

McCARTHY CATHOLIC COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

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Dear Parents & Students,



Prayer

Loving Father, in the midst of natural disaster we look to you in hope and trust, acknowledging that there is much in life beyond our present understanding. Help us to respond with compassion to the suffering of our fellow Australians; bless those who are working for their relief especially those who are fighting to contain fires; and show us what we can do to share in their task, as servants of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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2009 has begun very well. Classes are in full swing and a number of initiatives are being developed to support the College Annual Development Plan and Strategic Management Plan. Goal-setting and target-setting have been a feature of the first few weeks of the year.

Our vision of sending young people into the community who are positive and competent contributors to society underpins our Mission. Our Mission is to offer knowledge, skills and attitudes for reception and to promote and engage in worship and service of others. These three dimensions have been articulated on many occasions and fortify all of what we do at McCarthy.

Boys Education

In 2009 we are trialling a Boys Education Program aimed at identifying and targeting the specific learning needs of boys in the school. There is much discussion in academic circles about the relative merits of such programs but we believe that any program directed toward improving learning outcomes for students is worth pursuing. Luke Adams and Dave Coupland will be presenting relevant material through the newsletter as the program develops.

Katie Lillyman

The school community had the pleasure of applauding the outstanding efforts and achievements of 2008 graduate, Katie Lillyman at our Week 3 assembly. Katie was awarded the Patricia Rowe Award for Dux 2008, having achieved the highest UAI in the Higher School Certificate. Katie was also presented with an "Outstanding Achievement Award" from the University of New South Wales, an award which attracted a prize of \$4000. We took the opportunity to also recognise and congratulate Katie being named the 2009 Tamworth Young Citizen of the Year.

Pertussis (Whooping cough)

Hunter New England Population Health has been notified of cases of pertussis in students from schools in the local area. We encourage you to take your child to your doctor if he/she has had a dry annoying cough for more than a few days or develops an unusual cough. Young children who have not yet been immunised or are only partly immunised, can become seriously ill. People should

stay away from babies if they have a serious cough. Children can get pertussis even when they have been fully immunised, but immunised children usually don't get seriously ill or have to go to hospital.

McCarthy Board AGM

The McCarthy Board currently has vacancies for parent representatives. Any interested parents please contact me at the school before 6 March for nomination or if you would like further information. Elections will take place at the next meeting, to be held on Tuesday 17 March.

Papal Award

Parents are invited to attend the presentation of a Papal Award to Paul McDougall during the Saturday evening Mass at Mary Help of Christians Church on 14 March at 6pm.

Mrs Kate Rayment - Principal



DIARY DATES



23 February:	Year 7 Welcome BBQ 6pm – 7pm
25 February:	University Roadshow
25 February:	Ash Wednesday
26 February:	School Twilight Swimming Carnival
27 February:	Pupil Free Day
3 March:	Questacon Smart Moves
4 March:	CCC Triathlon
5 March:	Vaccinations Years 7 & 10
6 March:	Diocesan U15's Rugby League – Barraba
13 March:	Diocesan Swimming Carnival – Gunnedah
16-20 March:	Year 10 Canberra Excursion
17 March:	CCC Boys Hockey
17 March:	Board AGM Meeting 5.30pm
17 March:	Association AGM Meeting 7.30pm
18 March:	Astronomy Night
20 March:	Diocesan Soccer
23 March:	CCC Girls Hockey
23-26 March:	Warraymalaya Aboriginal Retreat
25 March:	The Annunciation
25-27 March:	Year 7 Outdoor Education
5 April:	Palm Sunday
8 April:	Regional Rugby League
9 April:	Holy Thursday
9 April:	Term 1 concludes

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The opening school Paraliturg was held in Week 2. This was an appropriate way to begin our school year and ask for God's blessings on our school in 2009.

The first whole school Mass for the year will be held on Ash Wednesday, 25 February. Students will attend Mass with their Colour House at the following churches: St Patrick's, West Tamworth, St Nicholas', East Tamworth and St Mary's, North Tamworth. All parents and parishioners are most welcome to attend any of these Masses.

Bushfire Appeal

A cheque for \$3000 has been sent to the Diamond Creek Parish in Victoria from donations made by staff and students to the Bushfire Appeal. This area of Victoria is where the

family of staff members Jo O'Brien and Kate Walden live. We thought it appropriate that we support the people of that area in their time of great need.

It was heartening to receive an email this week from members of the Belgian group that stayed in Tamworth prior to World Youth Day. They had great concern for the victims of the bushfires and have been offering their prayers for those who are suffering in Victoria.

Lenten Group

We will hold a Lenten Group at McCarthy Catholic College on Wednesday evenings at 7.00pm during Lent. This group will be available to all - staff, students, parents and neighbours of McCarthy. Please contact the school if you wish to be part of this group.

St Vinnies

The number of students who attended the first St Vinnies meeting for the year was encouraging. It was lovely to see good numbers from across all Year groups respond to the call to become involved in this aspect of service in the school. The main focus for fundraising this term will be Caritas, during Lent. The first activity will be the sale of pancakes on Shrove Tuesday prior to school. We are encouraging members to make these at home, freeze them and bring them to school that morning.

*Mrs Cate Allen, Mrs Carol Wheaton
Religious Education Co-ordinators*

PASTORAL CARE

Congratulations

Congratulations on the safe and joyous arrival of their son Riley to Ashleigh and Adam Jones.

Condolences

We offer our prayers and sympathy to Nicholas and Erin Foster and their family on the death of their grandparent recently.

Term Calendars

All students have been issued with a Term Calendar by their Year Co-ordinators. They are encouraged to place this calendar in a prominent area at home, eg above a study desk, and use it to record assessment dates and keep up to date with important school events. This is a key tool to be used in conjunction with the Student Planner and is one way that we assist your child with their organisation here at McCarthy.

Vaccinations

Last week all students in Year 10 and 7 received an immunisation kit from the Department of Health. The first round of vaccinations will occur at McCarthy on 5 March. All completed forms must be returned to school via Homeclass teachers by Monday, 23 February. Students are to make sure they eat breakfast and recess as normal and drink plenty of water.

Year 7 students only:

Hepatitis B – in a 2-dose schedule – (the first dose of Hep B vaccine may not be offered until later in the year)

Varicella vaccine (Chicken Pox) (if no previous disease)

Year 7 FEMALE students only:

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine (Gardasil) – in a 3-dose schedule

Year 10 students only regardless of age:

Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough) (dTpa) – a single dose to all Year 10 students who have not received a previous adult dose.

Theme for the Week

During Homeclass each week a specific issue is raised and discussed by students and teachers. It encourages open dialogue between teachers and students and will assist students in their organisation, study habits and development

generally as a person. So far this year we have covered goals, (where Mrs Rayment challenged each student to write down during Homeclass an academic, social and school service goal for the year), organisation using the Student Planner and the Code of Conduct. This week we have been covering the proper use of mobile phones as our theme.

Mrs Sharon Stuart – Acting Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

CURRICULUM MATTERS

In a recent article, the principal of James Ruse Agricultural High School, Larissa Treskin, was asked about the factors contributing to student achievement. Students from James Ruse have enjoyed considerable success in the HSC, over a number of years, and Ms Treskin noted the most important factors as:

- student motivation to achieve their potential
- the value placed on education by the parents
- the support received by the student

Recipient of the Patricia Rowe Award for Dux, Katie Lillyman, is further evidence that commitment and hard work, together with support, can result in students realising their potential.

Year 11 received their Preliminary Assessment Booklets this week. Mrs Burt and I met with the students to outline the policies relating to the completion and handing in of assessment tasks. This important information is printed in the assessment booklet and it would be a great support if you could look at this with your son or daughter.

Years 7-10 also received assessment outlines for Term 1 this week. These should be pasted into the Student Planners. They provide a visual reminder of the ongoing nature of assessment. Hopefully these outlines and the student planners, will help students be organised and on top of things.

Study Club

Study Club will be held in the Library on Tuesday after school from 3pm – 5pm. This is a great opportunity for students to do homework, watch programs on Clickview or use the internet for research purposes (not surfing the net or watching Youtube etc). Students may also seek help from the teachers who supervise Study Club on a voluntary basis. Students must sign in on arrival and sign out when they leave the Library.

Students may also go to G2 on Thursday and Friday mornings from 7.45am – 8.30am. This will also be supervised study.

Class structures

Evaluation and change are important ingredients for any dynamic organisation. As a result of these processes some things will look different at McCarthy this year, including class structures. This year we will have core classes in Year 7 and 8. We have found it difficult in the past to accurately gauge a child's ability from the screener tests they do as part of the Year 6 Orientation program. In addition to this, the structure of the timetable has made it difficult to use "M" classes as they were designed. Restrictions have meant that movement into, or out of, these classes has not been able to occur, despite intentions. Year 9 will also have mixed ability "core" in English, HSIE, PDHPE and Religion. It will be the aim of all teachers to raise the academic bar for all students – not just those in the "M" stream. Year 10 will work slightly differently, with an "M" class in most subjects, but the timetable is structured to be able to move students into, and out of, this group.

Mrs Sally Sparke - Teaching and Learning Co-ordinator

STUDENT MANAGEMENT

Student Management Developments

The first few weeks of the school year have seen a focus on the Uniform Code for McCarthy. I would like to thank the

whole school community for their overwhelming support in promoting the wearing of the correct school uniform. I am sure that this persistent approach will enable the student body to wear the uniform with pride.

Any person unsure of any aspect of the uniform, or presentation to school, can address the code outlined in the early pages of each Student Planner, or contact me at the school.

By this stage of the school term, teachers would have outlined their individual class expectations to each student. As each student meets these classroom expectations, better learning outcomes will be attained.

The police have recently contacted the school to reinforce the idea that the filming of other students/staff without the express permission of these people, is illegal. In particular, the filming and/or sending of images relating to violence or nudity is regarded a very serious offence. To this end, McCarthy fully supports the police and the CSO with a detailed "Acceptable Use of Mobile Phones" policy. Any student who contravenes this policy will be dealt with seriously.

Mr Mark Falkenmire - Student Management Co-ordinator

CAREERS NEWS

Lunchtime forums

The first Tuesday lunchtime forums this year will be on "What to do if you don't know what you want to do" and "Preparing for University: Financial options". Year 12 should listen carefully to messages in Homeclass as to when and where these talks are held.

Regional University Roadshow

This will be held in the school hall on Wednesday 25 February for students in Year 12 who wish to apply to university. Several universities will be here to talk and answer questions.

Kenvale College

There will be a hospitality/events career night being held at Wests Diggers on 26 February 2009 from 6.45pm. This is an opportunity for all those students undertaking hospitality or events management courses to attend to find out more about career pathways and what Kenvale College has to offer. Guest speaker is Rebel Thomson, General Manager, Tourism Tamworth. To book a place please ring Lia on 029314 6213.

Defence Force visit

I will be taking a group of senior students to a presentation by the Defence Force on Thursday 5 March.

Health Careers Expo at HNEAHS

Students in Years 11 and 12 interested in a career in certain health occupations will be able to attend a presentation on 25 March. Parents are also invited to attend.

Careers Alert

All Year 12 students need to subscribe to CareersAlert by Week 5 or they will miss out on important job, career and course information. Go to www.mccarthy.careersalert.com/ and click on Email List. There is a link on the Careers Page of the McCarthy school website.

Mrs Susan Barrett - Careers Advisor

ADDITIONAL NEEDS

Special Provisions

Applications for Special Provisions for Years 10 and 12 will be made to the Board of Studies throughout this term. If a parent or student believes they will require this extra support, the student needs to be referred to the KLA Coordinator using the Referral Proforma (available from the front office). The student is then reviewed by the Learning Support Team and special provision recommendations are made if the

student qualifies. Parents can contact the Additional Needs Teacher, Ginaya Wieland, for further information.

*Miss Ginaya Wieland
Additional Needs Teacher 7-12*

SCIENCE

The Science Department has started the year once again in full swing with the organisation of some big, upcoming events being held in March, namely the 'Smart Moves' program presented by Questacon, Discover the Universe - Astronomy day and evening event and preparations for participation in the Science and Engineering Challenge.

Year 7 students have settled well into their science classes and are in the process of being introduced to laboratory work which started with the safe use of laboratory equipment such as the Bunsen Burner. Senior Science students have also had a good start to the Biology, Chemistry and Physics Preliminary courses and are all expected to have their textbooks so that the expected background reading, completion of set homework and study habits at home can become established. HSC Science students have completed their first units and are into their second. They are expected to review their personal study programs and make the necessary adjustments to cater for the increased study demand of the HSC course.



James Wong and Brittany York endeavouring to complete the practical component to obtain their Bunsen Burner Licence.

HSIE

Textbooks for Stages 4 and 5 HSIE, History and Geography are no longer compulsory but recommended.

The HSIE Department will purchase some copies of the Geography and History Texts. If you wish to sell your books please place a plain envelope (available from the front office) on the text with your name and Homeclass and hand it into the Bookroom. Books in good condition will be purchased first.

It is still emphasised that having your own text is very useful for revision, homework, assignments and study.

If you wish to purchase a second-hand text, this will also be facilitated. Denise McHugh will notify students when second-hand books are available.

*Ms Denise McHugh
HSIE Co-ordinator*

LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

Year 8 classes have started the term enthusiastically and can already greet people and introduce themselves in French or Indonesian. Most students have already brought in their money for their workbook so that work can start in them soon. Candlemas, on 2 February, is a Catholic holiday in France and is called La Chandeleur. Not only do the French eat a lot of crepes on Chandeleur, but they also do a bit of fortune-telling when making them. It is traditional to hold a coin in one hand and a crepe pan in the other and flip the crepe. If you manage to catch the crepe in the pan your family will be prosperous for the rest of the year.

Elective French classes tried their hand at celebrating La Chandeleur in the "French Way" - a lot of fun and most crepes landed back in the pan!

*Penny Crowley
Language Teacher*

DRAMA ON-STAGE EXCURSION

On Thursday 5 February and Friday 6 February, Year 12 Drama students had the opportunity to view the finest performances, scripts, videos and designs from the 2008 HSC candidature. Students used this chance to evaluate the 2008 works and assess their own skills in preparation for their 2009 HSC Drama practical exams. Students were exceptional in their behaviour and representation of their school. Thank you to Mr Jason Vella for driving our group to and from Sydney and to our very special Drama parents for supporting such an invaluable excursion.

*Ms Felicity Sawtell
Drama Teacher*

MATHEMATICS

We welcome Mr Dan Mitchell and Mrs Sarah Sommerlad to the Mathematics KLA. They bring with them enthusiasm and lots of new ideas. In the absence of Mrs Julie McGregor, we have been fortunate in having the expertise of Mrs Christine Massey. Julie returned to us at the beginning of Week 4 and we thank Christine very much. There are still some second-hand textbooks available for sale for Years 7, 8 and 9. To purchase these, students will need to see their Mathematics teacher. All students should have their Mathematics text in class with them from the beginning of Week 4. If there are any difficulties with this please do not hesitate to contact me or the Year Co-ordinator.

Mathematics competitions, World Maths Day and other activities will be offered for students to participate in during the course of the year. During the holidays, Smartboards were installed into four of the Mathematics classrooms. These will be used to visually enhance learning. Shortly, all students in Years 7 to 10 will have access to an online mathematics programme called Hotmaths. This will be able to be accessed at school or from home. The school and the Catholic Schools Office are funding this learning program. Further details will be provided via a letter home to parents when the students have access to this resource.

*Mrs Jane Ashcroft
Mathematics Co-ordinator*

INDIGENOUS NEWS

Yaama everyone,

It is great to see all the smiling, happy faces back at school. WELCOME to all the new Year 7 students and new students to McCarthy for 2009. Mrs Way and myself look forward to getting to know you all and assisting you throughout the year. Once again we will have many cultural activities happening throughout the year and invite all students, indigenous and non indigenous, to join us.

Our Annual Secondary Indigenous Retreat for indigenous students in Years 8 to 12, is on again from 23 to 27 March 2009, at Toukley on the Central Coast. Permission notes will be going out in the next couple of weeks with all the information regarding the excursion. This excursion is an amazing experience for all students from schools across the diocese. Students gain skills and knowledge that will assist them in their education and future career pathways.

The Gathering Room

The Gathering Room is open 3 lunchtimes per week. It is a place for students to come for study time to revise any assessment tasks, receive assistance from AEW's, and spend time getting to know their peers. This room is a privilege, not a right, and guidelines must be followed. If these are not met, entry into the room will be reviewed and the room may not be made available.

Mondays: Year 7-12

Wednesdays: Year 11 & 12 (Study time)

Fridays: Year 7-12

We are looking forward to a great year.

*Mrs Jodie Herden and Mrs Janine Way
Aboriginal Education Workers*

ASTRONOMY

This year is International Year of Astronomy and to celebrate McCarthy's Science Department is holding an Astronomy night at the College. David Reneke, editor of *Sky and Space* magazine and featured guest on ABC and commercial radio stations each week will be presenting a one-hour talk on "Discover the Universe" using the latest visual material from NASA and the Hubble Telescope. A must for anyone interested in astronomy. After the show you will have the chance to peer through the telescopes with free viewings of the moon, stars and planets, and a laser guided tour of the night sky by David. Feel free to bring your own telescope.

Date: Wednesday 18 March

Time: DVD starts at 7pm with presentation starting at 7.30pm

Where: McCarthy Catholic College Hall, followed by viewing on the oval.

Cost: \$4 children, \$8 adults and just \$20 for a family of four.

Mrs Melissa Lees

YEAR 7

Thank you to all Year 7 parents who replied to the BBQ note. I look forward to meeting you next Monday evening.

The students have been signing up for a variety of sports. Cricket is continuing, however, we need parents to assist with coaching, umpiring and supervision on Fridays for the 20/20 competition. Rugby coaching clinics will start on Friday 6 March at school for those boys signed up for Rugby League and Rugby Union. Netball teams are being organised - please see Mrs O'Meagher in the front office for further information.

Year 7 students have received their Term 1 Assessment Tasks sheet (pink). Please copy these dates into your planners and place in a prominent position at home.

*Mr Bernie Williams
Year 7 Co-ordinator*

YEAR 8

Outdoor Education

Last week students received an information pack regarding the 2 camp options. The trek group was filled early the next morning. Students names will now be placed on a waiting list for the trek.

SLC

Congratulations to the following students who were elected onto the Student Leadership Council for 2009:

Elizabeth Doherty, Anna Camilleri, Luke Dillon, Georgia Good, Brittany Coe and Ben Russell.

I am sure they will do a wonderful job representing Year 8 this year.

*Miss Ginaya Wieland
Year 8 Co-ordinator*

YEAR 9

Congratulations to the following students who were elected to represent Year 9 on the SLC this year: Darcy Barker, Felix Bruno, Richard Burke, Lachlan Maloney, Tayla Phillis, Georgia McSweeney, Melissa Sweeney and Maegan Watts. These students will attend regular meetings of the SLC and bring forward any ideas and suggestions that may come from Year 9. I was very pleased to see so many students nominate for the SLC. Unfortunately, we can only have 8 representatives this year.

Each student at McCarthy is encouraged to participate in school events and involve themselves in the wider community. The upcoming Swimming Carnival is one way that students can be involved in a positive manner.

I would like to personally thank Mr Luke Adams for his great work with Year 9 students whilst I was filling in for Mrs Julie McGregor.

If any parents have concerns regarding their child in Year 9 at McCarthy an alternative contact, other than the school office, is by email. My address is s.stuart@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au

*Mrs Sharon Stuart
Year 9 Co-ordinator*

YEAR 10

Congratulations to the following students for being elected onto the SLC for 2009: Emma Hatfield, Brittany Rae, Matthew Hobson, Fletcher Davies, Taylor Grinter, James Forsyth, Samantha Leonard and Kate Lumber. I look forward to working with you this year.

A Year meeting was held for all Year 10 students last Friday and a lot of school issues were discussed at this meeting.

All students were given a booklet regarding the procedures and rules for the 2009 School Certificate. I encourage parents and students to take time to read through these booklets and discuss any issues you may have in relation to this very important information with either myself or Mrs Sparke. We will be discussing the content of the booklet in depth at a later date.

Students were also given a GREEN sheet with a list of the assessment tasks that are due THIS term. I have told all students to put this information into their Student Planners and to organise plenty of time for each task to be completed and to be sure to hand it in on the due date.

There are quite a number of students who are yet to pay the \$150 deposit for the Canberra trip. The final payment of \$170 is due on 2 March.

I would like to emphasise that the Canberra trip has been organised in an attempt to assist students in various subjects that will be examined in the School Certificate, particularly History and Geography. It is a great trip and it is an expectation that students should attend. Students have received a copy of the itinerary and I encourage you to discuss this with your child.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

*Mrs Libby Molony
Year 10 Co-ordinator*

YEAR 11

Congratulations to Elizabeth Utting, Jess Barnes, Kellie Smith, Arley Black, Maegan Williams, Mikala Dickie, Hiliary Thornberry, Kirenjit Kaur, Josie Thornberry, Jackson Roberts, Ben Vella and Phillip Lo who have been appointed the Year 11 SLC representatives.

There have been many positive reports from teachers about the commitment of students in the classroom however there are still some students who need to apply themselves further. The uniform has improved and it is good to see Year 11 maturing into their role as seniors.

I encourage all Year 11 students to be leaders in building team spirit and to participate in the carnival in every way possible.

Thank you to all students for making the beginning of the year a very smooth one.

If there are any problems please do not hesitate to phone or email. j.burt@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au

*Mrs Jane Burt
Year 11 Co-ordinator*

YEAR 12

Congratulations to the 17 students who undertook the recent stocktake at Bunnings. Thirteen Year 12 students and 4 Year 11 students gave 5 hours of their time on a Wednesday afternoon to practice counting skills. It is amazing what this business stocks. The appropriate payment for this labour will now be donated to the Student Leadership Council: a gift of service to the school community.

The First Friday Mass was well attended with about thirty students and a number of staff present. Please keep this in mind as you plan for March (First Friday of each month).

On Monday of this week, Year 12 students attended two, one hour seminars conducted by Mr Doug Barton of Elevate Education. Mr Barton addressed students and provided a number of suggestions of excellent techniques for students to develop and practice in preparation for HSC assessments and exams. The sessions on Time Management and Exam Preparation revealed the techniques used by past students who were able to achieve results in the top 10% of the state. Mr Barton reassured students that these results were

achievable because of good time management habits and clever preparation prior to assessment and exams and not because of excellent academic ability. He reinforced the importance of goal setting, prioritising, budgeting time to study and practise on past papers without eliminating sport, employment and socialising time. It was encouraging to hear Mr Barton also promote the importance of a good healthy breakfast for placing oneself in the best mental and physical condition for learning. Students took information away in the form of work booklets that they were able to complete during the seminars. Mr Barton also delivered an hour long evening seminar to parents and informed them of the techniques their children should be employing to achieve their best results.

Year 12 students also recently were invited to attend the University Road Show. UNE, Charles Sturt and Southern Cross Universities will provide representatives to address students interested in university courses.

I would like to thank Mrs Barrett for organising this event.

Students are reminded to take their planners to Homeclass each morning so that important dates and notices can be entered directly, as the information is disseminated in the mornings.

*Mrs Fiona O'Neill
Year 12 Co-ordinator
fiona@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au*

SPORT

The past 4 weeks have seen the registration of several sports at McCarthy – Basketball, Netball, Cricket, Touch and Oztag. We wish the students involved in these competitions well.

A special mention must be made of Nick Kay (Year 11) who recently was named in the NSWBA Under 18 team to play at the Australian Titles in April at Adelaide. We wish Nick all the best.

NSWCCC Events

There are many school-based competitions and trials coming up in Term 1. I encourage all interested students and parents to make note of the following information:

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Date for Entries</u>	<u>Date of Competition</u>
Triathlon	19 Feb	4/5 March
Golf	26 Feb	16 March
Cricket	Term 4 2008	24/25 Feb
Tennis	3 March	11 March
Netball	6 March	31 March 1 April
Football (Soccer)	TBA	2 April
Hockey – Boys	6 March	17 March
Hockey – Girls	9 March	23 March
Basketball	20 March	1-3
May		
Swimming	3 April	6 May
Rugby League	6 March	8 March

On 26 February the school's Swimming Carnival will be conducted from 3pm to 7.30pm at the City Pool. All students are expected to attend and will be bussed down from the school at 2.30pm. Any student with part-time jobs etc, are requested to make arrangements with employers to be left off work rosters.

Basketball

Wednesday night basketball commenced this week with most things running smoothly. Teams have been put in place, singlets have been distributed and games were under way. A very big thank you to those parents who attended the meeting last week to help organise teams for this competition. This is a massive job which requires a lot of time and patience and any assistance is appreciated. Also, I would like to thank Pat Hobson and Geoff Denton for their time at school in issuing the students with their uniforms. This is also a big job with 14 teams coming from our school. A reminder to any other parents who are interested, the McCarthy Basketball Association AGM will be held here at the school on 3 March in the Meeting Room commencing at 7pm.

Anyone who wishes to have input into how McCarthy basketball is run is more than welcome to attend.

Mr Luke Adams

Girls Hockey

Trials for the Tamworth Under 15 teams to compete in the Half-State Championships in Newcastle (9 & 10 May) will be held at the Poligrass on Thursday, 19 February from 6pm – 7pm and Thursday, 26 February from 6pm – 7pm. Phone Karen Psarakis on 0419657590 for details.

The selection trials for the Open and Under 16 NSW Catholic Schools teams in Wyong is on Monday, 23 March. Forms can be picked up at school from Mr Denton and entries close 9 March.

Organisation for McCarthy teams to compete in local competitions and the NSW Combined Catholic Colleges Carnival (Grafton 27-29 May) will commence shortly. Players are asked to listen to the morning notices at school. For more information please contact Mr Geoff Denton ph: 0404399714.

Mr Geoff Denton

Netball

The Netball season commences on 28 March 2009. Player registration forms, team forms, registration payments and uniform orders are to be handed into the office by Monday, 2 March. Forms are available from the Bookroom or the front office. Cheques are to be made payable to McCarthy Catholic College Netball Club. No payments will be accepted after this date.

Any student who has difficulty in finding a team please see Mrs O'Meagher in the office or Mrs Burt for assistance.

For further information in regard to team registration please call Andra Milne Ph: 67608303 or 0428682370.

Touch Football

Congratulations to the following McCarthy students who played at the State Touch Football Championships in various age divisions for Tamworth last weekend in Wollongong: Rachel Halpin, Luke Halpin, Ellie Wade, Scot Doulis, Alyza Doulis, Brittany Coe, Elizabeth Doherty and Sarah Westman.

Mr Mark Falkenmire – Sports Co-ordinator

EX-STUDENT NEWS

Katie Lillyman was selected as Tamworth's Young Citizen of the Year for 2008 – in recognition of her generosity and involvement in community affairs.

Katie Lillyman, Alex Jenkins, Mark Sleiman and Gus Bruno were among a group of Tamworth students who volunteered to help care for children with special needs at the Sony Childrens' camp at Calrossy Anglican School during the Christmas holiday break.

Kevin Humphries, State MP for Barwon, has been promoted to the Coalition's shadow front bench as Minister for Healthy Lifestyle, Aboriginal Affairs and Western NSW.

Renae Sweeney finished her year as 2008 Queen of Country Music.

Jacqueline Marsden was selected as 2009 Queen of Country Music.

Deirdre Burke, Sophie Foster-Spinks and Sarah Bolitho were among the other entrants in the quest.

Michael Chapman and Stephanie Halpin – returned from representative duties in the Australian Touch Teams playing in New Zealand. Both were in the winning teams in the series, and are preparing for the National titles in March where they will be representing the Northern Eagles.

Lee Warren - an RAAF legal officer, based in Canberra at the office of the Directorate of Military Prosecutions, has been with the AP-3C Orion aircraft task group in the Middle East.

Kisani Upward has been an ANZ banking trainee for the past 2 years as part of the Aboriginal Employment Strategy. She has now completed a Business Certificate II through TAFE and can complete a third year traineeship.

Simon Norvill, Adam Jones and Callan Roberts continue to build on their cricket successes as part of the winning Country Cup team at the Sydney Cricket Ground and in grade and regional cricket. Simon scored a "brilliant double century" in a recent first grade match. Callan took 3 wickets for 31 from 7 overs in Sydney which was a key factor in Tamworth's victory.

Simon Furneaux – Golf professional – has had some successes e.g. into the third round of the Asian Tour School in Bangkok.

Gabrielle Purdy (nee Hansen) – featured in a recent NDJ article on her teaching career in Tamworth.

Jacqueline van Aanholt – Cadet journalist with the NDJ for the past 2 years and won an award with Northern NSW Journalism for her stories on local retirement homes.

Courtney Ross – part of the Joblink Plus Apprenticeship Program, and awarded third place in a recent local Hairdressing competition.

Jason Byrne has graduated from the University of Sydney with First Class Honours in Law and has begun employment with a Sydney Law firm.



Welcome new parents to our school community. A separate Canteen letter has already been sent out via your students.

We are in need of new helpers. Could you please complete the form and return it to school if you are able to assist. Could parents who were on the roster last year please complete the form also.

Thank you in anticipation and I look forward to meeting you.

Mrs Beth Ryan



The Clothing Pool operates on a voluntary basis and is opened each Wednesday from 12.30pm – 1.30pm. The Clothing Pool is situated in the Administration Block. Students are permitted to buy clothing during their lunch break on Wednesdays.

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.

Please do not submit overly stained/torn/unwashed items. Unacceptable items will be returned to the owner. Minor impairments are acceptable.

Thank you for your co-operation and donations.

For further information or appointments ph: 0425312873

MCCARTHY ASSOCIATION

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the staff room on March 17 2009 at 7.30pm. A new committee will be voted in. We invite anyone who wishes to participate in the Association to attend. If you wish to find out more details about the Association, you can find it on the McCarthy website.

Mr John Drew – Publicity Officer