“See the hand of God in all that happens”
(St Mary of the Cross MacKillop)

“DO NOT BE AFRAID”
Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends,

I welcome all families to the 2015 school year. In particular I welcome all of the Year 7 students, who have started the year so beautifully and the new students in Years 9, 10 and 11.

Lord Jesus, we ask for Your help as we begin this new school year. Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before us.

Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings. Open our hearts and minds to new people. Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our leadership and courage to accept new opportunities.

Help us to be attentive to one another and let us experience Your presence in those that we meet. Inspire us to do our best this year.

Make our classrooms oases in a busy world. Make them places of warmth and trust. May our affirmation of our students enable them to know that they count. Free them to stretch themselves as they seek holistic growth in a safe, nurturing environment.

Amen.

College Theme 2015 – “Do not be afraid”.
Our theme for 2015 is “Do not be afraid”. Every day we are challenged, whether it is school work, friends, teachers or parents. Every day we can consider the phrase “Do not be afraid”; as we know that God is there for us. “Do not be afraid, for I am with you” Isaiah 41:10.

Friday, 6th February, 2015
• Faith Matters
• New School Phone System
• Pathways/Career News

ABSENCE HOTLINE
PH: 0427 781 910

FUTURE EVENTS

FEBRUARY
Tue 10th Swimming Carnival Signups
Tue 10th Year 11 & 12 Information Evening – PFC 6.30pm
Thur 12th Beginning of Year Mass
Mon 16th Year 7 Basket Tea PFC 6.30pm
Tue 17th Swimming Carnival
Wed 18th Ash Wednesday
As a school we welcomed our new and returning staff to St Mary MacKillop College on Monday at assembly. The staff are:

**Mr Nick Danaher** – Year 7 and 10 Science, Year 8 Maths and Year 11 Physics and Chemistry.

**Mr Simon Costello** – Year 7 Humanities, Year 9 History, Years 7, 8, 10 and 11 RE and Woods 1 Homeroom Teacher.

**Miss Ebonee Gurnett** – Year 7, 9 and 10 English, Year 8 PE and Solomon 1 Homeroom teacher.

**Miss Catherine O’Brien** – Year 7 & 8 Library lessons, Library Assistant and Learning Support Officer - Teacher’s Aide.

**Miss Carla Parsons** – Personal Assistant to the Principal.

Returning to teach at St Mary MacKillop College in 2015:

**Mrs Libby Hocking** – Year 10, 11 and 12 Literature.

**Mrs Talia Henderson** – Year 8 Drama, Year 9 & 10 Shake Your Booty, Year 8 English, ESL program and director of the school production.

**Miss Chelsea Bird** – Year 11 Health and Years 7 & 8 Maths.

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**Year 12 2014 – Results**

Congratulations to our Year 12 students in 2014. The following statistics reflect our University offers:

- Of 74 Year 12 students, 62 students applied for a place at University.
- 87 per cent of our students were offered places at University with 67 per cent of the students being offered their first choice. Our students performed well in their Year 12 studies with a large number of students achieving ATARs in the 70s, 80s, and 90s. This set our students up well to receive their first choice of University course. We wish all of our 2014 Year 12 students all the best in their tertiary studies.

I wish everyone a safe and successful 2015.

Michelle Haeusler
Principal
NEW SCHOOL PHONE SYSTEM
If you have contacted the school recently you may have noticed that we have updated our phone system to assist you reaching the correct person when you call. The options available to you are:

1. **Pastoral Care Centre.** You may select this option if you have concerns about your child and need to speak with a House Leader. This option would also be appropriate if you need to leave a message for your son/daughter, or if you need to inform the school of a long term absence.

2. **Accounts.** This option would be selected if you are an enquiring about paying or payment of an invoice. This option is not for querying school fees.

3. **Personal Assistant to the Principal.** Choose this option if you would like to speak to, or make an appointment to speak to, the Principal.

4. **Reception.** Choose this option for all business that is not relevant to one of the previous choices. The Reception staff will direct you to the appropriate person.

5. **Student Absences.** This option will be available in the near future to replace the current Absence Hotline (0427 781 910). It would be appreciated if a message could be left by 9:00am on the day of the students' absence from school.

Michelle Haeusler
Principal

FAITH MATTERS
Welcome back to the new school year. As we begin, the Church is preparing for the start of the Season of Lent. For us this means preparing for a season of prayer, fasting and giving. Ash Wednesday begins Lent on 18th February. On this first day, Catholic followers recognise their sins and receive the sign of the cross upon their foreheads as a symbol of penance and mourning. It is also a sign of the opportunity to have a change of heart. At St Mary MacKillop College everyone comes forward to receive the ashes. It will mean different things for different people; if you are not sure, a good way to think of it is a chance to make a change in the way you think and live, to turn over a new leaf. Everyone needs a chance to start again once in a while.

You are warmly invited to celebrate the
2015 Beginning of Year Mass
with students and staff on
Thursday 12th February at 12.15pm in St Mary’s Church.
Student Leaders for 2015 will be commissioned at this Mass.

Alison Wright
Liturgy Leader

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL
Welcome to 2015 at St Mary MacKillop College. It is always an exciting time of year although it can take a while for us to get back into the swing of our daily timetable at school! A special welcome to those students, families and staff who join our school community this year, I hope you feel very welcome.
Our school theme for 2015 is “Do not be afraid….” Certainly the scriptures give us plenty of examples where God intervened or sheltered those who were in fear. St Mary MacKillop often spoke to the Sisters about overcoming fear and trusting in God. Fear is an interesting thing because in lots of ways it keeps us safe. When we feel frightened it can be for good reason and so we adjust our behaviour or our actions. Yet fear can also be a crippling thing, holding us back from new experiences, new relationships, new understandings and new successes. In taking on our theme of “Do not be afraid….” I encourage students to think about the theme and what it means for them. I would also say:

Do not be afraid to join in.
Do not be afraid to work hard.
Do not be afraid to do well.
Do not be afraid to be happy.
Trust in God.

Working Together
As we begin a new year I encourage all parents to feel very welcome to make contact with our staff. If teachers and families are working together the outcomes for students are significantly improved. The newness of the year can often cause anxiety and a quick phone call or email may alleviate undue stress and worry. Problems are always easy to address when we are aware of them.

If you are concerned that your student is having difficulties at school please do not hesitate to make contact. Each of our students has a Homeroom Teacher and they are the first point of call if you have a concern that is not subject specific.

House Staff and Contact Details

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>House Leader:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr Chris Joyce <a href="mailto:cjoyce@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au">cjoyce@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au</a></td>
<td>Mr Jeremy Wirges <a href="mailto:jwirges@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au">jwirges@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Solomon 1</td>
<td>Mrs Nella O’Brien <a href="mailto:nobrien@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au">nobrien@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au</a></td>
<td>Woods 1</td>
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<td>Solomon 2</td>
<td>Mr Jonathan Roberts <a href="mailto:jroberts@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au">jroberts@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au</a></td>
<td>Woods 2</td>
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<td>Solomon 3</td>
<td>Mrs Sally Op’t Hoog <a href="mailto:sopthoog@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au">sopthoog@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au</a></td>
<td>Woods 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Solomon 4</td>
<td>Miss Ebonee Gurnett <a href="mailto:egurnett@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au">egurnett@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au</a></td>
<td>Woods 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Solomon 5</td>
<td>Miss Sarah Gamble <a href="mailto:sgamble@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au">sgamble@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au</a></td>
<td>Woods 5</td>
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<td>Tenison 1</td>
<td>Ms Yvette Agars <a href="mailto:yagars@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au">yagars@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au</a></td>
<td>Xavier 1</td>
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<td>Tenison 2</td>
<td>Mr Joel Murphy <a href="mailto:jmurphy@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au">jmurphy@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au</a></td>
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<td>Tenison 3</td>
<td>Mr Geoff Hickmott <a href="mailto:ghickmott@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au">ghickmott@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au</a></td>
<td>Xavier 3</td>
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<td>Tenison 4</td>
<td>Miss Clare Robinson <a href="mailto:croreinson@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au">croreinson@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au</a></td>
<td>Xavier 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tenison 5</td>
<td>Miss Jennifer Salvo <a href="mailto:jsalvo@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au">jsalvo@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au</a></td>
<td>Xavier 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tenison 5</td>
<td>Miss Tessa Allan <a href="mailto:tallan@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au">tallan@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au</a></td>
<td>Xavier 5</td>
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Attendance for non-classroom school activities
There is an expectation that students enrolled at St Mary MacKillop College are involved in all aspects of school life. This means attending all classes as well as non–curriculum based activities such as the Swimming Carnival. Our first term’s calendar includes a wide range of experiences that encourage growth for our students – the Beginning of Year Mass, the Swimming Carnival, Ash Wednesday, the YMT Student Leadership Day, the Year 7 Camp and the VCAL Camp. There are many benefits to becoming actively involved at these times in terms of intrapersonal and interpersonal development. We have an expectation that students attend these activities and participate to the best of their ability.

Punctuality and Attendance – Students are expected to be at school on time each day for Homeroom which begins at 8.55am. Sometimes unexpected delays happen in the morning but for the most part students should be arriving to school on time. They should not be arriving at school and then going to the supermarket. Our Senior Students who have study lessons are expected to remain at school during these times. Neither should students be leaving the school grounds except for important appointments. Other activities should be scheduled outside of school time.

Dress for success.
The start of the year is always a good time to establish really good habits regarding the wearing of the correct uniform. Our students look very smart in our summer uniform and the College shirt which was introduced last year looks great. Presenting ourselves well and wearing our uniform with pride reflects our commitment to our school, our identity and our own self respect.

A reminder of the correct Summer uniform:
Girls
School dress or navy dress shorts with the College blue cool weave shirt
(Dress length should be a maximum of 10cm above the knee when kneeling)
Plain white socks – no writing or logo
Black polishable school shoes with a heel, T-Bar Sandals or lace up shoes (not open sandals)
College jumper

Boys
College blue cool weave shirt
Optional plain white undershirt – no printing on undershirt
Grey shorts
Plain Grey socks – NOT black – no writing or logo
Black polishable school shoes or boots with a heel
College jumper

PE Uniform
Navy shorts with College logo
Maroon polo sports shirt with College logo
Navy track pants with College logo, no stripes
College Rugby top
White socks only to be worn for PE. Black socks are not acceptable.

Students are expected to have a hat in Terms 1 & 4. All students must have a hat with them at recess and lunchtime and must wear it in the sun.

Immunisations
Our first scheduled round of Immunisations will be on March 11th. This will be for Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students.
The Immunisation schedule has changed for 2015 so our year 7 students will be receiving three Immunisations: HPV(Human papillomavirus), Diptheria,tetanus and whooping cough and Chickenpox.
Year 8, 9 and 10 students are scheduled for the one, Diptheria,tetanus and whooping cough.
Consent forms have been sent home with students and must be returned with either a Yes or a No response by February 12.
Please contact Swan Hill Public Health Services if you have any queries or concerns. 5036 2591.

Catherine Howison
Deputy Principal
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 a Mathematics teacher rostered every Monday and an English teacher rostered on 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).

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<th>Week</th>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Tessa Allan</td>
<td>Jane Alderuccio</td>
<td>Yvette Agars</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Suzy Haley</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>Chelsea Bird</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Damian Howison</td>
<td>Geoff Hickmott</td>
<td>Leanne Cook</td>
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PATHWAYS / CAREERS

Our Role
The Pathways Office door is always open and we encourage students from all year levels to come and see us if they have questions or are unsure of their career pathway and study options. They can also come and ask for assistance if they are seeking part-time employment and they need help preparing their resume. We see our key role as advisers, but there are many different areas that are covered through our office. For instance, we

- Provide students with as much information as possible and support them in making decisions for the future which best suits their individual needs
- Work with students to arrange Work Experience placements
- Can assist students prepare a Resume and assist them with interview preparation
- Encourage and support students employed with a School Based Apprenticeship
- Have a variety of reading material available that may assist students with career options
- Arrange relevant Guest Speakers to address student groups.

Part-time Employment
With many young people leaving Swan Hill for full-time employment or to attend further education, now is a very good time for students seeking part-time work to start dropping off their resume to local businesses – especially Coles and Safeway, Target, McDonalds, KFC as well as local cafes and retail outlets. We are often contacted by local businesses during the year when they are looking for students to fill casual positions, apprenticeships and traineeships. We pass this information to students through our Daily Bulletin and also through the Newsletter.

Work Experience
This week we have spoken to all the Year 10 students about our Work Experience program, which is a wonderful opportunity for students to do a placement in an industry of their choice. This placement provides students with a chance to explore possible career options, and assists them in future course and career decision making. It can also create an awareness of appropriate attitudes and behaviours in the workforce and an understanding of employer expectations. We hope parents will support and encourage their child to take part in this program during 2015.

Year 9 and Year 10 Pathways Classes
Through these classes, our aim is to inspire students to not only start their career pathway but continue to explore options and help them understand that sometimes pathway ideas change over time, due to both subject and personal interests. We encourage parents to engage in regular conversations with their child about their interests and career pathway possibilities.

Laura Crow and Brenda Brady
Pathways Team
SWIMMING CARNIVAL
The College swimming carnival is scheduled for Tuesday 17th February. This is always an exciting day on the College calendar, and is a fantastic opportunity for students to display house spirit and involve themselves in a healthy competitive environment.

Swimming events begin at 10.00am and conclude at approximately 2.30pm with the final event of the day, the staff v students relay.

A basic outline for events are as follows:

9.20am    Year 12 parade
9.30 – 10.00am  Big splash competition
10.00am 200m freestyle
10.40am Begin 50m freestyle events. U/13s – U/21s
11.40am Begin backstroke events
12.00 noon Medley relays
12.15pm Butterfly events
12.30pm Water polo and novelty events during the lunch break
1.15pm Begin breastroke events
1.45pm Begin 4 x 50m freestyle relays
2.45pm presentations.

It would be terrific to see parents, friends and other family members come along to support the students on this exciting College day.

If you would like to assist as an official on the day, please contact Chris Joyce ASAP.

QuickSmart
The QuickSmart Maths program has been running at our school for four years and has shown dramatic results for the students who have participated. Our program has had such success because the actual course is so well set up, our instructors are dedicated, and because of wonderful volunteers from our school community. The program will be running again next year and we would love to hear from any interested people who have a spare hour or two in their week. Training is offered and we are very flexible about times for volunteers to come in. If you are interested, please call Sally Op’t Hoog at school or pass through an email on sopthoog@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au

Thank you
Sally Op’t Hoog
Learning Support Co-ordinator

BUS PASSES
These are only given in extenuating circumstances. (An example of this would be if the child’s parents are away from home and consequently the child is staying at a friend’s or relatives home.)

If needed a bus pass can be obtained from the district school bus coordinator at Swan Hill College. Students from St Mary MacKillop College should contact the Bus Coordinator, Mrs Box who will request the pass on their behalf. Parent/Guardian contact should be made with the school, in person, by phone or by a dated and signed note, stating the date/s and the reason for the pass.

Passes will not be given to students for recreational purposes such as birthday parties or sporting activities. It is the parents’ responsibility to transport children for these activities. Bus numbers are often near capacity and excess numbers could cause overcrowding. Passes will be issued at the discretion of the district school bus coordinator at Swan Hill College, after consultation with the attending school.

No bus passes will be issued after the end of recess, unless in extreme emergency. Passes are to be handed to the bus driver at the time of travel. Bus drivers will not allow a student on the bus without a current appropriate pass.
BUS SAFETY AND GOOD BEHAVIOUR:
All students who travel to or from school by bus are reminded of the following:

You are representing St Mary MacKillop College and your best behaviour is required at all times. This includes being seated on buses, not throwing objects, not using inappropriate language and caring for the smaller group of students that may be travelling with you. These requests are all safety issues.

No bullying or fighting is ever accepted at the Bus Changeover or on buses. Students who do not adhere to this request can be removed from the buses for between one to ten weeks. This policy is for all schools that use the Government buses in the region and a Principal cannot change this. Once again it is a safety issue and it respects the rights of the majority to travel in a safe environment. Likewise, it is the responsibility of schools to continue to remind all parties of these arrangements.

STUDENT CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE 2015

Private Car Travel
For a student attending a mainstream school to be granted a conveyance allowance a number of criteria must be met.
1. The campus of the school attended must be located outside the Conveyance Allowance.
2. To be eligible for the Conveyance Allowance a student must be attending their nearest government school or campus appropriate to their year level.
3. Reside 4.8km or more from the school.
4. Be of school age and reside in Victoria.
5. Be enrolled in a school for three or more days a week.


Please return completed forms to the office by Friday 27th February.

NSW Conveyance Allowance application forms are available in the Front Office or form Kathie Box our Bus coordinator.
St Mary MacKillop College

Year 11 and 12 Information Evening

for all VCE and VCAL student and parents

Tuesday, 10th February, 2015
Commencing at 6:30 pm
In the Parish Function Centre

All Year 11 and 12 students and parents are invited to attend this evening.

This session will cover essential information for succeeding in VCE studies.

Parents will also be given a copy of the Parent/Student VCE Information Booklet.
St Mary MacKillop College
Year 7 Basket Tea

ALL St Mary MacKillop College Year 7 Students and their Families are invited to a Basket Tea to be held in the Parish Function Centre commencing at 6.30 pm on Monday 16th FEBRUARY

Families are asked to please bring their own Food and Drinks.

The evening will give all families the opportunity to meet our Principal and Deputy Principal as well as your child’s House Leader and Homeroom Teacher and to discuss any issues or queries that you may have concerning your child’s transition into secondary school.

We look forward to seeing you on the night.

Mandy McCallum
Transition Coordinator

FOOD ALLERGIES
This year we have several new students who have a severe allergy to peanut butter. As a precaution we would ask that your child does not bring peanut butter sandwiches/biscuits etc to school. We attempt to ensure the safety of all our students and appreciate your understanding in this matter.