Dear families,

The past few weeks have been a very busy time for the College as we farewelled our Principal of seven years, Mr Stephen Walsh. Farewells are always times of reflection on what has been and what is to come and this one was no different. As a community we showed our gratitude for the service that Stephen gave to the College with a Farewell Assembly held in the ERC. At this Assembly I was very proud of the way the girls demonstrated our values of respect as they listened to the speeches and compassion in their reactions to the emotion that Stephen shared. I would like to share a part of Stephen’s speech where he talked about our community, our values and where he spoke directly to the wonderful young women that are your daughters:

There are many things I am proud of in my time here at St Joseph’s – the many symbols throughout the school that clearly identify us as a catholic school in the tradition of Mary MacKillop and the sisters of St Joseph. Most of all I am proud of the way our community espouses and lives out the college values of compassion, hope, justice, and respect.

To have a strong sense of social justice and Christian values is easy in an environment of inclusion and encouragement. We need to encourage our young women to set examples of openness and generosity towards all people, wherever they are and irrespective of how they arrive. Girls you must stand up for what you believe to be just and fair, listen to what is being said in the media or from our political and social leaders—always critically analyse social structures and relationships against our Gospel values. I believe that as a Catholic community of young MacKillop women and men that we need to stand up and be heard. That is what Mary MacKillop did her whole life – challenged injustice. Last week Sister Ani Derwin the Congregational Leader on the Feast Day of St Mary MacKillop quoted Pope Francis who said we have lost the ability to weep for others – a true meaning of the value of compassion.

As you all know we are currently going through an election campaign and I am certain that our political leaders from both sides of politics need to hear from us. In actual fact I think they could learn a lot from us and particularly from our College prayer which I believe defines a St Joseph’s Catholic College MacKillop women:

To lead with compassion
Serve with respect
Pray with hope
And to act justly.
I have thoroughly enjoyed my 7 years at St Joseph’s and I will miss the many students, staff and parents that make up this wonderful community.

To quote Mary MacKillop for the last time—Gratitude is the memory of the heart! I am so thankful and blessed to have been a small part of this fantastic College and each one of you will have a special memory on my heart.

Our young women will have many challenges to face throughout their lives but if they can leave the College not just with academic skills and knowledge but also with a sense of purpose and identity framed within their values of respect, justice, hope and compassion then they will always achieve.

One of our students who has recently faced challenges and achieved is Heather G from Year 12. Heather competed in the Unified Taekwondo World Championships in London against 11 other countries and I would like to congratulate her on her amazing success. Heather won Gold Medals for Individual Power Breaking and the 15-17 year old Team Special Technique, Silver for Team Power Breaking and Bronze for Individual Patterns. Heather is very humble about her achievements however this wonderful record is a testament to her hard work and perseverance.

‘Gold Medallist’ Heather G Centre

As Year 11 prepare for their end of course examinations and Years 7-10 enter a very busy time for assessments this story of hard work, dedication and ultimate success is timely. Each one of us need to remember that with faith in God there is no challenge that we cannot meet and as St Mary of the Cross said “Do your best and God will bless your efforts”.

Cheryl Merryweather
Acting Principal

A WORD FROM THE ACTING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

We have reached the mid-point of Term 3 already. The HSC Trial examination and our farewell to Stephen have dominated the last few weeks. The glorious weather helps us cope with our busy schedule as do our wonderfully cooperative, gracious and generous students.

Several Year 12 students are putting the finishing touches to their HSC major works or completing their HSC practical and performance examinations. It is a stressful time for them so we offer them our support and good wishes. Students in Year 11 are gearing up for their preliminary examinations and students in Years 7 – 10 will complete a range of assessment tasks over the next few weeks. We are also fitting in a MADD evening, a trip to Canberra for the choir and of course the final disco for Year 12.

Disco

The disco will be held Thursday 29th August in the ERC from 7pm so it is timely to include the dress code and rules. It is each parent’s responsibility to ensure that their daughter is dressed appropriately for the disco whether they dress at home or at a friend’s house. If girls arrive dressed inappropriately or change during the night parents may be called to come and collect them.

The College rules regarding dress and attendance are as follows:

- Tops and bottoms (shirts and pants/skirts) must meet hence there will not be any skin showing
- No cleavage is to be revealed.
- No backless or strapless tops
- No short skirts, dresses or shorts. Girls should wear tights underneath any shorts, skirts or dresses that may be considered too short.
- Shorts will be judged ‘too short’ if they do not have a distinct leg length
- No high heels (stilettos) as they damage the floor in the ERC

Attendance rules are put in place to ensure that everyone has a safe and enjoyable evening:

- St Joseph’s staff are only responsible for the girls from the College’s front gate in Russell Drysdale Street. If the girls are dropped off or picked up from anywhere else or not escorted to the gate, we cannot be held responsible for your daughter’s arrival or attendance at the disco.
- Girls are to enter St Joseph’s first, be signed in, dress checked and receive the symbol for the evening. They will then be allowed to attend the disco at St Edward’s.
• Only current students of the College may attend the disco. Ex-students or visiting relatives and friends are not permitted to attend. Students must bring their College ID with them.

• Glow sticks and chewing gum are not permitted.

• Students may not leave the disco unless accompanied by a parent.

• Parents are expected to collect their daughter promptly at 10.00pm. Parents are not to enter the disco area, but are to wait in the bus shelter area or outside the College grounds.

• Students may be breath tested as part of the entry procedure or during the evening if there is reasonable suspicion that alcohol has been consumed.

Students with an outstanding afternoon detention and students who have lost their privilege for disciplinary reasons are not permitted to attend the disco. If you have any questions or queries about dress or attendance at the disco please call me at the College.

**Student Leaders for 2014**

Students have nominated for several leadership positions for 2014 in recent weeks. College leaders were selected after a rigorous process of speeches, student and staff voting and interviews in front of a panel. Year 12 House leaders, Year 11 House leaders, peer tutors and peer mediators from Year 10 and peer mentors from Year 9 have all been selected. Pastoral classes have also elected their representative to serve on the SRC. It is a credit to our students that so many of them nominate for these positions. Our model of leadership is based on service and we constantly challenge our student leaders to use their position of leadership to ‘make the community a better place and to help make the people in it better people’.

**40 Hour Famine**

77 students from Year 7 – 12 participated in this annual fund raising event last weekend and by Sunday evening, had banked over $3000. Our girls certainly embraced World Vision’s mantra of ‘give it up’ to help make a difference in the fight against hunger.

**A Joeys Cardigan**

The SRC has worked on designing and securing approval for a College cardigan for the past twelve months. It is priced at $75 and is now available for purchase from the uniform shop.

**Uniform matters**

Parents are reminded that students must wear blazers to and from school every day in the winter terms – Terms 2 and 3. On very cold days, students should wear the College jumper or new College cardigan under their blazer. Non-regulation jumpers or fleeces are not permitted and students will be required to remove them if they wear them to school.

The College now has very clear expectations about spacer earrings. Students are not permitted to get new spacer piercings and will be required to remove them. Students with spacer piercings already are not permitted to increase the size of the spacer beyond its current size until they leave school.

**Rules for student phones**

Students are permitted to use phones at recess and lunch. However, they are not permitted to have phones on during class. Teachers may require students to place phones face down on the desk or to leave them in pockets. Students using phones in class to make or receive a call or text will be required to hand the phone to the teacher. We ask parents to support these phone regulations by not calling daughters during class. There are times when it may be necessary for parents to contact daughters during the school day to let them know important and often sensitive information which can be very distressing. If this is the case please call your daughter’s Year Leader, the Leader of Student Wellbeing or me so that we can assist both you and your daughter.

Please do not hesitate to call your daughter’s Year Leader or me if you have any concerns about her or her progress at school. Enjoy the next two weeks.

Helen Love
Acting Assistant Principal

**FROM THE LEADER OF LEARNING AND TEACHING**

**Year 12**

Year 12 have successfully completed their Trial HSC examinations. From now until the commencement of the HSC examinations good organisation and planning are essential preparation tools for study and maximising results. Some other proven tips for Year 12 students at this stage of their schooling are:

- reviewing Trial examination papers to see where improvements can be made
- coming to school each day and actively participating in every lesson
- discussing with teachers areas of strength and areas that can be developed
- completing past HSC questions - commercially purchased or available free on the Board of Studies website: HSC multiple choice quizzes; past papers with marking guidelines and sample responses
- keeping in mind that the HSC exam is worth 50% of the overall HSC mark, so any study
between now and the HSC exams can make a positive difference to overall achievement

Year 11
The final Preliminary course examinations for Year 11 commence Monday 9th September, Week 9 Term 3. For the first time Year 11 students will receive an achievement grade of A - E for each Preliminary course. Prior to 2013 Year 11 students were only deemed to have either satisfactorily or unsatisfactorily met the requirements of each Preliminary course undertaken. These 2013 achievement grades form part of each student's Record of School Achievement (RoSA).

Kathy West
Leader of Learning and Teaching

FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

School Fees
For those families paying fees via the standard instalment plan, your final fee payment was due on July 26th 2013. If you have not cleared your account please contact the College to make payment or advise us on when payment can be expected.

A number of families were contacted last week in regards to overdue accounts. If your account is overdue, and you have genuine financial concern, please let us know about it now. The College can work out a payment plan with you to help you make payments more easily but you must apply for hardship consideration via the standard process. If your family is in a genuine case of financial hardship contact the finance department and discuss your situation as soon as possible.

Second Hand Clothing & Books Market Day
The College is looking to hold a Second Hand Book and Uniform Market Day in Term 4. If your daughter does not require her current uniform next year, and it is still in good condition, there are numerous families looking to purchase second hand items. Please discourage your daughters from destroying their uniform at the end of Year 10 and Year 12 so that they can be passed down to families who really need these items at a cheaper price. More information on this proposed Market Day will be provided in future edition of this journal.

ACTING LEADER OF STUDENT WELFARE

At a whole school assembly last week we farewelled our principal Mr Walsh. It was a very sad occasion for the College but also a celebration of how far we have come on our journey with Mr Walsh as our leader. The girls did a fantastic job wishing Mr Walsh goodbye and they are to be commended on their behaviour and their genuine response to his departure.

In his speech he spoke about the girls being our future leaders and their need to be young women who challenge what the media say to us and to question their motives. He spoke about being young woman with compassion and empathy which are such important qualities in the ever changing world we live in. I encourage you to speak with your daughters often about these important qualities and give them opportunities to relate these to the world they live in.

Cathy Toby
Acting Leader of Student Welfare

FROM THE LEADER OF YEAR 10

I want to take this opportunity to affirm Year 10 on their excellent Semester 1 reports and on the enormous contributions they are making to College life.

One of my roles as Year 10 Leader is to read through and sign the reports. It was very pleasing to see that on almost every report the comments indicate the girls are on task and working well, and most girls should be very pleased with their efforts.

It is also very uplifting to see the willingness of the girls to nominate themselves and accept positions of leadership and service. Well done to those who volunteered for roles as SRC representatives, House Leaders and Peer Mentors. The calibre of applicants was excellent so selection was very tough and unfortunately some girls will be disappointed to have missed out.

At the beginning of the year the theme “Courage to Bounce Back” was selected as our theme. However, I recently came across a book by Sam Cawthorn called “Bounce Forward”. The book talks about how seven years ago Sam Cawthorn was nearly killed in a car accident with a Semi-Trailer and suffered massive injuries. His right arm had to be amputated above the elbow and Sam received multiple other injuries including punctured kidneys and collapsed lungs. Sam’s right leg was left a huge t

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that we shouldn’t only try to “bounce back” after adversity to where we were before. Adversity should be used to help us learn and grow and become richer people for it.

Terry Grubba
Year 10 Leader

FROM THE YOUTH MINISTRY LEADER

SPARK – Year 7-9 camp

‘SPARK’ is an exciting camp for year 7-9 students to be held at the Southern Cross Outdoor Education Centre (‘Challenge Ranch’) in September 2013 run by the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay. The camp will begin at 3pm on Sunday 22nd September and finish at 1pm on Tuesday 24th September at the Southern Cross Outdoor Education Centre, Somersby NSW. (See website for detailed maps and directions). http://www.southerncrossoec.com

‘SPARK’ will be an action packed few days with games, sports, adventure activities and challenges, great food and friends plus a chance to learn about your faith and hear some inspiring stories. The cost is $120 (this includes all food, activities, accommodation etc) Students will need to be dropped off and picked up from the venue. If you would like to register your daughter for this event you need to do so online at http://www.trybooking.com/CZVU

Alternatively you can go to the Broken Bay Diocese’s website http://www.dbb.org.au

Go to this website, scroll down to the very bottom and find the word ‘Youth’ under the parish support unit heading.

The youth page has info on all our upcoming events.

Contact the Broken Bay youth team on youthministry@dbb.org.au or 98470472 or see Mrs Green at school for more information.