Do all you can to assist one another”
(St Mary of the Cross MacKillop)

“Live a Life That Counts”

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends,

Having just celebrated the fourth Sunday of Lent, we are nearing the end of that season where we may have taken the opportunity at the beginning of Lent to make a promise to deny ourselves, help someone who needs assistance or resolve a long standing difficulty in our lives. How faithful have we been to that promise? At our Friday assembly last week I spoke to the students about what it looks like whilst they are at school to ‘Live a Life that Counts’. One of the things I spoke about was stepping out of our comfort zone to help others. Maybe fulfilling the promise we made to ourselves at the commencement of Lent is a way of living a life that counts.

Easter Blessings
It seems too early but because this is our last newsletter for Term One, I take this opportunity to wish you all many Easter Blessings – we will most certainly have a new Pope by that time.

Anaphylaxis
Due to the fact that we have a number of students who have allergic reactions to nuts, may I remind you not to allow your child to come to school with any form of nuts – peanut butter sandwiches, packets of nuts etc. This includes when students are travelling on a bus. Reactions can prove fatal and we do have some severe cases of anaphylaxis amongst our students.

Strategic Plan
I share with you some of the elements from our Strategic Plan which will continue to have an impact on the teaching and learning at the College. I will continue to share some of these with you in future newsletters as well.

Vision for our College
- Every student is valued
- Every teacher is outstanding
- Every lesson is critical
- Every opportunity is taken

We have a vision of improvement for every student, every day, at every opportunity.
Year 7 Camp
Thanks to Mandy McCallum, the staff and parent who attended the Year 7 Camp held in Ballarat last week. Apparently the camp was very well organized and enjoyed by all. Our students and staff came back a little tired but had the long weekend to recover.

Leadership Day
Congratulations to Michelle Haeusler for organizing a highly successful student leadership day with the Youth Mission Team from Melbourne. Our students learnt much about the concept of Servant Leadership.

End Term One
I take this opportunity to remind you that school finishes on Holy Thursday March 28th and resumes on Monday April 15th.

Rob Aron
Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL
It’s not okay to be away . . . nor to be late to school (taken from parenting ideas, Michael Grose)
When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, it’s often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absenteees.

It is now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling’s birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don’t really value learning or their children’s school experiences.

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. This means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.

As a parent:
- Commit to sending kids to school every day
- Make sure kids arrive at school and class on time
- Inform the school when they are away, sending medical certificates and other evidence of genuine absence
- Ensure your child catches up on missed work
- Make kids who are away stay in their bedroom – that is where ill kids should be.

St Mary MacKillop College is on Twitter
Follow what is happening day to day at St Mary MacKillop College on Twitter. We can be found at @SMMCSwanHill. Recent tweets:

Tweets
StMaryMacKillop @SMMCSwanHill Year 10 Teacher Advisor Interviews have been completed. Subject Reports available on PAM. Need a password? Call the Front Office.

StMaryMacKillop @SMMCSwanHill Current Newsletter Available here! http://ow.ly/i1lw3 http://fb.me/APGrDQs1

StMaryMacKillop @SMMCSwanHill Well done to our swimmers on Friday, winning the Swan Hill Region Swimming Sports. #Champions

StMaryMacKillop @SMMCSwanHill Youth Mission Team led Leadership Day. Our Student Leaders were fantastic. Great games and thoughtful reflection. pic.twitter.com/dv4ggQIwv2 View photo

New Website
We are also currently working on a new website which will be going live very shortly. This new site will be aesthetically pleasing and updated to a more modern feel with an optimized mobile version if browsing with your smartphone. The site address will remain the same at www.mackillopsh.vic.edu.au and will contain all of the information from the current site plus a whole lot more.

Michelle Haeusler
Deputy Principal

PATHWAYS / CAREERS
Chances for Children
Chances for Children is seeking applications for the first funding round of 2013.

Chances for Children is now in its thirteenth year of operation and has been incredibly successful. It has now assisted approximately 1,100 children and young people to be the best they can be.

Chances for Children endeavours to ensure that the absence of money or support will not stand in the way of a young person achieving their potential.

Application forms for funding from Chances for Children are available to be downloaded from the 11th March 2013 directly from our website – www.chancesforchildren.com.au or if you would like the application forms emailed to you or would like to discuss Chances for Children further please contact Chances on 5021 7480 or email chances4children@malleefamilycare.com.au

Applications for this current round of funding close on the 19th April 2013. No late applications will be considered.
CURRICULUM NEWS
After School Homework and Study Assistance in the Library
Monday – Wednesday 3:30 – 4:30pm

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Holiday</td>
<td>Monique Watt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Neetu Mago</td>
<td>Mitchell Parker</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Laurel Harrison</td>
<td>Alison Wright</td>
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Teacher Adviser Reports
Have you seen your child’s Teacher Advisor Report online or printed copy?

All Year 11 and 12 students and most Year 10 students have completed their Teacher Adviser Interviews. Students should be bringing home their Teacher Advisor and Subject Interim report in the coming weeks. We ask that you read through the reports and discuss them with your child. These reports are also available online, via the Parent Access Module. One copy of the TA report needs to be signed by you and a comment section is provided if you feel you would like to respond. The signed TA report is to be returned to the Homeroom Teacher within a week.

Remaining Teacher Advisor Interview Dates Round 1
– Please check your child’s diary for individual times.
Week 8(19th -23rd March) - Year 7
Week 9 (26th March -30th March - Year 8
Week 2  Term 2 (22nd April -26th April - Year 9

Parent Teacher Interview Evenings
Parents and students are also invited to attend Parent Teacher Interview evenings (4:00 – 7:00pm) to discuss student progress, face to face, with their Subject teachers and Homeroom teachers.
Year 7 & 12 - 26th March (This includes any Year 11 student studying a Year 12 (Unit 3 Subject)
Year 8 – 11 - 30th April 2013

Please see the attached flyer for online booking details for the Year 7 & 12 Parent Teacher Interview Evening.

Sally Looney
Director of Curriculum

CAN YOU HELP US

St Mary MacKillop College has reached a significant milestone in the life of the College and is celebrating its 25th Anniversary. The College is trying to put together an Alumni of former pupils, but trying to find many of them is quite a task and we would appreciate it if you could help us find some of our former students. Many of them would have changed their names due to marriage; many of them would have moved from this area to further their careers. If you can assist by knowing the whereabouts of any of our former students, can you please ring it Colleen or Amanda on 5032 9771 or complete the following and send into us:

FORMER NAME:................................................................................................................
YEAR LEFT SCHOOL:...........................................................................................................
CURRENT NAME:................................................................................................................
CURRENT ADDRESS:..........................................................................................................
SWAN HILL REGION SWIMMING CARNIVAL

On Friday March 1st our swimming team competed in the Swan Hill Region swimming carnival against Swan Hill College, Kerang Secondary College and Cohuna Secondary College. On a lovely Autumn day, our students were again fantastic, being self-motivated, well organised, competitive and supportive. It proved to be a very successful day, with MacKillop winning the day by a significant margin.

Massive thanks yet again to the many parents who supported our College and assisted as officials on the day. We are certainly blessed to have so many great parents.

Final scores were:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Mary MacKillop College</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerang TH</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swan Hill College</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cohuna</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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We also had a large group of individuals who performed particularly well, with 8 students winning age champion, out of a possible 12 recipients.

Two of our students also broke records on the day:

- Angus Verbeek
  - 14 years 50m breaststroke.
  - 14 years 50m backstroke
  - 14 years 50m freestyle
  - 13 – 15 years boys 200m freestyle

- Josh Hodgson
  - 13 years 50m breaststroke.

Age champions were:

- 13 yr girls: Olivia King
- 13 yr boys: Josh Hodgson
- 14 yr girls: Claire Crawford
- 14 yr boys: Angus Verbeek
- 16 yr old girls: Milly Op’t Hoog
- 16 yr old boys: Ryan Hodgson
- 17 yr old girls: Kyra Bennett
- 18 - 20yr old boys: Will Verbeek
YEAR 7 CAMP
The Year 7s have recently returned from their school camp to Ballarat. The three day camp was based around Sovereign Hill and the history of gold discovery in Australia. On our way to Ballarat we stopped at the Tangled Maze at Creswick. The students enjoyed finding their way through the botanical maze and playing chess on the giant chess board. After lunch we toured the Eureka Centre where the students re-enacted a courtroom scene between the Diggers and the Government. That evening we attended “Blood on the Southern Cross” and relived the events of the Eureka Stockade.

Our second day was spent at Sovereign Hill. The students panned for gold, watched a gold pouring display and relived life in a classroom in the 1800s as well as using free time to choose their own activities. After Sovereign Hill we headed for the Ten Pin Bowling Alley where the students thoroughly enjoyed themselves trying their hand at ten pin bowls. At the end of the day the students had time to utilise some of the facilities available at their caravan park accommodation. The evening’s entertainment was a movie, Oz The Great and Powerful.

On our last day we visited a wildlife park where the students were able to feed kangaroos and pat a python. From here we journeyed home with a bus load of exhausted students.
WHAT IS PEER SUPPORT?
Peer Support is a Year Ten organised program made up of two components:
1. To assist Year Seven students in their transition to St Mary MacKillop College.
2. To learn and develop leadership skills.

The program involves the Year Ten students assisting their Year Seven group members in a range of issues concerning bullying, friendship and trust. Through appropriate games and activities peer support leaders encourage their group members to build self-esteem and confidence whilst having an enjoyable time. The lessons last for approximately forty minutes and involve a great deal of planning, organization and commitment by the elected peer leaders.

Why do we do Peer Support?
Peer Support is undertaken at St Mary MacKillop College because the program has many distinct benefits. It enables Year Ten students to understand the qualities of, and to become, effective leaders as well as educating them on problem solving and communication. The program sees that Year Seven students entering St Mary MacKillop College have a smooth transition and the year tens also endeavor to reduce the level of bullying that can quite often be prevalent in the junior levels at senior school. The program provides an appropriate mentor for the Year Seven students so that they feel as though they always have a trusted person who is willing to help them out.

Laura Crow
Peer Support Teacher

Milly Op’t Hoog with her group

Some Year 7s working with their Peer Support Leader Miranda Gray

Having fun with the leaders Nikita Hanns and Meg Dawes playing ‘Balloon Stomp’

A group wrapping up their leader Chelsea Williams
THE SPIRIT OF ANZAC
Laura Carmichael
We congratulate Laura Carmichael who has been selected as one of 12 Victorian students in the ‘Spirit of ANZAC’ Prize. This is an annual competition where students follow set criteria which poses the question ‘why is the ANZAC Spirit relevant in today’s society?’

Laura will travel to Gallipoli, The Western Front, and for the first time, Barendrecht in the Netherlands in April of this year on an all-expenses paid trip.

Laura travelled to Melbourne where she was acknowledged by the Premier of the state, Mr Ted Baillieu and the Minister for Veteran Affairs Mr Hugh Delahunty at Parliament House, Queens Hall.

This is a tremendous achievement for a year 11 student within the Region of Swan Hill. We have been fortunate to have other successful candidates who have won trips to Canberra for a study tour and a Premiers Luncheon. The competition is now open for 2014 and I encourage students to enter as you never know how successful you can be, until you try.

We look forward to hearing all about Laura’s trip on her return, at the start of term two.

Leanne Cook
Humanities Domain Leader

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ENROLMENTS OPEN FOR 2014

Kate Keetley
Educational Kinesiologist
Brain Gym® Consultant
Consulting at Mackillop College
Tuesday March 19th 2013
Help your child to achieve greater success at school and in their life
Call: 0417 132 254
livingmadeeasy@bigpond.com
An important cybersafety message

Our school has registered to take part in eSmart, a guiding framework for schools to manage cybersafety and wellbeing.

eSmart will help teachers, students and the whole school community embrace the benefits of technology and reduce our exposure to cyberspace risks such as cyberbullying, identity theft, online sexual predation and accessing or sending inappropriate images and content.

Funded by the Victorian Government, eSmart is an initiative of The Alannah and Madeline Foundation, a national charity committed to protecting children from violence.

Our work towards achieving eSmart status will involve the whole school community—for example, we’ll be integrating cybersafety into our wellbeing policies, establishing clear procedures to deal with incidents, and delivering curriculum around the smart, safe and responsible use of technology.

We’ll regularly update you on our progress through this newsletter. More information is also available at www.esmart.org.au

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Ladies Midweek Indoor Netball
We are holding our annual Gala Day
Tuesday morning 9.30am 16th April 2013

The morning consists of introductions, competition details, free morning tea and team/player registration.
Onsite child minding available.

WHERE: At The Stadium on Gray Street, Swan Hill
WHO: Women of all ages looking for social exercise

SEASON STARTS TUESDAY 23rd APRIL
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Max Baldwinson, Centre Manager 50324024 or Vicki Flannagan, Secretary 0427 302 228
Married Ladies Netball Association Visit our website www.mlna.websyte.com.au
Dear Parents

Year 7 and VCE Unit 3 Parent/Teacher/Student interviews will be held at the Jubilee Centre from **4.00pm – 7pm** on **Tuesday 26th March**.

You can now book interviews at times that suit **YOUR FAMILY BEST**. Go to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and follow these simple instructions.

**BOOKINGS OPEN FRIDAY 15th March at 9am.**
**BOOKINGS CLOSE TUESDAY 26th March at 9am.**

When you click **finish**, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically - **check your junk mail folder** if you do not receive your email immediately.

You can return to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) at any time, and change your interviews - until bookings close.

**BOOKINGS OPEN THIS FRIDAY SO THAT ALL FAMILIES MAY BOOK AT THE SAME TIME.**

Parents who don’t have access to the internet at home, at work, at a friend’s house or on their phones, can contact Amanda at the Front Office on 50 329771 from Monday 18th March onwards to make their bookings, or send a note to school with the approximate times they require. Interviews are strictly 10 mins and spaces are limited. If you require more time, or a phone interview, please contact your child’s teacher directly to make alternative arrangements.

Parents can change their interview bookings any time prior to the closing date by re-visiting the [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) website and using the event code. Parents wishing to change their interview times after the closing date should contact the school directly on 50329771.