LEARNING

One of the main focus areas at MacKillop is to support students to develop their literacy skills in a fun and engaging manner. The SSP (Speech to Sound Pics) approach begins with what the students already know and bring to school—their speech. Teachers will work with the children to develop their capacity to hear the speech sounds in words and ‘map’ them to the letter or letters that are used to spell them. This process is called ‘code mapping’. Code mapping wires the brain to make the process of learning to read and spell systematic.

The focus is on reading for pleasure. We are excited about introducing an engaging learning process that allows all students to be taught in the way they learn best, and establishes a common language for learning, throughout our school.

SSP is a fun, child-centred approach developed to ensure that every student thrives, feels excited about their own learning journey and successful in their growth. ‘How far travelled?’ is the focus for students, not a comparison of reading levels with others. The personal learning journey of each student is tracked, starting from an initial evaluation to identify their starting point. Watch this space for more information about this approach and feel free to speak with your child’s teacher about their progress.

*Lyndal Rick*

### Introducing our School Counsellor: *Mrs Carmel Parisi*

Dear Parents,

My name is Carmel and I am the counsellor at MacKillop Catholic College. I am at MCC on a Tuesday, on a weekly basis. At the school, I do both individual and group work with the children here at the school.

If you would like to make a referral for your child to see me for individual counselling, please see your teacher or admin for a referral form. You then just need to return this form, signed, and I will make contact with you. We will then meet and discuss your child and the counselling process. If you are okay to proceed with counselling, I will then make a time to see your child when I am at the school.

If your child has previously participated in counselling in their previous school, please let me know if you want this to commence here and I can make contact with your previous school to obtain their file and then give you the consent form for this school to sign. The process will be the same as I have outlined above.

Should your child be involved in a group, I will send home a consent form for your child to participate in the group prior to the group starting. This lets you know what we will be doing. I do ask that you think about letting your child participate in the groups, as often it is a great learning experience for them. I am always more than happy to answer your questions and queries about the groups I am running, should you need further clarification.

From time to time, I may also engage your child in “Circle Time” activities in the classroom. These activities will form part of your child’s learning during the day in their classroom with their teacher, so you will not need to sign a consent form for this.

Yours in Counselling,

*Carmel*



# Look what's happening in 3M!



Science Melting  
Moments



Making friends &  
learning 😊

PICCOLLAGE



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## Come and See Morning – Open Classrooms

**Wednesday, 24th February, 2016, 9 am to 10.30 am**

**Corrected Date**

All MacKillop families are welcome to come and see classes in action. Families considering enrolling children in Prep 2017 are most welcome to attend. Interviews for 2017 will occur in early March.

Please feel free to share this information with families and friends interested in enrolling their children at MacKillop.



*Gudju Gudju Fourmile extends the welcome of the Yidinji people.*



## Term Dates 2016

Term 1:	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January – Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	(9 week term)
Term 2:	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> April – Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	(11 week term):
Term 3	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> July – Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	(10 week term):
Term 4	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	(9 week term)

*"Be full of forgiveness, hope and love"*

*St Mary MacKillop (1873)*



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## School Day Timetable

	Start	Finish	Duration
<b>Start of School Day</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>		
<b>Learning Session 1</b>	8:30 am	10:40 am	2:10
First Break	10:40 am	11:10 am	0:30
<b>Learning Session 2</b>	11:10 am	1:10 pm	2:00
Second Break	1:10 pm	1:40 pm	0:30
<b>Learning Session 3</b>	1:40 pm	2:50 pm	1:10
<b>End of School Day</b>	<b>2:50 pm</b>		
<b>College Office Hours</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>3:30pm</b>	

## Student Drop-off and Pick-up times – limited student supervision

### Prep Students

- Parents and carers are asked to **personally escort Prep students** to the Prep classroom covered area each morning, after 8:15.
- Parents and carers are asked to **personally collect Prep students** from the Prep classroom each afternoon at 2:50.
- Students attending OSHC will be collected from the classroom and signed in by staff.
- This arrangement will remain in place for at least Term 1, but will continue until Prep students are ready to undertake the same drop-off and pick-up arrangements as older students.

### Students Yr 1 to Yr 3

College staff will provide 15 minutes supervision of students before and after the school day.

- In the morning, **staff supervision commences at 8:15am**
  - Students should gather in covered area near the Prep classrooms.
  - Please follow staff directions at all times.
- In the afternoon, **staff supervision concludes at 3:05 pm**
  - Students will normally be supervised in the area adjacent to the carpark pick-up zone.
  - In the event of **heavy rain**, students will be supervised in the Block C covered areas between classrooms, where they can be collected by parents and carers.
  - Students attending OSHC will be collected from the classroom and signed in by staff.
  - Please follow staff directions at all times.





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### 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](mailto: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.



**OSHC (Outside School Hours Care)** has commenced. Both permanent and casual options for after-school-care are available.

Please contact Bianca Moloney, MacKillop OSHC Service Coordinator on 4045 5202 or [oshc.mtpeter@cclc.catholic.org.au](mailto:oshc.mtpeter@cclc.catholic.org.au) for enquires or bookings.

Families can register their interest with Bianca for "Before School Hours Care" at MacKillop OSHC.



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### Safer Internet Day - Tuesday, 09 February, 2016

#### "Be smart, Play your Part."

This year the theme for Safer Internet Day is "**Be smart, Play your Part.**"

As part of our Digital Literacy and Citizenship curriculum, our students will be participating in activities on how they can play their part on using digital technologies safely and appropriately.

As a digital school, we will be encouraging our families to reinforce these messages at home.

More information will be handed during the week.



***Keep an eye out for top tips each Newsletter on how you can help your child stay safe online.***







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### Good News Visit

*Year 3 Students, Harper, Tyler, Paige and Xzavia, share the good news of their learning with Mr Reed.*



### January Birthdays – Years 1 to 3



*Chloe and Phoebe are the first the hear ‘the birthday song’ at MacKillop*



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### Planning Ahead – looking to the possible commencement of Year 7 in 2018



We are in the process of planning for the expansion of the College to have facilities ready for Year 5 and Year 6 in 2018 and 2019. Design and planning will occur in 2016 with construction in 2017.

We have already received a great deal of feedback from families requesting Secondary options be available as soon as possible. In response, **we are exploring the possible early expansion into Secondary School in 2018 (Year 7).**

Students who are currently (2015) in Year 5 would be ready to begin Secondary School (Year 7) in 2018.

MacKillop's case for the early commencement of Secondary School would be strengthened by expressions of interest from local families keen to have a secondary school option at MacKillop from 2018. We would appreciate it if interested families would provide us details of children they would strongly consider enrolling at *MacKillop* if the Secondary School option was available.

An on-line confidential form is available at <http://goo.gl/forms/bWcJfpWidL> . A separate on-line form for each individual child is required.

Completing the on-line form is for planning purposes only and does not commit families to enrolling their children at MacKillop Catholic College. All information provided is handled confidentially in accord with the Privacy Policy of Cairns Catholic Education Services. The Privacy Policy can be accessed at <http://www.cns.catholic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Privacy.pdf>





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Saint **MARY MACKILLOP**  
*Mary MacKillop*



## A Woman With A Heart For Mission



### Knowledge



*By the gift of knowledge,  
we trust God will guide us*



**JOIN US FOR OUR UPCOMING DISCO BEACH PARTY**

CHILDREN FROM PREP TO GRADE 7 WELCOME  
FULLY SUPERVISED DISCO  
FOOD AND BEVERAGES AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE

**PCYC**  
**BLUE LIGHT DISCO**  
**SATURDAY 27TH FEBRUARY**  
 6:00PM-8:30PM  
 \$5 ENTRY  
 GAMES, PRIZES, BEST DRESSED  
 CHILDREN MUST BE COLLECTED BY AN ADULT

**PCYC Edmonton**  
 10 Walker Road Edmonton  
 P: 07 4045 6540 | W: pyc.org.au

**St Joseph's P&F presents**

**HEROES VS. VILLAINS TRIVIA NIGHT 2016**

**\$10**  
Per person, tables of 10.

**Friday 4th March 2016**  
 6.30pm - St Joseph's School Hall

**Prizes for: best dressed hero, villain & table.**

- ★ Raffles
- ★ BYO snacks & drinks
- ★ Tea/coffee available

*Don't forget our historical heroes & villains, Anne Frank, Ned Kelly, Joan of Arc...*

**Limited tickets - book your table now!**

For bookings or for more information contact:  
 Catherine: 0413 952 223 or jjccbo@gmail.com

**Adults only event.**

## First Day of School – Gallery

View a gallery of images of our first day at <http://www.mackillopcatholiccollege.qld.edu.au/first-day-of-term-at-mackillop/nggallery/slideshow>

