

Newsletter

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Dear Parents & Students

Prayer

Dear Lord

In this Universal Week of Prayer for Reconciliation and Christian Unity let us pray that the disciples of Jesus may everywhere be one, so that all people may believe in the love of the Father who gave his only Son to be our Saviour.

Help us to recognise that Aboriginal and Torres Strait peoples hear the message of Jesus in their own tongue and through their cultural ways. Amen

Diary Dates

28 May:	Year 7-10 Exams commence
29 May:	Diocesan Tennis, Cross-Country, Debating
30 May:	CCC Basketball Trials
31 May:	Pentecost Sunday
3 June:	CCC Touch Football
8 June:	Long weekend
10 June:	Science Competition
12 June:	Cochrane Cup Rugby League
15 June:	School Photos
16 June:	School Photos
17 June:	Peel Schools Rugby League Carnival

2009 is the UN "Year of Reconciliation". This year the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity coincides with the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation. Over 11 days, **May 24 to June 3** - including the feast of Pentecost on May 31, we have an opportunity to renew and deepen our relationships in the one God in whom we share together through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

Defence Technical Scholarship

Earlier this year, students from across the country were invited to apply for the 2009 Defence Technical Scholarship. They had to meet strict guidelines, sit for an examination and present a detailed application. I am very pleased to announce that Thomas Murray (Year 11) has been successful and has been awarded the scholarship for 2009, which includes a certificate and \$2000. The McCarthy community congratulates Tom on this award.

Newsletter access

We are trying to improve access to the newsletter for all parents. We are aware that hard copies often don't make it home so have added the newsletter as a link on our college website: www.mccarthy.nsw.edu.au. Some parents forget to look on the website so we are offering email as an option. If you would like to have the newsletter emailed to you each fortnight, please contact Debra Wade in the office.

Absentees

Some changes have been made to the way attendance at school is monitored in order to refine processes and improve accuracy of records. To avoid delays in notification of non-attendance we will trial initial telephone notification and use of email. Please provide feedback regarding the effectiveness, or otherwise, of these modifications to Kate Walden at the office.

The Conference and AGM of the Bishop's Commission for Catholic Schools

The Conference and AGM of the Bishop's Commission for Catholic Schools, including The Council for Catholic School Parents, is being held at St Nicholas' Catholic Primary School in Carthage Street Tamworth on Saturday 30 May from 9.30 am. The main presentation will be by the Director, Mr Rick Johnston. The agenda includes *Catholic Schools at a Crossroads* and *Making Decisions about the Future of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Armidale*. Please contact Kate Rayment at the school if you would like to attend.

Open Day

Our annual Open Day, held on Saturday 16 May, was very successful. Almost four hundred interested people were given guided tours of the facilities and had questions answered. The McCarthy Association was again generous in supporting this event, providing morning tea for the visitors.

Closing date for enrolments

The enrolment process for the 2010 year has begun in earnest and some applications have already arrived. Prospective applicants are reminded that the closing date for enrolments for next year is Tuesday 30 June. New enrolment forms have been adopted across the diocese. They are available upon request from the front office.

Progress report on demountable

The new, temporary, demountable has arrived. It will replace the Performing Arts Centre throughout the reconstruction period. Staff and students look forward to regaining a space for the performing arts and for meetings. The building was formally handed over to the school on Wednesday 27 May.

Mrs Kate Rayment – Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Fr Ron Perrett, Parish Priest of Gunnedah, is organising a seminar to be held on the weekend of 4-5 July, 2009. It is entitled 'Growing Spiritually, Growing Religiously' and will be facilitated by Fr David Ranson. Fr Ranson is a dynamic and challenging speaker and this weekend would provide an ideal opportunity for some spiritual reflection. Anyone interested in this seminar could contact the school or Fr Perrett in Gunnedah.

PASTORAL CARE

Welcome

We welcome Cody Miller (Year 7) and his family to the McCarthy community.

Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with Olivia Dillon and her family following the death of her grandfather.

Parties

I am becoming increasingly concerned with reports of underage drinking at parties and encourage parents to check for parental knowledge/control of parties and to personally collect your child at a designated time. Information for parents on "Helping Teenagers Celebrate Safely" is available from the school office or at www.youthsafe.org

Fitness Plus

Thank you to Fitness Plus and Dennis Rixon for their support of the health and welfare of students within the school. It is very much appreciated.

Theme for the Week

The topic for Week 3 was Families, in conjunction with the Australian Government Families Week. The theme for this National Week was 'Celebrate how everyone makes a difference'. We thought about the many different family structures and how we recognise, value and support the people who make a difference to the wellbeing of our families. We also thought of ways that we as individuals could improve the wellbeing of our family.

"Are You Ready?" (for exams) was the subject for discussion during Week 4.

Students were encouraged to check that they had the necessary stationery and equipment; that they were managing their time well; and that they were employing effective study strategies. The best way to reduce the stress associated with examinations is to be well prepared.

'You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them.' ~ Bishop Desmond Tutu

Mrs Julie McGregor – Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

CURRICULUM MATTERS

A very successful Parent/Teacher evening was held in Week 4 for Year 12 and Year 10. Thank you for your support of this event - it was clear that most parents value the partnership that exists between school and home.

Year 11 have just finished their Half-Yearly exams. These will provide a valuable snapshot - indicating areas of strength, and those that might need a little attention.

Year 7- 10 exams will occur over Weeks 5 and 6. Students have been given a timetable indicating which subjects are holding exams.

Parent/Teacher Interviews will be held later in the term for Years 7, 8, 9, and 11.

Mrs Sally Sparke – Teaching and Learning Co-ordinator

Additional Needs – Special Provisions

With the Half-Yearly exams beginning today for students in Years 7-10, students wishing to access special provisions (reader, writer, extra time) for their exams must speak with the Additional Needs Teachers before the exams begin each day (Miss Ginaya Wieland Years 7-9, Mr Ronny Rindo Year 10). Parents can contact these teachers through email g.wieland@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au and r.rindo@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au to answer any questions or discuss your child's eligibility for special provisions for the exam period.

CAREERS NEWS

National Career Development Week, which started on 18 May, was celebrated at McCarthy commencing with a Career Information Evening for Parents, which was attended by almost 100 people. Parents were given information about post-school options available to young people today and about career resources in Tamworth. Thank you to Debbie from Careers Network. Six people were winners of prizes donated by National Careers Development Week.

Mrs Rayment officially launched the newly revamped and updated McCarthy Careers Page at: <http://www.mccarthy.nsw.edu.au/careers/index.php>, which I invite all parents and students to visit.

Year 10 students received their copy of the Job Guide 2009 which includes an insert for parents.

Automotive Workshop

Nine Year 10 boys recently attended a three day workshop organised by the MTA and held at Tamworth City Toyota. I received a phone call from the organiser who wanted to pass on his appreciation of the boys, their attitude and behaviour. They were a credit to themselves and the school.

The week also saw many parents, staff, students and ex-students, who were concerned about the proposed budget changes to the Independent Youth Allowance, sign a petition which was presented to Tony Windsor on Friday afternoon. He has promised to take it to Parliament with him.

Mrs Susan Barrett – Careers Advisor

MUSIC

We are busily preparing for the Tamworth Eisteddfod which will be held at the Tamworth Town Hall. The vocal ensemble will be performing on 3 June at 1.00pm. We will also have entries in the senior choir, the small vocal ensemble and the school folk group sections. All Year 12 HSC Music students will be performing immediately after the vocal ensemble in the HSC Music 1 section.

Parents and friends are most welcome to attend these performances. Best wishes to those students competing in dance and other sections.
Mrs Libby Molony – Music Teacher

YEAR 8

UNE Maths Day

On Friday 15 May, eight Year 8 students travelled to the University of New England in Armidale to compete in the Mathematics Day activities. We competed in many activities during the day. These included:

- Free-for-all: a selection of mathematics problems that had to be answered collectively by each team.
- Jigsaw: a group of clues that were used to solve individual questions.
- Head-to-head: team games against other schools in a round-robin style, completing algebra patterning questions.
- Smorgasboard: graded questions with a points allocation relating to degree of difficulty.
- Construction: making two paper planes, one for accuracy and one for distance.

The students involved in the day participated in two teams:

- Team One: Nicholas Cumming, Marnie Darlington, Nathan Paff and Dayna Reid
- Team Two: James Dunn, Brianna McCowen, Jack Wibberley and Hannah Woods

Team Two was placed second overall, just missing out on first place by one point. Both teams should be congratulated for their active participation and involvement in all of the activities throughout the day. We thank Mr Geoff Denton and Mr Paul McDougall for their generous assistance on the day.

General Information

Term Calendars, Assessment Outlines and Exam Timetables have all gone home in the last few weeks. Year 8 students have also had another rotation of their Technology classes.

Outdoor Education (Trek Group): a report will be presented in the next newsletter from the students who attended the trekking experience.

Miss Ginaya Wieland – Year 8 Co-ordinator

YEAR 10

All Year 10 students have received a timetable for their Half-Yearly exams. I have heard some very good feedback from staff members about a lot of students who are working well in class and study club in preparation for these exams.

I was very pleased to see many parents, and their children, at the Parent/Teacher Interviews last week.

I wish all students the very best for the Half-Yearly exams and I encourage all to perform to the best of their ability.

Mrs Libby Molony – Year 10 Co-ordinator

YEAR 11

Many of the Year 11 students are competing in the Eisteddfod, CCC Rugby League tryouts in Tamworth, and at the Casino Show. Good luck to all these students. If you have some newsworthy achievements please email details so we can share with the rest of the school.

Exams are now completed and students will, over the next few weeks when they get results back, have an idea how they are progressing. Parent/Teacher Interviews for Year 11 are Wednesday, Week 10 of this term. This is an important night for parents to meet teachers and discuss your child's results. If you are unable to attend, teachers can be emailed or phoned.

All students should now be in full winter uniform. Scarves are to be navy and do not replace ties. There are only a few Year 11 girls still pushing the makeup rule and we are dealing with the issue this end. Your support in maintaining the high standard of our uniform.

Mrs Jane Burt – Year 11 Co-ordinator

Senior revision ideas for parents

Being a parent of a senior student is not always an easy journey. Parents are often concerned about how to guide their child, without being too over-bearing. Perhaps this suggestion may be of use:

- take an interest in your child's assessments/topics/units by arranging a suitable time to sit with them in a relaxed setting.
- ask your child to tell you all they know about a topic, using their notes or other resources.

Your job as a parent is to listen – do not test or interrogate – just listen. Maybe you could ask one or two reflective questions to show you were listening and interested.

Finish by thanking your child for sharing their information with you.

Mr Dave Coupland

SPORT

Arrive Alive Cup

The McCarthy Rugby League team played its final game of the Arrive Alive Competition in Week 3, going down to a strong Glen Innes High School team in Glen Innes 32-8. We were fortunate enough to have expert guidance of Mr Garth Coe assisting us on the day and the support of Mr Peter Michell. Thank you Garth and Peter. The players did their very best and must be congratulated on making the regional Semi Final. Nicholas Walsh was again voted Players' Player with another barnstorming game and was ably supported by Rodney Rolls, Tom Michell, Blair Richards and Matthew Brady. Jacob Ritter also had a fine game making his debut for McCarthy. We now look forward to the Years 10/11 competition beginning soon on Wednesday nights. A big thank you also to team manager Mr Ritchie.

Mr Dan Mitchell (Coach)

Soccer (Football) – Bill Turner U15 Girls

Last Friday, McCarthy played Oxley High School in Round 2 of the Bill Turner U15 Cup. Our girls should be congratulated for their efforts and came away with an astonishing 6-1 victory. This was a huge achievement considering the girls played without subs, after Melanie Jones was injured in the first few minutes of the game. Alice Read was a standout performer with a total of four goals. Elizabeth Doherty and Adrianna Rindo were the other two goal scorers. Congratulations girls and good luck in Round 3.

Miss Ginaya Wieland (Manager)

Red Shield Appeal

Seventy students gave up their Sunday morning recently to participate in the annual Red Shield Appeal door knock collection. Students always return with a deeper sense of what it means to serve the community. Thank you and well done to those students who participated.

Mr Dave Coupland and Miss Leanne Sjollema



**Year 11 Boys' Education
"Father and Son Night"**

Come and watch the State of Origin on the big screen in the hall with your dad!

6:30pm start 24 June 2009

\$5 per head for pizza and soft drink

Guest Speaker: Marc Glanville (Premiership Winner 1997 Newcastle Knights)

Mr Luke Adams and Mr Dave Coupland will be using this as an opportunity to discuss current "male" topics that have a positive impact on attitude and behaviour in society

St Joseph's School Wee Waa

Centenary

1909 – 2009

26, 27 & 28 June

For more information contact the
School (02) 6795 4038

Email: prin_wee@arm.catholic.edu.au

AFL

Auskick

Tamworth Under 16 Competition

Sign on day

11am Saturday 30 May

No 1 Oval Kable Ave

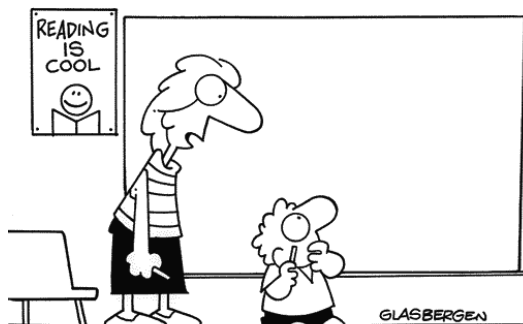
Phone Colin Moore 0434146377

Quote:

Education is a social process. Education is growth. Education is, not a preparation for life; education is life itself.

John Dewey

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"There aren't any icons to click. It's a chalk board."

***** MCCARTHY ASSOCIATION *****

Items discussed at the last meeting.....

Clothing Pool, uniforms, Country Music Accommodation, Contiki People to People, parent information sessions

Items to be discussed at the next meeting.....

Uniforms, Year 7 – transition to high school, Country Music Accommodation, Contiki People to People, Clothing Pool

Important diary date.....

Cybersafety parent information session 13 August (Term 3)

What's new.....

The following parent information packs are now available from the front office

- * Cybersafety
- * Alcohol and celebrating safely
- * Driving safely

Coming soon – Bully free DVD will soon be available for parents to borrow from the school.

Next meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 16 June at 7.00pm for 7.15pm. Please note earlier starting time. If you wish to contribute your thoughts on the items listed above please join us at the next meeting. Tea, coffee and a light supper will be provided. If you require any further information about any of the above please contact me at the number below.

Tracey Carrington – Publicity Officer (ph: 6765 2927)