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# College Principal's message

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come to the end of the first term of the 2017 school year, we reflect on the many experiences we have shared as a community during March.

We held our Annual Open Day during Catholic Schools Week. First and foremost, Catholic Schools Week is about celebration. One of the major objectives of Catholic Schools Week (CSW) is to raise public awareness of the strengths of Catholic schools and highlight the significant contribution the Catholic education sector makes to our state and nation. CSW is an opportunity to share with the broader community the great things that take place in our schools every day. This year, Mr Todd and I asked the children to reflect on themselves as part of our MacKillop Catholic community and to "Put Themselves in the Picture" through an artwork based on Mr Todd's caricature of the two of us. This indeed gave life to the week and the children enjoyed completing their picture. During the Open Day we invited the current and future community in to see the College and what we are able to offer children and families in this partnership during their 13 years of education. We enjoyed this opportunity to share our College with many visitors and this time enabled them to see many different aspects of the College – both Primary and Secondary.

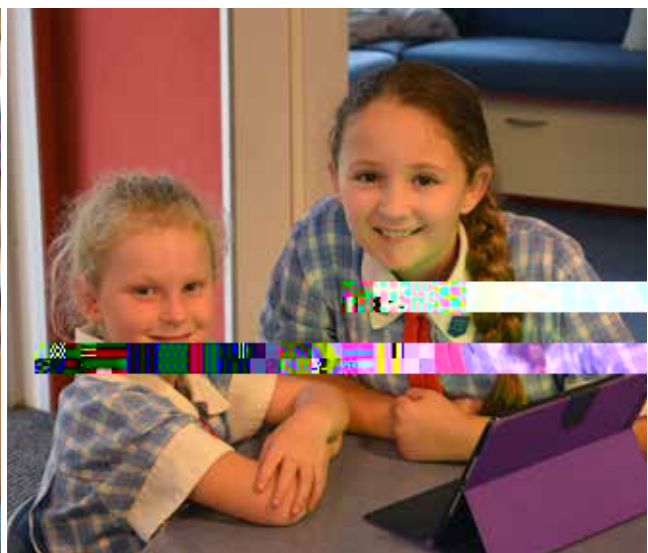
On Friday 24th March, we celebrated Harmony Day. Harmony Day celebrates Australia's cultural diversity - its inclusiveness, respect and sense of belonging for everyone. Our Harmony Day Liturgy and Parade of Nations were enjoyed by all.

Every year, I am amazed at how quickly the weeks go by as we settle our new Kindergarten children into their school life and then so suddenly we are ready to meet the families for the next year ahead. Our Parent Information Evening on Tuesday, 14 March was the opportunity for families seeking enrolment in Kindergarten and Year 7 in 2018 to meet the Leadership of the College and Executive staff and hear information about the enrolment process. If you have a child in either of these categories or have family or friends who would be seeking enrolment for 2018, please advise them to come to the College Office for an enrolment package.

Our class teachers have completed the Parent/Teacher interviews for this first term. This has been a great opportunity for parents to meet and discuss their child's progress with the teachers. The two key areas of celebrating achievements of this term and setting goals for the term ahead have been the focus of discussions during the meetings.

As we wrap up our first term with our annual Athletics Carnival, CCC Cross Country, Year 6 Transition Day and our wonderful reflection on Holy Week ahead, we can truly look back and feel blessed by the many positive experiences of mission, learning and care for each other that we have experienced.

I wish all families a wonderful holiday break and a happy and Holy Easter. We look forward to seeing all the children back at school on Wednesday, 26 April for the first day of Term 2.





staff from the Catholic Primary and Secondary schools of the Broken Bay Diocese are invited to attend an Opening School Mass with Bishop Peter Comensoli. This year the Mass was held on Thursday, 23 March at "Christ Our Light" Hall, St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga.

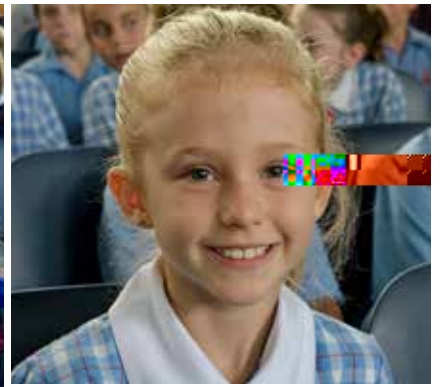
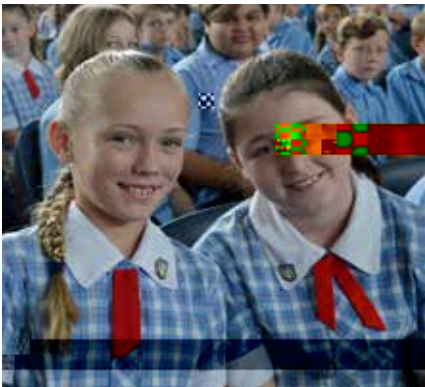
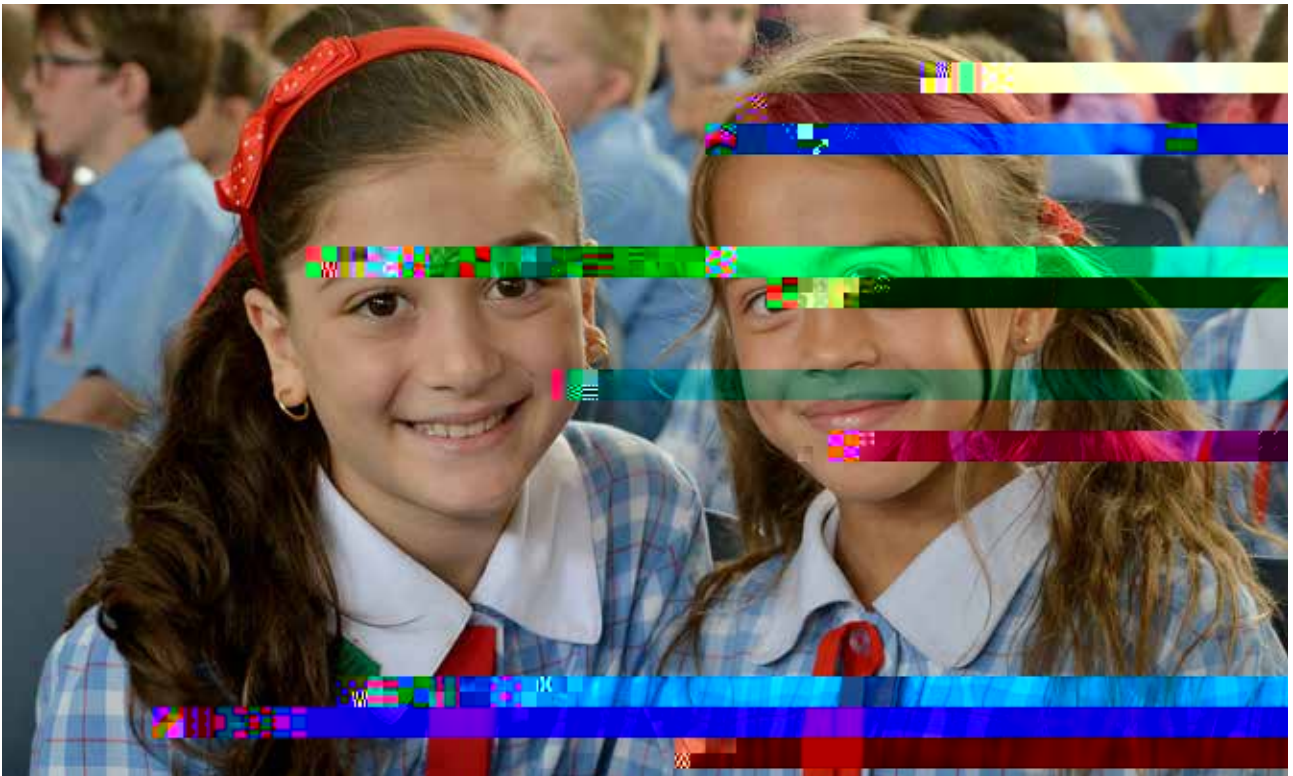
The Mass is always a beautiful celebration with hundreds of voices joined together to thank God for the unique position we share in serving in Catholic Education. As part of the ceremony the Catholic Schools Office and the Bishop honour all the new staff that have joined the Diocesan schools and each receive the Diocesan cross. They also honour all those staff who have reached various milestones in their careers for Catholic education.

This year Mrs Kerrie Calphy, who works in our photocopy room, was honoured for

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March 2017 the College community gathered in the Stephen

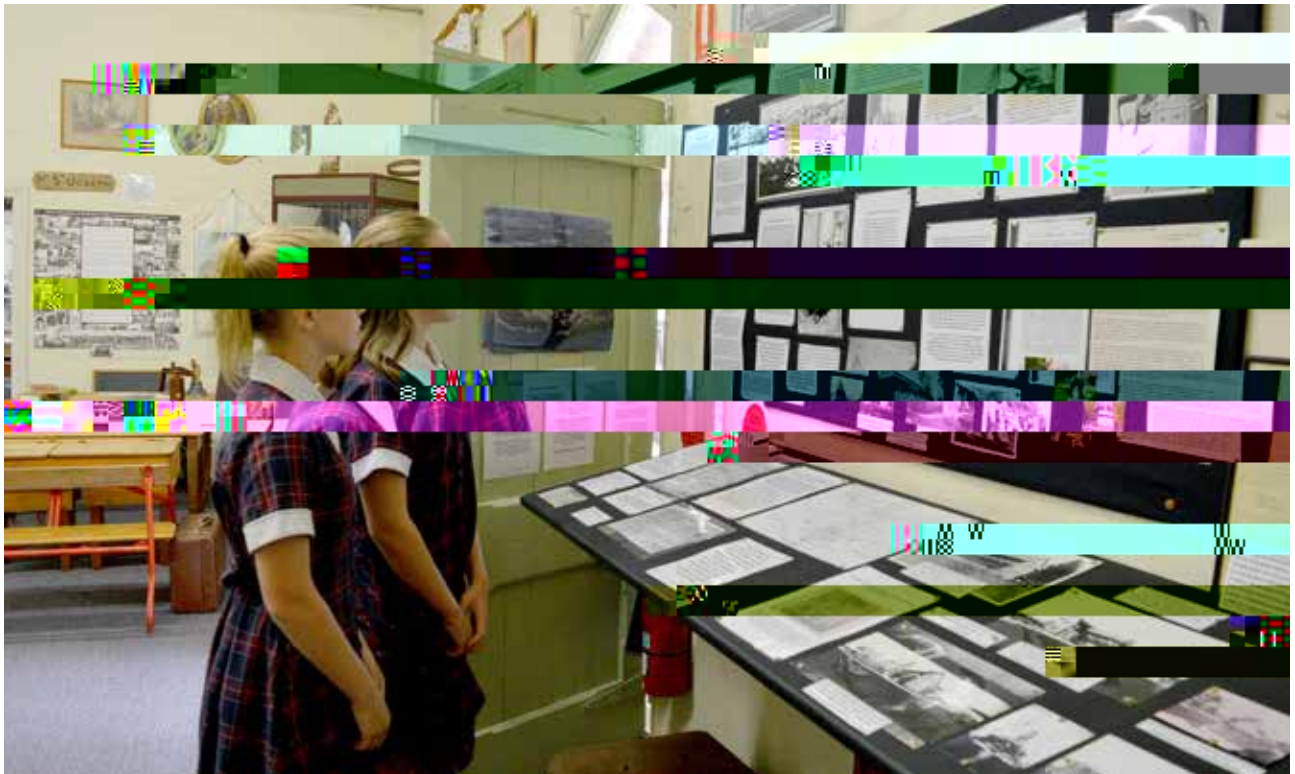




23 March, Year 7 were divided into two groups







together with energy and enthusiasm to worship and serve at our  
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# Celebrating Catholic Schools Week

*speaks about our Open Day and CSW*



(CSW) 2017 was held from 5 - 11 March and involved the communities of all Catholic primary and secondary schools across NSW and the ACT. One of the major objectives of CSW is to raise public awareness of the strengths of Catholic schools and highlight the significant contribution the Catholic education sector makes to our state and nation. CSW is an opportunity to share with the broader community the great things that take place in our schools every day. The week is designed to be a lively celebration for all who have a stake in our schools - students, staff, families, priests, and parishioners.

This year we invited our present parents and prospective families to our annual Open Day on Wednesday, 8 March from 4 - 7pm. Both the primary and secondary schools had exhibitions, games, information, displays and so much more. Our school SRC, Parliament and Peer leaders conducted guided tours, many students assisted with demonstrations in class rooms or performed, Natalie Tunstead, our Family Liaison Officer, and volunteer parents provided a free bbq and our Hospitality staff and students supplied tasty treats and beverages. We thank all our volunteers very much for the afternoon.

Our generous, talented and proud staff donated their afternoon to allow this to occur and we thank them all very much as they continue to work so hard to ensure that MacKillop is a wonderful school.

Catholic Schools Week is a celebration and everyone at MCC celebrates and is grateful for all the blessings we receive by being part of the Catholic faith and its traditions and belonging to such a wonderful community.



# Our student exchange programme

*Cherry blossom trees flourish as does our Sister School relationship,*

celebrated our 10th year Sister School anniversary. During this time Mr Kumagai, the Principal of Nihon Daiichi Junior High School, came to MacKillop Catholic College to celebrate. Whilst he was visiting it was decided that to celebrate our 10th year anniversary we would take our Sister School relationship a step further by beginning a term exchange programme between our two schools.

On 24 January 2017 Shinae Dunkley and Elisa Alvarado from MacKillop Catholic College travelled to Nihon Daiichi Junior High School for 8 weeks. In return we were happy to receive Ema Inagaki and Hinano Osuda. All students experienced school life, family life and activities associated with their respective countries. All students' language improved immensely and they made many life long friends.

On Tuesday, 21 March 2017 the Vice Principal of Nihon Daiichi Junior High School, Mr Hatoyama, visited us for the week. He had meetings with Mr Todd and Mrs Ferguson to discuss our ongoing Sister School relationship. He attended classes, joined in the celebrations of Harmony Day in both the High School and Primary School; he enjoyed participating in a Year 2 Japanese lesson and visited Kincumber with the Year 7 students.

Thank you to the host families who looked after and cared for our students both here and in Japan. Thank you to Emma Gately, Chloe MacDonald, Connor Liston and their families for hosting Hinano and Ema.

This was an amazing opportunity for all students, families and both schools and I look forward to this Sister school relationship continuing to flourish. In their own words ...

Elisa Alvarado

Shinae Dunkley



March, the Year 6 students participated in an incursion with 2 instructors from the Questacon Outreach programme. The day was broken into 3 sessions with each class spending 90 minutes exploring Science concepts.

The sessions were all interactive and lots of fun. We learnt about how it is important to always try and if you fail, that is ok, because it is a very important part to learning.

We started by using iPads to play a game called, 'Bridge Constructor'. Each level had different problems that we had to solve by making a bridge and getting cars and trucks to cross it. After the game we were challenged to work with a partner to build a bridge using wood and a paper folder.

We discussed drones and their uses. Some can be used for deliveries and some can be used for racing or repairing. The teachers gave us another challenge to make a drone landing platform. We had 30 minutes to build our platforms and then they were tested by placing weights on them.

Some people had successful platforms while other platforms just snapped!

It was a great experience and made us really excited about our trip to Canberra when we get to visit Questacon.



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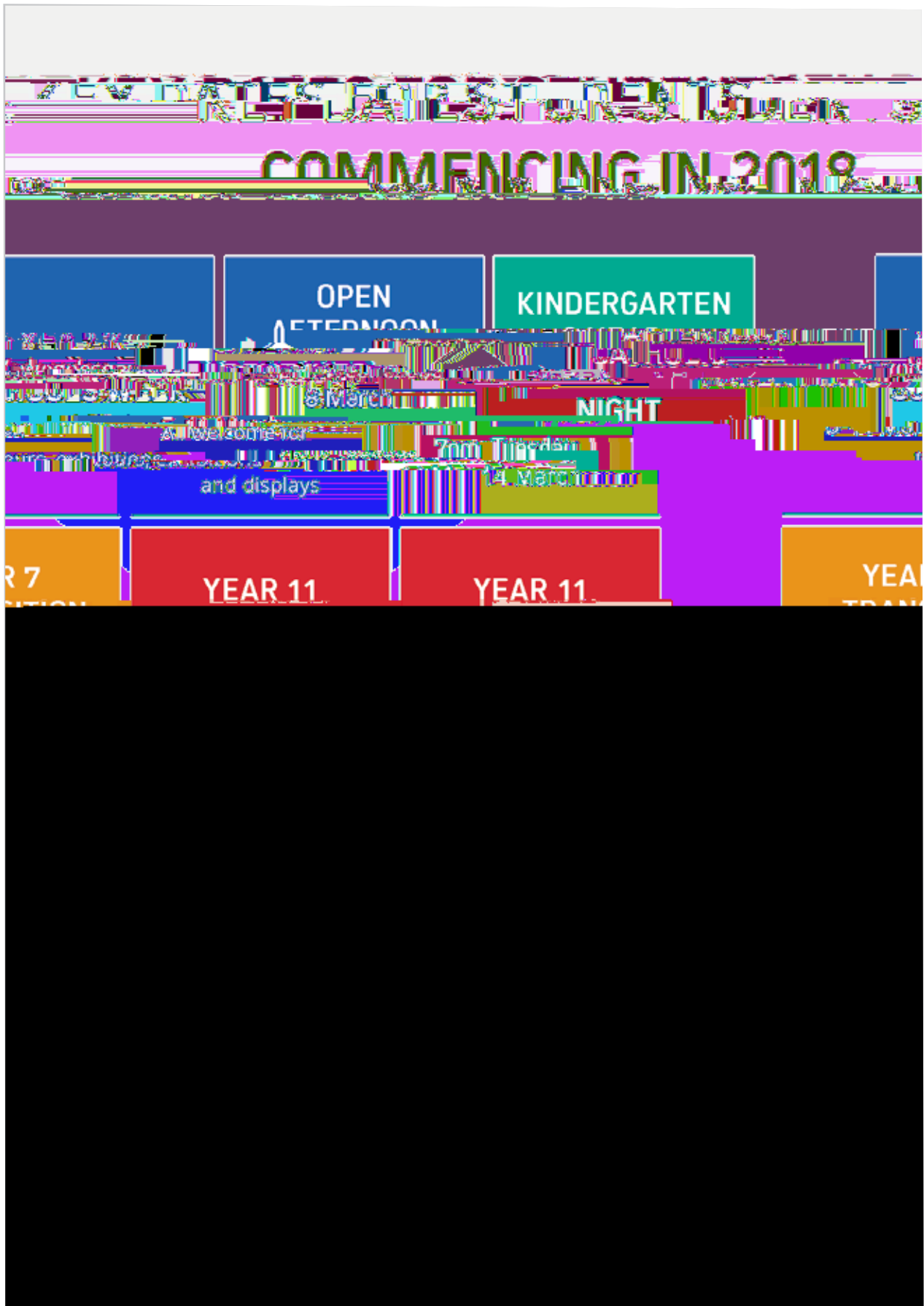
# It's Enrolment time at MacKillop

*explains the process and dates for enrolment 2018 at MCC.*

A blessing to see the skies clear for the College's Open Afternoon on Wednesday, 8 March during Catholic Schools Week. Many existing and prospective families took the opportunity to have a tour, look at the many displays and exhibitions as well as enjoy the hospitality at the free BBQ and for other delicious delights in the College's Dreaming Café.

Yes, it is hard to believe we are in the enrolment time for 2018, as the Parents Information Night was held on Tuesday, 14 March. Parents and families are keen to receive information and our College Enrolment Officer, Janine Silver is well prepared to support the enrolment process for the next intake of Kinders, Year 7 and Year 11.

Parents who have children ready for gaining entry to MacKillop need to do so by following the dates overleaf.



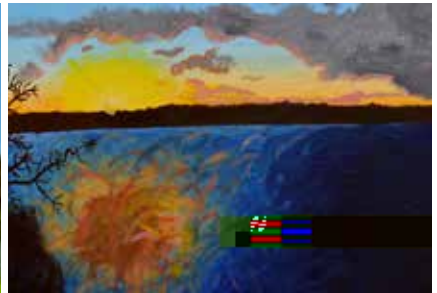


and Digital Media classes attended an incursion by a company called DigiEd. During this workshop, students learnt new skills in the field

# Artists of Excellence

*showcases the students wonderful artwork.*

of artworks made by Year 11 Visual Arts students who have been studying the Australian landscape.



Cross Country was held at Hamlyn Terrace Sporting Fields on Friday, 10 March (Week 6, Term 1). Despite large amounts of rain in the week prior and threatened poor weather on the day we were thankful to run the event. A few alterations were made to the course on the morning due to unsafe running surfaces on parts of the course & the children adjusted extremely well to this last minute change.

Overall points score across all houses were extremely close this year with 4 points separating the top 4 houses and a tie for 3rd place. Congratulations to Kincumber on their 'narrow win this year. Final places were:

1. Kincumber
2. Penola
3. Alma & Temuka
5. Gesu
6. Fitzroy

	GIRLS	BOYS
7/8 Years	Elise Arthur	Evan Enraght-Moony
9 Years	Jasmine Amos	Fynn Sadler
10 Years	Jasmin Fisher	Kai Rennie
11 Years	Keeley Swaysland.33FB1	Connor Hib0 0 m0 14.164 ISQ 77130560003SQ 7713E55n/3.01 0 Td(K)2(ai Rennie)UJ1 1 1 scnm0 14.18 1 0 0 15S2/194





been very busy for students and staff in sport. The first major College Sporting Event was the Swimming Carnival. It was a fun filled community day with the MacKillop





Mary

## BBSSSA SPORT

### SOFTBALL

Congratulations to Hannah Taylor (Yr 8) on her selection into the Opens Softball team.

### <sup>1</sup> OPEN / U15 RUGBY LEAGUE TRIALS<sup>w/</sup>

A number of Rugby League players travelled to North St Marys to trial for the Sydney Independent Catholic Colleges team. This team will compete at the N —

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# Kindergarten are settling in Cath Paholks

on the go! Every day there have been different sounds to learn, letters to write, songs to sing, numbers to order and prayers to share. It is a busy world full of stories, laughter, questions and chatter! This term we have concentrated on settling into the school environment and getting to know each other through our PDH unit 'Me and my mates'. This unit covers the importance of friendships, good manners, listening, being safe and sharing.

During the term we have watched the children grow in confidence as they have learnt the many routines in the classroom and playground. They have enjoyed spending time on the play equipment, visiting the library, and having fun at Lego and drawing clubs during lunch. It has been wonderful to see new friendships blossom and children 'filling each other's buckets' every day. Our Year 6 buddies have continued to be supportive and happy to see

of life at MacKillop College. Whether it is as simple as singing the College Song, the Australian National Anthem at Community time, as part of our liturgy services or as involved as performing in our Primary College Choir, Band or as a soloist in front of peers, parents and teachers. The opportunities are far-reaching and invaluable.

### PRIMARY COLLEGE CHOIR (YEARS 3-6)

The Choir resumed again this year with gusto. With only two rehearsals under our belts, we were more than ready and excited to show off our new repertoire at the College Open Day. The sound was amazing and the students were more than happy to sing through songs unseen to give our community a snippet of our ability and the great things to come. The Primary choir rehearse every Tuesday lunch time and each week the choir grows with new and eager students joining in the fun and enjoyment of making music.

Extra Extra Read all about it.....K-2 Choir will commence Term 2. Stay tuned for time and place.

### PRIMARY COLLEGE BAND

The Primary Band has arrived! Looks can and are deceiving with this petite ensemble. Whilst small in numbers, the sound is bursting with dynamism. Like the choir, the Band, in as little as three rehearsals, are ready to entertain and are planning their debut performance. The Primary Band rehearses every Monday morning 7:45-8:45 in the Performing Arts building, Music Room 1. Students and Parents from Years 4-6 are

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# An update from the Library

*keeps us informed on what happening in the Library.*

## OPEN DAY

A very exciting afternoon in the Library hosting our visitors on Open Day, Wednesday, 8 March. Almost 100 families (totalling nearly 300 people) were welcomed into the Library to start their guided tours of our wonderful school. Parents were given the opportunity to view a presentation in Learning Area 2 about Cultures of Thinking - our school's focus for learning. Many students entered our Library Hunt competition and learned a lot about MCC Library along the way. Congratulations to the four families who each won a book pack prize. Miss Erin Sullivan, our eLearning Co-ordinator, provided information about the school iPad program and was available to answer questions which many parents took advantage of. A highlight for many who visited the Library was the chance to have their photo taken using the green screen which, with some technical wizardry, transported them to a tropical island, Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory or The Great Hall at Hogwarts.

## HSC STUDY LOCKDOWN

To assist students during the stressful time of half-yearly

exams held in Week 9 and 10, we invited them to attend our first ever HSC Study Lockdown sessions. On Thursday, 16 March and Thursday, 23 March 70 students attended from 3.00-6.00pm. Teachers from English, RE and Maths were available to help students stay on track with studying and assist with any questions. Students were also able to work individually or collaboratively for other subjects with pizza and refreshments to keep them going. Our next sessions will be held in the weeks prior to the HSC Trial exams, and then again in the weeks prior to their final HSC exams.

## LIBRARY REFURBISHMENT UPDATE

The Circulation and Workroom areas of the Library have been undergoing extensive changes over the past few months. This has created a more welcoming entry to the Library as well as improving supervision of students. Students and staff now have easier access to Library staff including Miss Kathreen Acido, our Mobile Device Support Specialist. Our next stage of Library improvements will include an upgrade to the Senior Study area as well as the installation of three glass fronted meeting/seminar rooms for both student and staff use.





# Sharing Harmony Day

*share the joy of belonging.*

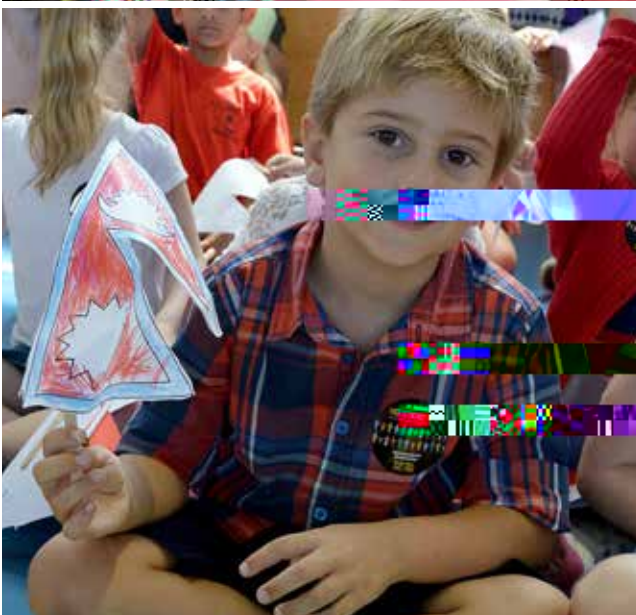
March, the primary classes celebrated Harmony Day. The message of Harmony Day is 'everyone belongs'. The day aims to encourage people to participate in their community, respect cultural and religious diversity and foster sense of belonging for everyone. To engage with this theme, each class learnt about and represented a different country. Students came to school dressed in colours from their own cultural heritage or those of their class country. A range of nations was represented, which made for a very colourful day.

We began our whole school celebration in the church with a beautiful liturgy that celebrated Australia's multicultural heritage and reminded us that Australia has a rich tapestry of cultures and heritages, including Indigenous heritages. Mrs Power read Mem Fox's 'Whoever You Are', which reminded us that although we are all different, things such as joy, pain and

love are universal.

Following the liturgy, students moved to the hall for a 'Parade of Nations', which was well attended by parents and visitors. We even had a special guest, Mr Hatoyama, the assistant principal from our Japanese sister school. As if this wasn't exciting enough, Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip made a special appearance to oversee proceedings and to offer insights into the various countries that were represented. The children enjoyed parading around the hall to their nation's national anthem and sharing cultural items from their class country.

The Harmony Day Committee would like to thank the Primary staff and students for their enthusiastic participation on the day.







our cultural diversity – it's a day for showing our respect for everyone who calls Australia home. The Day also coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The message of Harmony Day is 'everyone belongs' – its aim is to engage people to participate in their community, respect cultural and religious diversity and to foster a sense of belonging for everyone.

On Tuesday 21 March, Secondary students celebrated Harmony Day by participating in a sharing of cultural foods. Students from Years 9 and 10 Food Technology, as well as Hospitality students across Years 11 and 12, prepared a range of dishes from a variety of nations; Jollof Rice – South Africa, Nasi, Goreng – Indonesia and Vegetarian Curry – India to name just a few. In addition, there were 'Sanga's from around the World' on offer; kransky, hotdogs and of course, the good old Aussie beef sausage.

Students were able to purchase orange Harmony Day ribbons as a symbol of their support for the cause. Entertainment and Music students performed during the break, adding to the fantastic vibe and further encouraging a sense of community. Parliament assisted by serving the food and ensuring everyone was looked after with a smile.

It was a wonderful day that fostered what it truly means to be a MacKillop person.

Over \$900 was raised with all proceeds going to Project Compassion.



## Sharing a pancake breakfast

*shares the passion of Mini Macks.*



much excitement and anticipation that the primary Mini Macks embarked on their first act of giving for 2017, taking on the pancake breakfast in celebration of Shrove Tuesday. This event marked the beginning of Project Compassion within the College, with all proceeds donated to Caritas.

On Tuesday 28 February, as the rain poured down and the grey skies set in, thirty five bright-eyed Year 5 students arrived like a ray of sunshine to provide the MacKillop community with a delicious pancake breakfast.

The level of enthusiasm, passion and wholeheartedness displayed by the Mini Macks was inspiring, demonstrating that deep sense of community that we know and love here at MacKillop. There were money handlers, pancake distributors, chocolate sauce servers and ice-cream connoisseurs galore. The whole community came together in honour of this liturgical celebration and dug deep to support the wonderful cause of Project Compassion. There was nothing but high spirits, smiles and full tummies, and those pancakes... they were 'selling like hotcakes!'

As the morning quickly flew by, so did the supply of pancakes. Although our trays became empty, the hearts of the MacKillop community remained full. Donations a plenty continued to roll in, with the support of our wonderful community a heart-warming thing to witness.

# Touching base with our families

*reflects on the successes of Term 1.*

## FACEBOOK

of to a busy start and we have already come to the end of Term 1. One of our focus areas following feedback from the parent survey last year was to look at ways to improve communication between the College and parents. One strategy has been to set up Facebook pages for each year group from Kindergarten to Year 12. We have had a very positive response to these pages so far and there is still time to join. To join please login to Facebook and search MCC Year (?) 2017 and request to join. This is a closed page for parents of each particular year group. The idea of the Facebook pages is to exchange information and photos, ask questions and seek clarification. I have also been using the site as a source of parent education with various parenting articles and videos. Please note that any inappropriate content will be deleted. If you have any further queries please contact me via email at [natalie.tunstead@dbb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:natalie.tunstead@dbb.catholic.edu.au)

## PARENT FORUM

We had our first Parent Forum for the year on Tuesday, 28 March. It was a very productive meeting with some great brainstorming from parents and executive staff as we move towards the start of developing a Parent Partnership Charter.

I will collate the information gathered q

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