From the Principal

An Education in Courage With Compassion

Our College theme for 2015 has been ‘Courage and Compassion’. I share here an excerpt from my address to the 2015 Year 12 graduating class of Mary MacKillop College in the hope that you too might connect with its message.

"An education in courage alone would be short-sighted, individualistic, narrow-minded. It would risk turning out people ready to take on a cause without an appreciation of its complexities. It would risk the promulgation of a dangerous kind of fundamentalism that fails to recognise the humanity of the other; that sees the other as alien. Such an emphasis on courage alone would result in a destructive dualism which divides us and objectifies those who are different. Ultimately it would bring us down. Courage alone is not enough.

Courage with compassion is of inestimable worth. Courage and compassion are integral parts of a great whole. In our young women graduating here tonight we see both in a glorious, dynamic and sacred entanglement.

Compassion draws us into oneness, into communion. It honours our interconnectedness and moves us to profound empathy with those who are marginalised, who suffer discrimination, who are victims of violence. Courage and compassion together, draw us to holiness and wholeness.

So, young women of Year 12, we thank you and commend you for your courage and your compassion, for the love that you have been for us here at the College, the love you are to your families, the love you are, and will continue to be, for the world. It’s no small thing to keep a life-giving balance where courage and compassion are concerned. Hold your head high and be confident with just the right balance of courage with compassion."
Farewells and Thanks

Just as we have farewelled our Year 12 students so too do we farewell some staff members. Special mention goes to Mr Dennis O’Connor who retires from teaching at the end of 2015. Mr O’Connor has made a much valued contribution to the community of Mary MacKillop College. Hundred, if not thousands of students have been formed and educated under the undoubted expertise of DOC, as he is affectionately known. Staff and students alike wish Mr O’Connor every blessing as a new world of possibilities open for him. DOC will be forever etched in the history of Mary MacKillop College. Great teachers leave a lasting legacy.

Farewell, thanks and best wishes also go with Ms Anita Grisaffi and Mrs Aime Culpeper who go on to new positions in other schools. We wish Mrs Stacey Hertrick all the very best for her maternity leave. Thanks too to Mr Joachim Joseph, Ms Geraldine Young and Ms Alyssa Kennedy for their much valued contributions to Mary MacKillop College.

An Advent Invitation

Advent is a season observed in many Western Christian churches as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas. This term is based on the Latin word adventus, meaning “coming back” or “returning”.

This theme runs strong through the Christmas season. Think of your own family traditions around this time. To whose home do you return? If you do not go anywhere, who are those people who return to your home at Christmas? Sisters? Brothers? Sons? Daughters? Cousins?

Returning to what? Returning home? Returning to the familiar? Returning for the food and presents?

Or, are we returning to relationships that we have let slip?

- Returning to relationships with family?
- Returning to relationships with friends?
- Returning to relationships that sustain us?
- Returning to relationships with God?
- Returning to what’s important?

In our lives so full of doing things, the most important relationships we have are with those most familiar to us. Therein lies the danger. Those things most familiar are at greatest risk of falling away as we take them for granted. Ask yourself, when was the last occasion that you spent time investing yourself in your most cherished relationships? No matter our religion or our beliefs, we would all do well to focus our energies this Advent season on nourishing and rekindling relationships.
Thanks and Blessings
Special thanks to all staff who helped to make our Year 12 farewell rituals so special - Mr Paul Brown, Ms Madonna Riggall, Ms Bree Cohen, Mrs Stacey Hertrick, Mrs Carolyn Harman, Mrs Glenda Bassa, Mrs Elizabeth Gilroy, Mrs Leah Licence, Mrs Mandy Crossan, Mrs Aime Culpeper, Ms Carly Richardson, Ms Mary Hilton and Ms Sally Carr. To all readers, presenters, helpers, supervisors and the College Leadership Team - Mrs Cath Rodden, Mrs Narelle Dobson, Mr Wayne Chapman and Mr John Branjerdporn. What a team!

To each and every person whose efforts have added to the richness of the community of Mary MacKillop College in 2015 – thanks! Thank you to each of our students and their families, our staff, the staff of Brisbane Catholic Education, the sisters of St Joseph and our many community partners. You are the loving presence of God for us.

Whenever we gaze into the crib this Christmas season
   May new hope and joy flood our spirit
Whenever we watch babies and young children playing
   May a new energy delight our hearts
Whenever we are tantalised by the aroma of a BBQ
   May we unwind, relax and enjoy time off
Whenever the crush of family and friends overwhelms us
   May the hospitality of our hearts expand
Whenever we provide a meal or bed over the holidays
   May we experience love and appreciation
Whenever we spy our reflection in the mirror or pool
   May we find ourselves to be images of God
Whenever we put our feet up for leisure
   May the humble presence of the Incarnate One companion us
Whenever we feel our distance from each other around the world
   May the Christ child draw us into unity. Amen*.


Christine Clarke
Principal
From the Deputy Principal - Director of Students

Closing of School Year

As our school year races to a close, it is time to celebrate our achievements, successes and progress. There has already been the Night of Excellence which apart from celebrating the academic, sporting and cultural achievements allowed us to pause, reflect and take stock of what we have been doing and how we have been doing it. We came together again on Graduation night and at the seniors final assembly last week to farewell our seniors for it is time for them to spread their wings. We come together at these celebrations to give thanks for all of the wonderful opportunities that our girls have and for the way in which they participate and work together. Below is a blessing for our seniors and all who leave our community this year.

You cannot see it all, cannot divine the way it will turn and spiral, cannot perceive how the road you walk will lead you finally inside, through the labyrinth of your own heart

But step out, and you will know what the wise who travelled this path before you knew: the treasure in this map is buried not at journey’s end but at its beginning.

Joan Chittister

You are again invited to join us for our closing prayer and assembly for 2015. This will be held in the Sisters of St Joseph Cultural Centre at 2.20pm on Friday 27 November.

The year has passed quickly. Thank you for your support of the College and we look forward to continuing our journey with you into the new year with strength to build on our accomplishments and to consolidate our position as a school of excellence.

As Burton Hillis said, “The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree is the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other.” This is what I wish for all members of our community.

Commencement dates for 2016

New students in Years 7-12 will start school on Wednesday 27th January 2016 at 8.20am. All returning students will resume on Thursday 28th January.

Student Protection contacts:

Brooke Daniels – daniellb@mmc.qld.edu.au
Aime Culpeper – culpepa@mmc.qld.edu.au
Narelle Dobson – dobsonn@mmc.qld.edu.au
Christine Clarke – clarkec@mmc.qld.edu.au
From the Deputy Principal - Director of Studies

Academic Reports

Academic Reports will be forwarded home to parents of Year 7 to 11 students from December 7. Within this report, parents will receive information for each subject including:

- **Overall Achievement** – the student result on an A+ to E-scale.
- **Criteria Results** – the standard in each subject dimension reported on an A+ to E-scale.
- **Conduct** – a result based on student behaviour in class reported on an A to E scale.
- **Application** – a result based upon the student’s application to her studies reported on an A to E scale.
- **Comment** – a teacher description of the student performance in each subject.

The Academic Report provides an excellent opportunity to celebrate the strengths and address the areas for growth for 2016. I encourage parents to have a meaningful and genuine conversation with their daughter about the results and the comments within this final report.

Some questions to stimulate this dialogue could include:

- What are you happy about with respect to this report? Why?
- What do you need to improve for next year?
- How might you alter your work habits in 2016?
- Find a phrase within the teacher comments which you think is a positive reflection on your performance.
- Find a phrase within teacher comments that provides you with specific advice towards growth for next year.

This conversation also offers an opportunity to set some goals for 2016. Write some ideas down now to revisit just before school commences next year.

**QCS Preparation**

Our young women in Year 11 have concluded the preparation program for 2015 with a Writing Task practice test. The Multiple Choice, Short Response and Writing Task practice tests will be sent away for marking and analysis. The students will receive detailed feedback about their test performance at the beginning of the 2016 preparation program. The data from this year’s practice tests is used to structure our program for 2016.

All QCS students will be required at practice sessions commencing at 7:30am each Thursday morning from week two of 2016.

**Christmas Wishes**

I take this opportunity to wish all members of the Mary MacKillop College community a peaceful and relaxing Christmas break. May it be a time of blessing and rejuvenation in preparation for 2016.

Wayne Chapman
Deputy Principal - Director of Studies
From the Assistant Principal Religious Education and Mission

Climate Change March
On Saturday 28th November (and in some other places around Australia on Sunday) the Earth community is planning the biggest climate march in history. People will rally from Paris, where the world climate summit is happening, to Sydney, to London, to Dhaka and thousands of cities and towns in between. Hours before world leaders meet at the Paris climate summit, the Global Climate March will set out people-powered demands for the world we want. Citizens united for an economy powered by 100% clean and safe energy, where good jobs benefit people and planet alike. A world protected from the ravages of climate change, where everyone has a right to food, water, clean air, and a healthy life.

Australians will be gathering in cities and towns, walking in solidarity with millions of people in hundreds of major cities around the world. Will you join “Josephites for Justice” on November 28th, meeting at St Stephens in the city at 8.45 am to then march at 9.30am in Queen’s Park, and be a part of the biggest global day of action on climate in history, marching for a transition to renewable energy, for secure job creation, for clean air, for a healthy environment and a safe climate?

To change everything, it takes everyone, everywhere -- in cities, towns and villages across the world. This is YOUR invitation to join in? It would be amazing if we could make this a BIG joint Josephite event.

"Climate change does not respect borders; it does not respect who you are - rich and poor, small and big. Therefore, this is what we call ‘global challenges,’ which require global solidarity.” Ban"Ki Moon.

When: Saturday 28th November at 9.30am

Where: Queen’s Park the City. We will meet at 8.45am at St Stephen’s. Look for the Josephites for Justice banner and all the people wearing the bibs. If you RSVP, we will have one ready for you.

Who: Mary MacKillop College students and their families; the Sisters of St Joseph and all other concerned citizens in Brisbane.
From the Assistant Principal Religious Education and Mission cont.

Homework Club
This volunteer initiative conducted at Nundah Library has come to a close for the year and there have certainly been many reciprocal gains from the experience.

The Mary Mackillop girls were enthusiastic and willing to help students with the homework problems and also to read and assist children with other learning activities once the homework was done. They formed some good relationships with the Nundah State School students attended. The people from the Library wish to commend the girls for demonstrating great initiative in providing as much assistance.

Here are some of thoughts from our Year 10 Volunteer students;

Maggie Ekert - Rewarding! The children truly appreciated our help.
Ashlyn Hill - Really good! People are friendly. I taught a young boy about silent letters and he remembered the next time I saw him.
Emily Barnett - A nice space to work in and connect with the kids.
Maddison Hunter - Enjoyable. The kids trusted you to help them so easily.

Christmas Hope
In an uncertain world fraught with tragic events, we must have hope. Hope was the focus of our Easter Liturgy earlier this year and so we end the year with the same wish. Christmas is another moment in Jesus’ life where there is hope. People bring new life into the world in good times and in bad. Babies bring joy and happiness and this is sometimes just what we need.

Two thousand odd years ago, as recorded in the Bible, one such baby was born as a symbol of hope for the world. This baby grew up to make a difference in his world and the world today… to stand up for equality, respect the beauty of humanity, no matter how rich or poor, male or female, appreciate another’s faith and complexion. He sought to seek justice in an unjust world.

There have been many others throughout history who have adopted similar sentiments and causes. As long as there is hope, people will continue to stand and speak out.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday, full of good times among family and friends.

Christmas
I see a twinkle in your eye,
So this shall be my Christmas star
And I will travel to your heart:
The manger where the real things are.

And I will find another there
Who holds you gently to her breast,
A father to protect your peace,
And by these things you shall be blessed.

And you will always be reborn
And I will always see the star
And make the journey to your heart:
The manger where the real things are.


Cath Rodden
Assistant Principal Religious Education and Mission
Pride of Fitzroy Award

It is with great pleasure that I announce the winner of the inaugural Pride of Fitzroy Award:

Grace-Rita Thetadig – Yr 11 F7

Grace-Rita was voted by her peers as a young woman who lives the College and Fitzroy values on a day to day basis.

Congratulations Grace-Rita!

As the school year draws to a close,

We give thanks for the gifts it brought and how they came inlaid within where neither time nor tide can touch them.

The days when the veil lifted and the soul could see delight; when a quiver caressed the heart in the sheer exuberance of being there.

The darkened days that stopped the confidence of the dawn.

Days when beloved faces shone brighter with light from beyond themselves.

We bless this year for all we learned, for all we loved and lost and for the quiet way it brought us nearer to our invisible destination.

Mary MacKillop wrote to her Sisters in 1899:

Though many of us will be far apart, we can be united in spirit and pray for each other at the Crib…….

Know that you will be in my thoughts and prayers. May you and your families be safe and enjoy the blessings that are so much part of Christmas.

Mary Hilton
Pastoral Leader – Fitzroy House

From the Heads of House
Farewell

With a great sense of excitement and accomplishment we said good bye to our senior cohort for 2015. The graduation and final assemblies were a wonderful collection of memories, stories and clips that allowed us to truly remember the wonderful contributions the girls made. These contributions do not have to be just in the academic, sporting and cultural arenas. Sometimes the students we remember most are the ones that looked after us when something went wrong. Who showed us kindness in House Group, or tutored us in the library as a random act of kindness or who simply smiled and said hello each day. We remember people for all kinds of reasons. This is the beauty about endings and beginnings.

This is my final week at Mary MacKillop College. I arrived in 2006 and settled into a nice little school called Corpus Christi College as the College Counsellor. Indeed this is a very different school I leave behind. Not simply in name but in nature too. Our Alumnis go on to study amazing things and fulfil goals and dreams and are inspirational role models for our students. The school has grown in reputation and success in all areas of College life. I feel so proud of where I work.

Our House was once called Jordan McCormack after Father Jordan (a previous parish priest) but along the way the name was changed to celebrate the truly magnificent and selfless life of Irene McCormack. The House has had many fine leaders. In my time, Mrs Michelle, Samantha Gagel, Trish Dolphin, Niesha Hart and finally me. I have loved being part of this house, I have embraced the colour green (my wardrobe is now complete and I even look at frogs in a different way). There is truly something very special about the values of our House and the girls in it.

As the Leader of the House I have worked very hard at getting to know the students and finding out something about each student and I hope that in leaving they feel that I have led them with enthusiasm, humour and consistency in my approach to issues and the implementation of consequences.

I thank all parents and guardians who have worked alongside the school in ensuring that their daughters had the best care and support possible which only comes through partnerships and communication.

It is important to recognise and thank the House group teachers of McCormack House who are the most dedicated and professional colleagues I could ask to work with. Thank you to Kaye Jefferey, Pauline Daniel, Louise Nott, Nidean Dickson, Georgia White, Leighton Gilmour, Wayne Horne and David Crew. I take this time to welcome the new Head of House for McCormack Ms Helen O’Rourke and wish her every success in this role.

Finally, as I move on to my new school, Carmel College, I thank Mary MacKillop College for the experiences, the memories and friendships that have taught me so many lessons and will hold me in good stead in the role of Assistant Principal. I take from this community much more than I ever gave, and I feel blessed to have been part of this community for 10 years.

Aime Culpeper
Pastoral Leader - McCormack House
Penola News

Year 12 Farewell

Last week we farewelled our Year 12 students. This occasion was one filled with great joy, gratitude and emotion. We are confident that these young women will find success and happiness in their future endeavours. We thank the Penola Year 12s and the families for their contribution to our house and College over their time here.

Thank You

I wish to thank the staff, parents, families and most importantly students of Penola. 2015 has been the success that it is has due to endless contributions of the people who make up the Penola house and their gifts and talents. I wish each member of our house a restful, peaceful holiday, filled with the blessings of Christmas.

Ms Carly Richardson
Pastoral Leader - Penola House
The 2015 DUX of Mary MacKillop College was announced at the Year 12 graduation evening. Julia is a brilliant student who loves learning. She is also the recipient of the prestigious Tuckwell Scholarship and will be studying at the Australian National University in 2016.

Julia has attained the following results at the end of Year 12:

- Mathematics C: VHA8
- English: VHA8
- Biology: VHA10
- Chemistry: VHA7
- Mathematics B: VHA7
- Study of Religion: VHA5
- QCS: A
Reenrolment Forms

Reenrolment forms for extracurricular ensemble and for Private lessons are now overdue. These forms are an integral part of planning for the Music Department in 2016. It is especially important that Ensemble members get these forms returned by the end of the school year as their invitation to next year’s Music Camp depends on their confirmation of ensemble participation in 2016.

Les Miserables

Early last month, a competition ran in the Courier Mail’s Heatst@rt section, for a school to win 40 tickets to see Les Miserables at QPAC. In a wonderful turn of events, Mary MacKillop College was selected to be the recipient of these tickets. The competition asked educators to detail how students from your school will benefit from the experience to see the Musical, and I had no doubt that our students will not only enjoy, but learn about the genre of Music Theatre and be able to reflect on the performance as some of the student go on to study the unit in Senior Music.

And so, this Saturday 28th November, 36 year 10, 11 and 12 Curricular and Extra-curricular Music Students will travel to QPAC to see a performance of the world renowned Musical. I have no doubt that the students will enjoy the experience enormously and I look forward to sharing some of their reflections in the future.

Recent Performances

- Year 12 Graduation

Congratulations to Vocal Attack for their wonderful performance at the Graduation ceremony for MMC’s class of 2015. The student worked hard in preparing 6 pieces for the Liturgy rehearsing through lunchtime and afterschool.

- Recording Studio Experiences

On Friday afternoon, Rock Band used their final rehearsal for the year utilising the school’s Recording Studio to record a version of their cover of Kimbra’s “Cameo Lover”. The recording studio has recently been completed and is not fully operational, and the students had an enjoyable time utilising this amazing school resource.

Bree Cohen
Music Coordinator
From Remix

The Remix Hip Hop competition took place on Saturday 7th November.

17 girls under the banner **MMC Redemption** took to the stage at the Southbank Piazza in front of 2000 people and battled it out against 64 schools.

The Remix is an annual event presented by the Brisbane City Council and was first staged in 2007. The competition is a dance event, staged in a major public venue, with teams of young people selected from high schools, throughout South East Qld. A central focus of The Remix is to strengthen the connection of young people to their school and community in a positive, celebratory way. Participants are provided with opportunities to access an extensive workshop program, performances and other pathways to learn new skills and demonstrate their ability to express themselves respectfully in an art form that they enjoy, within a fun, safe and motivating team environment. But The Remix is also about empowerment, using dance to transcend language and cultural differences and bring young people together. The program’s core values are “access” and “inclusion”.

With Remix it is not about winning, it is about being involved, belonging to something, a group, a school, a team. It is about understanding what commitment means and how your lack of commitment can impact on the team. We had no such issues with our crew, they were all fantastic girls. We had these phenomena take place where each week the group got bigger not smaller. I look forward to hearing that MMC competed in Remix in 2016 and no doubt I will be in the crowd cheering them on.

The girls worked with two talented and very funny choreographers to put together their piece. They collaborated on costumes, ideas and they all had the opportunity to show their talents.

As a group we did not place but **Anilise Kulseho** entered the Rumble against girls form other schools and came first. Well done.

A special mention must go to **Troi Long** who persisted in getting the group up and running again, following her commitment in past competitions. The truth is, that when students demonstrates so much passion and perseverance for an activity, then that activity must run. I am grateful to have been part of it once more.

**Aime Culpeper**  
Remix Dance Coordinator
From Remix cont.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians, the Turrbal people.

From The Japanese Department

Japanese Study Tour visiting
Mary MacKillop College

Host families needed
Payment to Host Families: $294

- One Student per Homestay
- For 7 nights from March 17th to March 24th, 2016.
- Students aged 12 to 13 yrs.
- Host Families with younger/older children are Welcome!!
- The girls would travel to and from school with your daughter.
- 24/7 Support in English and Japanese just a phone call away
- Please support the school by becoming a Homestay Family

Japanese students are a pleasure to host and it’s a great opportunity for your family to experience another culture and make an international friend.

Please contact:
Nathan Evans

Mobile: 0414 702 402
Email: nathan@thegsi.com.au
Ms Pattie Lee is a much loved, long time volunteer at Mary MacKillop College. She was one of three finalists presented at the recent Catholic Leader - Community Leader Awards (Community Hero) ceremony at the Francis Rush Centre. Following is an extract from the testimonial for Ms Lee written by MMC teacher, Ms Mary Fletcher.

‘Never See a Need Without Doing Something About it’! Mary MacKillop

Pattie never stops seeing a need; and never stops doing; and never stops giving! And she is a true follower of Mary MacKillop!

Pattie’s association with Mary MacKillop College began as a parent in 2007, and as a very generous single Mum, Pattie was always involved in her daughter’s education, offering her help wherever needed (from Athletics Carnivals to fund-raisers to Drama nights). As Pattie’s daughter was a keen Drama student, Pattie would give much needed and appreciated assistance by seeking out and making props for Drama class productions and Drama performance evenings, doing everything from costumes to catering! She also designed and organised props for three school musicals and was Stage Manager for the College production of “Grease”.

When her daughter graduated with great success in 2011, Pattie decided she would ‘stay on’ on a voluntary basis and ‘give back’ to a community that she really loved and believed in, feeling connected because of the ‘lived values’ of the Josephite charism at Mary MacKillop College! Pattie had felt the goodness and warmth alive in the College, and was attracted to the MacKillop spirituality.

Pattie has since become somewhat of a ‘hero’ at Mary MacKillop College, and she has given her assistance whenever called upon on a voluntary basis in many areas of the College life as and when required: as the ‘props maker/organiser’ for the subject of Drama; as a junior Touch Football coach; as temporary Library Teacher Aide; as cleaner; as assistant to the groundsman; as bus driver; as eCCCos (Singing Group) manager.

Pattie is special. She is generous; she is humble; she does not enjoy the lime-light, preferring to see the joy on the faces of others; she is loved by the students, who always call her name as a welcome “hello” across the play-ground, pleased to see her smiling face. sharing happiness and enjoying life!

Pattie loves the students at Mary MacKillop College, and they love her! She is a great role model for the girls with her spirit of giving, her generosity of heart and her “joie de vivre”!

Pattie is genuine of heart and filled with the spirit of giving selflessly and without limits! There is nothing that Pattie would not do for the school, for the community and for individual students, because “Pattie sees a need, and does something about it”!
MMC History Competition

Make a video or poster showing how life has changed over the last 100 years. Work in pairs or individually. Look at a range of scales: local, national and global. Choose one period, a combination or all of them:

- WWI years
- WWII years
- 50s and 60s
- 70s & 80s
- 90s to today

Successful submissions will form part of the Banyo-Nundah Catholic Parish Centenary celebrations in 2016.

HOW TO ENTER
1. Register today: email carrs@mmc.qld.edu.au
2. Confirm your entry plan: by Friday 20th November 2015 (Week 7) & receive a prize
3. Complete the entry over the Christmas holidays: due Friday 5th February 2016

REMINDER: Oral History Project
We are still seeking students to help with collating the stories gathered from local people in the parish. This may involve interviewing people, but most likely will include typing up stories and helping to build a website of memories. If you would like to help with this project please email Ms Carr at carrs@mmc.qld.edu.au.

Sally Carr
History Teacher
From the Brainways Quest

The Quest Continues

On Saturday the 14th of November, Emily Denaro, Sophie Boon and Sarita Manasompong competed against 17 other teams to place first overall in the State Finals of Brainways The Quest.

This is a fantastic achievement!

Sophie recounts the day:

For Maths the challenge was to figure out the pattern of 3 rays of light in a box by using a variety of different mathematics techniques. We then had to put it all on one side of a poster and that side was the only side that would be marked. For Humanities we had to analyse Plato’s cave allegory and three eastern philosophies. We then had to create a board game with the theme of ‘Pursuit of Truth’. For Science we had to write three chapters of a book, one on the wave nature of light, one on the particle nature of light and one on properties that have both a wave and particle nature. We then had to write an analogy on each one and choose the best one to write a comic on. We really enjoyed getting to challenge ourselves and getting to compete against a variety of teams. Out of seventeen teams we placed third in our division for science and maths. We placed first in our division for humanities. Across all three subjects overall we came first making us the state champions. We now move on to the international final on the second of December at Griffith University.

On the 2nd of December, Emily, Sophie and new team member Claire Grant, will be part of one of three Queensland teams to compete in the National/International finals, held at Griffith University. We wish you all the best of luck and look forward to hearing about the next part of your quest.

Anita Grisaffi
Head of Department - Science
QIMR Visit
On the 17th of November, Year 12 students who are interested in Science went to the Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR).

Here they met scientists and were guided through the world class facility.

They also undertook laboratory work. The focus of this trip was to learn about Genetics. Our students used micro-pipetting and serial dilution techniques in conjunction with electrophoresis to determine relationships between hypothetical family members.

Thank you to Dr Liam St Pierre for running the session for our students and to Leisa Refalo and Alyssa Kennedy for their supervision and assistance in organising this activity.

Anita Grisaffi
Head of Department - Science
Field Trip

Biology literally means the study of life and what better way to study living things than out in the field.

On November 12 and 13 our Year 11 Biology students went to an area of Nundah Creek adjacent to Nudgee College to collect data about the biotic and abiotic factors in this ecosystem. This data has subsequently been used to determine relationships between topography, salinity and plant communities and flora and fauna and to consider the impact of anthropogenic climate change on these.

Field trips are not possible without the assistance of many. A big thank you to Mr Dennis O’Connor and Mrs Sherry Fitzgerald for coming back to MMC to share their expertise of the area with this year's students; to Miss Alyssa Kennedy for organising and facilitating the use of equipment leading up to and on the day; Miss Carly Richardson for leading activities and Nudgee College for allowing us to again use their facilities.

Anita Grisafi
Head of Department - Science
Christmas in the Library
Maryvale Library is very much getting into the Christmas spirit with Christmas decorations put up by the Library Committee such as stars hanging from the ceiling, mini Christmas trees and a display of Christmas themed books as well as some useful books on study techniques and how to manage stress during exam time.

New Classics Club Breakup
Our New Classics book club also recently had our breakup for the year watching the recently released film version of ‘The Longest Ride’, based on the novel by Nicholas Sparks which we read as part of book club earlier in the year. Thank you to year 12 student, Sophia Chang, for coordinating the New Classics Book Club in 2015!

Read, Watch, Play –December Theme- ‘Sweetread’
#sweetread
Join in the December Read Watch Play discussion as we think about #sweetread. This month we will be focused on reading and ideas to satisfy our sweet tooth, and those with charming perspectives or subjects. https://readwatchplay.wordpress.com/monthly-themes/december-2015/
eBooks and Audiobooks available through the BCE Digital Library for reading over the holidays and Summer Reading Club:

There are a number of both fiction and non-fiction ebooks which have been added to our library system by the Brisbane Catholic Education Digital Library. To access these, students can look up the title on the Oliver catalogue (there is a link to the MMC Library under ‘My Community’ on the college website), click on the Digital Library website within the cataloguing record, then borrow an ebook for up to 3 weeks (including over the school holidays!) by typing in their Library card number (the ‘s’ code on the back of the student ID cards). Students will need to have downloaded Adobe Digital Editions and Overdrive Media Console onto their device to access the ebooks. More information on how to do this is available on the Oliver Library home page or from library staff. http://help.overdrive.com/?Sup=http://bcedigital.lib.overdrive.com/Support.htm&Kin=no

We also have a number of new fiction and non-fiction print books currently on display which will be able to be borrowed in Term 1, 2016. Some of the new titles include:

- The Ghost By The Billabong / French, Jackie (2015)
- The Sense Of Style : The Thinking Person's Guide To Writing In The 21st Century / Pinker, Steven (2015)

The State Library of Queensland, in conjunction with the Brisbane City Council participating libraries, is running Summer Reading Club again for students to enjoy reading over the Christmas break. Summer is fast approaching—and so is the Summer Reading Club. The Summer Reading Club online program will officially launch Tuesday, 1 December. The theme for 2015 is Lost Worlds and secondary students are the SRC Navigators! For further details about how to register as well as links to book raves, competitions and activities such as colouring in, scavenger hunts and games, visit the website for secondary students at http://www.summerreadingclub.org.au/theclub/secondary/ or visit your local public library!

Why not become a member of your local Brisbane City Council library with your parents’ permission (http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/facilities-recreation/libraries/joining-the-library/index.htm) so you can keep reading over the Christmas break and register for free membership on the State Library of Queensland website (http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/services/membership) if you are in year 11 or 12 in 2016, so you can access a greater variety of online databases for free to help with researching for subject assignments. The school also subscribes to a number of online databases which you can access via the UQL Cyberschool. https://www.library.uq.edu.au/services-for/services-for-secondary-schools

Best wishes from the Library staff to all the Mary MacKillop College students, staff and community for a safe and restful break, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Melinda Strickland
Librarian

Madonna Riggall
Library Aide/Book Hire Convenor

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