

Newsletter

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Dear Parents & Students

Prayer



Lord,

The resurrection of Your Son has given us new life and renewed hope.

Help us to live as new people in pursuit of the Christian ideal.

Grant us wisdom to know what we must do, the will to want to do it, the courage to undertake it, the perseverance to continue to do it, and the strength to complete it. Amen.

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

Staff News

We welcome Mr Julian Rice to our staff, replacing Miss Ellene Travassaros. Julian will commence teaching English in Term 2. Julian and his family have moved to Tamworth from Sydney. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our community. We thank Ellene for her contribution to the school throughout Term 1.

Mr Jason Vella left for Rome on Tuesday as he begins a very special journey on behalf of the Catholic Church in Australia. Jason is representing our diocese in a group of young people travelling to the Vatican for the formal handover of the Cross and Icon to the people of Barcelona, Spain. This event marks the end of an incredible journey for Australian Catholics who played a part in the activities across Australia in 2008 that culminated in World Youth Day in Sydney last July.

Papal Award

Our congratulations are extended to former Principal, Paul McDougall, on the presentation of the *Benemerenti* award at Mary Help of Christian Church on March 14.

Schools Display

Our school display at the recent *Schools Show* held at the Tamworth Showground has been applauded. Mrs Jodie Herden and Mrs Janine Way (and their helpers) did an excellent job in presenting a colourful snapshot of life at McCarthy.

Outstanding Achievements

Staff and students have been involved in some outstanding achievements in the last two weeks. The Science and Engineering Challenge, Astronomy Night and a range of sporting, Cattle Team and Equestrian Team performances have highlighted the talents and dedication of staff and students. Beth Gooch has been successful in the regional stage of the Lions Youth of the Year Quest, now progressing to the state finals. We wish her well.



Mrs Kate Rayment – Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Easter Liturgy

The whole school will be involved in an Easter Paraliturgie which will be held in period 1 on Monday 6 April, Week 11. Parents and relatives are most welcome to join us for this event. We encourage all students to take note of the times of the Masses and Liturgies over Easter and endeavour to attend these. At this time we are mindful that we are about to celebrate the most significant time in our Church Year.

Caritas

As the term ends we will be holding the final fundraising for Caritas. The funds from the disco, organised by Dominic House, should boost the total significantly. Many Homeclasses have been donating generously each morning as a result of the student's efforts in 'going without'. This is the true spirit of Lent. Many staff and students attended first Friday Mass and have been going to extra Masses in preparation for Easter.

St Vincent de Paul

St Vinnies members raised almost \$500 selling pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. This was a fantastic effort. Thank you to all who contributed to this fundraiser. Some of our members made large quantities of pancakes. Thanks must also go to McDonald's for the donation of maple syrup.

Easter Egg Drive

St Vinnies members will again hold a raffle of Easter Eggs and will deliver eggs and soft toys to the Children's Ward at the Hospital prior to Easter. There is currently an appeal for the donation of Easter Eggs and toys for this fundraiser. These can be left at the Office. Tickets will be sold during recess and lunch from Week 10.



PASTORAL CARE

Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with Hannah Wood, Paige Berthold, Bianca McDonald and their families following the deaths of their grandfathers.

Winter Uniforms

Please check that you have all the required items for the winter uniform. Note that tunics must be below the knee and all socks/tights above the knee. Ties must be worn correctly. Please check that jumpers and tracksuits are labelled.

Theme for the Week

The theme for Week 9 was Harmony, in keeping with the Federal Government's Harmony Day on 21 March. We celebrate diversity and inclusivity at McCarthy and hope that all members of our community – students, parents and staff – develop a strong sense of belonging. This can be increased by joining in, having a go and helping others within the community. Week 10 looked at what we should do if we do something wrong – admit it, apologise, accept the consequences, learn from it and get over it.

Diary Dates

- 3 April: Years 7-10 Interim Reports issued
- 5 April: Palm Sunday
- 8 April: Regional Rugby League
- 9 April: Holy Thursday
- 9 April: Term 1 concludes
- 28 April: Term 2 commences
- 29 April: Careers Expo
- 1 May: Soccer Gala Day
- 1,2,3 May: CCC Basketball
- 5 May: Blessed Edmund Rice
- 6 May: NSWCCC Swimming

CURRICULUM MATTERS

NAPLAN 2009

The purpose of the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is to assess the literacy and numeracy learning of students in Australian schools in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN tests replace the English Language and Literacy Assessment (ELLA) and the Secondary Numeracy Assessment Program (SNAP).

A letter regarding the tests was sent out to all Year 7 and Year 9 students with their Interim Reports.

The tests will be held according to the following timetable:

Tuesday 12 May: Language Conventions test (Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar)

Wednesday 13 May: Reading test

Thursday 14 May: Numeracy test (Number, Algebra, Measurement, Chance and Data, Space)

Sample questions for NAPLAN can be found at www.naplan.edu.au

2008 NAPLAN papers can be found at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/7_12assessments/naplan/index.php

Mrs Sally Sparke – Teaching and Learning Co-ordinator

BOYS EDUCATION

McCarthy is experiencing some exciting times in boy's education, with some school based programs beginning to be established school wide. Both Mr Coupland and myself have attended Boy's Education Inservices, which have provided valuable insight in to the potential that our school has in improving academic success for boys. We are currently doing some focussed work with our Year 12 male students which will hopefully result in some improvement in their assessment results. Our school will also benefit early next term from some construction tasks being completed by a group of Year 10 boys throughout the school. This is aimed at equipping some boys with "lifestyle skills" that will be beneficial in future years.

Mr Luke Adams – Boys Education Co-ordinator

CAREERS NEWS

Last week I attended the Health Careers Expo held at the HNEAHS facilities at the hospital, along with 14 Year 12 students. It was a great opportunity for students to find out about quite a few health related careers, what is involved, and details of the courses offered through the University of Newcastle.

It is good idea for students to take advantage of opportunities like this, and the Careers Expo at the TRECC in Week 1 of Term 2, to gain information about the careers and courses available to them.

During the last few weeks of this term I have been visiting Year 10 classes to talk to students about beginning the process of exploring career options open to them, and thinking about whether they want to leave school after Year 10 or continue on to Year 11. If they continue on, the Year 10 Careers Booklet I have given to all Year 10 students contains information about what to consider when choosing subjects in Year 11. I suggest parents read this booklet and discuss many of the options and decisions to be made with their son/daughter.

Mrs Susan Barrett – Careers Advisor

SCIENCE

Astronomy Night

The previous newsletter made mention of the Astronomy evening being held at school. It was a well attended event with many students and their families watching the presentation and then staying back for the night sky viewings. Reflecting telescopes were available for the star-gazing workshop and a number of participants also brought their own telescope for some advice and practice. The school received a number of the latest Discovery Astronomy DVDs and resources, and they will be incorporated into the school's Astronomy programs in Science. I thank Mrs Melissa Lees for organising this event, once again.

We are fast approaching the end of Term 1, and Half-yearly exams will be held in Term 2 for the junior and Year 11 Science students. All junior students and senior Science students are encouraged to engage in a study program from the beginning of the second term, with the aim of being well prepared for the exams and any upcoming assessment tasks.

Mr James Vella – Science Co-ordinator

YEAR 8

I have the pleasure of looking after Year 8 as Year Co-ordinator in Miss Wieland's absence until the end of term. I remind parents that the Year 8 Outdoor Education excursion is in Week 2 of Term 2. Please return the note as soon as possible, if you haven't already done so, in order for plans to be finalised. Final payment is also due. I look forward to working with Year 8.

Mr Luke Adams – Acting Year 8 Co-ordinator

YEAR 9

Students are completing assessment tasks for Semester 1 reports. It is important that students refer to the Assessment Schedule that was given out earlier in the term. Specific dates should be written in the Student Planner when class teachers inform students of the nature of the task. Homework and study should feature as part of a student's daily routine at home.

As the end of the term approaches, students need to remain focussed on their class activities and assessment tasks.

Students are enthusiastic about the Riding for the Disabled Program. More students are volunteering each week, and I invite other Year 9 students to join. The commitment is for a Thursday morning once every 3-4 weeks. Students can pick up a permission form from the front office if they wish to participate.

Mrs Sharon Stuart – Year 9 Co-ordinator

YEAR 10

In Week 8 of this term, Year 10 attended our excursion to Canberra. All students experienced a moving and educational time by visiting sites like the Australian War Memorial and Parliament House.

All students enjoyed the excursion, as many friendships were made and strengthened. On behalf of Year 10, I would like to thank Mrs McHugh and all the teachers, without whom this excursion would not have been possible.

Fletcher Davies – Year 10 student

I would like to highly commend all Year 10 students who attended the excursion to Canberra. This outstanding event was a very successful educational experience for all students. I thank all the teachers who accompanied the students (and myself) and would also like to especially thank Mrs Denise McHugh for organising such a big event.

Over the remaining weeks of this term, there are quite a few assessment tasks scheduled and I encourage students to prepare for these tasks by doing some revision and to be aware of the due dates for these tasks.

Overall, many of the Year 10 students have made a fine effort towards their application to study this term, and I am happy to say that I have had some very positive feedback from Year 10 teachers in relation to the students' application and performance in class. Some students have also stepped out of their comfort zone this term by indicating that they are keen to be involved in extra curricula activities at school. This is good to see, and I encourage every student to continue to challenge themselves and keep working towards their goals from now until the end of the year.

Finally, I wish all families a very happy and holy Easter, and I do hope that you all have a relaxing holiday.

Mrs Libby Molony – Year 10 Co-ordinator

YEAR 11

The Theatre Sports day for Year 11 Drama class was a great day for the students and a wonderful photo of Josephine Thornberry, ready for action, appeared in the Northern Daily Leader.

Congratulations to the Year 11 boys involved in Rugby League Arrive Alive Cup who had a good win against Farrer.

Netball begins this weekend for McCarthy. Good luck to all the girls.

It is great to see so many of our students involved in all aspects of school life.

Good luck to the students who are participating in Toastmasters this year. It is a wonderful and worthwhile experience.

Congratulations to Tegan Smith (Year 11) and Alice Read (Year 10) who travelled to State Athletics in Sydney last weekend. Tegan won a Bronze medal for javelin and Alice placed 14th in the shotput.

There has been a noticeable amount of "stress" among some Year 11 students. Please plan your time carefully, talk to me, write to me (j.burt@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au), and let me know how I can be of help to students or parents.

Mrs Jane Burt – Year 11 Co-ordinator

YEAR 12

Term 1 is almost over and Year 12 students have had a very busy and demanding couple of weeks of assessment tasks. These upcoming school holidays will give everyone time to recharge and spend time with family and friends. However, as mentioned in previous newsletters, senior students must devote a portion of this time to their studies. It is a perfect opportunity to 'catch up' on the reading and to tie up the 'loose ends' resulting from these past hectic weeks of assessment task preparation. Whilst part-time employment is important, it would be unwise to turn these upcoming holidays into full-time work and not allow time to rest and study. Students must return to their full-time studies in Term 2 in a positive frame of mind, which can only be achieved through a healthy balance of work, study and recreation. Year 12 reports will be issued early in Term 2 and will provide students with an opportunity to assess their progress, evaluate the effectiveness of their current efforts and to make positive adjustments where appropriate. I wish all senior students and their families a restful, safe holiday and look forward to their return in Term 2.

Mrs Fiona O'Neill – Year 12 Co-ordinator

SPORT

Rugby League – Arrive Alive Cup

Match against Peel High School



On Wednesday 18 March, we played our first Arrive Alive Cup game against Peel High School. We were fortunate enough to record a 30-10 win, with the players defence and completion of sets being the most pleasing aspects. Mr Ritchie and myself would like to thank all the parents and supporters who came to assist on the day. Standout players were Nicholas Walsh, Thomas Michell, Rodney Rolls and Liam Richards.

Match against Farrer 2

On Thursday 26 March, we played Farrer 2nds and posted a hard earned 20-8 win. Thomas Michell was awarded Player of the Match, and Rodney Rolls, Matthew Brady, Nick Walsh and Luke Shore also played extremely well. The pride the boys showed in their school and their jersey was a credit to the whole team. Mr Ritchie and myself would like to thank our fantastic trainers, Garth Coe (father of Brittany) and Mick Schmiedel (father of Abby), for their input into our team's performances. We now progress to the Regional Semi-finals of the Arrive Alive competition and look forward to our next game.

Mr Dan Mitchell – Coach

CCC Girls Hockey

The following girls travelled to Wyong for the NSWCCC Girls Hockey trials on 23 March: Lauren Ayres, Ashley Ninness, Shannan Purdy, Morgan Farmilo, Libby McHugh and Caitlin McHugh.

Lauren, Ashley, Libby and Shannan were selected in the Possibles/Probables.

Congratulations to Ashley and Lauren for being selected in the NSW CCC Hockey team.

NSWCCC Swimming

Congratulations to the following students who will represent the Armidale Diocese at the NSWCCC Swimming Championships: Sara Westman, Claire Stoltenberg, Molly Lyden, Reubben Short, Paige Barton, Brice Davy, Nathan Robinson, Richard Burke and Priyanka Pinto.

They will be swimming at the Sydney International Aquatic Centre at Homebush on 6 May. We wish them well.

Quirindi – Splash for Cash

We commend the efforts of the following students who recently assisted at the Quirindi "Splash for Cash" fundraiser:

Luke Gunning – helped on the BBQ and was a lap counter for the swimathon.

Nathan Robinson – swam 70 laps in the swimathon.

Brice Davy – swam 116 laps in the swimathon and helped with lap counting for others. Brice raised over \$500.

Hannah Gunning – was a lap counter for the swimathon and helped with supervision of young children at the pool.

Mr Mark Falkenmire – Sports Co-ordinator

Girls Waterpolo 2009

The competition rounds finished with Barracudas second and Mantas first (undefeated) in B Grade. In A grade, the senior girls battled bravely against strong opposition and finished fourth. The semi-finals saw the Mantas go directly to the grandfinal, while the Barracudas defeated Calrossy 5-3 to secure their spot. In an incredibly close game – 3 all at half time, 4 all at full time – the

Barracudas (B Grade Champions): Molly Lyden, Alyce Lyden, Laura Roach, Lucy Ashcroft, Ellie Stanley, Cassie Utting, Elizabeth Doherty, Rebecca Riley, Paige Barton, Caitlin McHugh (Coach Mrs Julie McGregor).

Mantas (B Grade Runner-up): Alix Wade, Lori Snowden, Rebecca Snowden, Liz Utting, Kellie Smith, Courtney Elsley, Holly Ashcroft, Meagan Williams, Sharni Hodge (Coach Miss Lauren McGregor).

Congratulations to Sarah Hetherington, Liz Utting and Elizabeth Doherty who were named the Most Improved Player in their teams and to Ellie Wade, Alix Wade and Molly Lyden who were named the Most Valuable Player in their teams.

I wish to thank Mr Bernie Williams for his morning coaching and bus driving, Miss Lauren McGregor for three years of coaching and the parents for their great support.

Mrs Julie McGregor

Diocesan Basketball

On Friday 20 March, McCarthy hosted the Armidale Diocesan Basketball Carnival at the Tamworth Thunderdome. This enabled students to represent their school in a non competitive carnival at a Diocesan level and improve their basketball skills. Schools from Armidale, Gunnedah and Tamworth participated and a fun day was had by all. I would like to thank the McCarthy students who helped in the organisation of refereeing for the day. A big thank you to Sam Connell who was the Referee Co-ordinator for the day.

Martial Arts

The first International Martial Arts Karate Tournament of 2009 was held in Coffs Harbour on 23 March.

Emily and Lachlan Etheridge represented Tamworth with the following results:

- Emily Etheridge:
 - 1st in 15/17 years Kata
 - 1st in 15/17 years Point Sparring
 - 1st in 15/17 years Continuous Sparring
- Lachlan Etheridge:
 - 3rd in 12/14 years Kata
 - 1st in 12/14 years Point Sparring
 - 1st in 12/14 years Continuous Sparring



EX STUDENT NEWS

Eryn Williams and Sophie Gilks – employees at the new Tamworth restaurant, the Ritz.

Kevin Attard – one of the organisers of a fundraiser to raise funds to help improve Tamworth hospital’s operating theatre.

Pat Monox, Greg Burke and Annette Burke (nee Evans) – in the Tamworth Hash House Harriers: a social and fitness group.

Sally Rafferty – presenting awards from 2TM for the Country Music Cavalcade in January.

Kate Kelleher – working as an environmental scientist for an international company in Peru.

Ronald McDonald House Volunteers

Three senior McCarthy students have registered as official volunteers with Ronald McDonald House. Sarah Hetherington, Emma Shaw and Kellie Smith accompanied Mr Coupland for an orientation session recently. Whilst at the “House”, the girls baked muffins for the visiting families. Well done girls for your community spirit.



Clothing Pool Winter Stock Price Comparison



Item	Retail	Clothing Pool
Shirts	\$25-38	\$5-15 (Large number of senior shirts)
Ties	\$20-25	\$3-10 (Large number of senior ties)
Trousers	\$40-48	\$5-20 (68cms to 112cms)
Skirts	\$75-85	\$10-40
Pinafores	\$82-85	\$15-40
Jumpers	\$72-90	\$10-40 (Number of larger sizes)

WANTED: Junior ties, track suits, smaller sized shirts, jumpers, sport tops and shorts.



Locked in the Library
 Friday 3 April
 At Tamworth Library
 466 Peel Street
 6pm-11pm
 Ages: 11 – 16 years
 Music, Games, Lucky Door prizes, Trivia,
 Book Chat, Wii Games, Pizza & soft drinks.
 Must have parent/guardian permission
 form signed.
 For bookings and further information
 contact
 Tamworth Library staff on 67675223

*** MCCARTHY ASSOCIATION ***

The McCarthy Parents Association would like to extend an invitation to all interested parents to their next meeting to be held on **Tuesday 19 May** in the Staffroom. At this meeting we will be discussing the up and coming year, and what we plan to achieve in 2009 for our school and students. We have some very exciting new initiatives underway and are keen to have as much input as possible. It is not only a great opportunity for parents to come and contribute their thoughts and ideas, but also a great way of meeting parents and learning more about our school. So please mark this date in your diary and come along and join us for a cup of coffee or tea at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start on 19 May. Keep watching this space for further notices and reminders.

Tracey Carrington – Publicity Officer (ph: 6765 2927)