The Standard You Walk Past is the Standard You Accept

I came across this statement recently in an article about leadership in schools but of course it constitutes a powerful message for almost any context—a prompt for us all to be alert to behaviours, words and attitudes that may or may not reflect the values we know to be at the heart of what it means to live as Jesus did. These values include respect, love, integrity, inclusivity, compassion and mercy. When we walk past another who is behaving badly and we say nothing or do nothing, then in some way we are silently condoning that behaviour. When we as teachers decide not to appropriately challenge a student for sloppy work or for thoughtless, half-hearted responses, then we are condoning that behaviour and in so doing we are lowering expectations and standards. As parents, when we decide to ignore insolent, rude or selfish behaviour then in a very real way we are giving such behaviour the green light.

It’s worth thinking about. Apathy, indifference, failure to respond to situations of inappropriate behaviour all send the message that such behaviour is okay. But it’s not okay and it is our responsibility to make it known.

What’s not okay?

- It’s not okay that women make up just 23 percent leadership roles in Australia’s top 2000 companies.
- It’s not okay that women continue to receive 17.5 percent less in average weekly earnings than men.
- It’s not okay that one in three Australian women has experienced physical violence.

It’s not okay that when gender exclusive language is used we choose not to notice or to write it off as being unimportant. In so doing, we condone the exclusion of a gender. Recently, I noticed the following words boldly on display at a well-known and respected Brisbane Catholic Girls’ School: “Demonstrate a sportsmanlike manner at all times”. The sign has been there for a while and hardly a soul had noticed. That’s not okay.

If we are immune to what is overtly obvious, how blind must we be to more subtle signs of injustice? A MacKillop education is an education in dignity and equality for all. We have an inescapable imperative to stop and challenge that which lowers standards and denies justice.
Diverse Opportunities
The students of Mary MacKillop College are blessed by a staff dedicated to providing a wide range of learning experiences which extend far beyond the classroom. Special thanks to Ms Georgia White, Ms Nidean Dickson, Ms Bree Cohen and Ms Bernadine Anning who recently took our senior art students to Mt Tambourine for a weekend dedicated to the development and practice of a range of artistic techniques. The Year 11 Research Conference was convened last week by Ms Sally Carr. This day integrated a diverse range of information literacy activities directly relevant to the full range of senior studies. Our QCS Preparation program is well underway for 2015. Students and staff alike are working in a highly focused way to fine-tune techniques and approaches in order to optimise performance in each of the Multiple Choice, Writing Task and Short Response papers.

Parents, Teachers and Students Catch Up Over Breaky
It was wonderful to welcome so many of our new parents to breakfast last week. As staff, parents and students connect we share stories, create understandings and build community. We aim to provide a variety of contexts and times for parents to join us across the year. I look forward to catching up with many more of you as the year unfolds.
Hearth Place Comes to Live

A very special celebration took place on Sunday 1 March with the opening and blessing of the renovations of the convent of the Sisters of St Joseph in Bage St across the road from the College. In her reflections, Sr Annette Arnold spoke the following:

“Up until the 19th century, the hearth place (the fire), was the figurative centre of the home. This fire was centrally placed and sent out warmth to all rooms of the house. It was a place for story-telling and warmth, and a place of gathering and sharing life together. Nundah, as our hearth place, is a welcoming place to call home; a place for prayer, spirituality, pastoral care and ritual. It is a gathering place and a place of welcome for all. We will gather at St Joseph’s as we continue to tell the story of Mary MacKillop and commit ourselves to reaching out to those in need and particularly the poor. We ask God to bless us all as we strive to spread the charism of St Mary MacKillop.”

Learning is Good. Work is Good.

Our classrooms are abuzz with learning. Assignments are being submitted and exam preparation is happening in earnest. A thing worth achieving is worth a lot of hard work – a message reiterated any number of times at last week’s Academic Assembly. We welcomed to the microphone 2009 College Captain Nicole Silajew, Anthea Castellano, Susannah Doohan, Taylor Vidaic and Lucy Hicks from the 2014 Year 12 graduating class and current Year 12 student, Julia Lindblom. Nicole, Taylor, Susannah and Julia spoke of their gratitude for the wonderful education provided by Mary MacKillop College. Each also spoke of her passion and devotion to learning. Great learning requires determination and a lot of hard work. Hard work is to be welcomed and embraced it is at the heart of a life well lived.

So….what about that sign entreating girls to behave in a “sportsmanlike manner”? Be assured that it won’t be there much longer. Very soon the Tappeiner Centre at MMC will be sporting words more along these lines: “Demonstrate positive sporting spirit at all times”! A positive, vibrant alive spirit in any context has got to be a good thing.

Christine Clarke
Principal

1. J. Watterson (2015) in QEL 36(4) p.2
4. ANROWS 2015

It was great to catch up with so many parents and families at our Information Evening on Wednesday 11th March.

The PowerPoints used on the evening are available on the College website in the ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE section.
From the Deputy Principal - Director of Students

It's not okay to be away ... or late for school

‘Parenting Ideas’ author Michael Gross believes that when students miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your daughter has a bright future is to make sure she comes to school every day—and gets here on time. The correlation between school attendance and children’s achievement levels is well-established. The more time students spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Such a simple approach underpins the College’s Attendance Policy which was sent to all parents earlier this term. Our policy states that absences should not amount to more than 10 days per year as high levels of attendance equals positive learning outcomes. We want all students to be a part of excursions and activities outside of school hours but invitations to such require a good attendance record and prompt arrival at school – life practices which extend well beyond school.

I have included as an attachment to this newsletter, Michael Gross’ full article on the importance of attendance as reassurance and confirmation of the sound principles which guide our decisions regarding student well-being. I have also included information about two parenting programmes for your consideration.

CaSSSA Swimming Carnival

On Monday 16 March students and staff will travel to Chandler for the Catholic Secondary Schoolgirls’ Sports Association carnival. Our girls will be competing against schools including Downlands, Our Lady’s, San Sisto and St John Fisher. Girls not competing will be present as support for those who are representing our College.

Please ensure your daughter has food and drinks for the day. There will be canteen facilities available but only at the time allocated to our College. Students will return to the College in time for normal departures. They will be released upon arrival at the College which will be between 2.30pm – 3.00pm.

This is a compulsory day for all students and all absences must be covered by a medical certificate to avoid future consequences.

Student spectators are to wear the College dress (without blazer), hat, badges, College ribbons and with polished shoes. Student competitors will wear the College sports uniform.

Culture Competition

Our annual inter-house culture competition will be held on Thursday 19 March in our Sisters of St Joseph Cultural Centre at 1pm. This is a whole of school event and parents are most welcome to join us for the afternoon.
International Women’s Day

Friday was a time of celebration, acknowledgement and a reminder of all that is yet to be achieved. This year’s theme for International Women’s Day, “Make it Happen”, is similar to the Student Leadership Team’s theme of Breaking the Cycle. As a community where “Equality” is one of our College values it seems only fitting for us to strive towards breaking the cycle of female inequality within the 21st century through our actions and our community awareness campaign.

This year we were privileged to have one of our 2009 College Captains, Nicole Silajew, join us. Nicole spoke about the need for find a career path which suits your values, your ultimate goal for life and one which provides you with a sense of satisfaction. She stressed that it is not necessary to know before leaving school and encouraged the girls to experience jobs in the areas they are considering to provide a true picture of what the job entails. Nicole has completed a Bachelor of Science degree and has recently commenced a Bachelor of Dental Science now that she has identified that dentistry allows her to have a healthy life balance while pursuing her love of science.

In addition to Nicole, past students from 2014 were in attendance as we celebrated their academic achievements. Susannah Doohan and Taylor Vidaic spoke to the community about the commitment needed to succeed in Year 12 and the courses that they have recently commenced.
ABOUT KAREN:
Karen is a sought-after speaker who continually gets rave reviews from audiences around the world. Her dynamic style and highly informative content—which turns the latest educational research into easy-to-implement strategies and techniques—set her apart from others in her field. An expert in effective teaching and learning, study skills, motivation and positive thinking, Karen has the rare ability to draw her audience in and keep them enthralled. She is both informative and entertaining, as she passes on her practical solutions for learning, teaching, studying, living, working, communicating and growing more effectively as a person. This ability makes Karen the smart choice as a speaker and workshop leader.

Karen is an author and the creator of the Teachers Matter Magazine, Teachers Matter Conference, Kids Matter Conference, Study Smart Workshops, Parenting Workshops and the Habits of Mind Bootcamp. She is also CEO of Spectrum Education, Affiliate Director of the Institute for the Habits of Mind, NZ Educator of the Year 2014, NZ Speaker of the Year 2013, NZ Business Woman of the Year 2001, wife of one and mother of two.

From the Deputy Principal - Director of Students cont.

In a busy, fast-paced, changing world where change is the only constant and knowledge is easily accessible, the concern bubbling up is how to ensure your child is truly prepared for the real world. The 21st century skills are very different skills from when we were at school. Many are just common sense, however this is not so common.

There are 3 purchasable options:

- **OPTION A**: Online Package of downloadables valued at $39 for you $9
  Pack includes; 27 Study Tips for Success Poster, Let’s Talk – 51 Questions for the Dinner Table, The Playful Parent Poster, Age Appropriate Chores for Kids, Learning Poster

- **OPTION B**: (includes option A) Live Webinar Event - Future Proofing Your Child with Karen Boyes Monday 23rd March 7.30pm AEST, 9.30pm NZST valued at $84 for you $35
  In this fast-paced one-hour webinar, Karen will explore some of the key behaviours and dispositions needed to be successful in the modern world. These include knowing how to question and problem solve, think flexibly, manage oneself, listen with understanding & empathy, and create and innovate – just to name a few. You will also hear about the future jobs predicted and ways you can support your child at school and home to ensure they are prepared for an ever-changing world. Be ready for an interactive webinar full of great information, laughs and some aha moments...
  NOTE: This webinar will be recorded and the video will be available within 48 hours of the live event.

- **OPTION C**: (includes option A & B) Access to 5 Study Smart Pre-Recorded Videos valued at $218 for you $99
  If you have teenagers this package is for you... all of the above plus
  Video 1 – Study Smarter: Memory Strategies
  Video 2 – Understanding your learning styles
  Video 3 – Setting up an effective study environment
  Video 4 – Goal setting for success
  Video 5 – Preparing for tests and exams
  Learn the powerful strategies that make a difference to your study. Through the use of simple, easy to apply and yet practical ideas, you can boost your own performance and your exam results...
  To register for Options A, B or C simply click below (a small booking fee applies)
  http://www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/future-proofing-your-child-tickets-16032315086

Far too many people study harder rather than smarter and they end up burning out...

Sitting and passing exams is suppose to get you ahead in life — not make you a nervous wreck. With simple and effective techniques described in these videos you can massively increase your ability to pass exams and even reduce your study time... ALL tips and techniques apply to adult learners as well.
Parent Breakfast

Thank you to all of the parents who joined us for breakfast last Tuesday. It was lovely to spend the morning with you in an informal capacity. If you would like to provide feedback regarding the morning please email me – dobsonn@mmc.qld.edu.au

Make-up

Make-up at school or while wearing the College uniform is not permitted. If your daughter has a medical condition which necessitates a cover she is required to have a medical letter from her dermatologist. In such instances her Head of House will then make contact with you. Exemption for such conditions require a current letter at the beginning of each new school year.

Narelle Dobson
Deputy Principal - Director of Students
Exam Preparation

All of our young women should now be engaging in extra home study in preparation for the end of term exams. It is vital that girls are strategically revising the work that is required for upcoming examinations.

This preparation involves a number of key techniques. Students must:

- gain clarity around exactly what work is assessed in the examination
- plan a schedule of study for each subject that ensures that all elements are included
- for content knowledge, students must write, re-write and rewrite their notes (seven times is a good start)
- for questions that involve higher order thinking / complex reasoning processes, students must practise questions that reinforce these skills
- attempt all levels of questions from throughout the term.
- seek clarity from their teachers about areas of which they are unsure
- persevere!

If parents are not seeing changed levels of home study it is most helpful to encourage students to begin to prepare more appropriately.

Exam Block for Year 11 and 12 Students

Year 11 and 12 students who have completed all school requirements are only needed on campus for their exams during Exam Block. They are, of course, welcome to attend and use the college facilities for quiet study. Students must be in formal uniform whilst on campus.

The timetable for Year 11 and 12 exams is on the College website under the Academic Excellence link.

Special Provision QCS

Students with a medical condition, impairment or some other factor that may make it difficult to sit the QCS Test may be eligible for special provision. This can include special arrangements, for example a large font test paper for a student with eyesight issues.

Students who consider that they may be eligible for Special Provision need to see me to collect the appropriate paperwork and to discuss the process. The QCAA requires this application process to be completed by May 21.

NAPLAN – Years 7 and 9

Students in Years 7 and 9 whose parents wish them to sit NAPLAN will be undertaking these tests over the 13th to the 15th of May. Some students may be eligible for alternative test formats (e.g. a large print test booklet for a student with eyesight issues).

If you think your daughter may be assisted via an alternative format test paper or have any other queries about NAPLAN please contact me at the College or via chapmaw@mmc.qld.edu.au

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

Lent
As we enter the 4th week of Lent, it is hard to imagine that so much time has passed since Ash Wednesday. Our students give generously to Project Compassion and the simple lesson learnt along the way is that to give and not receive anything return except the knowledge of making someone’s life a little better, is gift in itself. Two more stories on the Food For Life theme from the Caritas website have been included below in this article.

International Women’s Day
Our Justice Captain, Cassie Paulke, spoke at the International Women’s Day Assembly last Friday to raise awareness of women in the community. She highlighted some statistics which were quite startling. Below is an excerpt from her speech.

“For the people who aren’t exactly sure what the meaning behind International Women’s Day is; it is a global day celebrating the economic, political and social achievements of women in the past, present and future. It is an occasion for looking back on past struggles and accomplishments, and more importantly, for looking ahead to the untapped potential and opportunities that await future generations of women. It is also to focus on the plight of women who find themselves marginalised due to the economic, cultural or social injustices.

It may not seem it but we, as western women, have come a long way since the days of corsetry and needle point. Today women outnumber men overall at university. They are also more likely to get a good degree, pass and are less likely to drop out. And women now make up 51% of professional and managerial positions. But we still have a long way to go. Out of 100 rape cases reported to the police, only 7 end in the rapist being caught and punished. Women working full-time are paid on average 15.5% less an hour than men for doing work of equivalent value. 1 in 4 women will be victim of domestic violence in their lifetime. One in seven female students are victims of harassment or abuse during their time at university.

Think on this and how we use language. How often have you heard the people say things like: You run like a girl. You fight like a girl. You throw like a girl. Why is this considered an insult?”

Watch the YouTube clip Always#LikeAGirl.
The link is https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XjJQBjWYDTs

Our Lady of the Way, Petrie
Recently, two of our students Tiffany Vissier and Gerrie Wijangco, who are members of the Petrie parish, Our Lady of the Way, participated in the Commissioning Mass for the newly installed Parish Priest, Fr Chima Ofer on Saturday evening. Archbishop Mark Coleridge presided at the Mass, along with two past parish priests, the Dean of Northern Deanery and many other young priests from the Archdiocese. Tiffany and Gerrie were chosen by our Parish Priest to altar serve on the evening. They did a fantastic job at this auspicious occasion for Fr Chima. Well Done girls.
From the Assistant Principal Religious Education and Mission cont.

St Joseph - Refugee

We are fortunate enough to celebrate St Joseph’s Day next Thursday on the 19th March. This is a very special day in our community and for the Sisters of St Joseph. Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods, selected St Joseph as the patron for the Order because of his qualities - he embraced truth, demonstrated courage and took on the role of guardian. He was certainly fearless. Joseph is known by many titles and one of these is Refugee.

This term does have a connection the plight of Asylum Seekers and Refugees. So, it is quite appropriate to associate Joseph with this theme and our College which is steeped in the Josephite tradition. Here is the story of Joseph, who had to take his family away from the threat of persecution and stay in a place unknown. A change of leadership did not calm his fears and so he chose to seek out asylum in another land and risked much to do so. Joseph’s story of flight is not dissimilar to refugee stories of today. The article which mirrors the scripture, speaks for every asylum seeker.

The Escape to Egypt

Taken from Matthew 2: 13-23

When the Magi had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod.

When Herod realized that he had been outwitted, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under.

After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.”

So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth.

I am every asylum seeker

Foyster, G. 21 July 2010. Eureka Street.


The stories below are based on letters from asylum seekers in detention.

I was born in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan. I was born in Kashmir, between India and Pakistan. I was born in Iran. I was born in Iraq. I was born in Sri Lanka.

I worked as an architect, building up my business. I worked as a negotiator, liaising with the government. I worked as an engineer. I worked as a veterinarian. I worked as an accountant.
From the Assistant Principal Religious Education and Mission cont.

I am a member of the Hazara ethnic group. I am opposed to the government's occupation of Kashmir. I am a firm believer in women's rights. I am a whistleblower for government corruption. I am an ethnic Tamil.

I was held down while I watched my father beaten to death. I was kidnapped by the government and taken to an interrogation room. I was knocked out with the butt of a rifle. I was shot three times. I was arrested and put in a camp.

They kept me in a solitary cell for four days without food or water. They drove a nail through my thumb and put fresh chilli in the wound. They beat the soles of my feet with canes. They pulled out my fingernails. They placed a metal roller on my shins and applied pressure until I screamed.

I bribed a guard to help me escape in the middle of the night. I fled through the mountains and a farmer smuggled me across the border. I hid underground for five months. I sold my property and used the money for a plane ticket. I cut a hole in the wire fence and crawled through the jungle to a safehouse.

I got on the first boat I could, wherever it was going. I paid a man $7000 to take me somewhere safe, but he left with my money. I spent months in Indonesia hiding in the forest. I was dumped in the middle of the ocean and had to swim to shore. I arrived on Ashmore Reef and collapsed from thirst and heat exhaustion.

I was so relieved to be in Australia! I was happy to be safe from the militia! I was alive, I was overjoyed, I was finally free!

I was then locked up on Christmas Island for three years without a lawyer. I was put behind bars and razor wire in the middle of the desert. I was called by a number not a name. I was kept in an isolation cell. I was beaten and abused by the guards.

Why am I locked up if I haven't committed a crime? How can I be in prison without a trial? Why can't they treat me like a human being? Why am I kept here all alone? Why haven't I been told when this will end?

I am depressed and have constant headaches. I am frightened and wake up screaming. I am losing my mind. I have sewn my lips together. I have tried to kill myself.

I didn’t want to be a refugee. I didn’t want to come to your country. I didn’t want to leave my family. I didn’t want to lose my house. I didn’t want to have to start again.

I am not here to get rich. I am not here to receive charity. I am not here to steal your job. I am not here to cheat the system. I am not here by choice.

I am here because otherwise I would be dead. I am here because the militia threatened to kill me and my family. I am here because I was shot. I am here because my house was burned down. I am here because I have nowhere else to go.

I was born in a dangerous land. I was persecuted for who I am and what I believe. I was tortured in an interrogation room. I was dumped in the ocean. I was locked up in detention.

I am an asylum seeker, every asylum seeker, and this is my story. I am not a 'queue jumper'. I am not an 'illegal arrival'. I am not a 'political issue'.

I am a human being. Please treat me like one.

The themes in these two stories will be used in our liturgy on Thursday. All students will have the chance to select a quote that speaks to them about the refugee and asylum seeker situation in Australia. The quotes will create a Wisdom Wall in the Plaza on Thursday. The student leaders intend to host a silent vigil next Tuesday at lunch – A Detention for Detention. These small acts of consciousness are intended to make a difference and Break the Cycle of such injustice.
Choosing food for life

The Centacare Wilcannia-Forbes ‘Manage Your Income, Manage Your Life’ program (supported by Caritas Australia) is helping First Australians, like Karen, to take control of their money, and choose and prepare nutritious food to ensure a healthier future for their families. Your donation to Project Compassion 2015 helps First Australians in remote communities gain the skills to make healthier food choices, building a better future for their families.

www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion
1800 024 413

Sharing food for life

Mother of three, Sarita, could barely grow enough food for her family on her tiny farm plot. In 2007, she joined a program, run by Caritas Nepal, that gave a community group the training and support they needed to start a fish-raising business. Thanks to their hard work, Sarita and the group now have a thriving enterprise and a life-long source of food and income.

Your donation to Project Compassion 2015 helps people in rural Nepal create a life-long source of food and income to benefit entire communities.

www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion
1800 024 413

Cath Rodden
Assistant Principal Religious Education and Mission
As we approach the end of First Term,
It is timely that you should all learn.
We are young, enthusiastic and all smiles,
Of differing heritages, cultures and styles.
So read on about what we possess,
And why we’re proud to be a Lioness.
We are the young women of Fitzroy 4!

**Year 7**

Anna Nixon, is a kind-hearted young woman. At MMC she is enjoying History, Drama and Media Studies. Whilst away from the classroom she has a passion for acting and dancing.

Amelia Graham, is always full of positive energy. Her favourite subjects include English, Geography and Business Studies and whilst away from the classroom she enjoys playing the violin.

Lauren Abraham, is a vibrant member of Fitzroy 4. At MMC Lauren enjoys Drama, Art, Business and Science. Outside the classroom she enjoys watching movies, singing, dancing and acting. Lauren was a valuable member of the 2015 MMC Lit Quiz team.

Poppy Clements, is always a cheerful face in morning house group. Poppy has shown an aptitude for Geography and Art. She has a passion for swimming with a record breaking effort at the 2015 MMC carnival for U12 50m butterfly.

**Year 8**

Kaela Jones, is a polite and kind-hearted young woman. Her favourite subjects include Art, Sport and English. Whilst away from the classroom Kaela enjoys swimming and drawing.

Emily Denaro, has been a delightful addition to F4. At MMC she enjoys English, Science and History. Her extracurricular activities include reading, story writing, music, video games and going to the movies. Emily was a valuable member of the 2015 MMC Lit Quiz team.
From the Heads of House cont.

Year 9

Jupneek Singh, is a friendly and kind member of F4. She has a strong passion for Drama whilst outside the classroom she enjoys soccer, art and surfing the internet. Jupneek has been a valuable member of the 2015 Year 9 debating team.

Kayla Storey, is a bubbly and energetic young woman. Her favourite subject at MMC is Home Economics. Kayla has a passion for swimming and recently took out the U14 age swimming champion title at MMC.

Tahlia Fletcher, is a polite and friendly member of F4. Tahlia has shown an aptitude for all things sport and was a valuable competitor for Fitzroy at the 2015 MMC swimming carnival. Outside the classroom Tahlia is a champion triathlete.

Katie Fennelly, is a compassionate and caring member of our house group. At MMC she enjoys Mathematics and Science whilst outside the classroom she has a passion for reading, social media and various television shows. Katie has been a valuable member of the MMC debating team.

Christina Magier, is a kind and friendly young woman. Her favourite subject is Science and outside of the classroom she enjoys dancing and sports. Christina has also been a valued member of the MMC Volleyball, Netball and AFL team.

Year 10

Kabisi Mtebe, has been a cheerful and polite new addition to F4. She has a strong passion for HPE and away from MMC, Kabisi loves listening to music and dancing.

Courtney Mitchell is a friendly kind-hearted young woman. Her favourite subject is Drama whilst outside the classroom she enjoys playing soccer and dancing. Courtney has been a valuable member of the MMC soccer and touch football team.

Codie Broad, is a polite and welcoming member of F4. She has shown particular interest in Art and her extracurricular pursuits include bands and reading.

Meaghan Wood, is a quiet and friendly young woman. At MMC, Meg enjoys Mathematics, Science and History.

Year 11

Nadia Cash, is a cheerful, friendly young woman who each morning ensures the house group schedule runs smoothly. She has shown an aptitude for English, Study of Religion and Chemistry. Outside of MMC, Nadia is also involved in the MMC AFL, touch football, cross country, athletics and netball teams.

Imogene White, is a polite and friendly member of F4. Her favourite subjects include Drama and BCT whilst outside the classroom Imogene enjoys playing the violin.

Anna Twomey, is a quiet and polite young woman. She has shown an aptitude for English at MMC and received a special award at the Fitzroy assembly earlier this term for straight A’s throughout her report.

Chelsea Webster, is always a kind a pleasant member of F4. She has particular interests in Maths, Business and Film & TV. Outside of MMC, Chelsea has a passion for dancing. As Justice Representative for F4, Chelsea is doing a great job.

Madeline Pahany, is a fun and outgoing young woman. Her favourite subjects include Accounting and Mathematics. Maddy is a keen member of the MMC AFL, Netball and Swim team and has settled well in to her position as House Councillor for F4.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians, the Turrbal people
From the Heads of House cont.

Year 12

Nathalia Piodos-Battino is a cheerful and happy young woman. At MMC, she has shown an aptitude for Art and English. Nattie has been a valuable member of the 2015 MMC swimming team.

Justyce Pengilly is a polite and welcoming member of F4. Her favourite subject is Art whilst outside the classroom she enjoys touch football and volleyball. Justyce is one of the Fitzroy House captains this year and has done an incredible job so far leading Fitzroy to victory in the 2015 MMC swimming carnival.

Julianna Calabro, is a fun and very welcoming member of F4. She has shown particular interest in Chemistry, Biology and English and in her spare time Julianna enjoys skating, competitive sports and book collecting.

Now that you know a bit more about us,
Next time you see us it won’t be a fuss.
Give us a hi,
Or maybe hooray,
Please don’t be shy,
It’s more than okay.
We are the young women of Fitzroy 4!

Tania Meredith
House Group Teacher F4

We acknowledge the traditional custodians, the Turrbal people
From the Heads of House cont.

MCCORMACK HOUSE NEWS

The girls are busy getting ready for the Cultural Competition on the 19 March. This is going to be a fun day and an open invitation is extended to all families to attend.

What I like about the Culture competition is not so much the singing and dancing but the relationships the girls form and the opportunities it provides for girls to get to know each other, show leadership and mentoring. In many cases, the senior students act as role models for the younger students.

Our House is named after Irene McCormack and she was true role model and should be an inspiration to our students. Irene gave up a comfortable life in Australia, to become a volunteer in Peru to work with the poor. Irene gave her time, talents and her life to a cause she believed in and she befriended and mentored many young people during her service.

She was an extraordinary woman because she was a normal woman. The message here is that we all have the ability to be extraordinary by affecting the lives of others.

Being a good House group member also known as being a House Sister is one way to live the example set by Irene and show your extraordinariness and it is easy to do. Students don’t have to just be in year 12 to be House Sisters and friendly mentors to younger students. Mentoring doesn’t have to be a structured program, where the teachers organise activities that bring the students together. It is the little things that girls do that make a difference.

The simple act of smiling and saying something positive to another student every time you see her; encourage a student to become involved in an extracurricular activity; getting to know the students in your own House group, knowing their strengths and weaknesses and encouraging them to do well, to keep going and role modelling how to remain committed when things get tough are all examples of how to act as mentors and House Sisters. All students are unique and through extending a smile, a lending hand and a kind word, you are telling students that you appreciate and accept their individuality and they belong.

So how does this tie in with the Culture competition? I am seeing these things happen every Wednesday and during the lunch time practices. I see girls across the grades being friendly, teaching each other dance moves, even inviting students in different House Groups to come over and sit with them at lunch time because they met during Culture competition. I was even lucky enough to witness students tutoring each other in the library during lunch time and helping each other with math homework in the undercroft. These are students who would not have come into contact had it not been for the Culture competition and the opportunities for mingling, friendship and mentoring that it provides.

I look forward to seeing many McCormack families on the 19th March when we share the talents of McCormack House.

Have a fantastic Week

Aime Culpeper
Pastoral Leader—McCormack House
From the Heads of House cont.

As House Captains our goals for 2015 include creating a house culture that is united, has a genuine sense of belonging and celebrates the success of the Penola ladies. To promote these values we spent some time at last week’s house assembly participating in to “get-to-know-you” activities. The whole of Penola house played the MnM Icebreaker game, using each colour MnM to represent a different question. The students of Penola spent time learning interesting and quirky facts about members of our house. It was a really enjoyable game and we all learnt a lot about our fellow peers.

Last week we also took time to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of many of our students who achieved academic success in Semester 2, 2014. We as House Captains applaud these students for their dedication to their studies and challenge all Penola ladies to be striving towards achieving their personal best this term. Pictured below are some of the award winners from last week.

Carli O’Halloran and Lauren Timms
Penola House Captains
From The Heads of House cont.

International Women’s Day

Last week we celebrated International Women’s day as a College community taking time to acknowledge this year’s theme, Make It Happen, we recognised and celebrated the advancement and recognition of women in their chosen fields. This week the Year 12 Penola students reflected on a woman who has inspired them:

Oprah Winfrey is someone I admire because of generosity and her work with those who are underprivileged. She has walked in the shoes of those who do not have a lot and uses her wealth and power for the good of others.

Brittney Ballard P5

Mother Teresa will always be my inspiring woman. She continued to fight the injustices and she is recognised as one of the greatest care givers on Earth. She was able to provide the poor with as much as she could give and even would give up eating to allow for someone else to have a meal. She fought for social justices in her homeland as well. She was, and still is, a remarkable and beautiful woman.

Kayla Lawson P5

I have always been surrounded by inspiring women, whether they have been family members, teachers, my friends or my peers, but as someone particularly interested in science, a lady who really inspires me is Marie Curie. Marie, was a pioneer for women in science – through her work in physics and chemistry she was the first woman to win a Nobel prize, and remains only one of two people to ever have won in twice in two separate categories. She paved the way for women becoming recognised for their scientific work, and in a field that is still male dominated today, she continues to inspire women to achieve their very best in the face of controversy and adversary, including myself.

Julia Lindblom P3

Rosa Parks is an extraordinary person because she stood up against racism and stood up for herself. As she grew up, she went through different experiences that gave her courage and strength. One day, Rosa Parks had so much courage and strength that when her bus arrived to pick her up, she got on the bus, put her money in the slot, and sat in the front of the bus. African American people were supposed to sit in the back. The bus driver told her to move to the back, but she just sat there and refused to move. I believe that Rosa Parks is definitely a lady to look up to.

Lauren Timms P1

Emma Watson is an inspiring woman. Her support of numerous charities, as well as her work as UN Goodwill Ambassador has enabled her to evoke real change within society. Her contribution towards humanitarian work as well as her perseverance for further education makes her an inspiration for all.

Keelin Roe P1

We acknowledge the traditional custodians, the Turrbal people
From The Heads of House cont.

Upcoming events
We have now moved very quickly past the half way point of Term 1 and are fast approaching Easter. At this point in the term I offer a few reminders to Penola families regarding upcoming events:

Cultural Competition
Penola students have been hard at working preparing and rehearsing for their cultural competition performances. As part of the preparation for group costumes each student has been asked to make a small contribution towards the cost of purchasing these items. Your daughter is asked to bring the amount requested by her senior group leaders to school in an envelope with her name clearly marked on the front by next Thursday 19th March. If there are any issues or concerns with this request please feel free to email or call me here at the College.

Swimming and Cross Country
We wish all students well for the CaSSSA swimming carnival next Monday; we know that they will be excellent ambassadors for our House and College in the pool. Following the swimming carnival, our attention turns quickly to cross country. This is a reminder that the Inter house Cross Country Carnival will be held on Thursday 2nd April.

Assignment and Exams
Finally as the number of assignments and exams begins to increase over the coming weeks, this is a gentle reminder to all students and families about the importance of time management, regular revision and seeking assistance from teachers at the earliest opportunity. For those who may be struggling with staying on track Andrew Fuller has some wonderful free resources that may beneficial: http://andrewfuller.com.au/free-resources/

Carly Richardson
Pastoral Leader—Penola House
richarc@mmc.qld.edu.au
From the Sport Department

Met North Requirements
We acknowledge that there can sometimes be confusion about the required paperwork that comes through from the governing sport bodies. This checklist will help step parents/students through common problems that can arise.

1. Have I collected the paperwork from Mr Messer?

2. Have I had my parents complete all the paperwork?

3. Once I have the completed ‘Project Consent Form’ I then need to see Mrs License to get Mrs Clarke to sign off that I am eligible to participate. (Please allow a few days for this as she is extremely busy. **This will not be signed the day of the trial/competition**)

4. Once Mrs Clarke has signed off that I can attend the trials Mrs Sorbie (College Registrar) will take the completed Project Consent forms for the College’s records. (**the Project Consent Form outlines that the student is able to have their name, pictures, results published in the relevant Met North publications**)

5. I have gone to the Met North website (**calendar**) and double-checked the details for my trial.

6. The rest of this paperwork and the deposit must accompany me to trials and must be presented to the convenor at the event

Please be aware that it is the **responsibility of the individual** to attend the trials. The Metropolitan North competition is run for the individual outside of the operations of the school. As such it falls to the competitor to get to and from trials, double check information, venues, times etc. It is also important to notice that unless the College is required in some instances to send officials, there will not be staff members at these meets or trials.

If your daughter is away from school for a Met North trial/competition, the College needs to be notified by calling through on the ‘Absences line’. Become familiar with the Met North website, dates, venues and details can change for a variety of reasons, so please check it out and know your way around it. Students that do not have their paperwork completed by the trial date will not be released from school and are expected back in classes.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Mr Messer at the College.

The College would also like to take this time to acknowledge the selection of **Tahlia Fletcher** (Yr 9) in her selection in the QLD School Sport Triathlon Team. The College would like to extend a big congratulation and wish Tahlia all the best for your upcoming meet.
From the Sport Department cont.

CaSSSA Swimming Carnival

The CaSSSA Swimming carnival is coming up fast. Next Monday, March 16th will see the College represent against other CaSSSA schools at the Chandler Aquatic Centre. Students will be taken by bus to the venue from the College after attending House Group to mark rolls. Once they have had their names marked off on the rolls the students will load onto the designated bus and be taken out to the Centre. The competition to finishes at 2:00pm so the students will be back at the College for the end of the school day at 3:00pm.

While students will have access to the canteen at the complex it is recommended that students bring their own food and plenty of water and not rely solely on the canteen due to the number of students who will be at the meet. Any student who arrives late and misses the departure of the buses will be staying at the College and will be undertaking school work.

Students are to bring:

- Food and water
- Wear formal uniform
- Hat
- Tote bags only (no school bags are to be brought due to storage limitations on the bus and at the venue)

Matthew Messer
Head of Sport
From the Music Department

From our Vocal Tutor

Hi, my name is Laine Loxlea-Danann, and I have the pleasure of being the new Vocal Tutor at Mary MacKillop College.

A little about myself. I am passionate about singing and music and have a genuine desire to share the benefits of singing with everyone I come in contact with. My professional career has spanned 25 years and in that time I have worked as a professional performer, singer, actress, musical director, choral director, composer, teacher and arranger. I have worked with companies such as the Qld Theatre Company, La Boite, The Judith Wright Centre and the Powerhouse, and people such as James Morrison, Wesley Enoch, Jessica Mauboy and Brian Lucas. I am currently enrolled in the Master of Music Studies program at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, majoring in Vocal Pedagogy (the science of vocal teaching). I hold a Grad Cert in Vocal Performance and a Diploma of Music, both from the Queensland Conservatorium. As well as that I have a Double Diploma in Vocational Education and Training and Training Design and Delivery. I am daily thankful that I have the great fortune of making my living from music and singing.

Singing is a unique craft that uplifts the spirit and soothes the soul. Our modern day world would have us believe that singing is only for the chosen few. That if you are not “X-Factor” or “The Voice” material then you should not sing. Well, I believe the opposite. I think everyone should sing who would like to sing. Singing can, but does not have to, lead to a career in music or in performance. We can simply sing recreationally and reap the many benefits from doing so.

I am fortunate to come from a musical family. I have enjoyed many stories told to me by my mum about her relatives and how they shared the experience of music together. My mum speaks of a time approximately sixty to seventy years ago when there were no iPods, CD’s nor iTunes. My relatives were good, hardworking, average folk. The only way people like my relatives could engage in music was to play it themselves and/or enjoy the efforts of their friends and family, as frequenting professional performances was not common nor affordable. Most average families owned a piano and most of them would sing. Friends and families would gather around the piano and spend evenings enjoying a sing-along. In fact, it was considered unusual if you didn’t sing or play an instrument to, at least, a basic level. Music threaded through their lives in a simple, perhaps unsophisticated form, but was nonetheless essential to everyday life and was much relished.

I have found that there are many benefits of recreational singing (simply singing for the sake of wellbeing) as we would play a game of tennis or go swimming. It is well documented that singing and playing a musical instrument builds confidence, self-expression, creative thought, breath fitness, and utilises multiple areas of the brain simultaneously, which is the brains equivalent to a full body workout. This dynamic brain function has been described as “Brain Fireworks” and it strengthens brain function that we can then apply to other activities. This, added to its therapeutic and creative properties makes playing an instrument and singing one of the best activities for overall wellbeing.

My wish is to take the activity of singing out of the realms of “just for the talented few” and restore it to “everyone can, and should”.

With that in mind, I commence my time at Mary MacKillop College with the fervent hope that your daughters will join me and explore the wonder and wellbeing of singing.

Please contact Bree Cohen (cohenb@mmc.qld.edu.au) to register your daughter for singing lessons.

Laine Loxlea-Danann

We acknowledge the traditional custodians, the Turrbal people
LITERARY COMPETITIONS, WORLD READ ALOUD DAY, INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY AND LIBRARY COMMITTEE EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

We currently have a number of writing competitions running in the library with the opportunity to win cash prizes! Please see Mrs Strickland in the library for more information and entry forms or visit the websites [www.write4fun.net](http://www.write4fun.net) and [http://splash.abc.net.au/ugc-competition/-/u/1633114/the-best-book](http://splash.abc.net.au/ugc-competition/-/u/1633114/the-best-book).

4th March was World Read Aloud Day. Here at MMC, we celebrated by reading aloud excerpts of poems and books at lunchtime and participating in fun activities related to reading aloud such as watching excerpts of people reading aloud on the YouTube ‘World Read Aloud Day’ playlists and reading a Robert Frost poem trying not to make mistakes in the Marshmallow Poetry Reading Challenge. Well done to Lauren Abraham and Taylor Frankling who won book vouchers, bookmarks and chocolates for reading the poems with the least amount of mistakes in the challenge! Other ideas suggested on the website included giving away a book, or taking action in any way you can to Read It Forward on behalf of the 793 million people who cannot read. [http://litworld.org/worldreadaloudday](http://litworld.org/worldreadaloudday)
KIDS LIT QUIZ 2015 AND READER’S CUP 2015
A group of four year 7 and 8 students and 2 spectators travelled to Bulimba State School on Friday 6 March to compete in the Qld heat of the Kids Lit Quiz.

The Kids’ Lit Quiz is a major international literature competition where teams of four students from years 5-8 work together to answer wide-ranging literary questions. Students collaboratively answer 100 questions arranged in ten categories. (The categories are unknown to contestants prior to the event). Well done to Emily Denaro, Lauren Abraham, Mary Mongan and Claire Grant, who, with a total of 68.5 points, came 11th out of 19 teams (including an author team!) in a very close competition where Anglican Church Grammar A came first with a total of 81 points, Citipoine Christian College A gained second place with a total of 80.5 and The Gap State High School finished 3rd on 77 points. The author team scored 78 points overall. Our MMC girls enjoyed also seeing the team of well-known Australian authors, Michael Gerard Bauer, Sheryl Gwyther and Alison and Nicholas Lochel and getting both their own and some of their books purchased for the library personally signed. Thank you also to English staff member, Ms Tania Meredith who came along and assisted on the day and to Claire Pietsch and Yasmin Innis for spectating and supporting our team!

This is what the girls had to say about their Kids Lit Quiz experience!

Claire Grant, M3, year 8 – ‘It was a really good experience and it was very enjoyable.’
Mary Mongan, F7, year 7 – ‘I loved the thrill of knowing an answer and working with a team.’
Emily Denaro, F4, year 8 – ‘I loved participating in a general knowledge quiz on a topic I love! It was interesting.’
Yasmin Innis, F7, year 7 – ‘I enjoyed seeing all of the different schools.’
Lauren Abraham, F4, year 7 – ‘I enjoyed winning $15 on the bonus round questions!!’
READERS CUP 2015

Readers’ Cup for 2015 is coming up soon and we are hoping to enter a year 7/8 team this year. The team will read five set books between them, and on the night will be asked 10 questions on each book. They will be given 30 seconds to discuss the answers as a team before they write them down. Obviously, the more students on the team who have read each book, the more likely they will be to know the answers. Team members can prepare for the competition by making notes on each book and getting together to test each other’s knowledge.

Each year the Queensland branch of the Children’s Book Council holds a state-wide Readers’ Cup competition and the winning team from our Regional competition will go on to compete in the State competition to be held in September. For more details on Reader’s Cup, see the CBCA Qld website http://qld.cbca.org.au/qldreadercup.htm and the new Readers’ Cup website at http://readerscup.org.au/Default and watch the student notices for more details coming soon!

Readers Cup competitions challenge students to read widely, work collaboratively in a team and continue developing a love of reading. It allows readers to compete at a regional and state level similar to sporting competitions and to meet other students with an equal passion for books.

Teams of four students together read a set of books, and then compete with other school teams to answer quiz questions from the books. Any year 7 or 8 girls interested in participating in this year’s Reader’s Cup Brisbane North competition to be held at Brisbane Grammar School on Thursday 11 June, please see Mrs Strickland in the library as soon as possible. More information on the Reader’s Cup is available from the website at http://readerscup.org.au/

NEW TITLES AND OTHER LIBRARY NEWS

Don’t forget to come to the library and visit the Research and Resource Centre Information Moodle page to check out the new fiction and non-fiction titles available for you to borrow (many of which have been selected by the Library Committee) as well as details of upcoming events, competitions and displays in the library! We currently have a display of books about inspirational women to celebrate International Women’s Day which was on 8 March. The Queensland theme for International Women’s Day was ‘Make it happen.’ For more details, see http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/communityservices/women/leadership-and-community/international-womens-day
From The Resource Centre cont.

The library committee will also be presenting some reviews of recent books and details of competitions and events on upcoming assemblies so stay tuned!

Parent helpers are still required to assist the library staff with shelving of books so please contact Mrs Strickland via email at libstaf2@mmc.qld.edu.au if you are able to assist.

Students can now also borrow ebooks and audiobooks by finding the title in our Oliver catalogue, clicking on the BCE Digital library web address and entering their library code (the ‘s’ code on their student ID card) to download the ebook to your netbook. See Mrs Strickland in the library or Mr Webb for assistance.

Melinda Strickland
Librarian

Madonna Rigall
Library Aide/Book Hire Convenor
From The Senior Art Camp

On the 27th of February the Senior Visual Art students packed their belongings along with copious amounts of art supplies and headed down to Mt Tambourine for a weekend full of creativity, inspiration and art making. We kicked off the camp with some relaxing life drawing and followed it up on Saturday with a variety of workshops including artist book making, found object sculpture and we completed a whole drawing folio. We broke up our art making with swims in the beautiful natural swimming hole and early morning rainforest walks.

The camp was an exceptional experience. The girls worked their hearts out and produced some very effective and thoughtful artworks. We came home on the Sunday very tired but with folios full of completed assessment. I would like to thank the girls who attended for being such a well mannered and hardworking team. You represented our College with dignity and grace and completed all the activities with zest, determination and creativity. A big thank you to Mrs Bernadine Anning for helping out in our workshops, Mrs Mandy Crossan who helped organise the event and also to Ms Nidean Dickson and Ms Bree Cohen for helping facilitating such a fun and valuable weekend.

Georgia White
Senior Art Teacher
From the Careers Office

On Tuesday 3rd we (Celine Dettmann and Rachael McLean) along with Mrs Culpeper attended the Australian Defence Force International Women’s Day, Make it Happen high tea.

We were privileged enough to be inspired by three accomplished women. These guests included Madeline Price, director and founder of the One Women Project; Alyssa Azar an aspiring mountaineer with the intentions to summit Mt Everest within the next month at the age of only 18 and finally Lieutenant Colonel Louise Martin with an extensive service history in a range of roles and operations, who has made it happen for herself and family in the Defence Force.

This morning opened our eyes to both gender inequality and our opportunities as women in the defence force and how anything is possible with the right determination and passion.

Mrs Aime Culpeper
Careers Counsellor
Vocation and Training Coordinator

Mrs Beverley McPherson
Career Assistant
From Years 10, 11 and 12 Drama

On Tuesday evening, February 24th, the Yrs 10, 11 and 12 Drama classes attended a production of La Boite Theatre’s “A Midsummer’s Night Dream”. Penned originally by William Shakespeare, Director, Ben Shostakowski, transformed this play into an hilarious, magical and contemporary production which was:

“A wildly original take on Shakespeare’s magical romantic comedy”.

Four awkward teens find themselves entangled in a love quadrangle. A sextet of amateur drama enthusiasts earnestly rehearse a play for a wedding. The Godfather and Godmother of the fairies are locked in a bitter argument over an adopted child, which they seek to resolve through the careless application of dodgy witchcraft.

Benjamin Schostakowski transplants Shakespeare’s enchanted lovers, fools and fairies from the wilderness of Athens to a nostalgia-tinged vision of Australian suburbia. Think lava lamps, slide nights and macramé wall-hangings. A Midsummer Night’s Dream delivered a sensuous cocktail of hyper-theatricality; equal parts strange, dark and hilarious.

“Shows like this make your heart sing, as they take off into new and always expanding realms, exploring what theatre can do by building on old traditions.” (Crikey)

And this show certainly did have the affect of ‘making our hearts sing!’ The girls left the theatre excited, enthused, inspired and thoroughly entertained! Likewise, the production was also thoroughly enjoyed by the staff members who attended (Ms Fletcher, Mrs Chapman, Mrs Bowring, Mrs Anning, and Mr Chapman).

Mary Fletcher
Drama Teacher
From The National Youth Science Forum


While the rest of us were still on holidays and being orientated into a new school year, Julia Lindblom was on an amazing journey – a journey of the person and one of scientific discovery and exploration. Julia was participating in the National Youth Science Forum (NYSF), in Canberra.

The NYSF is a program supported by Rotary Australia and is now in its 30th year. Students who are in Year 11 and interested in a career in science, technology and/or engineering are offered the opportunity to apply for a position at the NYSF which is hosted by The Australian National University, Canberra. The NYSFs mission is “to provide community minded and science focused young Australians an opportunity for network development and insight into skills, careers and a lifetime of achievement in science, engineering and technology”. It aims to achieve this mission by exposing students to research and researchers in the Australian government, private industry, research institutes and universities as well as fostering discussion about major issues and maintaining a work-life balance.

Science students who are keen to embrace the many opportunities offered by the NYSF are invited to submit an expression of interest for the 2016 event by the 31st of May, 2015. Further information can be located at: www.nysf.edu.au or by talking to Julia Lindblom or myself.

Anita Grisaffi
Science Teacher

Julia’s account of her NYSF experience

Two weeks of ‘science camp’ taken out of one’s holidays certainly doesn’t sound appealing to everyone, but attending the National Youth Science forum (NYSF) was easily the most enjoyable two weeks of my life. Essentially the program is a spectacular two week event which is held annually in Canberra at the Australian National University, where 200 of Australia’s best young science students are able to experience extraordinary, hands on science, make connections with science professionals, to explore their university and career options, as well as to network with each other.

I first applied for the NYSF in April of 2014, and, after an extensive application process that involved me writing letters, approaching sponsors, being interviewed on numerous occasions at both regional and state level, and volunteering with my primary sponsor, Rotary, I was selected as one of 23 students from Queensland in August.

After the seemingly infinite wait until the NYSF in January 2015, I arrived on session. Initially the two weeks stretched out in a seemingly infinite fashion, but I soon found that the days passed in a blissful, fast-paced, science-filled blur, and I discovered that the program was over before I had even had the chance to consider wanting to go home. Every day was filled to the brim with things I had never expected, as well as meeting so many lovely people – guests, staff and students alike – along the way. Some of the highlights of my experience include visiting the Canberra Deep Space Centre, Geoscience Australia and having a video conference with the CERN LHC.
From The National Youth Science Forum cont.

At the Canberra Deep Space Centre, students had the opportunity to personally control the Parkes radio telescope – a 60m array worth millions of dollars was quite literally placed in our hands to use. This air time with the telescope is something which is coveted among scientists, and I found it absolutely extraordinary that the NYSF was able to provide high school students with an opportunity that many real scientists were vying for.

Left: My group and I at the Deep Space Centre, with one of their 30m radio telescope arrays.
Right: Some of the technology accessible to students at the centre, pictured with Dr Carl Pluta.

As someone who has an interest in microbiology, I was thrilled to find out that I would be going to the Geoscience Australia water-testing labs. Here I was again provided with the astounding opportunity of being able to do hands-on science and use machinery – such as the state of the art LCP-OES Vista – which I would never even see in person, let alone be able to use. This machine processes water samples and determines their entire elemental composition by heating them to 10 000˚K, which I assisted to run.

In addition to these particular visits, I was able to go a variety of other labs, including a genetic modification lab that’s focus was grain science. Here I was able to take part in investigating the effects of genetic modification at a cellular level, as seen in the picture below.
From The National Youth Science Forum cont.

The other notable event I was involved in was the video conference with the CERN LHC. The LHC is the Large Hadron Collider - the largest and most powerful particle collider used to investigate nuclear science - and is found on the border of France and Switzerland, stretching a massive 27km in diameter, built up to 175m underground. Although I don’t plan on studying particle physics, this event was very interesting, and students were able to interact with the professors doing the research at the LHC, providing an enlightening and extremely valuable experience.

Being able to use machinery and speak to the scientists who operate them is worth far more than it may simply sound – in reality these experiences are invaluable, as they provide students like me with experience and quality insight into the profession at hand, allowing us to consider their work as a possible career path for the future. We were able to explore genres and aspects of science that we would never have even considered.

Although the NYSF is a predominantly science focused program, it also considers personal student development by further educating us on abilities such as presentation skills, how well we interview, and how we write, by running a series of assignments, forums and debates while we were on session. In addition to this, events such as Partners Day were able to help students explore their university options, learn about prominent organisations within their respective fields, and learn about scholarships. By doing this, the NYSF has really broadened my post-high school options, and I have a clearer career goal.

The NYSF was also wonderful as I was able to make many new friends, associates and connections, who have the potential to also be advantageous in my career and educational endeavours. These wonderful people live anywhere from Melbourne, to Perth, to rural NSW, and even in Brazil, South Africa and Canada.
From The National Youth Science Forum cont.

Overall, I gained an inexplicable amount from the NYSF – I don’t think I could even begin to summarise everything, but I think the most prominent things I took away were a refinement on my career and university course choice, an improvement of my self-confidence and refined communication skills. These were predominantly through hands-on science experiences and talking to real scientists, being involved in the social side of the program and speaking up in forums, and receiving so much helpful information through seminars and other experiences, respectively.

However, I absolutely have to those acknowledge and thank the efforts and encouragement of those who enabled me to attend - the teachers, staff and students at my school, who pushed me to apply; my rotary club, who gave me such great support throughout my application process; and the staff, co-ordinators and operators of the NYSF, as well as the sponsoring partners and guests. These people all made my 2015 summer holidays the most enjoyable and personally beneficial ones yet.

I would absolutely recommend the program to all science students – the NYSF truly is a remarkable, mind-opening, and well thought out program, and I appreciate everyone involved in making it happen. I know it is an experience I will always hold dear to me.

Julia Lindblom, Year 12, P3
Captain’s Corner

Justice’s Call for a Justice Wall

The Student Leadership Team’s (SLT) theme for this year is ‘Breaking the Cycle’ and the team has decided to focus our attention on the topic of refugees, poverty, human trafficking, stewardship and reconciliation. Throughout the year the SLT will expand on each of these topics with Term One’s focus being the plight of refugees.

The 19th of March is St Joseph’s day and on this day the College community commemorates the work of St Joseph. This year we will also reflect on all of the privileges in our lives that others do not have. St Joseph was a refugee and it is therefore fitting to highlight the extreme difficulties experienced by refugees on this day. In order to raise awareness amongst the College community there will be a liturgy in the morning during which time students from each House Group will place paper bricks displaying quotes and messages in the plaza to form a justice wall. This justice wall will remain in that space so students and staff can read and reflect on the messages and quotes.

The plight of refugees is not something we just talk about on assembly but is one that is actioned in the curriculum, as it is important to educate our young women. We hope to develop a deeper understanding of the problem and to provoke a sense of empathy which ignites people to act.

Recently the Year Nine girls had the opportunity to meet Abdul Ibrahimi, a refugee from Afghanistan whose story touched their hearts. They described the experience as “eye opening” and “an experience I’ll never forget”.

The hope behind such experiences is to raise awareness. The SLT envisions a College community that is not just charitable, but also aware of the injustices occurring locally and globally. We strive to educate and instil a sense of urgency in the girls, an urgency to identify key issues in the world and to follow in the footsteps of Mary MacKillop, to take action and do something about it.

Kayla Lawson and Casey Miles-Stephens
College Captains
From OzCare

OzCare: Lending a Helping Hand

Our young women of Mary MacKillop - Madeleine Pahany, Amelia Wallace, Nadia Cash and Cassie Hall visited the inner city mission OzCare last Thursday to assist with meals for those in need. They prepared breakfast packs to be served the following morning at the hostel, after which they served a wholesome dinner to men of various ages and backgrounds.

The OzCare staff, Mike and Mitch, were most appreciative of the assistance and spoke with our students about the running of the Mission kitchen and the work achieved by the Outreach Centre. Three of our four volunteers had also participated in last year’s OzCare program and said that they would highly recommend the experience. For more information regarding OzCare, see Ms Sue Goves.

Mr Leighton Gilmour (Supervising staff)
From the Justice Captain

We have many events and committees in the name of Justice starting up very soon so keep your eyes and ears peeled for new groups to join! First off is K.W.I.S.S. - Knowledge, Wisdom, Inspiration, Skills and Story - a Women’s Craft Circle.

The purpose of this group is to bring back the communal feeling and skills of women sharing that have been lost throughout the generations. There is an advertisement below appealing to the wisdom, skills and stories of women who would be willing to share with the students of Mary MacKillop College. We are looking for mothers, grandmothers, sisters, cousins, friends who would be willing to share an afternoon with students to teach them a skill and craft, such as: crocheting, weaving, beading, braiding from any culture and any generation.

We would love to hear from you.
Cassandra Paulke
Justice Captain

K.W.I.S.S
Knowledge, Wisdom, Inspiration, Skill, Story

Women’s Crafts Circle

Can you or a family member:
- Crochet - Knit - Weave - Braid - Quilt - Bead
- Make Jewellery - Do paper crafts
- Or have a special craft skill from your heritage?

THEN WE WANT YOU!
We want you to come along to our weekly Women’s Craft Circle involving the young women from MMC so we can bring back the lost skill of craft!

Contact us by the 26th of February if interested:
Tel: 32662100
cpaulke@mybeecatholic.edu
rodden@mmc.qld.edu.au

Grandparents, Mothers and Daughters welcome
From the 2015 Ski Trip

PROPOSED 2015 SNOW SKI TRIP - 3rd July – 10th July, 2015

Cost: $1,200 (to be confirmed)  $150 Deposit to College confirms your booking

Included:
- 5 Dinners
- 5 Breakfasts
- 5 nights accommodation
- 5 days National Park entry fee
- Ski Clothing Hire
- Coach transport – DVD, Toilet and Seat Belt equipped
- 5 days ski hire + boots and stocks
- Ski Helmet
- 5.5 days full lift ticket pass
- 5.5 days ski or snow board lessons
- Nightly entertainment
- Experienced Mary MacKillop Staff supervision

Please contact the office to collect full documentation.

Mr Horne Ski Tour Coordinator
hornew@mmc.qld.edu.au
From Joeys

Tuckshop Roster
Monday 16th March - Kym Shirley and Jess Leeson
Tuesday 17th March - Penelope McCarthy
Wednesday 18th March - Daisy Rajendran
Thursday 19th March - Ginny Kennedy
Friday 20th March - Irene Lata

Monday 23rd March - Irene Lata and Joanne Clements
Tuesday 24th March - Debbie Lindblom
Wednesday 25th March - Denise Olsen
Thursday 26th March - Veronique Taylor
Friday 27th March - Help Needed Please!

Gina Koplick
Tuckshop Convenor

From the Uniform Shop

- Opening hours are Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 7.45am to 8.30am, except during exam block when the shop is closed.
- Orders can be phoned through to the office and students can then collect paid items from the shop.
- In the past the shop has replaced broken badges free of charge which were then replaced by our manufacturer. As our supplier no longer offers this service broken badges must be replaced by purchasing new badges.
- Unfortunately it will be necessary to raise the price on several items from the beginning of Term 2. Prices will remain unchanged in Term 1.

Elizabeth Gilroy
Uniform Shop Convenor
Community Noticeboard

Are You A Past Student of Windsor State School?

Windsor State School is celebrating 150 years in 2015, and is seeking all past students, teachers and their relatives, asking them to register in the lead up to the anniversary year. The two main events for the jubilee will be An Evening to Remember on 24 July, and Heritage Day on 10 October, 2015. Registering is easy! Visit our website at www.windsorss.eq.edu.au and click on the link to register on-line, or download a registration form and return by post. You can also join our Facebook community at www.facebook.com/Windsor150. Registered past students receive a free quarterly newsletter with interesting articles and updates on the anniversary celebrations.

Mountain Bike Orienteering

Riding off road. Searching for targets. Interpreting a map.
900 acres of fire trails, horse tracks, open land. Fast single tracks. Scenic location.
Foot event and camping an option.
Social or competitive. 11 courses. 1.30pm to 6.30pm. 30 mins to 3 hours.
Phone Deb 0439 979 260
Community Noticeboard cont.

Executive Officer - Catholic School Parents Australia

20 hours per week - Generous Salary Package

Qualities and Skills

Strong Interpersonal and Communication Skills
Comfortable interacting within Catholic Education and Catholic Church and with Government
Interest in and some knowledge of political processes
Recognition of the power of advocacy in influencing policy
Able to prepare meeting papers and provide some other administration services to CSPA Council

Role holder will be collocated with Federation of P & F Secretariat, 143 Edward Street, Brisbane.
Some flexibility in hours will be discussed.

Further information
Carmel Nash 33369349 or 0421633915
www.parents.catholic.edu.au
Applications close 5pm March 16 2015

2015 Next Step survey

The Queensland Government is conducting its annual statewide survey of all students who completed Year 12 in 2014. The Next Step survey is a brief, confidential survey that gains a comprehensive picture of the employment, study and life choices made by Queensland school completers in the year after they finish Year 12.

Between March and June, all our students who completed Year 12 last year can expect to receive instructions to complete a web-based survey or a telephone call from the Queensland Government Statistician’s Office to complete the survey. Please encourage them to take part. If their contact details have changed, please assist the interviewer with their updated details or forward the survey to their new address so they can participate.

Thank you for your support of the Next Step survey in 2015.

Further information on Next Step is available online at www.education.qld.gov.au/nextstep/ or on toll free telephone 1800 068 587.
Community Noticeboard cont.

iDesk Launch & Volunteer Recruitment

Nundah Activity Centre (NAC) is installing 2 iDesks in its main foyer which will provide free internet access to its Members.

NAC warmly invites you to its iDesk Launch. Please come along and find out more about what NAC has to offer and consider volunteering in our innovative Digital Community Visitor Scheme.

7:30 – 9:30am Friday 20 March 2015

at Nundah Activity Centre
15 Jenner St, Nundah

Free Light Breakfast
RSVP: Wednesday 18 March 2015
sam@nac.org.au or 3266 4500

Supported by the Lord Mayor’s Suburban Initiative Fund

Why is NAC providing this service?

In an ever growing online world, NAC seeks to empower the over 65s by affording them free internet access. This group is particularly vulnerable and at risk of being excluded from internet use as home internet fees are prohibitive for the majority of this group.

Current research shows that the economy as a whole is bolstered by improving an older person’s inclusion in the digital economy, as such inclusion:

• allows an older person to remain as an active and engaged community member through the strengthening of vital social ties.
• improves the mental health and well being of an older person by combating loneliness.
• allows an older person to become a better informed member of and more involved member in their local community.

Additionally, a UK study revealed that the over 65s:

• voluntarily excluded themselves from internet access because they could not see any benefit of embracing it; and
• furthermore, if they were to participate, they wanted courses designed for them and run by them.

A need to increase this group’s online connectivity and participation exists. NAC intends to tackle this challenge head on. NAC is a not for profit organisation with a particular focus on improving the quality of life, physical and mental wellness and independence of its senior members. With its specialised knowledge and focus, NAC is well positioned to meet this need. The iDesk Project is part of a suite of activities currently being undertaken by NAC which seek to bring technology into the everyday life of an Older Australian. For instance, NAC’s Federal Government funded Digital Community Visitor Scheme is a unique and ground breaking project which connects older Australians and Volunteers through the use of tablet device technology.

We would encourage the local community to attend the iDesk Launch and find out more about what NAC has to offer and to also consider volunteering in our Digital Community Visitor Scheme.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians, the Turrbal people