Don’t be troubled by the future – He whose work it is will take care of it”  
(St Mary of the Cross MacKillop)

“Live a Life That Counts”

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends,

St Mary MacKillop College Mass and Feast Day
Our celebrations during JJAMM week last week were full of fun and a great sense of community. I thank Catherine Howison and all involved in the arrangements for the various activities that took place during the week. I have included as an attachment to this Newsletter the homily given by our two school captains Tom Connellan and Brigette Templeton and commend it to you as a highlight of our celebration. It is exceptionally good reading.

Student Free Day – Monday September 16th
As part of our Strategic Plan for the development of teaching and learning in the College we have been able to engage the services of Mr Philip Holmes-Smith to conduct a Professional Development day for Staff on Data Analysis which we believe is a key component to the progression of our teaching and learning. Therefore our students will not be required at school on September 16th. A small group of Year 12 students may be required to attend to complete a SAC and study facilities will be available on the day for all senior students for study purposes.

University Offers 2013
Recently published data indicates St Mary MacKillop College was one of only eight Victorian Schools to receive a 100% University Entrance Offer for our Year 12 students of 2012. We are proud of this achievement that all our students who sat for VCE last year received a University offer and wish all our students well who studied Year 12 last year.

Silver Jubilee Fundraising Appeal
Again I thank the small number of families who have contributed to our Silver Jubilee Fundraising Appeal and at the same time encourage others to support this initiative.

Insight SRC Survey
A random sample of 100 families was chosen to complete this survey which begins the process of our next school review. Thank you to those parents who have completed the survey either online or by returning the hard copy. Could I please ask other Parents to complete the survey either online or by returning the completed survey to Reception as soon as possible.

Rob Aron
Principal
School is hard work – for students and teachers. At St Mary MacKillop College our staff and students work hard and so it is refreshing to see them sometimes let their hair down a little and allow themselves time to just enjoy being part of a community. JJAMM Week offers that opportunity and this year the chance was taken by many! We began the week with an afternoon of activities at the Indoor Stadium. Traditionally this has been at the end of the week and it was a nice change to begin JJAMM week this way. Homerooms fought valiantly against each other in a variety of games in a Round Robin Tournament. The strength of Vertical Pastoral Care is at the fore on days like this and it was extremely enjoyable and also very competitive. Winners overall on the day were Solomon House who accumulated the most points, though special mention must go to Xavier 2 who were the Homeroom that managed 100% attendance and participation. Congratulations to the majority of our students who participated so well in this afternoon of school activities. I am sure Tenison can come back next year and topple Solomon! Thanks to Mr Joyce and Mr Hirst for organising and running the afternoon with precision and aplomb.

Tuesday saw the introduction of a new activity for 2013, the Staff v Student Quiz, “Are You Smarter than Your Teacher?”. Apparently, yes, our students are smarter with the student team of Michael Hoare, Jack Harvey, Declan Saville and Beau Knight, narrowly beating the staff team of Mr Aron, Ms Wilkins, Ms Ramkumar and Mr Waterson. It was neck for neck for most of the competition with the students just pulling ahead on the “Who am I” question in the final round. They were undoubtedly edged in front earlier by an excellent response to the question ‘What is the Japanese word for harbour wave’, which they not only spelled correctly but were also able to answer and write in Japanese. Good team planning!
Wednesday was pyJJAMMə day and the comfortable alternative to normal winter uniform was taken up by many this year. A bright array of colourful and interesting onesies was paraded through the school by our students and in particular our Year 12 supported this day with extra enthusiasm. Wednesday was also the day for jam doughnuts which although not as popular this year, did offer a bit of a sugar high to many students and staff! Thanks to Dave Daly, Mandy McCallum and the Hospitality students for the preparation and work involved in getting these sugary delights ready.

On Thursday we celebrated our Feast Day Mass with a beautiful, prayerful Liturgy of the Eucharist. Even though we enjoy all the activities it is really this day that is the most special and significant. I was very proud of our students and the way in which they very respectfully and reverently responded to the Mass. This year our School Captains, Brigette Templeton and Tom Connellan delivered the Homily. I am sure that all who heard these two young people speak were inspired by their words as they spoke so honestly and authentically about what it means to be a St Mary MacKillop College student, a student in a community inspired by Jesus Christ and by the Charism of Mary MacKillop. I congratulate them both and thank them sincerely for their humble response to this somewhat daunting request. My thanks too go to Fr Marcello Colasante, who in his progressive vision was so generous in allowing our students to take on this unconventional role. Thank you to Ms Wright for beautiful, reflective music and to the student musicians who supported her; Tamekah Chapman, William Barkman and Mitchell Barkman. Following Mass we enjoyed a feast of a giant chocolate cake to mark this very special occasion.

Friday ended our week with the annual Staff vs Student netball match. It seemed quite a serious and competitive affair this year with the Staff only just victorious. There were tumbles galore and much hilarity, some of which stemmed from the sight of the lycra suits. Thank you to Ms Bird for organising this match and to all the staff and students who displayed such athleticism on the day!

Throughout the week there were other opportunities for students to do something out of the ordinary. There was artwork in the Library, a giant Sudoku, movies and a 3 Point Shoot out competition. RE classes spent time revisiting the life and work of Australia’s first Saint. The Library Staff always support JJAMM week so generously with great displays and a progressive photoboard, both of which are still on display and well worth a viewing. Thanks too to Mr Burns and Mr Curtis who do so many things during the week, setting up and packing up of activities. This year JJAMM week was organised with the assistance of the Liturgy Committee: Nicola O’Brien, Laura Carmichael, Sheridan Carlson and Georgina Connellan. These young leaders were organised, energetic and enthusiastic and should be commended on their contribution to the week’s activities. Thank you girls!
The Communion Reflection at our Feast Day Mass gave our community a chance to reflect on the life and work of Mary MacKillop through a series of artworks and words. This was shown as we listened to “Hymn” performed with absolutely gentle beauty by Olivia and Georgie Tully-Watts. These young ladies gave a true testament to St Mary MacKillop in their willingness to do something for others and to share their talents. We look to Mary MacKillop as an example of an ordinary woman who lived an extraordinary life. Her life was lived for others and it is from the service of others that she found meaning and fulfilment. The song has much to say about Mary’s devotion to God:

If my heart has one ambition
If my soul one goal to seek
This my solitary vision ‘til I only dwell in Thee

Thank you to all who made JJAMM Week 2013 so successful and may we, in Mary’s example “work on with constancy and courage.”

Mrs Catherine Howison
Director of Mission

CURRICULUM
Unit 3/4 PRACTICE EXAM TIMETABLE 2013

All students studying a Unit 3 / 4 subject (Year 12 subject) are required to attend practice exams in the second week of the school holidays as per the timetable below. Any rescheduling of a practice exam due to timetable clashes or valid personal/work reasons must be requested in writing, with a parent signature, to Mrs Suzy Haley, Senior School Coordinator, prior to the holidays. All students must complete and submit a practice exam for their subject, even if rescheduled, by 3pm Wednesday 2nd October.

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<th>DATE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, September 30th</td>
<td>9.00 – 12.15</td>
<td>ENGLISH Unit 3/4 RE</td>
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<td>1.15 – 4.00</td>
<td>BIOLOGY STUDIO ART AUSTRALIAN HISTORY VET SPORT &amp; REC VET HOSPITALITY VET ENGINEERING</td>
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<td>Tuesday, October 1st</td>
<td>9.00 – 11.45</td>
<td>VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS CHEMISTRY PSYCHOLOGY</td>
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<td>12:15 – 2.00</td>
<td>FURTHER MATHS MATH METHODS</td>
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<td>HEALTH &amp; HD PHYSICS ITALIAN</td>
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<td>Wednesday, October 2nd</td>
<td>9.00 – 11:15</td>
<td>LITERATURE PHYSICAL EDUCATION</td>
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<td>12.00 – 2.45</td>
<td>BUSINESS MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING GEOGRAPHY FOOD TECHNOLOGY</td>
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After School Homework and Study Assistance in the Library
Monday – Wednesday 3:30 – 4:30pm

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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Lyndal Vallak</td>
<td>Chelsea Bird</td>
<td>Staff Meeting</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Graham Williams</td>
<td>Athletics Carnival</td>
<td>Chris Joyce</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Cathie Smith</td>
<td>Robert McGregor</td>
<td>Jonathan Roberts</td>
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PATHWAYS / CAREERS NEWS

The Careers Office has numerous publications available to assist students at the beginning of their career journey. The Job Guide 2013 is one such publication that helps Year 9 and 10 students explore career options and start making decisions about their future. When considering the kind of work they might like to do, it is important to choose subjects they enjoy as well as personal interests and activities they are good at. This is the beginning of a career path as it helps identify their strengths and abilities. Copies are available for borrowing now from the Careers Office.

Year 12 Information Session
On Monday, September 2nd there will be an Information Session at 2.00pm for all Year 12 students and their parents. The aim of the afternoon is ensure that we are providing school leavers with as much information as possible for life after school. Guest Speakers from Chances for Children and Centrelink will be presenting information to all students. Career Advisers Mrs Laura Crow and Mrs Brenda Brady will also be available to speak with any students or parents following the presentation.

LEAP into Law
Australian Catholic University invites interested Year 10, 11 and 12 students to attend a one day Law Workshop. This will be held at ACU’s Fitzroy Campus on Friday, September 20th. This workshop will give students an appreciation of the varied roles that exist in the legal profession and expand their knowledge and confidence around legal vocabulary. Activities on the day will be conducted by University Law lecturers and experienced Lawyers/ Senior Counsel. Discussions will focus on cases in criminal law and intellectual property in popular music. Students will have an opportunity to actively engage in legal role-play and experience a moot court scenario.

There is no cost to attend the workshop and early registration is advised. Expression of interest must be registered by Friday, August 30.

DEAKIN AT YOUR DOORSTEP
Are you currently in Year 12 or mature-aged and returning to study? Do you want to combine working part time and study locally? Deakin at Your Doorstep currently offers two courses - ASSOCIATE DEGREE OF ARTS, BUSINESS AND SCIENCES (Studied with a SuniTAFE diploma) and BACHELOR OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

To find out more, you are invited to an Information Session at SuniTAFE, 64 Lake Sea Rd, Swan Hill on Sunday, 18 August, 11.00 am–12 pm
**Herald Sun Melbourne Career Expo 2013**

The Melbourne Career Expo will be held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre from August 16th – August 18th. This is a great opportunity for students to learn about areas of interest and experience a large and comprehensive range of activities, including:-

- Try a trade in the ‘hands on’ Skills Industry Hub
- Attend career information seminars
- Speak to representatives from over 200 education institutions, businesses and organisations

For more information, go to [www.careerexpo.com.au](http://www.careerexpo.com.au)


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<td>Albury-Wodonga: August 30th</td>
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<td>Melbourne University</td>
<td>Parkville Campus, Dookie Agricultural College and Victorian College of the Arts and Music: August 18th</td>
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<td>University of Ballarat</td>
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**NEW STAFF PROFILE – ROBERT McGREGOR**

Robert joined the staff of St Mary Mackillop College at the beginning of this year coming to us from Dubbo in New South Wales. Robert began his career in sales and marketing but undertook a “sea change” and obtained his Bachelor of Education (Primary) from Macquarie University in 2006. Robert and his family then moved from Sydney to rural NSW to work as a teacher for two years with indigenous students in Walgett and Coonamble. After undertaking post graduate studies in Sydney to retrain as a secondary Mathematics teacher Robert decided he enjoyed the rural life style and returned to regional NSW to work for a year as a teacher in Dubbo.

Robert first heard about our school through the widely respected Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers. Robert finally decided to make the move to Swan Hill with his wife and two children after an extensive search throughout Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria for a school that offered its students an innovative approach to secondary Mathematics education.

Robert has enjoyed his first six months at our school and looks forward to making Swan Hill a long term stay. One of his highlights has been the Year 8 camp this year where he finally realised his lifelong dream to learn to ride a surf board.

We hope Robert, his wife Orathai and two children will enjoy life in Swan Hill. We trust Robert will find his role as a Mathematics Teacher at St Mary Mackillop College stimulating as he encourages students to deal with the intricacies and challenges of Mathematics.

**VET HOSPITALITY**

**MURRAY RIVER CULINARY CHALLENGE**

The Regional Murray River Culinary Challenge was held at the Swan Hill Secondary College on Tuesday 13th August. The best two teams from St Mary MacKillop College and Swan Hill Secondary College participated in this annual ‘Cook Off’.

The teams, of two students each, were required to cook a three course meal for two within a set time. The entrée consisted of calamari with a Vietnamese salad and chilli oil, the main was twice cooked chicken roulade with a
All teams worked well under the watchful eyes of local chefs who judged the competition and commended all participants on their cooking skills and presentation. St Mary MacKillop College students, Elly Gibson and Ashlee Polinelli were the overall winners on the day, 2nd place also went to the other St Mary MacKillop team of Ella Marmottan and Lisa Bartalotta. Elly and Ashlee will now travel to Echuca on 10th September to compete in the Regional Final against five other regions along the Murray River. We wish both girls the best of luck in the final stage of the Culinary Challenge.

YEAR 7D HUMANITIES

Why it is important to bin our rubbish?

Dear students and staff,

The purpose of this project is to raise awareness about the need to bin our rubbish. It is important to bin our rubbish because animals could mistake litter for food and it could choke them to death by getting stuck in their throats when they try to digest it. It can also get caught in plants and ruin vegetation and our waterways. It is essential to educate people about why it is important to bin our rubbish because 3 out of 10 people litter. Litter makes its way to waterways through storm water systems and littered rubbish makes areas look dirty and uncared for. Over 1 million seabirds and 100,000 turtles and marine mammals are killed each year and 6 million tonnes of rubbish enters our oceans and river systems annually.

Our project has involved adopting a bin to encourage our students to ‘bin it’. Each week we measure the depth of our rubbish in the school. We hope by advertising our intention with this environment project that our school community will take our ideas on board and simply see why it is important that we look after our environment.

Thanking you
Rhys, Brayden and Sam - Year 7D Humanities.

Why is it important to bin our rubbish?

Dear school community,

It is important to bin our rubbish, as this has a massive impact on the environment and the other creatures in this world. The average person uses 1.95 kg of waste a day which adds up to 711.75 kg a year. The impact of littering in this world is quite fatal and deadly it affects many marine animals in the ocean and makes the ocean a
A dirty and unsafe place to be. Eighty different contaminants can affect drinking water.

Many marine animals die from polluted oceans from pollution of rubbish which releases deadly toxins, pollution kills 86% of all species of turtles, 44% of sea bird species and other animals including fish, seals whales etc.

Pollution contaminates the air, the water and soil. Polluted air can make a huge difference in our society. Air pollution consists of solid particles and gases. People who breathe in these poisons are at a higher risk of asthma and reproductive system damage and birth defects can also be caused by air pollution.

The desired outcome for pollution is to have clean waterways, air, and soil and make the world a safe place to be and not in danger. If people at least reduce the amount of litter they produce this can happen.

This term we have ‘Adopted a Bin’, our class is trying to reduce the levels of rubbish our school produces and we are endeavouring to keep our school a clean place. We have placed posters around the school to remind students and staff about the effects of rubbish and also decorated our ‘Adopted Bin’ to encourage everyone to Bin It.

In Swan Hill we can stop water pollution by placing mesh wire in the storm water drain outlets to stop rubbish from entering our waterways or simply bin it.

Yours Sincerely Meg, Anna, Taigan, Sophie and Nichola. Yr 7D Humanities

MATHEMATICS DAY 16TH AUGUST PUZZLES

Junior: Using some scrabble tiles find a word that has a value the same as the word.
Intermediate: How many squares are there on a chess board, there are more than 64.

Senior: NEIGHBORS
This is another example of Einstein's riddles. It is said that this quiz was made up by the famous physicist and according to him 98% will not solve it. There is a row of five different color houses. Each house is occupied by a man of different nationality. Each man has a different pet, prefers a different drink, and smokes different brand of cigarettes.

1. The Brit lives in the Red house.
2. The Swede keeps dogs as pets.
3. The Dane drinks tea.
4. The Green house is next to the White house, on the left.
5. The owner of the Green house drinks coffee.
6. The person who smokes Pall Mall rears birds.
7. The owner of the Yellow house smokes Dunhill.
8. The man living in the centre house drinks milk.
10. The man who smokes Blends lives next to the one who keeps cats.
11. The man who keeps horses lives next to the man who smokes Dunhill.
12. The man who smokes Blue Master drinks beer.
13. The German smokes Prince.
14. The Norwegian lives next to the Blue house.
15. The man who smokes Blends has a neighbour who drinks water.

Who has fish at home? Are you one of the 2%?

Solutions: Jnr: Twelve = 12 points Int: 204 squares [eg there are 16 5by5 squares] Snr: The German

MURAL PROJECT
The Arts Committee this year have undertaken a project to beautify our school grounds. In keeping with this aim a final mural project was completed last week. To help with the designs a competition was run throughout the entire school and volunteers from teaching and the student body were called on to assist with the painting. (We even had a future Year 7 help last school holidays). A big thank you to all who took part in this project, it does indeed add to our school look!

The Arts Committee
VET BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION

Our Year 10 and 11 students completing Certificate Two in Building and Construction recently had the opportunity to put their practical construction skills to use, after being approached by the Swan Hill Specialist School to construct a “GA-GA” ball court for their students. GAGA Ball is a new ball game which originated in Israel and is a form of dodge ball, normally played within an octagon pit. The five students involved in the construction of the pit over a three week period were Ryan Hodgson, Ryle Conway, Daniel Mase, Steven Cameron and Josh Domaille. The Swan Hill Specialist School were very happy with the fantastic job our students did and the court has been very popular with their students. The pit has created a mentoring experience at the school with the older students helping out the younger ones. St Mary MacKillop College students should be very proud of the group’s achievement as this is another way that they have expressed their connection with the community.
SCHOOL CAPTAINS HOMILIES

TOM CONNELLAN

When Mrs. Howison approached us last week and asked if we felt comfortable giving the homily at mass today, we were initially taken aback. I mean, the question ‘What does it mean to be a St Mary MacKillop College student?’ hardly has a simple answer.

However, I think the topic of today’s mass outlines it simply and accurately.

“Bearing with one another, forgiving each other and loving each other”

This motto is not only a fundamental of surviving your days at high school; it is an ability that you can apply to the wider world in so many different situations. Whether it be within your sporting team, circle of friends, or within your family, our interactions and relations with one another basically entail everything we do.

Now I know that everyone here knows this motto ‘live a life that counts’. However, my question is, how many of you have ever taken a small amount of time during your busy day to consider what it means, and why it is important to all of us as the community of St Mary MacKillop College.

This is my interpretation of ‘living a life that counts’.

Students travel every day from as far as Kerang, Sea Lake, Tooleybuc and Balranald for a reason. St Mary MacKillop College is, in my eyes, been a shining light of possibility and potential for students within Swan Hill and the surrounding districts.

By adopting the values of compassion that Mary MacKillop so fervently showed during her time, the veins of our school have filled with an underlying feel of belonging. Our association to Mary MacKillop through our school’s faith and vision has created a connected community that is continually growing in prosperity, educational prowess and technological advancements.

Living a life that counts means to be grateful for the wonderful things we have, just as Mary MacKillop showed gratitude and compassion to so many. We must all strive toward the possibilities of success that are achievable within our school community, through the ideals of Mary MacKillop.

So what then, is the significance of being a student of St Mary MacKillop College? All the JJAMM week celebrations, really, what is their significance? The answer is simple. You only to look as far as the smiles on the faces of those involved in JJAMM week activities, organized so wonderfully by Mrs Howison, to realize, that everything that our school is, is influenced by Mary MacKillop. Our school’s values of being an educative, equal and faithful community all stem from the ideals of Mary MacKillop.

A simple example of Mary MacKillop’s values struck me earlier on this week. Last Friday, my school captain’s badge fell from my jumper on the oval without me knowing. At the beginning of this week, a compassionate student - Tully Roberts - approached me to return it. This very basis is what makes St Mary MacKillop College so great. We are an interconnected group of people that are all striving toward ‘living a life that counts’. Our school, without many of you knowing, is preparing you for the future in so many ways.
BRIGETTE TEMPLETON

It is very easy to take for granted the fact that our present lives have value in our future. Though I admit that I do frequently wonder what kind of world we will have. Will we be able to live on an inhabitable Earth? Will we have fresh water to drink and food to eat? Will we live in a world with social order and peace? Will we live in a world where all life is seen as sacred?

I admit, sometimes it’s difficult for us to have hope in the future but we shouldn’t be negative or pessimistic. We should rather believe in future possibility. If we want there to be a future for us, for our children, and even the generations we will never know, we must invest in that future for them.

It is important we take note of the things that St Mary MacKillop achieved, because if we aspire to be more like her, to give and to help others, we will live a happy life. If we stop worrying about what other people think of us, we can ultimately be the best version of ourselves, remembering that God is always there to depend on.

Mary MacKillop’s actions remind us that it is possible to achieve whatever we aspire to do; but only if we believe we can do it. Mary MacKillop put the Grace of God into action by fighting for the right to teach all students who wanted to learn yet despite being ostracised and ridiculed for her actions, she never gave up.

During our lives we will inevitably be faced with difficult situations, difficult people and things we may not want to do. Mary MacKillop lived a difficult life, plagued with illness, ridicule, disappointment and was even excommunicated. Despite these obstacles Mary’s faith never wavered. Her belief that God would deliver her and that her actions were fuelled by the grace of God, kept her going when others would have given up.

It makes me think about my own values and ideals:

- Can I reach out beyond the boundary of comfort?
- Do I hear the cries of the poor and the ones who suffer immense times of struggle?
- Do I truly hear and see those who are racially, culturally or religiously different from me? Can I actually step into their shoes and see life from their eyes?
- Do I know what it feels like to be looked upon with fear or prejudice?
- And am I willing to be courageous enough to remove prejudice and judgment from my life – to stand up for what I believe is right?

A lot of the time, we expect God to hear us and answer our prayers, but how is our own hearing?

Like Tom mentioned, by adopting the values of compassion that Mary MacKillop showed, our school has excelled in its sense of belonging and warmth. Being at St Mary MacKillop College means that we are following in her footsteps. In saying that, we do not mean that we all have to do what Mary MacKillop achieved, but we can certainly find our own ways to aspire to her ways of compassion, justice and good will.

I confess, and most likely to Mr Joyce’s disappointment, that I put off studying for my P.E. SAC last night because I was more interested in writing the homily for today’s mass. And I didn’t do it as a way of procrastinating as many of my friends would think, but because I wanted to get through to as many of you as possible. We don’t just stand up here for the sake of it, and not just because we have to – we want to lead all of you to be the best versions of yourselves. And in saying that, I ask you, like we are so often asked; how will you live a life that counts? Actually think about it. Think how you as an individual and even us as a group are able to bear with one another, forgive each other and love each other. Think about St Mary MacKillop, because she certainly is a shining example of how we can all live a life that counts.