Dear Parents, Guardian and Friends,

"Harmony Day 21 March is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home – from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world. By participating in Harmony Day activities, we can learn and understand how all Australians from diverse backgrounds equally belong to this nation and enrich it" [http://www.harmony.gov.au/]

Today St Mary MacKillop College celebrated Harmony Day with foods from different cultures, which were available at lunch time. Money raised from the sale of this food will go towards WOODS House fundraising for Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. It is fitting that Harmony Day falls in the season of Lent. During this time we are called to challenge ourselves to make a change in our lives. As Jesus called all people to him, we too must open our hearts and minds to accepting all people in a humane and dignified manner.

What's been happening?
Over the past two weeks, many things have been on the go at St Mary MacKillop College.

Year 7 and 8 students had the privilege of watching a presentation from Motivational Media titled "IMPACT". More information in regard to this presentation can be found at [http://www.motivationalmedia.org.au/presentations/impact].

Our Year 12 students ventured off to Halls Gap to participate in the Year 12 Retreat. Fr Marcello and I were warmly welcomed on Thursday afternoon to celebrate Mass and then participate in the evening sessions. This is a truly wonderful experience for our students, one which I am sure they will never forget.

A number of students travelled to Mildura on Friday 14th March to take part in the Mildura Interschool Chess Competition. The students were well supported by Mr Geoff Hickmott, finishing in third place and had a great time.

On Thursday 20th March many of the College’s students participated in Summer Sports. This sporting event allows students to participate in the sports of Tennis, Volleyball, Cricket, Basketball, Table Tennis and Lawn Bowls. The students compete against teams from Swan Hill College, Kerang Tech High School and Cohuna Secondary College. Results from this event will be published in the next newsletter.
Pastoral Care this week centred on Homeroom projects that can benefit a group in the wider community. I look forward to seeing these projects develop over the year.

So as you can see, St Mary MacKillop College provides an abundance of activities for our students whilst remaining focused on excellence in education. As our vision statement states, we aim to ‘Nurture the development of the whole person by empowering our students to make a positive contribution in the world’.

Michelle Haeusler
Principal

ST MARY MACKILLOP COLLEGE SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL – PARENT REPRESENTATIVE

The St Mary MacKillop College School Advisory Council (SAC) Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 29th April. This year we will have up to four vacancies on the SAC. The purpose of the SAC is to support and give advice to the Principal in matters which affect the ethos of the school. It does not have authority in the management or day-to-day running of the school. The work of the Advisory Council includes planning for the present and future operation of the College and articulating and enacting the College’s Vision and Mission.

A Parent/Guardian Representative’s term of office is two years and we call upon all parents/guardians to contemplate taking up this unique and important role at the school. Please contact Michelle Haeusler at the College for more information, or to nominate for a position. The Board meets every third Tuesday of the month, with the exception of school holidays. We thank you in anticipation of your consideration and nomination.

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

We find ourselves at the end of Week 8 with Easter not that far away and the weather starting to turn. The mornings are certainly a little fresher!

As is our usual practice we will have a transitional change into winter uniform. Students may begin wearing full school winter uniform in the last week of term. We do ask that students wear the full uniform, either summer or winter, not a combination of the two. It is expected that all students be wearing winter uniform by Friday the 2nd of May. The extra few student free days at the beginning of Term 2 gives families a bit more breathing space in terms of getting uniforms organised and altered if necessary. Already many of our students are opting to wear the College jacket. The jacket is lightweight and also warm. A reminder though that it is considered as an outer garment and was introduced into our uniform for that reason – to provide an extra layer of warmth during the colder months. The jacket is only to be worn over the top of the school jumper; it is not an alternative. Students will be asked to remove jackets in class; our rooms are more than adequately heated.

IMMUNISATIONS

Immunisations will be held on Wednesday 26th March. Immunisation Cards have been distributed via Homerooms and should have been returned. If you have not returned the Immunisation Card please do so as soon as possible.

ROAD SAFETY CONCERNS

We are quite concerned about the potential dangers to our students during peak drop off times in the morning before school. The High Street crossing area is particularly busy with traffic prior to school. Parents please be patient and careful when dropping your children off. At the moment cars are pulling over too close to the crossing and students are getting out of cars and walking straight onto the road. We have had members of the public contact us because they are concerned that an accident may occur. Students please use the flagged crossing that is provided for safe crossing of the road. This is something we all need to be careful about to ensure safety of our students, staff and families and for other members of our community using the roads.


**FAITH MATTERS**

**Pastoral Care Community Projects – Putting Catholic Social Teaching into action.**

If you have been following Twitter you may have noticed some photos of our students working in Homerooms on their Community Homeroom Project. This is a new initiative for 2014. Each Homeroom has been encouraged to develop an idea for ‘building’ community, whether it be our immediate St Mary MacKillop College community or reach further into the wider Swan Hill community. As a Catholic school we have a particular obligation to understand ourselves as being situated in the community. This obligation means we look beyond ourselves to the needs of others, really striving to live out the Gospel call to love one’s neighbour. Our tradition provides a set of principles that call us to work towards peace, justice and equality for all. These principles are the premise of Catholic Social Teaching. This is possibly the first time you have heard or read about this aspect of our faith tradition.

“Catholic Social Teaching sums up the teachings of the Church on issues of justice between groups in society. It seeks to bring the light of the Gospel to bear on the social justice issues that arise in the complex network of relationships in which we live.” (faithdoingjustice.com.au)

A rich source of wisdom about building a just society amidst the challenges of a modern and rapidly changing society, the key themes at the heart of our Catholic social tradition are:

**Life and Dignity of the Human Person**
**Call to Family, Community, and Participation**
**Rights and Responsibilities**
**Option for the Poor and Vulnerable**
**The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers**
**Solidarity**
**Care for God’s Creation.**

Through our Homeroom Community Projects we hope to promote with our students an awareness of the needs of others, a care for God’s creation and an opportunity to look beyond the day to day of our own lives and to appreciate the needs of others. The season of Lent is the perfect time to begin reflection on this theme.

Homerooms are making Birthday cards, organising student activities and planting seedlings to nurture into healthy plants throughout the year. This is a great thing to take on board and congratulations to those Homerooms who are well on the way in terms of their planning and implementation. It is still early days and I am sure there will be a diverse range of projects for us to hear about in the future.

**Let us pray ...**

Creator God, Your image is alive in every human person giving to each of us an inviolable dignity. Create in us a desire to act in solidarity, an energy to work together and a willingness to share with others our time, our energy, our skills and talents and our wealth.

As we share and enjoy the fruits of your creation, restore in us your vision of a world made whole, and inspire us to commit ourselves to the common good.

Gracious God, give us ears to hear, eyes to see and hearts to love, so that we reflect you in our way of life, and in our choices, words and actions.

Jesus is the good news to the poor. As his followers, may we recognise the call to be the same.

Amen

Mrs Catherine Howison
Deputy Principal
Director of Mission

**CURRICULUM NEWS**

**Teacher Adviser Reports and Subject Interim Reports**

Subject Interim Reports for all year levels, except Year 9, are available online by logging on to our Parent Access Module via our website. Students may also access them directly via our Intranet. Most Teacher Advisor reports for Term 1 have also been completed and therefore we ask that you read through the reports and discuss them with your child.

All assessment grades and feedback are available online as soon as work is submitted and marked, therefore feedback on your child’s progress in subjects is continually being updated so please check for updates and upcoming assessment tasks regularly.
Some subject reports will only show work habits without feedback comments as at the time of the report being generated, the class has not yet completed a formal assessment task. Please do not hesitate to contact the Teacher Advisor who completed the interview if you wish to discuss any aspect of these reports.

**Parent Teacher Interview Evenings in the Jubilee Centre**

Parents and students are also invited to attend Parent Teacher Interview evenings (4:00pm – 7:00pm) to discuss student progress, face to face, with their Subject teachers and Homeroom teachers.

- **Year 7 & 12** --- 1st April 2014 (This includes any Year 11 student studying a Year 12 (Unit 3 Subject)
- **Year 8 – 11** --- 6th May 2014

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

**After School Homework and Study Assistance in the Library**

Monday – Wednesday 3:30pm – 4:30pm

**After School Homework and Study Help in the Library**

In an effort to assist students with their homework and develop sound study skills, the staff at St Mary MacKillop College have been rostered into the Library every Monday – Wednesday from 3:30 – 4:30 pm, with an English teacher rostered on every Monday and a Mathematics teacher rostered every Tuesday. We strongly encourage students to utilise this excellent facility, where students can stay after school any day until 4:30pm (except Friday when the Library closes at 4:00pm).

**After School Homework and SAC Supervision**

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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Bill Kemp</td>
<td>Cathie Smith</td>
<td>Tony Haley</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Carolyn Anderson</td>
<td>Lyndal Vallak</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Damian Howison</td>
<td>Parent Interviews</td>
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Sally Looney  
Director of Curriculum

**PATHWAYS / CAREERS NEWS**

**The Age VCE and Careers Expo 2014**

This is a fantastic annual event which enables senior students and their parents to participate in a diverse range of seminars related to VCE subjects, vocational and higher education courses, career pathways, gap year opportunities and VCE study skills.

Over 170 exhibitors including Universities, Tertiary Institutions and Training Colleges will be in attendance. Students will have opportunities to speak to course and program advisers directly about their services. Free passes are available from the Pathways Office.

The event will be held at Caulfield Racecourse from Thursday, May 8 to Sunday, May 11. To find out more go to [www.vceandcareers.com.au](http://www.vceandcareers.com.au)

**Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT)**

UMAT is developed and used specifically to assist with the selection of students who wish to study Medicine and some Health Science degree programs at University - Monash (Medicine and Physiotherapy), LaTrobe (Dentistry and Oral Health Science). This test is a prerequisite for admission to these courses, and is designed to assess general attributes and abilities gained through prior experience and learning. UMAT application information including the registration process is available for all Year 12 students from the Pathways Office. **Registration deadline is Friday, June 6.** For more information go to [www.umat.acer.edu.au](http://www.umat.acer.edu.au)
Experience La Trobe is designed especially for future students to get a taste of what it’s like to be a La Trobe student for a day. The event will be held Friday, April 11 at the Bundoora and Bendigo campuses. For more information go to http://www.latrobe.edu.au/experience

A Day at Melbourne University
Date: Friday, April 11
Time: 10.00am – 3.30pm
Location: The University of Melbourne, Parkville campus

Interested in Nursing? The Australian College of Nursing is hosting a Nursing and Health Expo on Saturday, April 12 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre between 9am – 1pm.
For more information go to: http://acn.edu.au/expos

Considering a career in Forensic Science? The next Information Day is on Friday, April 11, 12.30pm – 4.00pm at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM), Southbank.
For more information go to: http://www.vifm.org/about-us/careers-at-vifm

Science in the City, RMIT: Learn about the science programs on offer at RMIT, and undertake a tour at the City Campus on Monday 7 April.
Limited places available, so register at http://www.rmit.edu.au/appliedsciences/discover

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Australian National University (ANU) Scholarship Opportunity
The Tuckwell Scholarship program provides 25 students each year with a $20,900 scholarship for up to five years of their degree at ANU for expenses such as accommodation and living costs. As part of the program, Tuckwell Scholars will live on the ANU campus in a hall or residential college. Applications close March 21, 2014. For more information visit tuckwell.anu.edu.au

Year 9/10 Subject News!!

Year 9
Students have just finished working on values and are now working on a presentation on a person they admire, who characterises the values important to them. Pathways is assisting the students in their self development and preparing them for What Next?

Year 10
Students have been exploring possible careers and occupations of interest using a variety of websites such as Myfuture, Australian Apprenticeships, Ambulance Victoria, Victoria Police and the Australian Defence Force. Some of them have then utilised the VTAC website to understand the required ATAR and any course pre-requisites as they plan their pathways.
Next week students will begin a plan that assists setting personal goals – short term (6 month), medium term (12 months) and long term (Year 12 and beyond). While it is very important for students to have long term goals, it is equally important for them to have short term goals that they know are achievable in the very near future. They can be goals such as undertaking Work Experience, finding part-time employment, gaining their Learner’s Permit or securing a place in their chosen sporting team. The next step is discuss will be the willpower and effort required to meet these goals. We encourage all parents to discuss their son/daughters pathways plans with them.
It has been great to see students starting Work Experience this week. Work Experience is a great opportunity for students to explore experience and try an occupation.

Laura Crow and Brenda Brady
Pathways Team
YEAR 12 RETREAT – HALLS GAP

Shocked by the revelation that this year’s retreat would be our last ever camp for our schooling lives, the reality of being in Year 12 and the inevitable future of not returning to high school next year began to sink in.

Located in the heart of the Grampians, and just a short walk from the Halls Gap Township, Tandara Camp was the central point for our retreat – and a source of an abundance of food, relaxation and understanding of the beauty of nature. Our retreat among the mountains called for our own individual searching for the meaning of our lives, the year ahead of us, and our connection to our spirituality.

The creation of our individual totem pieces became representative of our stories, our journeys, and all those who have bore witness to our growth.

Broken down into smaller groups, we bonded over chocolate, lollies and intimate discussions of life, Year 12 and the pressures which are facing us. We all faced our fears, set plans and connected to the stories/struggles and successes of our group members.

The game of ‘Squares’ has become symbolic of our year level and the relationships we have formed. Initially starting as a small game between close friends, this expanded to include the whole year level – and teachers. Whether watching, scoring, or actually playing, everyone was involved and soon became fierce competitors. Girls v boys, VCAL v VCE, and inexperience v experience – the game became huge. Following intense games of ‘Squares’, the one game where everyone in the year level participated and indefinitely bonded, a trip to the famous ice-cream parlor was called for. Those who had never been to Halls Gap before were taken aback by the flavorsome delicacy – though decided a jog up the mountain was needed to burn all those excessive calories.

Our own interpretation of education, stress and the Class of 2014 became evident in the liturgy at Venus Baths. We were all asked to take some part in the organization or running of this event – and used symbols, the Word and prayers to reflect our individuality and the year ahead. The beautiful celebration was surrounded by a flowing stream, picturesque cliff faces, and touches of native wildlife; abiding with the cliché definition of Halls Gap being a place of serene peace and tranquility where God was present. Following our Liturgy those who were then brave enough to venture up to the Pinnacle did so, with the one hour walk/hike showing all of what Halls Gap has to offer.

The final evening saw us coming together one final time in a place where there were no pressures and no homework or study. All our parents were invited to write their sons/daughters a letter to reflect on their experiences of our journeys. Many tears were shed; some people witnessing their parents love unequivocally, others realizing how much their parents words and blessings meant to them. These heartfelt letters were a strong source of love and guidance for the coming year, and will truly be treasured for a long time by all.

Perhaps the most touching moment of the whole trip was being involved in the group sharing activity. For this we congregated around in a large circle, with only candles lit, our ‘special item or memory’, and our freshly created totem. The respect shown towards each individual’s story and his or her grief or happiness was inspirational and remained a positive sign for the remainder of the year and is tribute to the close-knit relationships we have formed. This reminiscing of childhood memories, proud moments, shattering stories and emotional testimonies was solidified by the ability for our whole year level to remain compassionate and caring for each individual and their situation.

It was an absolute privilege to spend three days with our year level and Year 12 teachers – and to see us grow closer as a group has been phenomenal. The relationships we have formed, continued and strengthened over just three days is proof that our friendships have potential to last a lifetime.

Sheridan Carlson & Laura Carmichael

Liturgy Committee
MACBOOK ROLLOUT UPDATE

It has been a hectic term with the successful rollout of MacBook Pros to our Year 11 and Year 9 students. There has been much learning happening on both sides of the classroom, as students and teachers have started using these great tools for new forms of teaching and learning. The school's ICT infrastructure and services have stood up to the increased demands of all these new devices, and are expected to cope with growth as further laptops are rolled out in the future.

The majority of students have been using the laptops in a positive manner, and teachers are making good use of online and electronic resources. Students are pushing creative boundaries and it is exciting to see what is being done around the school on the MacBooks.

Now is a good time for families to take stock of how the laptops are being used and to make sure that students and parents are making the most of this fantastic learning opportunity. It is also a good time for students and parents to make sure that they can access their reports and assessment tasks through the learning areas or the Parent Access Module.

Thank you to all staff and students who have contributed to the success of this initiative; it has been a massive undertaking for all involved.
For any questions or issues students or parents have, there is a link on the St Mary MacKillop College webpage, or directly at http://www.mackillopsh.vic.edu.au/support

Jonathan Roberts
ICT Coordinator

INTER SCHOOL CHESS: MILDURA

Thirteen St Mary MacKillop College students participated in the recent Inter-School Chess Tournament in Mildura, and after 7 games each, were able to ensure the College finished a creditable third in two of the nominated age-group competitions. For a number of the students this was their second appearance in such a tournament, and judging from their enthusiasm there will be no shortage of entries for future competitions. Students were pitted against similarly ranked opponents and on completion of each thirty minute game, reported to the adjudicators table where results were entered into a database and scores and any changes in rankings were visible via a large screen.

Congratulations to all students who participated, showing good sportsmanship throughout the day.

Seventeen teams competed and the overall results were:

Open Secondary
1st: Red Cliffs Secondary College
2nd: Chaffey Secondary College
3rd: St Mary MacKillop College Swan Hill

Middle Years
1st: St Joseph’s College
2nd: Red Cliffs Secondary College
3rd: St Mary MacKillop College Swan Hill
**BUS PASSES**

A bus pass can be provided by the Bus Coordinator through the Student Wellbeing Centre. This would be a pass for a limited time in extenuating circumstances ONLY. An example is if the child’s parents are away from home and consequently the child is staying at a friend’s or relative’s home. The student should bring a note, signed by the parent, stating the date and the reason for the pass no later than recess on the date of travel.

Passes will not be given to students for recreational purposes such as birthday parties or football and netball training. It is the parents’ responsibility to transport children for these activities. The college needs to know exactly who is on the bus in case of an emergency and to ensure all have a safe allocated seat. Bus numbers are often near capacity and excess numbers could cause overcrowding. All country drivers have been instructed not to let any unregistered travellers on their buses.

Please feel free to contact the Coordinator, Mrs Kathie Box at St Mary MacKillop College if you require further information.

Kathie Box
Bus Coordinator

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### Youth Girls AFL Football

It is without a doubt that Girls and Women’s AFL Football is one of the fastest growing sports in the country. In 10 years Victorian Women’s Football alone has grown from 22 structured teams to 145 teams. The amount of girls playing within boys competitions is decreasing.

In 2014 Swan Hill alongside AFL Victoria are committed in aiming to starting up a Youth Girls Football Team to play in some form of structured competition. Youth Girls Football is aimed at 13-18 year old females who enjoy football and want to focus on fun, fitness and friendship within a family friendly environment.

‘Come and Try’ Night
Friday 21st and 28th of March and 4th of April
5pm
TynTynder Oval
For further information contact Jamie Macri on 0407 216 719

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### Swan Hill Soccer season will commence on Saturday 29th March 2014

- Players born 2009–2005 play at 9:00am
- Players born 2004–2002 play 10:00am
- Players born 2001-1997 play at 11:00 am

Please arrive 15 minutes before your game.
All players are to self register by the website
Any enquiries please contact Don on 0423 946 190
Dear Parents

VCE Unit 3 and Year 7 Parent/Teacher/Student interviews will be held at the Jubilee Centre from **4pm – 7pm on Tuesday 1st April.**

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 21ST March at 9am.**

**BOOKINGS CLOSE TUESDAY 1st April at 9am.**

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**Go to**


Enter THIS school event code.

Then follow the 3 simple steps.

---

1. **Enter your details**
2. **Choose teachers**
3. **Choose times**

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.

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

Parents who do not 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 Friday 21st March onwards to make their bookings, or send a note to school with the approximate times they require. Interviews are strictly 10 minutes 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.