

# Mat

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in Term One

CHRISTOU



WELCOMING KINDERGARTEN AND YEAR 7

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY FOR 2017

WELCOME

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL - HATS OFF TO THE DANCE!





*College Principal, describes how 2018 has started well for everyone at MacKillop with a great sense of hope.*

for another year of College Matters publications. This year, we welcome aboard our new Media

College publications this year. Alyssa's skills and keen interest in media will see her heavily involved with the launch of a new College website and app, as well as for assisting us with the ongoing promotion of the College right across our local community. We have great hopes for all our communications and publications processes.

few weeks of the year. In particular, the welcoming of new from 2017 proving, once again, that MacKillop continues to is something that speaks strongly about the healthy learning culture we have developed here at MacKillop. Well done to the

There have been some wonderful celebrations to start the year that have been an absolute joy to attend. The recent Senior Students Luncheon on 9 February was a privilege to attend. It was a really proud moment to assist our Director of with his medal and the Stephen Aitken 'Personal Best' Shield.

all an enormous boost for just what a wonderful learning environment we have here at MacKillop. The luncheon was a wonderful day for all the senior students and to hear from afternoon.

Our Parish Welcome Mass, held on Sunday 18 February, was were welcomed into our College. We thank Fr George for celebrating this occasion with us as Fr Vince is on leave for this a sausage sizzle, cool drink and cake after Mass. It always gives us a good feeling seeing the new Kinders hugging their MacKillop teddy bears. Year 7 students were presented with their MacKillop key rings. Thank you to our student leaders for supporting the day with their invaluable assistance.

We have reached another Lenten season and the journey to Easter is about growth, prayer and compassion. We can all do this with hearts that connect to the needs of the people around us.

Take care.

"If you don't know where you are going, it doesn't matter which way you go." So said the Cheshire Cat to a somewhat muddle-minded Alice in the classic tale of Alice in Wonderland.

Our College Mission Statement is the opportunity for our College to set out its purpose for, with and to our community.

Statement about the purpose of our existence and how we live our lives? Maybe we could state who we are, whom we serve, what services we provide, what are our goals and values.

Our College Mission Statement provides this same opportunity. Each year every member of our community,

something new for their own personal growth. The three areas of our School Improvement Plan lay out these opportunities

Mission where we strive to be a "Be a Light to the World";  
Learning where we strive to "Value Learning"; and

members, 25 new children and their families in Years 1 to 6 and our 68 new Kindergarten children who joined us this year to begin their educational journey. We look forward to being an important part of their lives in the year ahead and being able to share their learning, successes and joys each term.

school in 2018 and know where they are heading during the

Be intentional about nurturing your child's sense of belonging

Foster your child's value of inclusiveness and acceptance of others in spite of diversity and dissimilarities

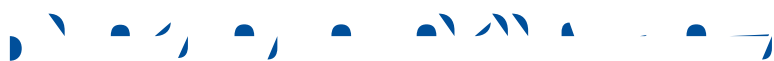
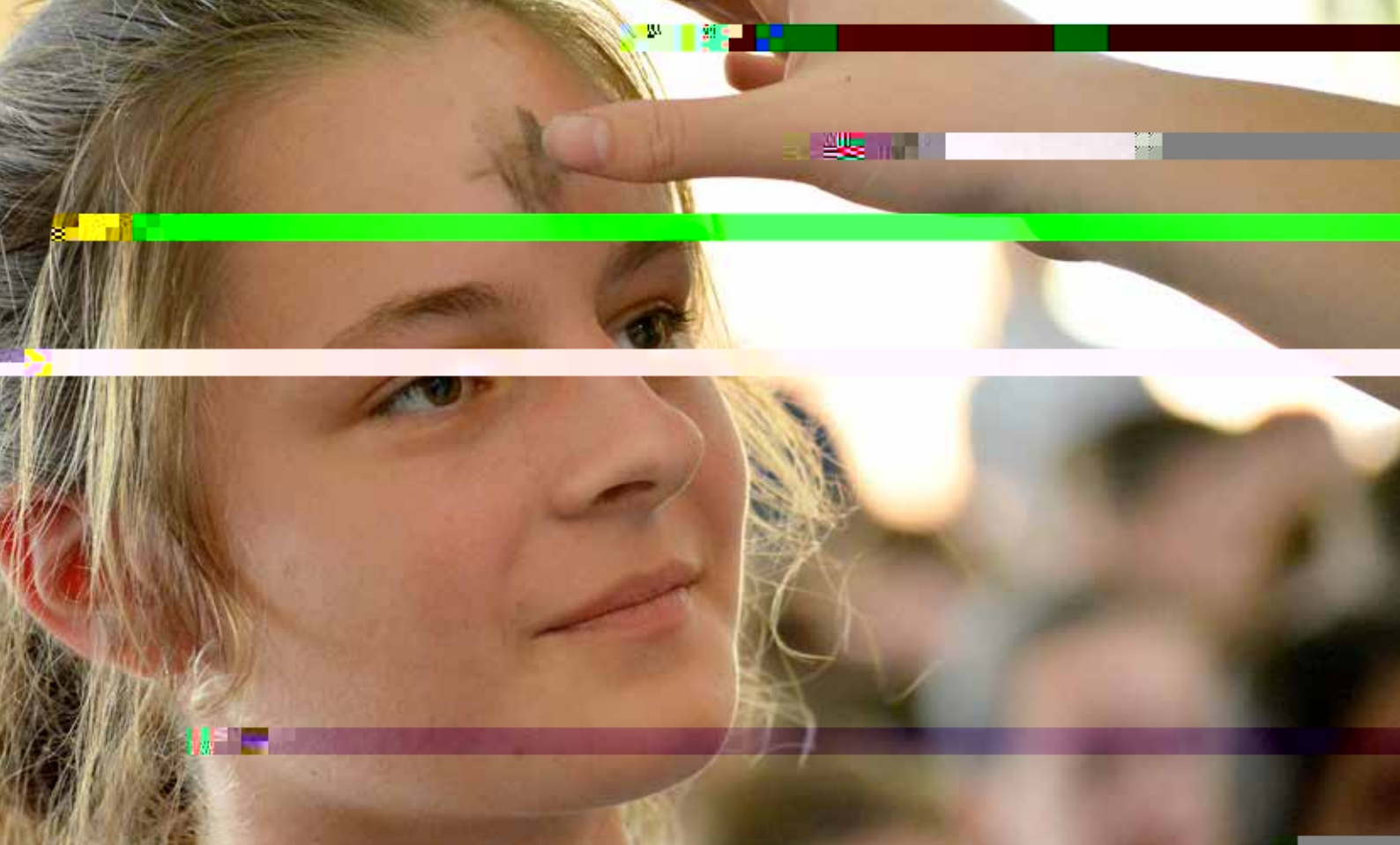
Model and engender attributes of kindness, courtesy and respect

Teach the importance of mindfulness and sleep to balance physical and emotional wellbeing

Champion a mindset of 'dare to be brave'

Share their excitement... whatever they come home to talk

**Share their excitement... whatever they come home to talk**



*informs us the bishops of  
Australia have nominated 2018 to be 'The Year of Youth'.*

all our teachers, parents and students to another busy and exciting year. The bishops of Australia have nominated 2018 to be 'The Year of Youth'. That theme is so easily adapted into any school and at MacKillop we strive to work with our youth to be the best possible version of themselves. This is fostered by the three main themes from our School Improvement Plan of 'Being a Light to the World', to

be found on signs throughout the College to remind us of this every day.

This term we welcomed 8 new teachers to the secondary school and 5 returning teachers. We know our students will make them feel very welcomed and we hope that they enjoy their time with us. They bring experience and enthusiasm. All our teachers will continue this year to gain more pedagogical

of Thinking so that the learning and teaching at MacKillop is at the highest standard.

The term commenced with a number of key events with the 'Christ Our Light' Senior Luncheon, the Welcome Mass for all new students K-12, a number of assemblies, an Ash Wednesday Liturgy and preparing for our Opening College Mass and our Swimming Carnival, both in Week 5. All these events provide wonderful community time and are highly valued by the College.

During Lent we once again invited all our students to attend the 7.30am Mass at our church each Wednesday morning. This

and to consider how they might be a light to the world. After Mass we provide them all with a hearty breakfast and a time to gather together.

During Lent we also support a Catholic charitable group called Caritas who work in the developing countries of the world. Their theme this year is 'A Just Future'. Our students have been viewing some stories of young people who have been assisted by Caritas in various parts of the world and all our students have been challenged to help raise money again this year for Caritas through Project Compassion.

At the beginning of term both Mrs McGuinness and I addressed the students about making goals for the year and to strive for their personal best. We explained the importance of never giving up and that making mistakes is the way we learn. We told them that our hope is that coming year is that they do make mistakes. Because if they are making mistakes, then they are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing themselves, changing themselves, changing their world and they are doing things they have never done before.

So I wish you all another fantastic year where we all, parents, child.

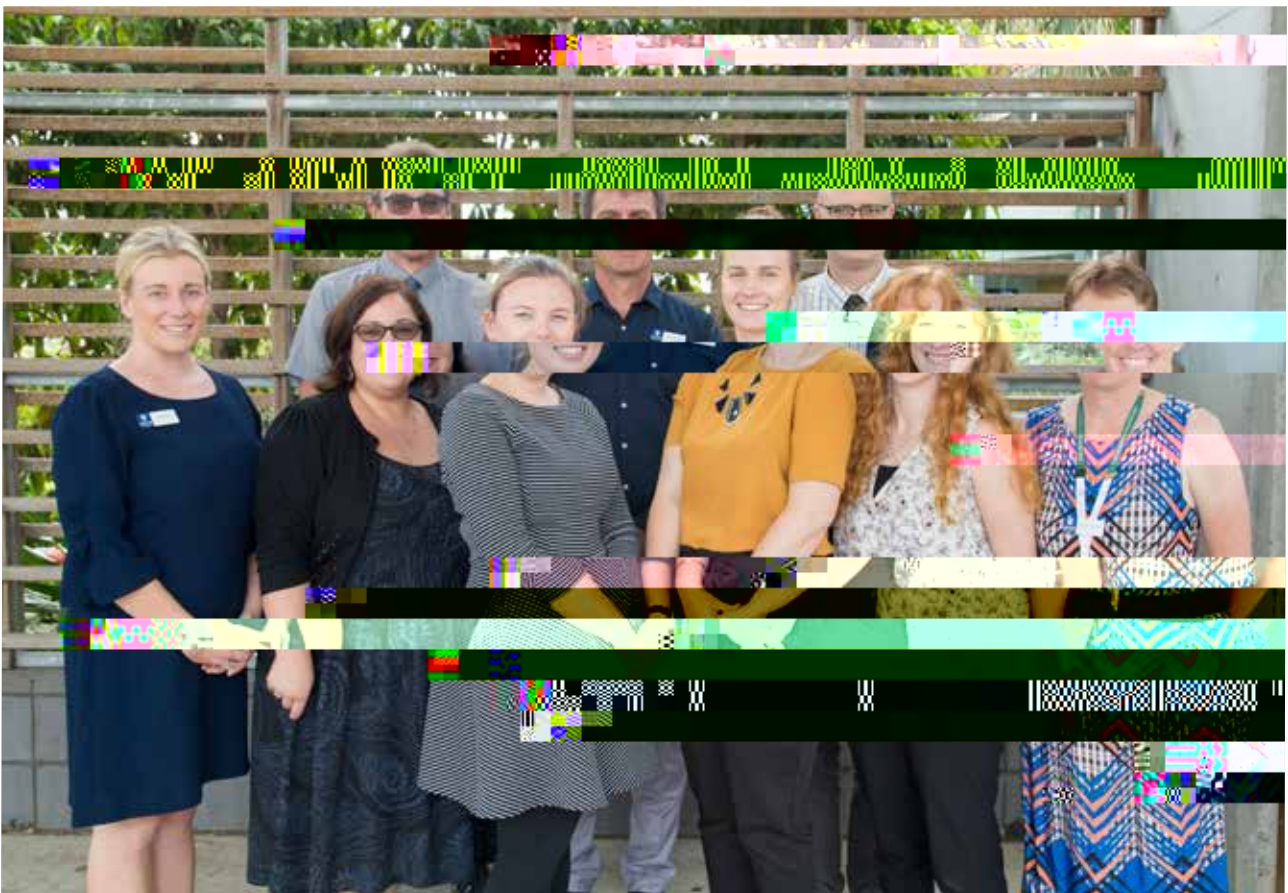
to welcome a number of new staff to our

Mr Jason Morrow has been appointed to the position of

experience which he brings to us and we look forward to learning with him.

Miss Shannon Mulder spent time at MCC as an intern and has now been appointed to the English Faculty. We hope she has a truly happy and successful year. Shannon has a love of learning and English and she brings vitality to the role.

Miss Georgia Townsend has been appointed to the Science Faculty. She was also spent time at MCC completing a practicum. Georgia brings with her a great love of learning and of Science, is very enthusiastic and energised.





*New year, new people,*

brings with it new staff members and we are exceptionally blessed to have four teachers join our community. Each of them bring gifts and talents that will compliment our current staff members and will go a long way towards building our MacKillop Catholic community into an even richer place of education and faith. It is always a difficult task to choose new employees from the myriad of applications we receive each time a position is advertised, but we believe that these four ladies bring with them a deep respect for who we are, many skills, professionalism, and a deep faith.

It is my very great pleasure to welcome Mrs Angela Wark who comes to us from Narrabeen and who will job share in 5 Banksia with Mrs Lauren Oliver; Mrs Jodie Kessler who has a wealth of experience in Special Education and who will teach 5 Wattle; Mrs Catherine Brown who comes to us from Newcastle Diocese and who will teach 6 Grevillea; and Miss Alexandra Cooper who has been teaching at Noraville and will teach K Banskia. I know that, along with staff and students, you will welcome them with open arms in true MacKillop style!

returns from maternity leave and will share 1 Grevillea with Mrs Simone Merrotsy; Mr Luke Bondfield and Mr John Wood, both of whom joined us at the latter end of 2017, will be with us for all of 2018 teaching 6 Wattle and as a Learning Support teacher, respectively. We are indeed excited to be working with these 'new faces' and trust that they are mutually excited about this new beginning with which our good God has blessed us and which fills our hearts with deep gratitude. Welcome!



*are excited to lead the College into another successful year.*



start to the year! Both of us are continuing to grow in our time as College Captains and are excited for what the year has to bring. Upon returning from JJAMM in Week 3, we are eager to introduce new ideas and opportunities that we hope will enhance the Josephite spirit within our school community. We have enjoyed welcoming the newest members of our college, and the new cohorts of Kindergarten and Year 7 students, to the valued culture of learning here at MacKillop. We hope that they have found easy passage into high school and as seniors we will endeavour to upkeep the support of these students throughout this transition. With the goal of extending positive relationships and fostering optimistic attitudes between each cohort,

students at MacKillop.

To all of the new students from years 8-12, Carl Bard once said, "Though no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new

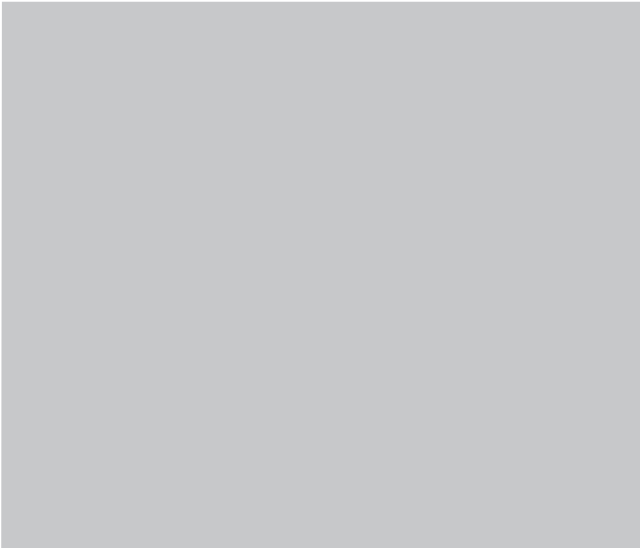
social life, educators and routines of your former school, but we will try our very best to ensure you settle into the MCC community and become part of the MCC spirit at our College. If any new students have any questions or concerns about their transition to MacKillop, feel free to come and introduce yourselves to ourselves or any of the Parliament members for advice or answers. It can be daunting to navigate your way around a new school campus which is so large. If you feel overwhelmed by this or any other fundamental issues such as studying or extra-curricular activities, don't hesitate to contact us. We hope you have an enriching time at MCC and we look forward to seeing you around the school and building progressive relationships with our peers.





invited the 3 highest ATAR students, the students who topped the Diocese in each subject, the Allrounders, the students who were nominated and accepted to exhibit their major works at





we take great pride with our students is that of Student Leadership. Leadership is an opportunity to serve. Donald McGannon states that, "Good leaders must

community, service to others is at the forefront of our minds and during 2018 we aim to work with our Primary Leaders

Relationship, as they work with the school community.

their own potential and help others to discover theirs;

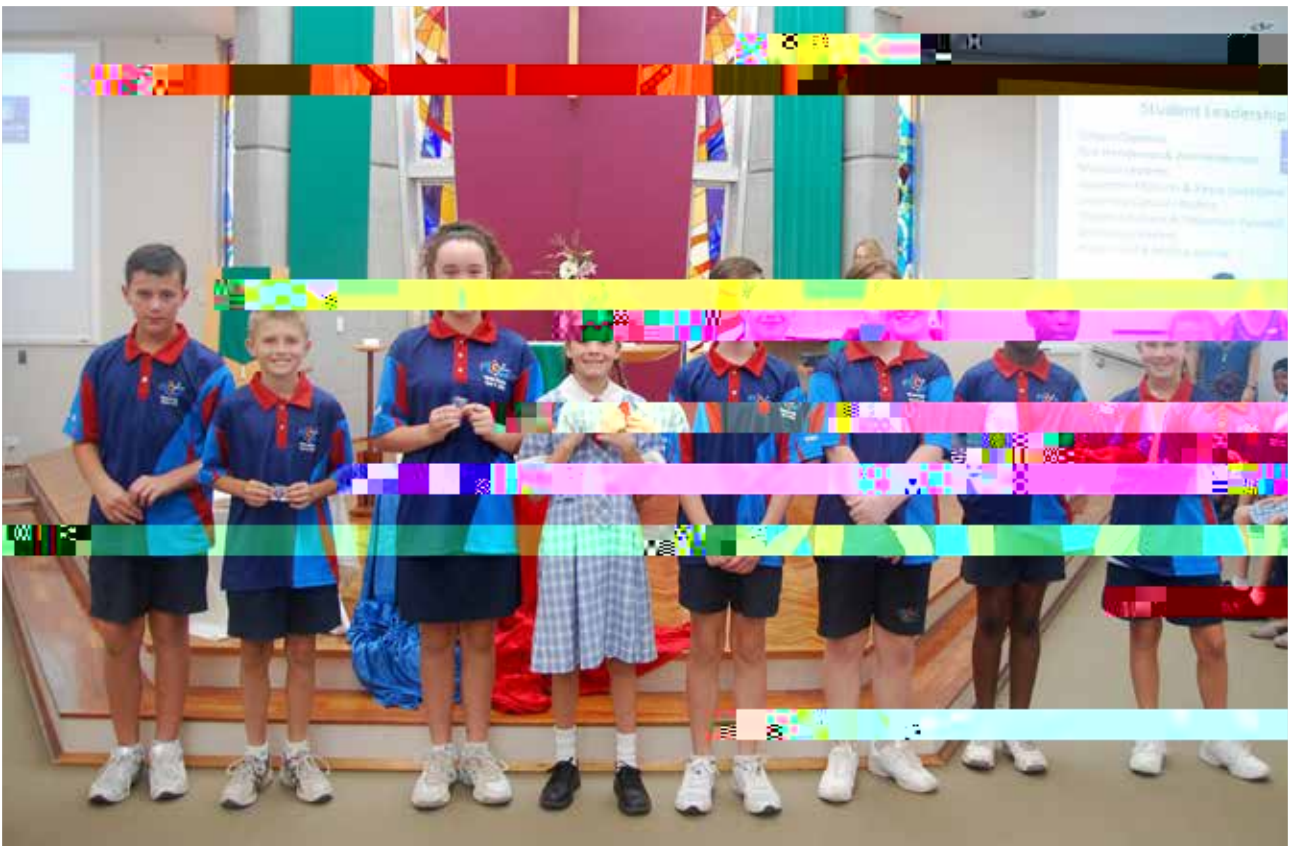
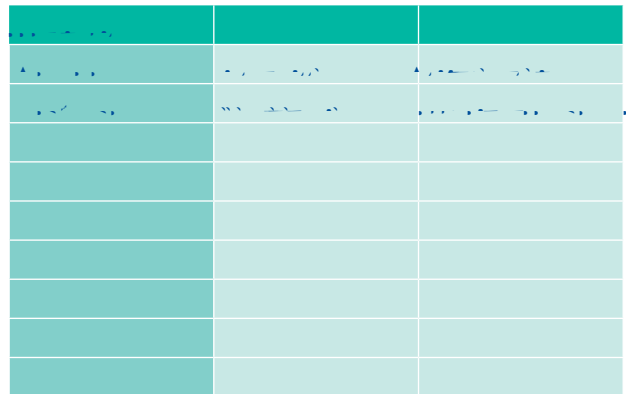
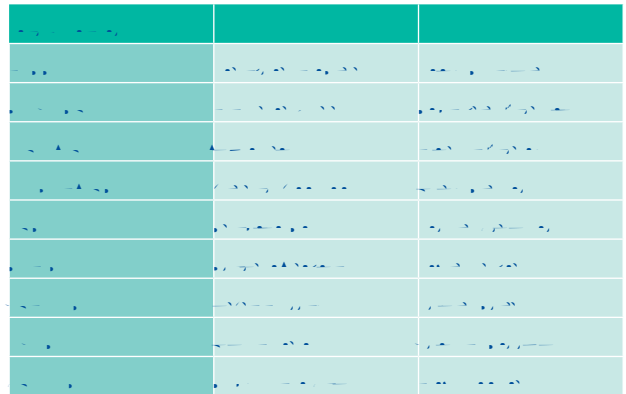
while they are young to create an atmosphere of respect in classrooms and on the playground;

them to create healthy relationships in the school thus paving the foundation of friendships that will last a lifetime.

These 38 students across Years 3 to 6 will have opportunities throughout 2018 to work with all students of MacKillop Primary and staff members, under the guidance of Mrs Gainsford.

The children received their badges with pride during the Commissioning Liturgy which reminded everyone that we each have a role to play as respectful members of our community.

Congratulations to our Leaders for 2018







*helps guide Year 7 through challenges.*



*loses his long locks in the name of charity.*

an exciting start to 2018 with many students' in Year 8 participating in numerous outreach opportunities. As part of the JUMP (Josephites Undertaking Mission Project) initiative, students are required to partake in 15 hours of community service; with a number of our students exceeding this expectation, already logging

recognised for their contribution, receiving their Bronze pin as part of the acknowledgement process.

Each Term a range of opportunities will be available for students to interact with the community, to make a difference in the lives of others and to obtain hours as part of the outreach program. In doing so, they learn the true value of what it means to serve others.

This Term, a small group of Year 8 have been afforded the opportunity to visit Oasis, a youth centre in Wyong, where they spend each week during sport-time learning about social justice issues and developing care-packs for those identified as vulnerable. Another group of students have come together to create inspirational art in the girls toilets.

The project aims to promote a positive message of empowerment for all young women and to inspire self-worth and a positive body-image. The project is due to be completed at the end of Term 1 and will be sure to bring a new energy and colourful atmosphere to the S Block toilets, as well as a smile to the faces of those who visit.

Term 2 is set to continue in the tradition of Mary MacKillop, 'seeing a need and doing something about it' with our inaugural 'Birthing Kit' project being launched. Staff and students will work together to raise money in order to purchase supplies, and then come together for a packing day. The kits will be distributed to women in developing countries to ensure safe and hygienic births.

Congratulations to all students who have begun the JUMP program; whether it be helping a neighbour mow the lawn, babysitting for a relative or participating in one of the many opportunities available at the College; every small action can make a huge difference to the lives of others.







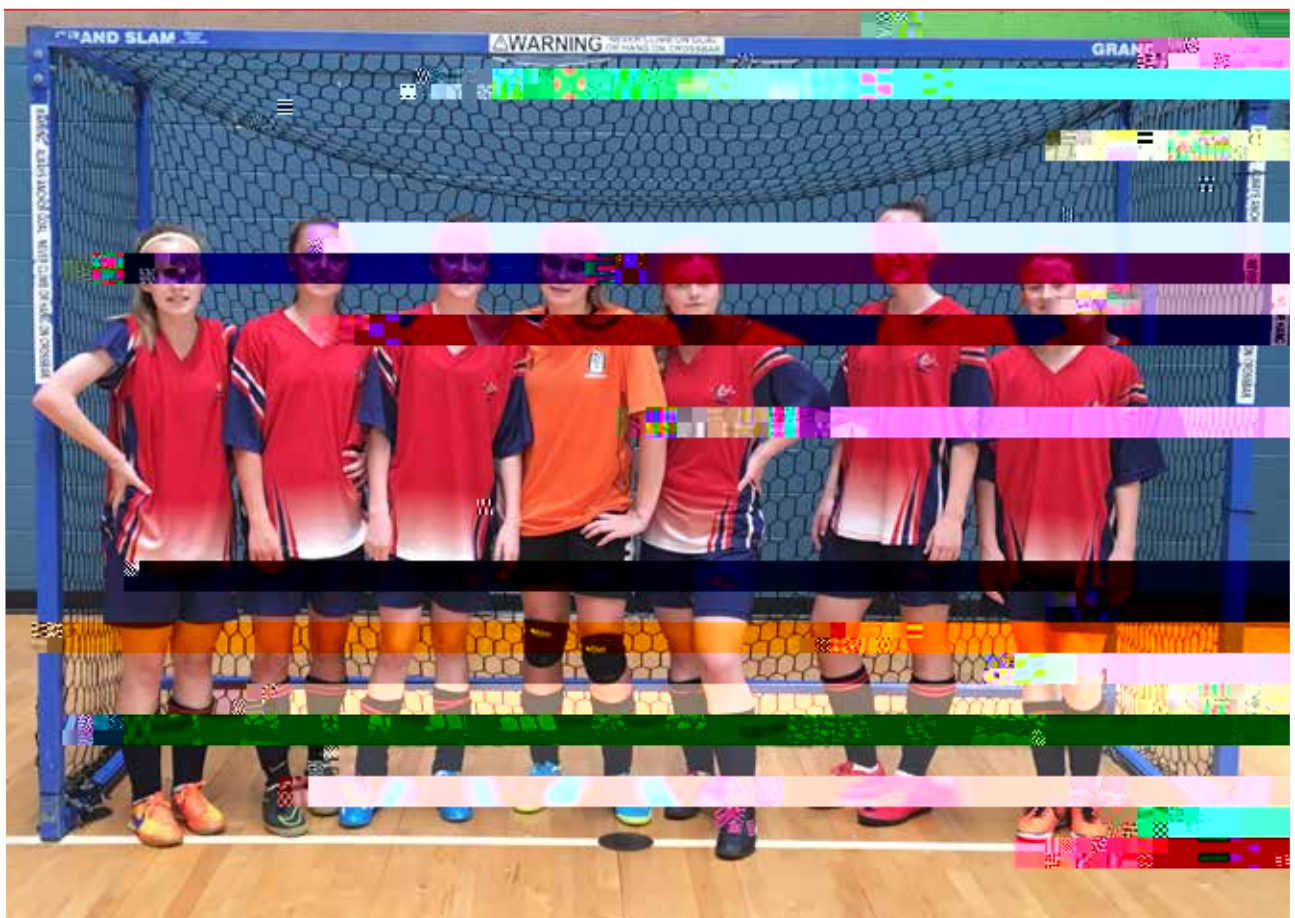


College we are fortunate to  
have a special relationship with our Sister School in Japan,  
exchange between our two schools. This has continued this



exciting year of sport at MacKillop. Throughout this year students will have several opportunities to follow pathways in their chosen sporting areas. They are encouraged to keep their eyes on their emails and Edumate notices for information on upcoming trials. Some sports will go straight to Broken Bay selection for individual representation and students are reminded to check the email sent to them about upcoming BBSSSA (Broken Bay Secondary Sport Association) and NSWCCC (New South Wales Combined Catholic Schools) trials.

So far we have only sent one sport out for BBSSSA representation this term. Our Opens Basketball teams competed at Gosford City Basketball Stadium on Thursday 15 February. Both the boys and girls teams played with a sense of enthusiasm and skill. Our boys narrowly missed making the



## Fostering a Culture of Reading at MCC,

benefits of reading for pleasure shows clear evidence that children and teens who read for the sheer enjoyment of it do better across a whole range of measures - from academic achievement to social skills to emotional health and wellbeing - than those who aren't readers.

In order to get a picture of our students' reading habits, at the end of 2017 all students in Year 7 to 9 were asked to complete our End of Year Reading Survey. In all three year groups over 90% of students identified themselves as 'okay' or

book for fun, 63.5% of Year 7, 50% of Year 8 and only 37.9% of Year 9 students responded 'yes'. This highlights that even though our students identify themselves as capable of reading they are choosing not to read.

that they would like to read

Books are the most popular format followed by magazines and eBooks

oMystery

oFantasy

80% - 90% students do not share books and reading with

others.

book recommended by friends or family

The results of this survey will help us to plan initiatives to foster more engagement in reading for leisure at MCC. One of the best ways the Library can help to promote reading for fun is to build a collection of texts that students want to read and have access to. The Library staff value engaging with students about their reading preferences and suggestions for books to purchase. Our school also has an eBook collection which is available to all Secondary students online at [mccw.wheelers.co](http://mccw.wheelers.co)

or via email to Mrs Crowe. The Library is open every day from

during break times to browse, read and borrow.

The Library also promotes reading for fun by facilitating the Scholastic Book Club orders twice each term and by hosting

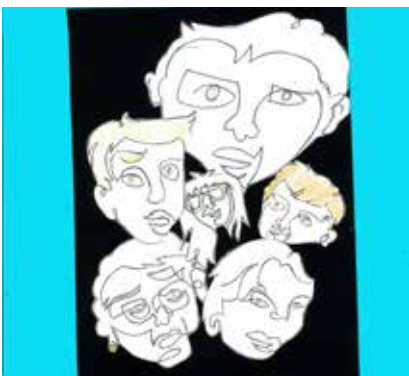
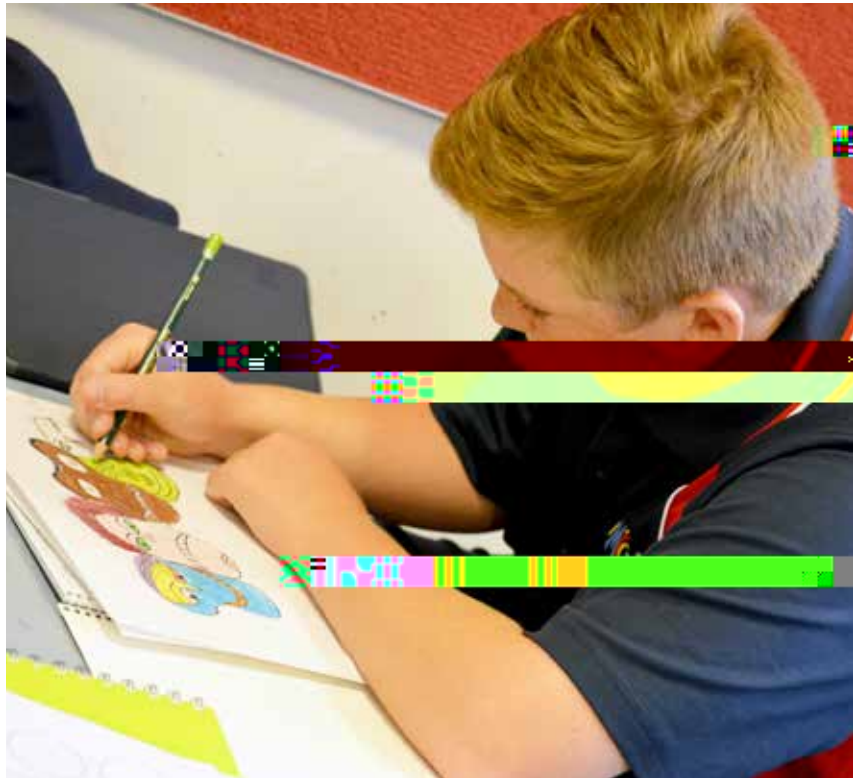
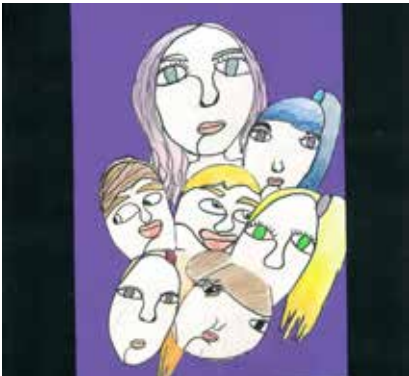
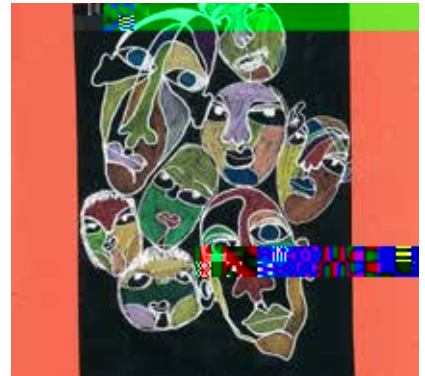
Simultaneous Storytime, Secondary Book Club, author visits and our biggest event, Book Week. Our Primary Family Reading and Pizza Night in May is a wonderful opportunity for families to share the love of books and read together just for FUN!

*There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all — Jacqueline Kennedy.*



*showcases wonderful artwork from our students.*

students in Visual Art, have been focussing on drawing skills this term. With a focus on the Elements of Art - line and tone, students have been creating artworks.





*explains how "We are all in this together."*

members (both Primary and Secondary), a live band and another 25 students working behind the scenes with their teachers, the Sr Irene McCormack Theatre exploded with the sounds and sights of our College Musical in December 2017. Cast and crew performed four shows over three days with nearly 800 people in attendance!

Last year, when the Performing Arts staff decided to put on

obvious choice. It is well known and well loved by our students whom I have heard singing the film's catchy tunes in the playground, on buses and even while waiting for their

exams to begin! Its uplifting message about being yourself and not letting anyone stand in the way of your dreams speaks to everyone. Furthermore, the song – We're all in this together – encapsulates the spirit of community that is so much a part of MacKillop's identity. I am incredibly privileged to be able to

work with such dedicated and talented individuals.

A number of amazing staff collaborated on the production and I am indebted to each and every one of them for helping to bring our ideas to fruition. In particular, I want to mention the Performing Arts staff who all generously donated their

James, lolanda Caruana & Nicholas Cronin.

I would sincerely like to thank Alyssa Chilvers for providing

School Musical logo as a special treat between the Saturday matinee and evening performances. The students showed their appreciation by devouring these delicious cakes!

On behalf of everyone involved in this production, I hope that you enjoyed watching the show as much as we enjoyed presenting it to you.





to the entire cast and crew.



**The  
Velvet  
Fog**





*tell us today is a great day to learn something new.*



children bounced into the classroom with shiny shoes, new uniforms, a variety of lunchboxes and bursting with energy 'big school'. Countless photos were taken of bright and smiling faces ready for action. The few tears and worried looks soon disappeared once the classroom door was opened and it was time for a song, story and fruit break.

The children have settled quickly into their classes and are having lots of fun learning and making new friends. There have been so many 'new' things can be very overwhelming.

Kindergarten met their Year 6 buddies who have made them feel very special. The highlight was walking hand in hand and sitting with their new 'big' friend in the Church to celebrate the Commissioning liturgy. We were so proud of their behaviour and ability to sit and listen quietly to all the important announcements.

We have enjoyed borrowing books from the library with Mrs Martin and playing games with Mrs Denneman during sport lessons. The Kindergarten classes joined together to learn a special song and prayers for our Welcome Mass on Sunday 18 February. All three classes have had time to play as a using kind words.

It has been a happy and promising beginning to our new Kindergarten year. The Kindergarten teachers cannot wait to see where this wonderful group of children will lead us next!





*is excited to begin this new journey with Year 7 students.*

had an exciting and positive start to their

welcomed to the MacKillop community by Mr Steve Todd, Mrs Deb Ferguson & Mrs Mel McGuinness, and spend the day learning about setting goals and how to use mistakes as a way to grow.

The day began with

spirit. The pastoral teachers for Year 7 are Mrs Maisie Tenev (Fitzroy), Mr Mark Webster (Penola), Ms Nichole Calleja (Gesu), Mr Damian Clair (Alma), Mr Phil Murphy (Temuka) and Ms Elise Beckinsale (Kincumber).

Students in Year 7 are also very lucky to have a support network of Year 10 Peer Support leaders. These leaders were trained by Mrs Kathleen Black, Transition Coordinator, at the end of 2017 and they are very excited to undertake this role. Students will spend time each fortnight with their Peer Support groups getting to know each other and developing strategies

hope that this will foster strong and constructive relationships for both Year 7 and Year 10 students.

I would like to congratulate Year 7 students on their positive start to the year. In addition to lots of learning experiences in the classroom there are a number of events in

back to all our MacKillop families, and a special welcome to our new families. On Sunday 18 February we celebrated with our Welcome Mass for 2018 and it was wonderful to see so many families gather for this special Mass followed by a community barbecue.

I recently advertised the opportunity for parents and carers to enrol the Parenting Program "Tuning Into Kids" run by Catholic Care. A few of our parents have enrolled into this very successful Program. The program teaches parents skills in emotion coaching, which is to recognise, understand and respond to children's emotions in an accepting, supportive way.

Just a reminder that we have Facebook Grade pages for Kindergarten to Year 12. These are closed group pages and you can request to join if you haven't already done so. Search

name is different to that on our school records please send me a private message letting me know so that I can approve your request. Just a reminder also that the page is for the use of parents and carers of students in that particular year group. The purpose of the page is to share information and resources. Any specific grievances or personal issues should be emailed in an appropriate manner to the person concerned. In the event that you don't know who this would be, you can always email or message myself and I will help with this. If any member of this page is concerned that it is being used inappropriately please email me at [natalie.tunstead@dbb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:natalie.tunstead@dbb.catholic.edu.au) so that it can be reviewed.

There are many opportunities over the year for parents to be involved in our community, so keep an eye out for when we advertise these occasions. We also have a Parent Forum once a term where various topics are discussed and this provides parents the ability to network with the College and each other.



