

Newsletter

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Dear Parents & Students

Prayer

Give us courage, Lord God, to stand up and be counted,
to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves,
to stand up for ourselves when it is needful for us to do so.

Let us fear nothing more than we fear you.

Let us love nothing more than we love you,
for thus we shall fear nothing also.

Let us have no other God before you,
whether nation or party or state or church.

Let us seek no other peace but the peace which is yours,
and make us its instruments,

opening our eyes and our ears and our hearts,

so that we should know always what work of peace we may do for you.

Amen

Diary Dates

17 September:	Year 7 Vaccinations
18 September:	CCC Athletics
21 September:	Launch 2009 Social Justice Statement
22 September:	Year 12 Retreat
23 September:	Year 12 Farewell Mass
24 September:	Year 11 Exams commence
24/25 September:	HSC Music exams
1 October:	Year 12 Farewell School Assembly
2 October:	Term 3 concludes

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

Higher School Certificate

HSC Drama performances were held at the school on Monday 7 September. HSC Design and Technology, Visual Arts and Textiles works are also being marked around this time. HSC Music practical examinations will be held at the school on 24 and 25 September. A number of staff members are currently involved in HSC marking around the state. Their involvement is very good for McCarthy as it enables them to bring back to the school considerable valuable expertise and experience.

Enrolments

Enrolment interviews for placements in Year 7 2010 are still continuing. Places should be filled and all applicants notified of positions by the end of this term.

Parent Information Nights

A parent information night was held on Tuesday 8 September for parents of Year 7 students to support the PDHPE curriculum topic on puberty. The night was well attended.

An information night was held for parents of students in Year 10, who are expecting to leave school at the end of this year about the changes to the school leaving age.

Performing Arts Centre (PAC)/Temporary Pick-up Arrangements

Reconstruction of the PAC commenced this week and there are a number of implications for the school. O'Donnell and Hanlon will be managing the works and have established clear structures to ensure the safety of all staff and students and to minimise disruption. Unfortunately, due to the need for access between the equipment and materials storage and the construction site, the roadway down behind the school will be closed. This means that students will need to be picked up from other areas after school. The following options are available:

1. The old carpark (beside the demountable) at the lower end of the school will be open between 2.30pm and 3.30pm.
2. Students can walk down to Johnston Street.
3. After 3.10pm, students may be collected from outside the Administration Block. (Please be aware that this area is very busy with cars leaving the school and people walking through the carpark between 3.00pm and 3.30pm. Extra care will be needed in order to prevent an accident.)

New Crucifix

On Friday 11 September the school captains and I attended an assembly at St Edward's School, where we were presented with a new crucifix for the re-opening of the Performing Arts Centre (PAC). It will take pride of place on the wall in the rebuilt Centre. We extend our sincere thanks to the St Edward's community for the support shown to our school during what has been a difficult time.

End of School for Year 12 Students

School is rapidly coming to a close for our Year 12 students and many events have been organised by the school to mark the occasion, including the final Twilight Retreat, Farewell Mass, Formal Assembly and Graduation. A letter has been sent to parents about expectations and responsibilities during these last few weeks of school. It is a time when frivolity can too easily become stupidity and when humorous behaviour can too easily become offensive behaviour. The staff would appreciate support from parents regarding the promotion of positive behaviours and avoiding inappropriate ones from all students at this time.

New School Leaving Age

"As of January 2010, New South Wales will have a new school leaving age, meaning students will complete Year 10 and then have a number of options in which to participate until at least age 17." (www.schools.nsw.edu.au)

There was no attendance at the information night held last week for the parents of Year 10 students intending to leave school at the end of this year. The new legislation has significant implications for these students and parents are encouraged to contact Susan Barrett for information to assist in decision-making.

Uniform

This week is uniform transition week. Students may wear full winter or full summer uniform. No combinations of uniforms please. Year 12 students are not to wear their jerseys. Next week all students are to be in full summer uniform.

Mrs Kate Rayment – Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Year 12 Retreat

The final Retreat for Year 12 will be a Twilight Retreat on Tuesday 22 September from 5.00pm to 9.30pm. We encourage all Year 12 to attend; it is a fitting way to reflect on their lives at this point and their years of schooling. Father Gleeson will join us on this evening.

The Retreat will be followed on Wednesday 23 September with the Farewell Mass at 6.00pm at St Nicholas' Church. All parents, relatives and friends are invited to attend. This is a very appropriate way to mark the end of the students' Catholic education.

Mrs Carol Wheaton and Mrs Cate Allen – Religious Education Coordinators

PASTORAL CARE

Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jeremy, Emma and Daniel Hatfield, and Chelsea-Lee Hogg and their families following the deaths of their grandmothers.

Hey Dad!

"Hey Dad!" is a three session course designed to assist men in the development of parenting skills by exploring the challenges and joys associated with bringing up children. It is suitable for fathers, stepfathers, separated fathers, grandfathers and uncles. The course is free and is held at the Family Relationship Centre, corner Bridge and Hercules Streets, from 9.30am to 12.00pm on Tuesdays 15, 22 and 29 September.

UAC Educational Access Schemes (EAS)

EAS information and forms are available at www.uac.edu.au or from Mrs McGregor for Year 12 students who have had a disadvantage in their preparation for the Higher School Certificate. Applications with supporting documentation must be returned to Mrs McGregor by 23 September.

Theme for the Week

Laughter is a wonderful thing to share. It reduces stress, makes us feel better and brings us together. In Week 6 we talked about these benefits and shared some jokes. It is necessary for adolescents to understand that there are jokes suitable for different situations, that racist and sexist jokes are unacceptable, and that it is a good idea to remember some jokes that are suitable in any company. It is also vital to appreciate the difference between laughing with and laughing at someone. Congratulations to Homeclass ESS for their fun contributions. Here are some jokes that can be shared by the family:

- ☺ I went to buy some camouflage pants the other day and I couldn't find any. (MDC)
- ☺ What do you call a penguin in the desert? Lost. (DJV)
- ☺ Did you hear the joke about the skunk? Don't bother – it stinks! (MSP)
- ☺ What do you call a dinosaur with no eyes? A doyouthinkitsaurus. (ESS)
- ☺ What are the differences between a bird and a fly? A bird can fly but a fly can't bird. (MKS)
- ☺ What did the fence say to the house? I've got you surrounded. (EDF)
- ☺ What do you call a fisherman? Rod. (CKO)
- ☺ Where do cows go to have fun? The mooovies. (MKS)

A family that laughs together is likely to stay together.

All students thought about famous people's views on "work" during Week 7.

"Perhaps the most valuable result of education is the ability to make yourself do the thing you have to do when it ought to be done, whether you like it or not" – Thomas Huxley (Biologist, debater, writer – mostly self taught)

"Genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration" – Thomas Edison (inventor, businessman, held 1093 patents including the electric light globe)

"Laziness may appear attractive, but work gives satisfaction" (Anne Frank - teenage author of *The Diary of Anne Frank*)

"One of the best prizes that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing" – Theodore Roosevelt (US President, historian, author, naturalist, hunter, soldier, inspiration for the name 'teddy bear')

Persistence (having a go, sticking at it, not giving up) is a characteristic that is valued and rewarded in school and later life.

Mrs Julie McGregor – Pastoral Care Coordinator

CURRICULUM MATTERS

NAPLAN results for 2009 were sent home with individual students this week. These results will be used by staff to reassess programs and to support students in identified areas of need. Please contact the school if you have any concerns.

Year 10 students have completed Trial School Certificate exams and will be working with their teachers to address any areas of concern in class. This is an important time and I encourage all students to make the most of this opportunity as they prepare for the School Certificate.

Year 10 recently received some important information regarding changes to the school leaving age which come into effect in January 2010.

Dr Peter Hill was last week appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority. He will be in charge of leading efforts to bring to life a National Curriculum for all students from Kindergarten to Year 12 by 2011.

Mrs Sally Sparke – Assistant Principal

ENGLISH

HSC English

In the lead up to the HSC the English faculty is holding a number of revision workshops. Students are encouraged to take advantage of these revision sessions to reinforce their knowledge and understanding of the texts, concepts and skills required for the HSC.

Monday 21 September: "How to write an extended response" with Mrs Sullivan in A3 at lunchtime.
 Wednesday 23 September: "Into the World and Tom Brennan" with Miss O'Sullivan in the AV room after school.
 Monday 28 September: "Tips for the creative writing response HSC Area of Study paper" with Mrs Sullivan in A3 at lunchtime.
 Wednesday 30 September: "Extra texts and student questions/exam techniques etc" in the AV room after school.

Mrs Katrina Sullivan – English Coordinator

CAREERS NEWS

Deadlines for university and college applications (mainly 30 September), and for the popular TAFE courses (30 October), are almost upon us. Most university open days have now been held. Last week we hosted a guest speaker from TAFE to talk to our Year 12 students. There will be other guest speakers and talks organised on apprenticeships and finding jobs in the coming weeks.

By now, all Year 12 students intending to apply for university entrance should have logged on to the UAC website and gone through the application procedure.

Work experience is being done by some students in the coming holidays and I congratulate those students making the effort to do this as it will enhance their job prospects.

I will be away in the last week of this term attending a conference. I urge students with any career related questions to see me before Friday 25 September if they need my assistance.

Mrs Susan Barrett – Careers Advisor

TECHNOLOGICAL AND APPLIED STUDIES

The Year 12 Major Textile Projects are now in Sydney awaiting marking. The girls have been working on these projects for just over three terms. This year we had projects of apparel, costume, non apparel and textile arts. Each project consists of an item (or items) as well as the supporting documentation in the form of a portfolio, worth 25% each. This means that 50% of the girls' final mark is now determined. They only sit for a one and a half hour HSC examination in Term 4.

The Year 12 Design and Technology Major Design Projects have also been submitted for marking. These projects are securely held at school, waiting for the Board of Studies markers who visit the school to mark them. Mr Ritchie has also been assisting the boys, since Term 4 of last year, while they have been working through the design process. Each of these projects consists of an item (or items) as well as the supporting documentation. Major Design Projects formulate 60% of the final mark, with the students also sitting for a shorter HSC exam.

Practical TAS subjects such as Textiles and Design, Design and Technology and Industrial Technology are great if students do not like sitting for three hour examinations. We wish the students well in achieving the result they are hoping for.

Ms Suzanne Day - TAS Coordinator

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

On Monday evening the Year 12 HSC Music students presented some of their performance pieces for their parents, teachers and friends. We wish these students all the very best as they complete their HSC Music performances on Thursday 24 and Friday 25 September.

This is also a very busy time for the Vocal Ensemble as they are rehearsing for the Year 12 Farewell Mass which will be at St Nicholas Church on the evening of Wednesday 23 September. We will also be rehearsing for the musical items for our Awards Night. All new members of the Vocal Ensemble are most welcome to come to the Music rooms at the beginning of lunch each Monday.

Mrs Libby Molony

YEAR 8

Students have been preparing for their English Speech Assessments. I have had the opportunity to visit some of these classes on "presentation" day and have been extremely impressed with the effort that some students have displayed.

Classroom Behaviour

It has become quite concerning this term to hear negative reports on classroom behaviour from Year 8 students. I ask that parents support the school on this issue by encouraging positive participation at all times.

Year 8 Friendship Day

We look forward to a Pastoral Care day during Week 10 this term. Further information will follow in a future newsletter.

Maths Withdrawal

Two Maths focus groups have been created for Year 8 students. These classes focus on students developing core skills within their Maths units of study. They are running once per week for each group. I congratulate students on their application and involvement in these lessons.

Miss Ginaya Wieland – Year 8 Coordinator

YEAR 10

The Trial School Certificate exams were held last week and students who were unable to attend due to illness completed the exams this week. Once papers have been marked and returned to students, I suggest that they read through the papers and correct mistakes by asking questions in class.

Term 4 is quickly approaching and there are important dates to remember: School Certificate Monday 9, Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 November, Farewell Mass Thursday 12 November followed by an assembly to bid farewell to all Year 10 students who are leaving McCarthy. In the evening, the Year 10 Formal will be held from 6.30pm to 10.00pm.

I encourage all students to continue to give their full attention in all classes for the remaining weeks of this term and to focus on improving their overall attitude and application.

Mrs Libby Molony – Year 10 Coordinator

YEAR 11

Members of the SLC, Mrs Sparke and myself attended the *Battle for Australia* Ceremony in the Town Hall last week. It was a very moving service and one that highlights the importance of students being a part of history. Kellie Smith read the *Ode of Remembrance* with Liz Utting and Phillip Lo laying the wreath.

If students are going to be away from school during exams (eg TAFE, work, traineeships days) they are to make arrangements with Mrs Sparke to do the exam on a morning or afternoon where they do not have an exam scheduled. Students need to do this as soon as they receive their exam timetable. Students may need to reduce work shifts during exam time, and are encouraged to talk to their employers as soon as possible to make alternate arrangements.

Students driving cars to school are reminded the speed limit in and out of the school is 10km/h. Once outside the school it is 40km/h. It is very congested in the afternoon with buses, staff, parents and students trying to leave the school. Please be considerate and drive safely.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if problems arise.

Mrs Jane Burt – Year 11 Coordinator

YEAR 12

Year 12 students have a number of commitments over the coming weeks to realise deadlines for paperwork, online applications and responses to invitations. Parents please be aware of these dates to keep your students on track. The main focus of the last few weeks will be class attendance, the completion of content in courses, final assessments and review of HSC work. It is a most important time for your sons and daughters to continue consistent study routines and maintain this through to the HSC. I know that the encouragement and support that you provide to your students will help them achieve their final goals.

Congratulations to those students who have completed parts of their HSC courses over recent weeks: French orals, Drama performances, Design and Technology final projects, Textiles and Visual Arts major works. Students are also preparing for Music performances which are a major component of the final HSC mark.

Students will receive final reports in the next week. The last of the evening retreats will be held on Tuesday 22 September and our Farewell Mass the following evening at St Nicholas' Church. A school assembly will be held in the School Hall on 1 October at 9.00am. These celebrations will culminate the final year of schooling at McCarthy. I look forward to celebrating with students and their families over the coming weeks.

Mrs Fiona O'Neill – Year 12 Coordinator

EX-STUDENTS NEWS

Gabe Purdy – teacher at Oxley Vale Public School's Sunrise Prep class – received the *NEiTa Inspirational Teacher Award* for her outstanding work in establishing an alternative Kindergarten program.

Matthew Hunter – a new probationary constable in Tamworth.

Josh Steel – coach of the very successful Farrer Buckley Shield Rugby League team.

Ashley Allen – in the NSW Country Women's Hockey team which ended the Australian Country Championships held in Tamworth as they started them – undefeated champions. They collected their third successive title.

Tim Hyde – studying for a business degree at the University of Newcastle, was one of the student ambassadors and guides at the University's Open Day and speaks to schools and other events about study and life on campus.

Simon Norvill – now part owner of the Tamworth Indoor Sports Centre.

Bede Burke, with his wife **Narelle**, - finished second in this year's NSW Farmer of the Year awards, and were awarded the prestigious Brownhill Cup for innovative practices that improve sustainability and profitability in farming.

Louise O'Sullivan (nee O'Connor) – Principal of St Joseph's Primary School, Tamworth.

SPORT

Brisbane Rugby Trip

On the weekend of the 4 and 5 September, thirty-five of our rugby players and quite a number of parents travelled to Brisbane for our annual Rugby Trip. A great time was had by all, with the highlight being the Wallabies v Springboks Test Match at Suncorp Stadium. Three of our boys managed to come home with some special mementos of the Test in the form of football boots donated by two of the Wallabies who played on the night (I believe they were worn at last week's Tamworth Rugby Under 17's Grand Final). This trip has been run annually for the last nine years. We have been able to offer our players some fantastic sporting experiences that have served to build friendships and consolidate team achievement throughout each season. More recently, with the inclusion of parents on the trip, it has become an invaluable opportunity to share a great weekend with their son and his mates. Thanks must go to those teachers who give up their time to make experiences like this possible for our students.

Special thanks must also go to those teachers and parents who give of their time to make Rugby possible for the 120 players who represented McCarthy at Rugby this year. (Bernie Williams, Rob Meppem, Jason Vella, Fiona O'Neill, Gail Jeffriess, Kerrie Sanson and Jack Domis).

Mr Steve Mair



Bendemeer School Horse Sports

Congratulations to Carly Wilkes (Year 8) who competed at the Bendemeer School Horse Sports last Friday. She placed either first or second in all events and as a result was awarded Highest Point Scorer in 14 years girls' division.

Little Athletics

Are you the next Sally McLellan, Dani Samuels or Steve Hooker? Do you play Football, Netball or Hockey and are looking to improve your fitness for next season? Do you enjoy the events at your athletics carnivals? Do you like to compete against yourself and see improvement? Why not come and try athletics.

Tamworth Little Athletics - Family Fun and Fitness for Athletes Under 6 to Under 17

Registration for the 2009-2010 season will be on Sunday 27 September 2009 at the Tamworth Sporting Complex - Greg Norman Drive Tamworth between 2.00pm and 4.00pm where you will have the opportunity to have a throw, jump and hurdle.

Registration is \$90.00 for the season, with events being held every Tuesday and Friday starting at 4.45pm.

The 2009-2010 season will commence on Tuesday 20 October and runs through Term 4 2009 and Term 1 2010. There is a two week free trial for athletes wishing to experience Little Athletics. Enquiries to Jacqui 0427713847 or 67680046 (ah)

PARENT INFORMATION

Coming Up

Uniforms will be on the agenda at the next McCarthy Association meeting so please come along to the meeting if you wish to have input.

Important information ...

I would strongly urge all parents and carers to consider borrowing the Bully Free DVD that is now available at the office. This DVD will empower your children with positive anti-bullying strategies, invaluable tips, advice, guidance and proven anti-bullying techniques, giving you all the information you need to take control of bullying.

Learn more about what bullying is, why it happens, how to manage cyber bullying, parental advice, the vital role of bystanders, expanding friendship groups and developing resilience.

The DVD goes for about 2 hours but you are able to select sections of interest. It is very good viewing and a must for all parents and students even if bullying is not an issue for you or your family.

Country Music 2010

Country Music accommodation bookings are starting to roll in for the 2010 festival. Deborah Lamont-Catterall will be coordinating the bookings for 2010 and can be contacted via email at the following address: mccassociation@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au

Next meeting

Our next Meeting will be Tuesday 20 October at 7.00pm in the staff room. A light supper will be provided.

Tracey Carrington ph: 6765 2927 - Publicity Officer for McCarthy Association

Clothing Pool Extra Opening Hours for Seasonal Changeover

The Clothing Pool will be open from Monday 14 to Saturday 19 September inclusive from 12.00pm – 2.00pm each day and Monday 21 to Saturday 26 September inclusive 12.00pm – 2.00pm each day.

\$10 Clearance Sale

There are a large number of junior summer dresses made from the original cotton fabric for sale. These dresses will be marked down to \$10 each to clear. If you own one of these items and do not wish it to be sold at the clearance price, please collect by 26 September.

CLOTHING POOL



Check out the new Clothing Pool Web page on the school website

If you have uniforms to be sold at the Clothing Pool, **please label** them individually clearly with name, contact address, item, size, price and phone number. Tags/pins are available from the front office. If an item is not labelled we will assume that it is a donation. For further information or appointments ph: 0425312873.