“God loves those best who help the weak become whole”
(St Mary of the Cross MacKillop)

“Live a Life That Counts”

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends,

Pentecost
Without the Holy Spirit:
God is far away
Christ stays in the past
The gospel is a dead letter;
The Church is simply an organization;
Authority is a matter of domination;
Mission is a matter of propaganda;
The liturgy no more than an evocation;
Christian living a slave mentality
For me this sums up the essence and importance of the Holy Spirit in our everyday lives.

Staff Movements
We welcome Shweta Ramkumar to the College, who will be teaching Science in a number of classes in the school. Shweta hails from Melbourne – we thank her for choosing to move to Swan Hill to be part of our teaching staff. We also welcome Libby Hocking back to the school after some time away.

Winter Sports Programme
Congratulations to Chris Joyce and all Staff and Students for the organization and conduct of the Winter Sports Programme held on Tuesday. I commend all our students on their excellent behaviour and manner of participation in the programme.

Information Technology
As announced previously, the College has opted for Apple MacBook Pro laptops as our operating Information Technology tool for the immediate future. Staff will be given the opportunity to familiarise themselves with these devices over the next seven or eight months before we begin to roll them out to groups of students in 2014.

Principal’s Review
I wish to thank all Parents, Students and Staff who were asked to participate in my Review earlier in May. Principals, Deputy Principals and Business Managers undergo a review every three years. I look forward to receiving the report from the Review Panel, which consisted of Bill Slatter (CEOB), Fr. Justin Driscoll (Canonical Administrator Nominee) and Tony O’Byrne (my Nominee).

Robert Aron
Principal
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Recurrence Of Headlice

The problem of headlice has again arisen and we ask your cooperation in rectifying this extremely frustrating problem which faces many parents. Please check your child’s hair carefully over the next couple of weeks.

KP24 has proven to be the most effective treatment shampoo although some families have also tried the tea tree oil based products. The brochure indicates that a second treatment seven days apart is necessary should you find lice. It is not uncommon however, for reinfection to recur in the same head, so please be diligent in checking your child’s head.

For lice to be eradicated in a classroom and across the school it is essential that all families in the room take the responsibility of ensuring that their child’s head is clear. Please be diligent in checking your child in the coming weeks if your child has the problem; please don’t send them to school until their hair is treated. Attendance at school is acceptable after the treatment has been used.

After using the treatment, please ensure that all dead eggs are also removed from the child’s head. If we are to have any hope of keeping this from spreading, it will require ALL parents to monitor their child’s head over the coming weeks.

Uniform Reminders

Thank you to the vast majority of students who wear their uniforms correctly, neatly and with pride. A small number of students need reminders regarding these specific items:

- Black socks are not part of the St Mary MacKillop uniform at any time.
- Navy tights/stockings are part of the Winter uniform. Black tights/stockings are not part of the uniform.
- Skirts should be knee length or below.
- Ties should be tied neatly and worn to sit on the top button of the shirt when done up.
- Scarves should be Black or Navy Blue in colour.
- A watch and a single pair of suitable sleepers or studs worn in the ears are the only jewellery permitted to be worn. Students will be asked to remove all jewellery which does not adhere to the above mentioned.
- Boys are expected to be clean shaven.
- Makeup and excess use of hair products are not permitted.

If you have concerns in regard to the above uniform issues, please contact your child’s House Leader.

Punctuality

A number of students have been arriving late for homeroom in the morning. We wish to remind parents that students are expected to be at school at the start of Homeroom, which commences at 8:55am. We consider Homeroom a valuable time to impart important information about the events occurring at the College, as well as being a time for the Homeroom Teacher to foster positive relationships with the students in their Homeroom.

From Monday 27th May, students arriving late will be issued with a warning. If the student arrives late on a further occasion, then the student will be asked to make up the time missed at lunch time. House Leaders will be making contact with the parents of students who are habitually late to school. We trust that parents will support us in teaching their children valuable lessons about the need to be punctual.

Michelle Haeusler
Pentecost

Sunday the 19th of May was Pentecost Sunday and it takes us to a special time in the Liturgical calendar of the church. Pentecost Sunday is one of the most ancient feasts of the Church, celebrated early enough to be mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles (20:16)

For Christians, Pentecost is the 50th day after Easter (if we count both Easter and Pentecost). That means that it is a moveable feast - a feast whose date changes every year, based on the date of Easter in that year. The earliest possible date for Pentecost Sunday is May 10th; the latest is June 13th.

On Pentecost Sunday, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles, they were granted the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Those gifts helped them to fulfill their mission to preach the Gospel to all nations. For us, too, those gifts granted when we are infused with sanctifying grace, the life of God in our souls, help us to live a Christian life.

The Breath of Life

When we speak about the Holy Spirit we speak about the breath of God, breathing in us. The Greek word for 'spirit' is pneuma, which means 'breath'. We are seldom aware of our breathing. It is so essential for life that we only think about it when something is wrong with it.

The Spirit of God is like our breath. God's spirit is more intimate to us than we are to ourselves. We might not often be aware of it, but without it we cannot live a 'spiritual life'. It is the Holy Spirit of God who prays in us, who offers us the gifts of love, forgiveness, kindness, goodness, gentleness, peace and joy. It is the Holy Spirit who offers us the life that death cannot destroy. Let us always pray: 'Come, Holy Spirit, come.'

Bread for the Journey (Eternal Seasons, A Liturgical Journey with Henri Nouwen, p 115)

The Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost

Jesus had said: I have come to cast fire upon the earth. At Pentecost his fiery Spirit of Love came down upon his followers, to make them joyful, eloquent, peaceful and unafraid.

'Suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind….divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them' (Acts 2:2-3)

Catherine Howison
ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN FOR 2014
Applications close 28th June, 2013

Any families wishing to enrol their child in Year 7 in 2014 may obtain information and application forms at the Front Office or by contacting Mrs Mandy McCallum.
phone: 50329771 or email: mmccallum@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au

CURRICULUM
VCE Exams Navigator 2013 Student Information and GAT Timetable
On Monday 27th May, all students completing a VCE Unit 3 subject will be provided with their individual timetable for the GAT – General Achievement Test, that they are required to complete on Wednesday 12th June.
The main points will be explained to all students but I would recommend all students and parents again carefully review the information in this booklet on:

- Approved material and equipment
- Examination rules
- Examination timetables
- General Achievement Test (GAT)
- Special Provision

Please do not hesitate to contact Suzy Haley (Senior School Coordinator) if you have any further questions.

2014 Subject Selections
The process of selecting subject choices for 2014 commences this week as I begin seeing each Year 8 and Year 9 class to explain the program and encourage them to start asking their teachers about the subjects on offer, subject teacher recommendations and identifying possible pathways that may suit student strengths and future aspirations.

An essential part of this process is our Pathway Planning Night and Subject Expo, where subject teachers and Domain Leaders will be available to speak to on an informal basis and explain the exciting range of subjects being offered in 2014.

Pathway Planning Night and Subject Expo
Wednesday 29th May
Subject Expo in the JC from 5:00pm
Pathway Planning Information in the Parish Centre
Year 8 into 9 and Year 9 into 10 – 7:00pm
Year 10 into VCE and Year 11 into 12 – 8:00pm
Year 11 VCE

All Year 11 VCE exams are conducted in the Jubilee Centre. Students are not required to be at school during the exam period unless they have an exam (Students in Year 12 Unit 3 or Year 11 VCAL classes should continue to attend these classes). If students need to remain on the college grounds they must be in the Library.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday 7th June</th>
<th>Tuesday 11th June</th>
<th>Wednesday 12th June</th>
<th>Thursday 13th June</th>
<th>Friday 14th June</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00am – 10:45 am (11:00 am English and Literature)</td>
<td>English Literature</td>
<td>General Maths Business Math Methods</td>
<td>10:00 am – 1:15 pm General Achievement Test (GAT)</td>
<td>(Year 12 English Practice exams in the JC 9:00am – 12:15pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30pm - 3:15pm</td>
<td>Accounting Studio Art Biology</td>
<td>Chemistry History Legal Studies</td>
<td>Business Management</td>
<td>Information Technology Health &amp; HD Physics</td>
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After School Homework and Study Assistance in the Library

Monday – Wednesday 3:30 – 4:30pm

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 16 Lori Wilkins</td>
<td>Damien Hirst</td>
<td>Yvette Agars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 17 Geoff Hickmott</td>
<td>Damian Howison</td>
<td>Sarah Gamble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 18 Public Holiday</td>
<td>Joel Murphy</td>
<td>Eddie Scholtens</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sally Looney
Director of Curriculum

PATHWAYS / CAREERS NEWS

Careers in Accounting

Last week, several Year 10 and Year 11 students took part in the ‘Set Your Heart on a Career in Accounting’ work experience in local Accounting firms and businesses with large finance departments. Aidan Walsh spent his week at Poole and Associates, Luke Harding was at Swan Hill Rural City Council and Raphael Celestino worked at Swan Hill District Health.

The students all found this experience to be very beneficial as it gave them an insight into what could be entailed in a career in Accountancy. They were fortunate to have a variety of tasks to complete during the week and believe the experience will assist them with their future career pathway.

Raphael with Swan Hill District Health Senior Accountant, Ragul Karun
Thoroughbred Education Career Program
A wonderful opportunity exists for students interested in a career in the racing industry. Staff from Racing Victoria will be in Swan Hill on Thursday, June 6th to provide this very informative programme. This insightful and informative presentation is relatively informal, but clearly and concisely explains the pathways students can take to achieve their goals in this exciting industry. Students will be provided with information on a range of Racing Victoria approved University and TAFE courses available to them.
1992 Melbourne Cup winner, Subzero will be an added attraction to the presentation.

ACU – English and Mathematics Workshops (Mildura)
On Wednesday, July 3rd, ACU are conducting workshops to assist Year 12 students to be held at St Joseph’s College, Mildura from 10.15am – 3.45pm.

English Skills Workshop will focus specifically on the development of writing skills for Year 12 students. The workshop will cover such areas as improving clarity of expression, developing and improving revision techniques and analysing and answering examination-type questions.

Making Maths Work is an academic skills workshop that aims to support and encourage participation in the study of Mathematics and to assist students to optimise their Maths grades to enhance University entrance. The workshop covers consolidation of knowledge in areas which include Statistics, Calculus, Trigonometry, Probability and Business Applications, as well as calculator technique.
There is no cost for students to attend this workshop, and there is a possibility of a free bus to and from Mildura (depending on numbers). Students are asked to place their name on the list in the Study Centre by Tuesday, June 11 so a group booking can be made.

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 Sciences degree programs at University - Monash (Medicine and Physiotherapy) and 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 Careers Office. Registration deadline is Friday, June 7.
For more information go to www.umat.acer.edu.au

Cadet Program – Ernst & Young
This program provides Year 12 students with an opportunity to gain practical experience whilst studying at University. Students would receive a text book allowance and also be eligible for a Cadet Grant while studying. If you are planning to study any business related subject at University (with an Accounting major) this would be a wonderful opportunity to learn both on and off the job.
On successful completion of a degree, cadets are given an opportunity to work full-time with Ernst & Young. Please go to www.ey.com/au/careers to find out more about this program.
For more details and to register, go to www.monash.edu/mada/workshops

TRANSITION DAY
130 students attended the first transition held at St Mary MacKillop College on Thursday 9th May. Grade 6 students from local and district schools attended the day and were given the opportunity to experience different subjects including PE, IT, Textiles and Japanese. Muffins and fruit were provided for morning tea and a barbeque for lunch. The afternoon session was run by the Year 10 Peer Support class. These older students ran different activities for the Grade 6 students, ensuring that their busy day finished on a high note. Many students formed new friendships on the day and are looking forward to meeting up again on our second Transition Day on Tuesday 30th July.

Mandy McCallum
ST MARY MACKILLOP COLLEGE VIETNAM TRIP

Part One:
On a steamy Easter Sunday the St Mary MacKillop College students from Swan Hill Landed in Ho Chi Minh City. As the chaos of the city surrounded us on the bus we marveled at the order of the disorder in the traffic. It all seemed to just work. The city is a busy contrast of old and new with shiny skyscrapers stretching towards the clear blue skies through a spaghetti mess of power lines.

The war history of Vietnam is definitely part on the allure of this country and our first sightseeing adventure was the sobering War Remnants Museum. Travelling with the group was John Pye, a Vietnam Veteran, on his first journey back to Vietnam since his tour of duty in the 60s; his personal journey gave the tour an edge of reality.

After a day of museums, shopping at the nearby busy Ben Thanh Night Market was a fun change of pace. It was time to test the bargaining skills of the students.

The next day we jumped on the bus and headed to the Cu Chi Tunnels to learn about the tenacity and endurance of the Vietnamese people. The first tunnels were dug during the French domination in 1950 and continued to expand through the American war. Traps, tanks, weapons and tunnels filled our day with a welcome break of ice cream in the middle.

It must be said that it was incredibly hot and steamy and it was hard not to think of how the soldiers coped in this weather with thick clothing, boots, giant backpacks, heavy weapons and fear.

Taking a break from the war history the next day, we headed south to the Mekong Delta for a fun filled day of variety. We travelled around in a long boat, horse and cart and little sampan. We drank honey tea at a bee farm, got friendly with a python, visited a coconut candy factory, sculled rice wine and feasted on a huge lunch of Mekong yabbie and banana flower patties.

Back in Saigon we wore through the manic traffic on foot, through the local park and down to the throbbing backpacker area for a tasty dinner of Italian food. The next morning we packed up our stuff, checked out and headed down to the seaside town of Vung Tau for an afternoon swim at the beach. The following day we took a memorial wreath, red poppies and bags of goodies and headed out to Long Tan with our Vietnam Veteran local guide, Breaker, an Aussie from Townsville. Now we had two veterans with us, and it was a treat to see them pointing out familiar landmarks and sharing stories.

We had a heartwarming visit to a local primary school to distribute Australian gifts to the delighted children. Then we took the challenge and walked through the underground tunnels in the oppressive heat. What a sweat fest!

Finally we arrived at the Long Tan memorial cross where we held a solemn service, laid the wreath, poppies and lit incense. It was a deeply moving experience.
Stay tuned for Part two of the Vietnam Trip in the next newsletter.

**FOOD TECHNOLOGY**
Last week the Year 12 Food Technology class travelled to Melbourne to view the Top Designs display at the Melbourne Museum and to attend a chocolate garnishing course at Ganache Chocolate in South Yarra. At the museum students were able to view the top folios produced by Year 12 students in 2012 and gain ideas for their own folios which they are producing now. At the chocolate class students learnt how to identify different chocolates, how to create different garnishes and also improve their piping techniques. Pictured are several of the students immersed in chocolate.

**WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN 2013**
From Monday 8th April, when our staff and parents shop at Woolworths can you please collect Woolworths Earn & Learn points from the checkout operator. There will be one point for every $10 spent. Please bring the sticker to the Front Office and place them in our collection box. Thank you.
SCHOOL TOURS and YEAR 7 INFORMATION SESSION

will run in conjunction with

SUBJECT EXPO

Wednesday 29th May

School tours commencing from the Jubilee Centre
Tours will run on the hour beginning at 2pm and concluding at 5pm
The Year 7 Information Session will be held in the Parish Function Centre at 5.45pm

You will also have the opportunity to view our
Subject Expo
View student work
Speak to teachers and students
View subject areas that your child will be studying in 2014
Gain an understanding of subject choices that are offered while studying at St Mary MacKillop College.
St Mary MacKillop College
2013

Subject Expo
Jubilee Centre
Wednesday 29th May, from 5:00pm
View student work
Speak to teachers and students

Pathway Planning
Parish Function Centre
Vertical Curriculum – Year 9 & 10, 2014
29th May, 7:00pm
What subjects do I have to do?
What subjects will prepare me for VCE?
What is VET?

VCE & VCAL – Year 11 & 12, 2014
29th May, 8:00pm
What is the difference between VCE & VCAL?
Can I change subjects from Year 11 to Year 12?
What are pre-requisite subjects? Do I need any?