



### PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Dear Members of the MacKillop Catholic College Community,

Last Friday on November 1st we had a whole school Mass to celebrate All Saints' Day. All Saints' Day, also known as the Solemnity of All Saints, is a day when Catholics honour all the saints, known and unknown, who now rejoice in

God's presence. Instituted in the early centuries of Christianity, this holy day reflects the Church's deep connection to the "communion of saints"—a communion we all share as baptised Christians. This feast reminds us of our call to

holiness and our union with the saints who inspire us by their faith, courage, and sacrifice. The night before All Saints' Day was traditionally known as "All Hallows' Eve." Early Christians marked it as a vigil in preparation for the feast, a time of prayer and reflection on the saints. However, as centuries passed, local folk customs and beliefs about the supernatural began to influence the night of October 31. In Europe, communities celebrated the harvest season and

associated it with beliefs about spirits and the changing of seasons. When these traditions traveled to America, they mingled with other customs, evolving into Halloween as we know it today—a secular holiday filled with costumes, trick-or-treating, and spooky themes. While Halloween can be enjoyed as a fun community event, its commercialisation often detracts from the solemn observance of All Saints' Day, creating confusion about what these days truly represent. In modern times, the commercialisation of

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Halloween has overshadowed the significance of All Saints' Day, especially among younger generations. Costumes, decorations, and Halloween parties dominate the season, yet little emphasis is placed on the values of holiness and virtue celebrated on All Saints' Day.

For some, Halloween can seem to trivialise spiritual beliefs, leaving the impression that these celebrations are merely about ghosts and lollies, rather than an opportunity to reflect on the lives of saints who have gone before us. By understanding and honouring All Saints' Day, we remind ourselves

that our Catholic heritage provides a rich source of inspiration and guidance. Halloween may be fun, but All Saints' Day invites us to a deeper, more meaningful celebration of our faith.

*Lucas Hurley*

Principal

## SCHOOL CAPTAINS' ADDRESS

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As the year comes to an end, we are getting ready to say farewell to the College, and we hope to leave you with a few notes to make your journey smooth-sailing from here! As we get more tired and there are more things to do to complete the year, make sure you are getting enough rest, checking in with your peers, and staying focussed on your assignment and to-do lists. Sometimes the last sprint of the year takes a team effort, so by taking care of yourself as well



as those around you will help you all to make it to the finish line with a smile on your face. A fun fact to close the term: The "sixth sick sheik's sixth sheep's sick" is believed to be the toughest tongue twister in the English language.

Good luck for the rest of Term, and pray for us and our exams!

**Hannah Tornsey and Dan Murphy**

# IMPORTANT DATES

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## TERM 4, WEEKS 6-10

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### WEEK 6

▣ Stage 2 Exams (Continued)  
11th to 15th of November

▣ Remembrance Day  
Monday, 11th of November

▣ International Food Fundraiser  
Tuesday, 12th of November

▣ Graduation Mass Practice  
Wednesday, 13th of November

▣ Maths Underwater!  
Friday, 15th of November

### WEEK 7

▣ Insight Dance Night  
Monday, 18th of November

▣ International Food Fundraiser  
Tuesday, 19th of November

▣ Drama Night & Film Festival  
Wednesday, 20th of November

▣ Graduation Mass  
Wednesday, 20th of November

▣ Graduation Dinner  
Thursday, 21st of November

▣ Saints vs Taminmin Rugby  
Friday, 22nd of November

### WEEK 8

▣ Music Night  
Monday, 25th of November

▣ International Food Fundraiser  
Tuesday, 26th of November

▣ Last Day for Year 11  
Friday, 29th of November

### WEEK 9

▣ Art Exhibition  
2nd to 6th of December

▣ International Food Fundraiser  
Tuesday, 3rd of December

▣ Languages Scavenger Hunt  
Tuesday, 3rd of December

▣ Presentation Evening  
Wednesday, 4th of December

▣ Christmas Liturgy  
Friday, 6th of December

### WEEK 10

▣ Year 6 into 7 Orientation Day  
Monday, 9th of December

▣ Inclusion Orientation Day  
Wednesday, 11th of December

▣ Last Day for Students  
Thursday, 12th of December

# STUDENT RECOGNITION



Congratulations to Year 11 student Ayla Dore for being one of only 3 candidates from the NT selected to participate in the 2025 National Youth Science Forum Year 12 Program. This January, they'll dive into hands-on STEM experiences, meet leading experts, and explore exciting careers. His Honour wished them all the best, encouraging them to enjoy the Forum, be inspired, be bold and enjoy the incredible opportunity! Well done Ayla, keep up the great work!

Superstar Year 12's Taelah Smith and Daniel Murphy have been named in the NTFL's Round 2 Rising Star Nominations! Congratulations team, keep up the fantastic work!



After much contemplation, our Senior Student Leaders for 2025 have been selected! Congratulations to the following students on their roles:

Louis Shepherd - **School Captain**

Amber Netherwood - **School Captain**

Jimmy Permsati - School Vice Captain

Vanessa Owino - School Vice Captain

James Toll - Prefect for Environment

Tahlia Te Maro - Prefect for Art

Emma Turton - Prefect for Inclusivity

Joshua Gorddard - Prefect for Sport

Vonn Samson - Prefect for Hospitality and Fundraising

Ashley Samarita - Prefect for Catholic Identity

Jordan McGregor - Prefect for Defence

Ayla Dore - Prefect for Academia

Praise Isiakpere - Prefect for Language and Culture

Ellie Wilson - Prefect for VET and Careers

Timica Miller - Prefect for Performing Arts

# AT MACKILLOP

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## Mission Week with Sr. Jess

This term, the fabulous Dan Ryan visited the College and undertook a series of religious music workshop for our Junior students. A great way to learn more hymns and have some fun while singing along to some great songs!

## World Teacher's Day

The 25th of October was World Teacher's Day! We would like to say a big thank you to all of our our fantastic teachers at MacKillop who contribute to the learning and support of our next generation. We are proud to have such a wonderful team of educators!



## 2025 Captains and Prefects

Our student leaders fo 2025 have been chosen! Congratulations to this exemplar group of students, who have some big plans for their leadership roles in 2025.

# FROM THE MIDDLE YEARS CURRICULUM COORDINATOR

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Earlier this term, our Year 8 students began an exciting milestone: selecting their elective classes for Year 9 in 2025. This was their first opportunity to take ownership of their subject choices, and it was wonderful to see them making thoughtful selections aligned with their personal interests and future career goals. Reflecting the high academic standards at Mackillop, our new Commerce (Business & Accounting) elective received enthusiastic support, with enough interest to offer two classes in this subject next year.

In Years 7 and 8, students follow a predetermined pathway of electives. This approach meets Australian Curriculum requirements and also allows students to explore a variety of subject areas before Year 9, helping them make informed, experience-based choices when they start selecting subjects independently.

**Kind regards,**

Mr Matt Sharp



## EXTRACURRICULAR

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### ARTS

Mackillop Dance Company  
Miss Abigail Hatton  
abigail.hatton@nt.catholic.edu.au

Instrumental Music  
Mrs Kathryn Ezzy  
kathryn.ezzy@nt.catholic.edu.au

Art Club  
Ms Margarette Kean Ramos  
margarettekean.ramos@nt.catholic.edu.au

### NEW

Mackillop Drama Society  
Mr David Lloyd  
david.lloyd@nt.catholic.edu.au

### SPORT

Mackillop Saints Rugby  
Mr Matthew Sharp  
matthew.sharp@nt.catholic.edu.au

# TALKS WITH TINA

## DARWIN CATHOLIC YOUTH FEST 2024

Bringing Youth Together for a Day of Fun, Faith, and Friendship

**November 17, 2024**

Live Music | Food Stalls | BreakAway Night Preview  
Vocations & Community Booths



This is your chance to celebrate, connect,  
and see what's possible!  
Starts with 9:30am Mass, with Festivities to follow  
until 1:30pm Mary Mackillop Hall, St. Mary's Star of  
the Sea Cathedral, Darwin City



The Darwin Catholic Youth Fest is happening on Sunday the 17th of November, 2024! With live music, food and community booths, this is a fantastic event to meet new people and get involved in the community. All are welcome, don't miss out on this event!

**Blessings,**

Tina Dib



@mcc\_youthministry

# ALL SAINTS' DAY MASS

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On November 1st, our school community gathered for a special Mass in honour of All Saints' Day, a time when we celebrate the lives of all saints, both known and unknown. This feast day is a powerful reminder of the examples set by those who lived their lives with unwavering faith, love, and dedication to God. The saints inspire us to grow closer to Christ and serve others with compassion and humility.

During Mass, Led by Fr Shehan, our students reflected on the virtues exemplified by the saints, such as kindness, perseverance, and courage. These virtues not only strengthen our community but also provide guidance in our daily lives, encouraging us to strive for our best and be of service to others. Our prayers were offered for the well-being of our school, families, and those in our community who need extra support.



Students were encouraged to think about ways they can follow the Saints' examples in their own lives, especially in acts of kindness, honesty, and faith, following the way and the will of God.

**Kind regards,**

Carlo Di Donato





# SAINTS NEWS

On the last Friday of Term 3, MacKillop welcomed Palmerston College for the annual Palmerston Cup Gala Day, a highlight on our sports calendar. The day kicked off with an exciting Middle School showdown between both schools' Boys teams. Our Saints team played with intensity, taking an early lead that they held onto until the final moments. Despite their determined efforts, a fast-finishing Palmerston College managed to clinch victory with a last-second try. Year 9 students Jyles Boulton and



Kade Kraut were standouts for the team, with Kade impressively scoring two tries during the match. In the afternoon, our Senior Boys took to the field for their game, which was especially memorable for our Year 12 players, including Charlie Napier, Nic Hall, Cohen Patch, Angus Cram, Will McCallum, Koen Hughes, and Jayden Lih, who were making their final appearance.



Unfortunately, despite many seasons of strong performances, our Senior team had a tough day, falling to Palmerston College. Angus Cram was a standout in what was a challenging match. We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our Year 12 players for their dedication over the years. Their leadership and hard work have led to many memorable wins, inspiring younger players and leaving a lasting legacy for Saints rugby.



**Kind regards,**

Mr Matt Sharp

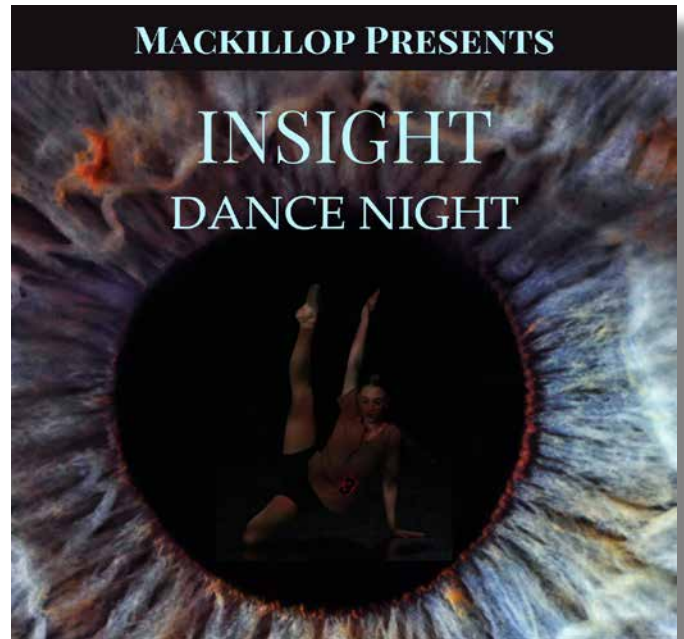
# ARTS EVENTS

We have a huge selection of events happening this term in the Arts Department, ranging from music ensembles to our first ever MacKillop Film Festival! See the details of each event below:

First up is our **Insight Drama Night**, taking place on **Monday the 18th of November!** A range of talent choreographed by our very own Miss Abby. This is a fantastic night and a great way to find out what goes on in the Dance electives and extracurricular groups!

Next is our exciting **Drama Night**, and first ever **MacKillop Film Festival!** On **Wednesday the 20th of November**, a number of performances from the Drama group will be shown, as well as a compilation of short films made by our talented students. Year 11's will also be selling a range of treats on the night in support of their 2025 graduation. This is not one to miss!

Last but not least is our **Music Night**, on Monday the **25th of November!** This event is a huge display of talent from all years across the College, as we hear them play what they have practiced in their classes and electives all year long. Come along to support your peers and catch sight of our new and upcoming composers and future artists!





# MACKILLOP SPORTS

We have had a mighty successful year of interschool sports at MacKillop! Make sure you keep an eye out on socials and on SEQTA to find out all of the sporting events happening in 2025.

See below a gallery of photos of the interschool sports events that have happened throughout the year. What an amazing turnout!



# FROM INTAD

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## Scrap Steel Recycling

Part of the learning that happens in Metalwork is understanding the responsible use of resources and the importance of recycling. To assist the school in its ongoing scrap steel recycling initiative, David Ryan from Cleanaway Darwin has donated 4 wheelie bins to store scrap steel before it is collected for recycling. Thank you David for your generous contribution!



Smoker, and the projects are beginning to come together. This has been a substantial design task and the boys have done a great job.

The Year 9 class have shown great potential in their projects that were created in response to the design brief of 'A seating device'. Here are two garage rolling chairs that are awaiting the final upholstered cushion to be made and fitted.

**Kind regards,**

Craig Gorddard

## Metalwork Projects Taking Shape

As the year starts to wind up, projects are taking shape in Metalwork. The Year 11 Material Solutions class have been tasked with designing and building a Meat



# FROM FINANCE

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## 2024 Family Account

If you have an existing payment arrangement in place, we appreciate your commitment. For families without a payment arrangement, please ensure any outstanding 2024 school fees are settled in full by the end of Term 4, Thursday 12th December 2024.

## 2025 Fees and Levies

By now you will have received the circular from Paul Greaves, CEO of Catholic Education NT, relating to the 7% increase in Tuition Fees for 2025. The two main driving factors behind this are:

- Firstly, extended delays in funding equity between government and non-government schools to reach the 100% mark of the Student Resourcing Standard (SRS). Non-government schools will see no increase in equity funding whatsoever till 2029, and
- Secondly, upward wage pressure from the most recent Public Schools Enterprise Agreement announcing a 12.9% increase over the next three years for all teachers at government schools.

These two factors, however, paint only part of the picture. There is an additional component that significantly impacts the College's ability to operate:

- All non-government schools are funded to a maximum of only 80% of the Student Resourcing Standard.

- The reason, according to Federal government, is that all non-government schools are expected to cover this SRS shortfall through **fees and levies**.

The problem for the College, however, does not end there. It is further exacerbated by the funding methodology applied by Federal government: Based on statistical data sourced from the ATO, Federal government has determined that the feeder area for the College is what they classify as a high Capacity to Contribute (CTC) area. This means that we are rated as a high-income area, further reducing our SRS funding to approximately 60%. What does that mean to the College? According to this methodology, the Federal government expects us to recoup this 40% shortfall in funding through fees and levies. This 40% shortfall amounts to around \$7,600 per student per year. As you are aware, we charge between \$4,800 and \$5,700 per student, depending on Year-level, meaning that we are losing between \$1,900 and \$2,800 per student, resulting in operational deficits and cash flow constraints.

## Implications for 2025

As a result of ongoing and unsustainable financial deficits, we are compelled to recalculate Student Levies for 2025. To view these changes, please visit [www.mackillopnt.catholic.edu.au/2025feesandlevies](http://www.mackillopnt.catholic.edu.au/2025feesandlevies)

# YEAR 12 SPIRIT WEEK

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For their last official week of school, the Year 12's hosted Spirit Week! For each day of the week they had a new activity, including "On Wednesdays we wear pink", "Dress like your favourite teacher" and a rave in the Year 12 common room on Friday!



After pulling some harmless pranks, they went out with a bang before starting their exams in Week 5. What an awesome way to finish of their last official week at school!

Though we have sore hearts to see them go, we are thankful to have an amazing group of young people entering into the world with the reflection of Mary MacKillop.

We pray for all of our Year 12's, that they may find the strength to continue to strive for excellence in their exams, that they cherish these final moments in school with their peers, and that they finalise this chapter in their life with God at their side, as he pursues his good mission within each of them.

Good luck, Year 12's!



# WANT TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER?

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TO STAY UP TO DATE AND BE A PART OF OUR  
COLLEGE COMMUNITY

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## TERM 4, WEEK 5 NEWSLETTER