# COLLEGEMatters



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  Deb Ferguson and Sue Dietrich

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### A successful start to 2017

Steve Todd welcomes the College community for the new School Year.

**OUR NEW SCHOOL** year has commenced well despite the challenge of very hot weather. I thank all the students, the parents and staf for embracing the year with much enthusiasm and spirit. We look forward to all that will shape 2017 here at MacKillop.

To all new students, families and staf we warmly welcome you to the MacKillop Catholic College community here at Warnervale. We hope and pray that each person feels the sense of connectedness that is a feature of this Catholic College. The College's motto of 'Christ Our Light' strengthens our resolve to strive for our 'personal best' in all the areas of M SS ON, LEARN NG, CULTURE and WELLBE NG.

The 2016 school year has been beautifully commemorated in the College's Yearbook of 2016 that was distributed to students and families in the last week of the school year. I hope families have enjoyed the publication and celebrated the extraordinary stories of 2016.

This publication of College Matters celebrates the wonderful success of the HSC Class of 2016 with their outstanding achievement of 34 honour listings and for celebrating our top ten students with Kayla Christensen being our Dux for 2016. Kayla was also our frst all-rounder achieving ten or more units of study at Band 6 level. We were so delighted to present

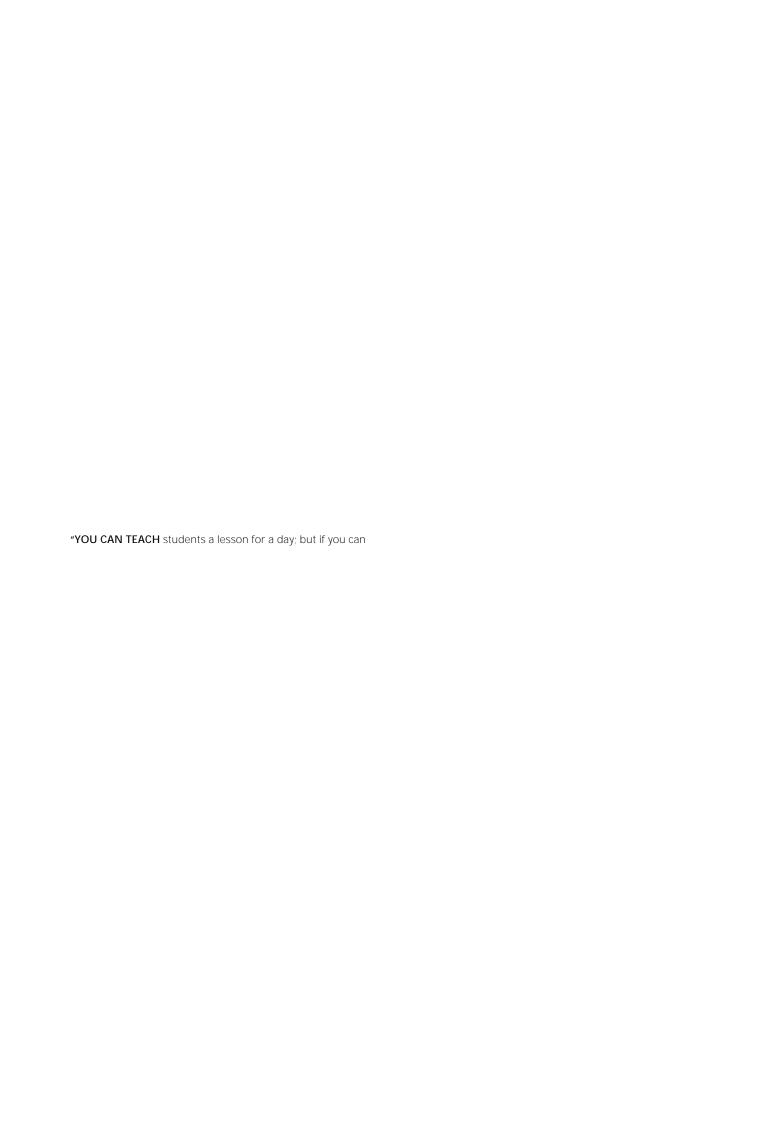
Kayla with her Dux medal and the Stephen Aitken "Personal Best' Trophy at our recent Senior Student Luncheon. t was a great celebration of recognition and inspiration to share this day with the senior students, the top HSC students with their parents, special guests and with the staf of the College and Parish.

The end of 2016 was a sad time with the loss of our Founding Principal, Stephen Aitken and it was a real pleasure to see Stephen's memory honoured with the naming of the new Dux Trophy presented this year to Kayla Christensen by Stephen Aitken's wife Kerry at the Senior Students Luncheon.

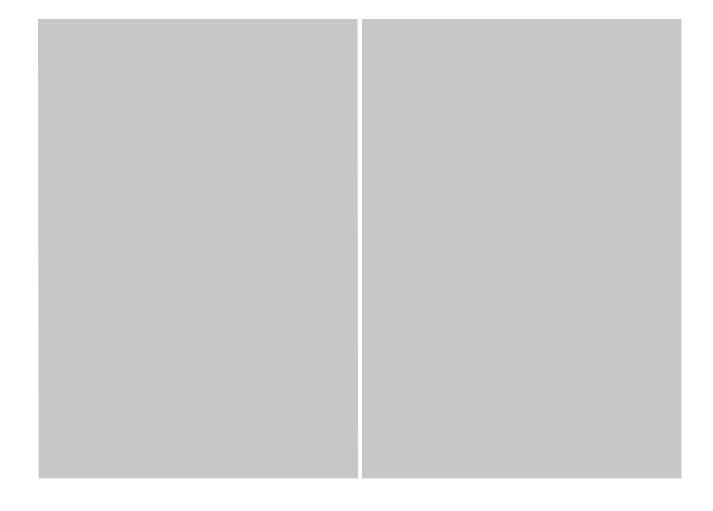
A big feature of the beginning of every year is the special welcome of ered to Kindy and Year 7 students and families. We are delighted to welcome the new Kinder students and Year 7 students to the College. In this publication, the teachers of Kinder and the Year 7 Pastoral Coordinator, Michael Rickards have extended a special welcome to the students.

of er everyone across our MacKillop community encouragement to greet each other with a smile, talk to each other with care, walk in the light of embracing opportunities and to share any struggles with the people who care for us, parents, teachers and friends.

Blessings for 2017.



WE ARE VERY





### Welcome to New Kinders

#### Kindergarten Teachers

CAMERAS WERE CLICKING and tears were fowing (from children and parents alike) as the 8.45am bell rung on the 2 February 2017. t was the frst day of 'big school' and the start of 13 years of schooling for the 78 Kinder students.

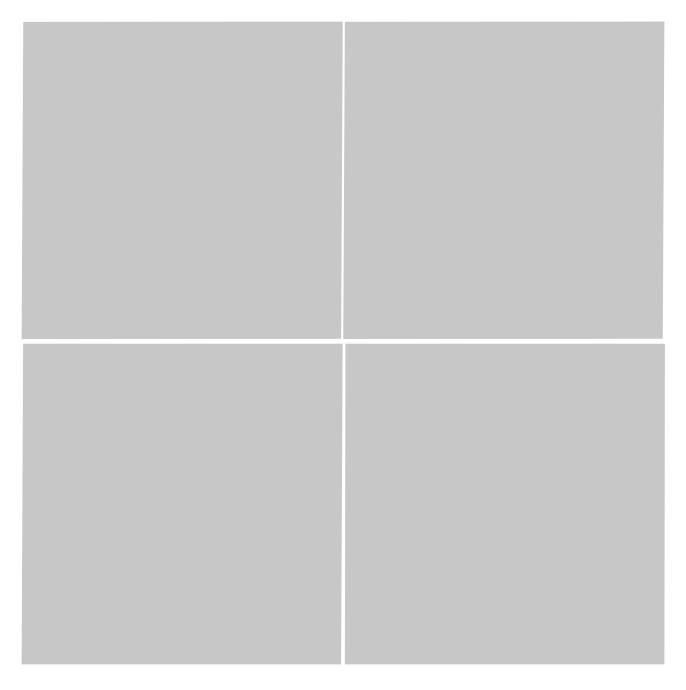
We all gathered together to share two days before classes were finalised. On Friday each child knew if they were a Wattle, Grevillea or Banksia student ready to learn after a restful weekend.

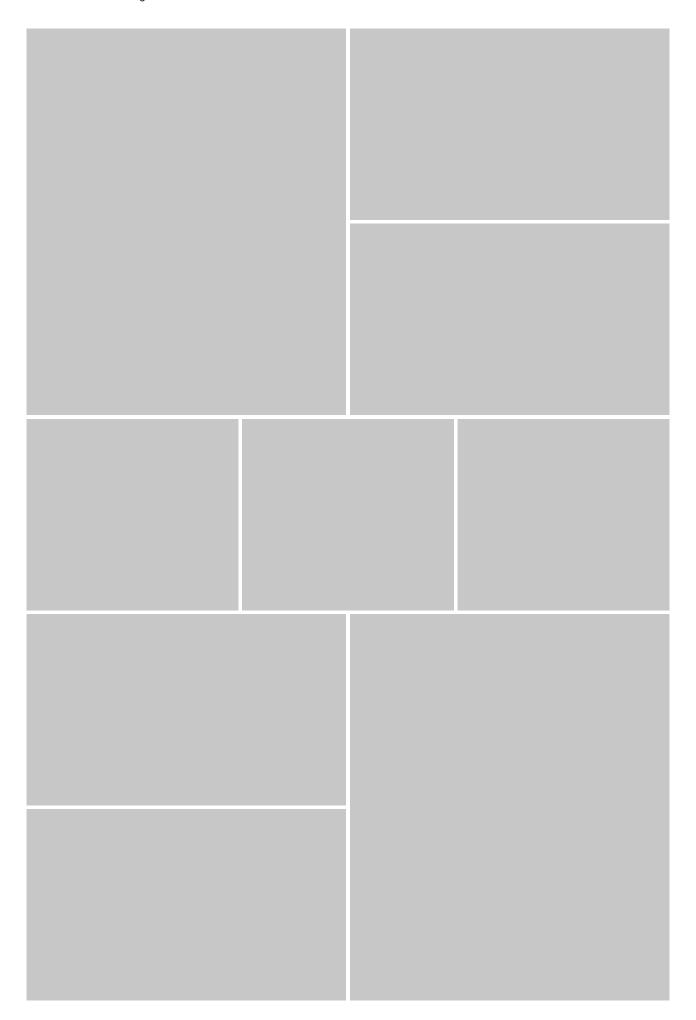
Kindergarten children have made an enthusiastic and happy beginning to 'big school'. thas been a busy and hot few weeks learning all the new routines and rules, bell times and how to be a 'bucket filler'! Friendships were formed, names were

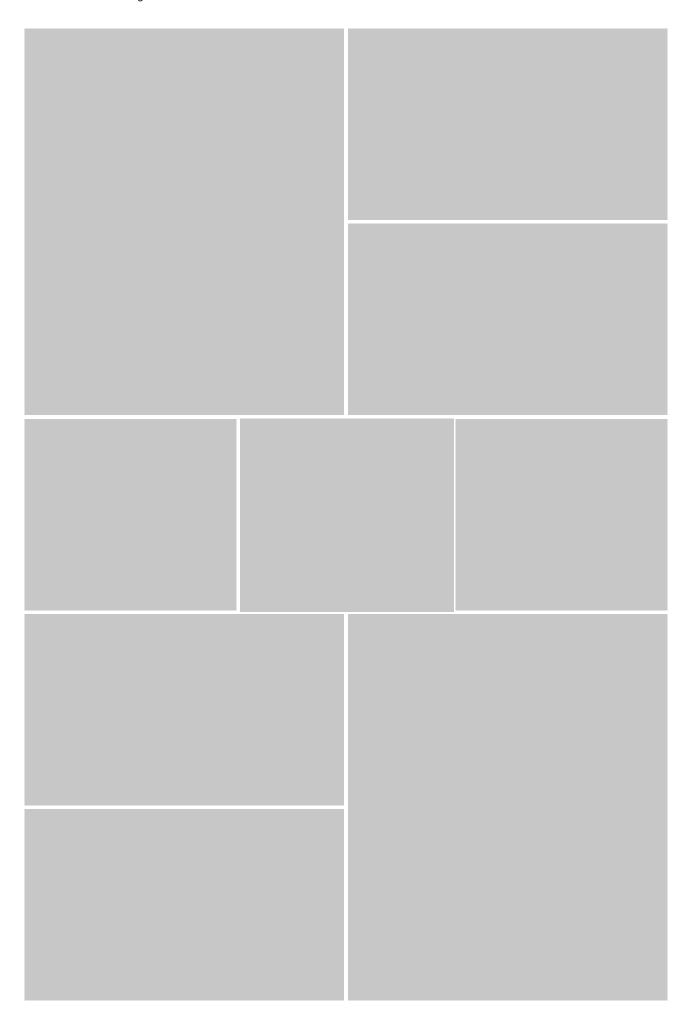
learnt and fruit break was enjoyed. Some children even got to do special jobs such as take the office bag to the office.

We have enjoyed meeting our Year 6 buddies, borrowing books from the library and having fun with Mrs Denneman during sports lessons. It has also been an exciting time to make new friends and discover new places to play. All of the new things have been tiring to learn but it has been amazing to see their resilience and positive attitude shining through.

The Kindergarten teachers are very proud and blessed to teach such a wonderful group of children. The kindergarten journey has just begun and there are exciting times ahead for growing and learning.







AT OUR FIRST Community Time assembly this year, we were able to announce the results of our 2017 Swimming Carnival held at Wyong Pool late last year.

Congratulations to the following swimmers awarded Age Champion based on their individual performances:

Cora Logan	Patrick Kyle
Ruby Black	Kyle Northey
هsmin Fisher.	Dylan Wightman
Emma Jones	William Coppen

ON MONDAY 13TH February, the Primary school celebrated the inauguration of our Primary School Leaders and SRC (Student Representative Council) members at a Liturgy, led by our new leaders, in the church. Our School Captains for 2017 are Amelia Depasquale and Leo Biju who will be fine ambassadors for our school. We wish them well in their leadership roles this year.

The Year 6 Leaders in Mission, Culture and Wellbeing, as well as our House Leaders, are as follows:

• Mission: Paige Sadler, Damon Lowe

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## Year 7 transition to high school

#### Kathleen Black speaks about the Peer Support Program.

PEER SUPPORT IS a program that has been included into the Pastoral Program to help Year 7 students make a smooth transition into high school. The Peer Support Program is a peer led, skills based, experiential learning program. It encourages connections throughout the school and assists students in developing practical skills to enhance social and emotional wellbeing.

Moving into Secondary school presents a significant change for students as they adjust to a new environment. Year 7 will be provided with opportunities to get to know one another and their Peer Leaders. The activities are designed to assist students in becoming familiar and confident with their school, teachers and new routines. Students also learn how to manage

school life and organise themselves.

This Term, Year 7 students have been working in groups of 8-10 with 2 or 3 Peer Leaders from Year 10, during each Pastoral Period with session activities designed around Transition and Values. The wonderful Year 10 Leaders who were accepted to facilitate a series of activities have demonstrated reliability and strong leadership skills as they guide Year 7 through the challenges of high school. Students have participated in a few sessions already and have conducted themselves positively. It shows how important building relationships with others are when beginning a new journey, in a fun and supportive environment.

